



# Editorial

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*“I am Odysseus, Laertes’ son. The whole world talks of my stratagems, and my fame has reached the heavens”* (Book 9).

As we announce the commencement of a transformative era for the *Forum* journal, we sought inspiration to guide us through this transition into the future. Given the Italian heritage of the new editors-in-chief, we turned to one of Dante’s most famous lines: *“You were not made to live as brutes, but to follow virtue and knowledge.”* Thus, the Odyssey became our muse for this new editorial journey—a paradigmatic metaphor marking our journal’s entry into the sphere of distinguished international scientific publications.

This transition, filled with anticipation, addresses the necessity for change within a journal deeply cherished by the International Association of Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP), a community with a rich history<sup>1</sup> spanning decades.

In the beginning, it was the *Newsletter*, and then it was called the *Forum*, a bulletin through which members of the IAGP communicated. It was in 1991 when the first volume of the *International Forum of Group Psychotherapy* was published. This phase marked the creation and initial development of a platform aimed at sharing innovative ideas and fostering collaboration among professionals dedicated to advancing the field of groups. The *Forum* was the space in which all changes involving the structure and purposes of the IAGP were announced and discussed, and the journal served as a foundational space for exchanging ideas, methodologies, and theories, reflecting the burgeoning interest in group dynamics.

The journal entered its second phase in 2003, when Franco Angeli in Italy began printing a beautiful, dedicated hardcopy of the *Forum Journal of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy*. This era was characterized by the journal’s commitment to reaching a broader audience, also thanks to the digitalization of its archives (since 2006), providing in-depth analysis and research findings pivotal for practitioners and researchers. The Italian hardcopy phase solidified the journal’s reputation as a crucial resource for insights into group psychotherapy.

More than a decade passed, and the original scope of the *Forum* expanded from mere psychotherapy to social intervention and processes: after some years of silence, *Forum* started publishing one issue per year. It was the journal’s rebirth and transformation as it embraced digital advancements, captivating design, a blind peer-review system, and a more international outlook. The firm and smooth style of Kaoru Nishimura and his team allowed for more dynamic interaction with non-members of the IAGP and collaboration among international scholars and practitioners, reaffirming the journal’s commitment to innovation and excellence.

In the current phase, we stand on the cusp of exciting possibilities. Our journal is poised to further extend its reach and influence by engaging in dialogue with non-psychological sciences such as ethnography, ethno-psychiatry, and anthropology, in which the study of groups and interventions with groups is profoundly significant. We are committed to fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and expanding our outreach to historians who can delve into the past of the discipline to understand our foundations, and to epistemologists who can explore models in which group understanding has

<sup>1</sup> There may be some inaccuracies in the dates provided below, which stem from discrepancies found in documented histories of IAGP (Battagay, 2006; Campos Avillar, 2012), as well as from interviews conducted with survivors from the organization’s early periods. Historical records often present inconsistencies, particularly when they are recounted solely by victors, survivors, or those who have suppressed alternative viewpoints. Fortunately, IAGP continues to thrive, represented by a diversity of clinical methods and theoretical schools. An illustration of such complexity leading to historical incoherence can be seen in the recent Golden Almanac, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of IAGP’s formal foundation. This publication contains contradictory accounts about the founders and inaccurate attributions of significant writings, akin to the process of myth creation.

developed. We hope to attract ethno-psychiatrists who can offer hermeneutic models to comply with the cultural diversity of the scientific accounts on groups that this journal can attract. We are reaching out for anthropologists who can help us shape an understanding of the unconscious matrices of a world that is increasingly globalized, where nationalisms and racisms represent the regurgitation of ancestral anxieties and fears of the Other. And we want to invite the group psychotherapists, practitioners, clinicians, and organizational consultants who have traditionally used this scientific platform to disseminate their work through this journal, to dialogue upon theories and techniques, and to develop an understanding of how groups can address the many challenges of mental illness, societal traumas, organizational problems.

