



**ARGO** Associazione per la Ricerca sul Gruppo Omogeneo  
la Rivista, Gruppo: Omogeneità e differenze

## *Group psychoanalysis: 50 years of work report*

### **INTERVIEW WITH PROF. NERI ON: "MY "HISTORY" WITH THE "PSYCHOANALYTIC GROUP" IN THE PERIOD 1960-2020".**

**INTERVIEWER: DR. GIANCARLO DI LUZIO** (from now on G)

G: Introduction of Prof Neri (henceforth N): Psychiatrist, ordinary SPI psychoanalyst with training functions. He has been involved since the late 1960s in analytic therapy through the "small psychoanalytic group".

#### **QUESTION 1.**

G: "I believe that in the training of Psychoanalytic Institutes, in particular the SPI, the analytic group should have more space. In an ideal and futuristic vision, how would you see the inclusion of a training course on the analytic group in the training?"

N: "I have the impression that the trainees who do the training at the SPI essentially intend to learn psychoanalysis and therefore the teaching of the group may be of interest to only a few..."

#### **QUESTION 2.**

G: "How has the individual and social experience of the analytic group changed on the part of patients, mental health workers, colleagues, for example, with respect to the enthusiastic and idealised vision of the 1960s?"

N: "...in my opinion that experience has disappeared...only the glow has remained..."

G: "I remember that once upon a time a boy was enthusiastic about joining a group as a regenerative, magical experience...at present the distrust and fears are much greater..."

N: "That's exactly what prompted me to write my last book, thinking that if we clearly explained how the group heals, people might come closer to the therapeutic group".

G: "Good move...very good move! (I found it) very nice and easy to read. The book "The group as a cure" is certainly useful for the new generations..."

### **QUESTION .3.**

G.: "What are the modifications of setting, of conduction, of technique that you consider certainly valid in the light of your experience, with respect to the classical ones?"

N: "The analyst must be more involved in the group, in its events...in the past the idea that guided us was that there was a common fantasy of the group and that fantasy was the nucleus on which to work...in some cases certainly this fantasy must be evoked, but instead in many other cases it is necessary to work in a more articulated way ....."

### **QUESTION .4.**

G: "As a person how much and how has conducting analytic groups changed you?"

N: "A group is like a faithful friend ...

G: "Are you talking about psychoanalytic groups?"

N: "Yes"

G: "...well...we are finished..."

N : "I thank you..."

(Interview of 2 August 2021, in Rome, in the home of Prof. C. Neri)



**Claudio Neri**, born in Rome in 1943. Neuropsychiatrist, former Full Professor at the Faculty of Psychology of the University 'La Sapienza' in Rome. He is an ordinary member with teaching functions of the Italian Psychoanalytic Society (SPI) and the International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA). He is a founding member of the International Field Theory Association (IFTA) and the International Organisation of Group Analytic Psychotherapy (IOGAP). He is an honorary member of the Gordon Lawrence Foundation, of the Confederation of Italian Organisations for Analytical Group Research (COIRAG), of the Association for Research on the Homogeneous Group (ARGO), of the Italian Institute of Group Psychoanalysis (IIPG), of the Association for the Study of Group Dynamics (ACANTO) and of the Veneto Association for Research and Training in Group Analytical Psychotherapy and Institutional Analysis (ASVREGA). He is a member of the scientific committee of the journal "Clínica y análisis grupal", of "Revue de Psychothérapie Psychanalytique de Groupe", of "Revista de Psicoanálisis de las Configuraciones Vinculares" and of "The European Journal of Psychotherapy and Counselling". He is also a member of the Readers' Committee of the Journal of Psychoanalysis.

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**Giancarlo Di Luzio**, born in 1951 in Rome where he lives and works. Psychiatrist, is a psychoanalyst, ordinary member of SPI/IPA (International Association of Psychoanalysis), group-analyst, former member of SISDCA (Soc.Ital.Studio.Dist.Comp.Alim.) and AED (Academy of Eating Disorders) and teaching member of CORAG (Confederation of Italian Organizations for Analytical Research on Groups). For almost forty years he worked full time in

the psychiatric services of the National Health Service (IT), including, in recent decades, in the Interdepartmental Area of Adolescence and in the U.O. Eating Disorders of AUSL RM E. For over thirty years he has been involved, in the public and private sector, in the study and treatment of juvenile psychopathology and psychogenic nutritional-eating disorders. He has been leading for decades, in the Roman Psychoanalysis Center, a study group on "disorders of the self, body image and nutrition-nutrition".

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