

**Abstract Form  
for**

**20th WADP congress / XXXIII International Symposium of the German Academy  
for Psychoanalysis (DAP) e.V., 16.04.2024 to 20.04.2024, Marrakech, Morocco  
"Social Challenges - Shared Responsibility in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy"**

Symposium

Male  / Female  / Diverse

Chair Person:                      Name: **Schmolke**                      First Name: **Margit**

Title / Position:                      Dr. phil.

Country:                      Germany

Symposium title:                      **Clinical Experiences in Psychodynamic Group Psychotherapy**

Co-Chair:                      **Thome, Astrid (Germany)**

M.A.; Head of the German Society for Group Dynamics and Group  
Psychotherapy (DGG); Head of the Munich Training and Research Institute  
(LFI) of the German Academy for Psychoanalysis (DAP)

Speaker 1:                      Name, First Name: **Bihler Thomas (Germany)**                      Psychologist

Presentation title: *Working Group Processes in the Large Group and their  
Preconditions.*

Speaker 2:                      Name, First Name: **Krienke, Ute (Germany)** Psychotherapist

Presentation title: *Impact of Social Crises on Group Dynamic Aspects in Structured  
Group Therapy*

Speaker 3:                      Name, First Name: **Brun, Hedi (Germany)** Dr.

Presentation title: *Self-esteem and Group*

Speaker 4:                      Name, First Name: **Kiem, Petra (Germany)** Graduate psychologist; Vice President of  
the German Academy for Psychoanalysis

Presentation title: *Secure Basis in Uncertain Times – Reflections on Psychodynamic  
Group Psychotherapy with Young Adults in Germany*

Overall Abstract Symposium up to 40 lines in English:

The scientific discourse on the large group process oscillates between notions of it being primarily pathological, e.g. inducing tendencies of disintegration and projective defenses, or seeing it on the other hand as a balance of destructive and creative forces, which have the potential for containment, integration, and development. The latter point of view is that of the Berlin School of Dynamic Psychiatry, founded by Günter Ammon. It's positive definition of the unconscious and the concept of „social energy“ result in an optimistic outlook on the creative and constructive potential of groups, not only small groups but also large groups. If this assertion is correct, it requires an explanation in which way and with what means large groups exercise processes of constructive working through and problem solving, processes which Bion termed „working group mentality“. In this lecture it is attempted to sketch out different patterns of problem solving large groups unconsciously develop to fulfill their tasks. The central hypothesis, which will be demonstrated in different aspects, is, that the „group mind“ (Foulkes) automatically uses familiar, pre-existing patterns derived from nature and culture to initiate processing of specific problems and to promote this processes further. These processes can be seen as manifestations of constructive „swarm intelligence“ in human beings, which give reasons for hope in times of global crisis and the menace of irrational fears and projected hate in populist movements in many societies. Consequences of this approach for psychotherapy and the large group of society will be outlined.