The imperative to redefine the journal's trajectory stems from a broad consensus that it occupies a preeminent position in the scientific arena, attributable to the substantial theoretical contributions and practical insights in group psychotherapy and group processes. The principal impetus for this transformation is the pressing need to expand the dissemination of knowledge about groups and to enhance the dialogue between our expansive IAGP community and the global scientific community. This bold move has necessitated rigorous planning and alignment with the highest international standards for scientific publishing.

*"So, let there be no talk of dying, for between us, we can work it out. Great matters are solved by great patience"* (Book 12).

The first step taken by this new editorial team management was to hire a new publisher, Linceu Editorial, to provide advisory, editorial, and manuscript handling services. Simultaneously, we negotiated with the former publisher to reclaim the ISSN and Crossref of the *Forum* journal that were erroneously attributed to him in the past decades. In parallel, we assembled the Editorial Committee with esteemed professionals from the international academic sphere (from the UK to South Africa, from Brazil to Japan) and began adapting the journal to an open-access and free editorial process for inclusion in the Open Journal System, a much-accredited international platform for scientific journals. During this complex process, we were advised to change the journal's name due to its commonality (a search for the title *Forum* in the ISSN portal, in fact, yielded 6,767 results). Thus, we conducted a vote among IAGP members, resulting in the decision to adopt the name *Forum for Group Psychotherapies and Processes*. The new name proved to be the most effective in terms of distinctiveness and attractiveness among the scholarly community, as it signals a broad interdisciplinary scope that includes various aspects of group dynamics and processes beyond psychotherapy.

From now on, the *Forum for Group Psychotherapies and Processes* adopts the Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 4.0 license and uses the PKP PN system to create a file system distributed among participating libraries, allowing them to build permanent journal archives for preservation and restoration by LOCKSS. It will be a continuously published journal, so you will not have separate volumes, but will be able to read articles as soon as they are peer-reviewed and edited to meet the authorial and ethical standards that we have now defined.

The bold step we are taking now would not have been possible without the invaluable contributions of the previous editors of the journal, and of the many colleagues who volunteered as peer-reviewers, making it possible to reach the scientific level we can now build on. To them, we extend our deep gratitude and recognition for their services.

*"But if you wish to return home, then you must take a smooth oar and travel until you find people who do not know the sea, who eat food not mixed with salt, and do not know of ships or oars"* (Book 11).

Change, especially of this magnitude, is fraught with challenges. Nonetheless, we are acutely aware of the implications and remain committed to facilitating a seamless transition. Thus, we will offer support to authors to publish their work: mentoring their academic writing, adjusting to American Psychological Association (APA) standards, guiding them in the online submission on the new Open Journal Systems. Just ask through [forumeditors@iagp.com](mailto:forumeditors@iagp.com). As we embark on this new chapter, we invite you to join us on this journey of exploration and discovery. Together, we can build a future in which the *Forum for Group Psychotherapies and Processes* journal continues to be a beacon of knowledge and a catalyst for positive change in the field of groups and beyond.

In the next pages, the diversity and enriching complexity that we embrace become evident. One can read about body maps and storytelling by Vieira, Tornelli de Almeida Cunha, and Gandolfo Conceição, an interesting account of how research can fill the gaps in psychodrama literature; and about a treatment for refugees with post-traumatic stress disorder, by Cabrejas and Daverio, that highlights the new horrific challenges that therapists face when working with post-war scenarios. One can read about a dialogue between anthropology and psychology, by Agresta and Menarini, that focuses on the links between ethnic rituals and group imaginary; and one can find an account, by Hofstede, on how multimedia tools can serve sociometric purposes when working in organizations and people's management. Lastly, one can read about the history of

morenian psychodrama in the article by Gershoni, to appreciate how social unconscious underpins philosophical, religious, and mystical concepts of tradition.

Let us step confidently into a new chapter, one rich with opportunities for collaboration and groundbreaking discoveries. As we open this page, envision a future illuminated by our shared dedication to research and scholarship. May this new phase be characterized by a commitment to excellence and a continuous quest for knowledge that enriches both our academic community and the broader society. Together, let us nurture a landscape ripe with innovative ideas, in which intellectual synergy fosters significant breakthroughs. Forward into a chapter in which our cooperation forms the foundation of a legacy marked by creativity, influence, and inspiration.

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