Decoding the Viewer’s Secret
The Use of the Cinematic Medium as a Professional Tool in Working with Groups
Hadas Levy

In recent years, the cinematic medium has become widely used in the educational and therapeutic work of professionals from different disciplines. Yet the professional discourse regarding the use of the cinematic medium in individual and group work is still in its infancy. The fact that it is at the pioneering stage of trial and error is central to the discourse. The present article attempts to construct a theoretical and practical framework for the use of the cinematic medium in group work. The article points to the therapeutic potential inherent in the use of films to promote the goals and processes of the group. The article discusses themes and dilemmas associated with the application and utilization of this tool in group work. Vignettes from our field work are included to illustrate and support the main points.

Hadas Levy, MA in Organizational Sociology, BSW, is a group facilitator. She is currently working in the development, writing, and teaching of tools that employ photography and the cinematic medium in group work.
Words, Thoughts and Computer
Short-Term Intervention with Bereaved Parents Victims of Hostile Action
Nitzhia Binder, Hagit Rubin and Rivka Nir-Shafrir

The article describes a unique group work, first of its kind in Israel, whose members are bereaved parents who have lost children in terrorist attacks. The short-term group held 16 meetings. It was set up and funded by Haifa National Insurance Institute.

The group’s objective was to establish a framework in which participants can express emotional content around the theme of loss, and find ways for commemoration.

The group was guided by three different experts: a social worker, bibliotherapist and occupational therapist. Participants found new options for emotional expression, and the computer facilitated the collection and presentation of materials, while sustaining the interpersonal communication between the group members. The article also discusses the meaning of the group for the participants.

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It’s Dangerous to Get Too Close
Loneliness and the Desire for Intimacy among HIV-Positive People
Miriam Levinger, Yoav Lurie and Zehavit Spitzer

Carrying HIV is often a constant reminder of the desire for intimacy, and the danger inherent in intimate relationships. Group intervention has been found to facilitate the process of coping with various needs, including the need for intimacy. The article presents content analysis of themes raised by the participants in a support group. The findings indicated that the sense of loneliness was not new or unknown to many of the participants. Moreover, some of them felt rejected by their family members and friends when they came out of the closet as homosexuals or bisexuals and expressed a strong desire for human contact. This desire was forcefully manifested in the relationships that developed within and outside of the group as well as with the facilitators.

Miriam Levinger, PHD, is a social worker and a group therapist. She teaches in the School of Social Work in Sapir Academic College as well as in the Main School of Social Services.

Yoav Luria, MA, BOT, CGP, is a psychotherapist working with both individuals and groups and an occupational therapist. He works in a private practice and in the Center for the Victims of Sexual Assaults in Tel Aviv. He teaches in the Occupational Therapy Department in Tel-Aviv University. He is also a board member of the Israeli Association of Group Therapy.

Zehavit Spitzer, M.SW, is a social worker and a member of the senior stuff of social services in Chaim Sheba Medical Center. She graduated “Shinui” institute as a psychotherapist qualified to work with both couples and families. She is administratively in charge of “Ahava” project providing therapeutic frameworks for HIV carriers. In addition she was trained as a personal coacher in the School for Advanced Studies in Bar Ilan University.
Yael Doron, MA, is a psychologist, the manager of “Zoogot Institute” in Ramat Gan, where she also works as an individual and couple therapist and group analyst, a teacher at the Main School of Social Services and a student in the Israeli Institute for Group Analysis.
Dreams in the Large Group
Yael Doron

The Large Group is a powerful tool, and its intention is to explore the conscious and unconscious forces that transform the systemic, organizational and social processes. Large Groups began to emerge during the seventies, and today they are an integral part of psychotherapy conventions, group training programs and organizational culture in many professional institutes. The Large Group is exciting for many of its participants and at the same time frightening for others. Yet the volume of written material concerning this method is surprisingly slim.

“Individuals and Groups – Mutual Vulnerability” was a unique international conference which took place in Israel this July. The conference brought together group analysts and relational-individual psychotherapists. There were two Large Group sessions in the conference with 450 participants. In the second session two dreams were presented.

The dreams touched the social unconscious level which flows under every large group and society, and also related to the reality of this specific convention. Although the Large Group avoided relating directly to the dreams, in the hidden layer they represented the fear from the “mutual vulnerability” caused by an abundance of approaches and views.

I suggest to see these dreams as a symbol of our mutual fear from change and innovation, and the fear of losing our own voice and identity in a group. On the other hand, the dreams symbolize hope, and express the belief that new connections can be created, without collapsing once again into binary perceptions.
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