

A Large Group Disguises as Small Group: The Social Unconscious Revelation in the Net

Yael Doron

A mailing list resembles a large group, but it has unique characteristics that remind us of the intimacy of a small group. A very long thread which took place in the mailing list of the “Israeli Institute of Group Analysis” last summer enables us to learn about the Israeli Social Unconscious and to glance at the specific social unconscious of this institute. This correspondence demonstrates how people react to events which echo the chosen trauma of the group.

Yael Doron is a psychologist. She has a private practice in Ramat-Gan, Israel, where she works with individuals and couples and conducts two long analytic groups. She conducts supervision groups for group psychotherapists and teaches at the School of Psychotherapy in Rambam Hospital, Haifa, and in the Central School for Social Workers in Tel Aviv. She is a graduate of the Israeli Institute of Group Analysis (IIGA).

Yalom's Therapeutic Factors Virtually Examined

Ravit Raufman and Haim Weinberg

This article examines the validity of Yalom's therapeutic factors in online groups. Examples taken from groups on the Internet (support groups, therapy groups, etc.) help exploring which of these factors are active online, and in what way they are intensified or diluted. We also identify other factors working online, typical of large groups, that do not necessarily exist in small face-to-face groups. This discussion enables re-examination of traditional concepts in the ever-changing world of the information era. We also discuss the relationship between the concrete physical existential dimension of human beings and another dimension that allows participants in Cyberspace to rise beyond the limitations of time and space.

Dr. Ravit Raufman is a licensed clinical psychologist and group therapist, senior lecturer in Haifa University.

Dr. Haim Weinberg is a licensed clinical psychologist in Israel and California and a group analyst, director of the doctorate program with a focus on group therapy in the Professional School of Psychology, Sacramento, California.

Between the ‘Faceless Mother’ and the ‘Facebook’ Some Thoughts about Authority, Leadership, and Group Dynamics in the Times of Social Networks.

Yossi Triest

The paper explores some psychological aspects of the phenomena of the social networks – Facebook, Twitter and alike – from a Psychoanalytic-Systemic perspective. It examines briefly several interconnections between the technological media – which lays the ground for the cyber-space as a ‘potential space’ – and the characteristics of the ‘very large group’ that acts as a social network. The main focus is on two themes: the way members of these social networks perceive these huge group as an ‘Object in the Mind’, and the influences of the unconscious perception and representation of authority on leader-followers relationships at our times.

Yossi Triest, PhD, is a clinical psychologist, Training Psychoanalyst and Organizational Consultant. He is the President (elect) of the Israeli Psychoanalytic Society (IPS), supervises and teaches at the Israeli Psychoanalytic Institute. He is co-owner of the Triest-Sarig private clinic, and lecturer at Tel-Aviv University - where he teaches at the Group Facilitators Programme, the Psychology department, the general BA programme and at the psychotherapy school of Tel-Aviv University. He is a Member of OFEK, the Israel Association for the Study of Group and Organisational Processes and co-director of the Program in Organizational Consultation and Development: A Psychoanalytic-Systemic Approach (P.O.C.D).

Group Identity and Interactive Support of Israeli Adults with Visual Impairment and Blindness in a Computer-Mediated Forum

Itai Hess and Irit Kupferberg

The study explores the social communication of Israeli adults with vision impairment and blindness (VIB). Using the four-level method, we analyze the computer-mediated forum messages produced by adults with VIB. The findings show that there is an Israeli community of people with VIB which has an assertive and coherent voice expressed in relation to sighted people and the authorities. In addition, the dialogue that developed in the forum showed that participants willingly expressed their difficulties, thoughts and both negative and positive emotions, and positioned themselves as supportive friends. This study is one of the few studies that have been conducted in Israel that focuses on communities of people with VIB and the contribution of the support that the community provides to its members. The study shows that it is important to raise the awareness of the public and various organizations to the unique needs of adults with VIB.

Dr. Itai Hess is a member of the research authority and a lecturer in the department of Special Education in Levinski College of Education. He is the editor of the research section of the periodical "Issues of special education and integration". His research is focused on the life quality of adults with vision impairment and blindness and the challenge of integrating pupils with special needs at schools.

Prof. Irit Kupferberg is a discourse analyst at Levinski College of Education, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Her current research, books and articles focus on (1) interpersonal communication and the discursive construction of self in institutional talk in different cultural settings and (2) metaphorical communication.

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