

**Friday 16th May 2014 at 7:00pm**

***Intimacy and Social Suffering***

***in a Globalized World***

**Speaker: Elisabeth Rohr**

**Respondent: Dick Blackwell**

I would like to explore the potential of Group Analysis as both a theoretical and therapeutic tool in order to understand the unconscious dimensions of the complexity of life in a globalized, polarized and highly individualized world. I will focus on issues that tend to be excluded not only from our perception, but also from public discourse. I would like to question some of the popular concepts now “en vogue”:

What does it actually mean to live in “liquid times”, dealing with “liquid identities?

Is the rise of the concept of “empowerment” somehow connected to the growing social disappearance of the state?

What is progressive about the concept of transnationality when it means that intimacy has been lost and left behind children of a migrants know their mothers only on Skype?

What can be expected of future leaders of the world who only know life in so called “transnational spaces” and who have never had the chance to develop a sense of home or of belonging to any social group or culture or nation?

Globalization, migration and transnational identities have been part of our Group Analytic practices for many years. Have they also entered our Group Analytic concepts? If we understand our Group Analytic task as a basic commitment to work on behalf of the “repressed”, then the question has to be raised, how political is Group Analysis today – in theory and in practice?

**Venue:**

**BRUNEI GALLERY LECTURE THEATRE, SOAS, UNIVERSITY of LONDON,**

**Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square,**

**LONDON WC1H 0XG**

**NB:** Please note new arrangements: Lecture at 7-9pm with drinks after ‘til 10pm

Tickets £25.00 inc. refreshments.

Tickets also at the door.

Concessions for GASi members & Students.

Further details can be found on [www.groupanalyticsociety.co.uk](http://www.groupanalyticsociety.co.uk)

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Elisabeth Rohr was Professor for Intercultural Education at the University of Marburg till 2013 and is a Group Analyst, a counsellor and consultant in national and international organizations. She has been a member of the staff of the Heidelberg Institute and has been engaged in establishing a supervision training in Guatemala. She has done extensive research about issues of migration, fundamentalism, gender and supervision.

Dick Blackwell is a member of the IGA, conducts therapy groups at the IGA and has worked in the area of Human Rights for many years. He currently works at The Centre for Psychotherapy and Human Rights and at the Baobab Centre for Young Survivors in Exile.