

**General Introduction at the MedConf 2008 of the presentation
of
JUAN CAMPOS Y MALCOLM PINES
Hanne Campos**

This Mediterranean Conference is a very special event in more than one sense. The associations that convene it —the IAGP and the SEPTG— are nomad associations, one worldwide, the other national. Each time they meet it is decided where to set up tent next time. They are professional associations that shelter and unite under their tent all professionals who work with groups of all sizes and types and take into account the groups implicit in their work, independently of the theoretical frame of reference or specific methods used.



For twenty-five years now the IAGP and the SEPTG are closely linked. In 1982 the SEPTG became a member organization of IAGP, since the IAGP admits individual as well as organizational members which have representatives in the CAO, the Consultative Assembly of Organizational Affiliates. Since 1982 then, the Spanish Society collaborates actively in the projects and activities of the International Association. Often the SEPTG takes up the themes of the IAGP congresses, elaborating them previously in its annual symposiums, and always stimulating the participation of its members in the international encounters.

This Mediterranean Conference also carries historical imprints which make it special, and which we often forget. We would not be here if 150 years ago Sigmund Freud would not have been born, who formulated some of the ideas we have since then about the development of the human individual. We would neither be here if 100 years ago, almost at the same time, some others would not have been shouting: Stop! There is no individual without a group! The individuals' voice was louder, and the ones of the group have had a very difficult time. Anyhow, here we are, with agreements and disagreements regards the compass left us by the giants.

There still is another circumstance which makes this III Mediterranean Conference special. We have with us here Malcolm Pines and Juan Campos, two pioneers who are live testimonies of the evolution of group work this last half century. Their tie is the groupanalytic matrix in which they were trained and their interest in history. Juan is known as the Xenophon, the historian of group analysis and also psychoanalysis. He has been particularly interested in the democratic and harmonic functioning of our professional associations. Malcolm is known as the Standard Bearer of groupanalysis. Malcolm is great

in articulating different points of view in groupanalysis and psychoanalysis, while Juan articulates languages and cultures, meetings face to face by correspondence, virtual and digital. The contributions of both permit us to have a perspective of the historical development of our professional metier.

Not only did it seem interesting that Juan and Malcolm tell us something of the group development this last half century and their own experience, but we thought that their presence is also an excellent opportunity to discuss the milestones of their professional pathways. Thinking about what questions we could prepare in this respect, Juan, Malcolm, Mercè, Pere and myself met personally in group in June and August, and the rest of the year in a Yahoo-group. In resonance to the June meeting Mercè produced a scheme that visualises four aspects not only of the professional path of Juan and Malcolm but which also can be useful in thinking about the professional pathway of anyone of us. Mercè will use this scheme in her function as guide of this presentation al alimón.

We have also prepared a CD which contains the materials and documents which have come up in the dialogue of our group and perhaps may be of interest for the people meeting here. It includes between others: the resonances and graphic elaborations of the June meeting, two professional interviews made by colleagues to Juan in 2007 and to Malcolm in 1981, papers of both related to the history of the psychotherapies, groupanalysis and psychoanalysis, and also a historical chart with the professional milestones of the authors and of the development of groupanalysis this last half century.

Our wish is to present to you this meeting with Malcolm and Juan in a way that it may facilitate in turn the dialogue with you here present. With the aid of some power points, perhaps the tents of our nomad associations, the SEPTG and the IAGP, here on the shore of the Mediterranean are boats, the boats of groups which serve as bridges in this sea of humanity full of cayucos y pateras.

I shall leave you here with Mercè, Juan and Malcolm and the power point of the scheme which will serve us as a bridge.

