

Roots VI Conference: Gestalt Groups: Roots and Branches



Dates	October 23-26, 2014 Begins Thursday, 1pm Ends Sunday, 1pm
Fee	\$535 USD / Approx. 400 EUR (accommodations and meals not included) GISC Members: \$485
CE hours	20
Co-Chairs	Seán Gaffney, PhD, and Joseph Melnick, PhD
Location	Belfast, Ireland Presented by GISC in cooperation with Gestalt Centre Belfast

This is the sixth Roots Conference. Beginning in Paris in 2003 with "The European Roots of Gestalt Therapy" conference, and continuing with Roots II in Antwerp, 2005, in Rome in 2007, Budapest in 2009, and Bommersvik, Sweden, in 2012, these conferences have provided an opportunity to focus on Gestalt therapy theory, its roots, development and the rich diversity of its application. The theme of Roots VI is Gestalt Groups: Roots and Branches.

Roots VI will take place in Belfast, Ireland, convened by GISC and hosted by Gestalt Centre Belfast. Details of the venue and program will be made available as the planning progresses.

Groups have been a fundamental part of the Gestalt approach since its inception. Fritz Perls was one of the first therapists to do therapy "live in front of a group" – later called the "Greek amphitheatre." As it developed as a specific approach to therapy it was then nicknamed the "broken wagon wheel." The therapist would work one-on-one with each individual, using the group as communal support.

Yet our approach to groups and their application has always been much more diverse. At the New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy, such founding members as Elliot Shapiro and Paul Goodman were moving effortlessly into education and social change, followed by the next generation of members, such as George Dennison and Patrick Kelley. These Gestalt practitioners had a profound, though often unacknowledged impact on the theory and methodology of Gestalt with groups.

Some of the future founders of the Gestalt Institute of Ohio (the second institute, later to become the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland,

GIC) were an essential part of Kurt Lewin's brainchild, the National Training Laboratories (NTL) as they developed T-groups, and also Esalen Institute, the birthplace of the encounter group. There was a small but important group of Gestaltists who used experiments and exercises to teach leaders about self-awareness, group process and cultural change. And, of course, there are our institutes which each use group process in unique and creative ways, and our various Gestalt conferences such as Roots which all use groups and group process as an essential ingredient of the structure. Increasingly, applications like Gestalt in organizations (GIO) have moved naturally into such areas as team building, project management and the dynamics of the boardroom as well as top management teams.

In the opening presentations, our intention is to describe the early roots of Gestalt with groups before moving into the use of groups in Gestalt training.

We are inviting people to present on various aspects of groups, from small to large groups, psychotherapy, supervision, teams, leader led, leaderless, growth, project oriented, etc. There will be an updated list of presenters on our web page.

Format

Roots has developed a specific format: all presentations are in plenary and followed by small group work to process the content, and then a plenary report-back session. Our aim is that all participants and presenters are fully involved in all aspects of the conference. Our hope is to generate collective knowledge. In addition, our intention is to encourage all presenters to develop their presentations as journal articles, including the comments and inputs from the plenary sessions.



GESTALT INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER

Registration Form

For Workshops & Conferences

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I am a GISC Member: I would like to join GISC: \$125/year

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Cancellation Policy: Refunds are available up to 21 days prior to a program, less a \$35 administration fee. When cancellation is made with a notice of 20 days or less, tuition will not be refunded but may be applied to a future program within the next calendar year.

Email, mail, or fax along with your payment to:
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