Malcolm Pines was born in London in 1925. At an early age he decided to study medicine in order to become a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst. His basic training was at the Maudsley Hospital, where he met one of the three major influences in his life, Dr S.H. Foulkes, founder of group analysis, who became his training analyst. The other two were Dr Tom Main and Dr Noe Pines, his father. From his Russian background, he inherited a sense of history, widespread family connections in Eastern and Western Europe, and an insatiable desire to travel. Tom Main, a man of vision, inspired him to find his own vision and develop a strong sense of humanity in the treatment of the mentally ill.

Had he chosen another career, it might have been as a historian or scholar. With his insatiable appetite for knowledge, it is not difficult to imagine him happily ensconced in a vast library. His explorations of the mind cover an enormous territory, and these have been paralleled by his endless travelling. He is a global intellectual and lecturer, much in demand. What drives him to do so much? Is it the challenge of relating to other language groups and establishing similarities and differences? When he is on a foreign assignment, he is an inveterate foot soldier, quickly exploring local geography, assimilating the culture, storing information in his active mind —ignoring the weather and the normal fatigues of the traveller. He can get off a plane and walk through a city whilst others are recovering from jet lag or disorientation. He could be termed a 'professional rubberneck'. If he could take music with him, he would choose Bach cantatas and fugues, Schubert sonatas, Beethoven quartets and Delius. As for books, he would need a cabin trunk full of diverse reading.

Although he has written and lectured so much and encouraged others to write, *Circular Reflections* is a first. He finds writing a formidable intellectual task which would mean disturbing his journeying. He wishes he had more time for research and writing but sees himself as a ‘creative mirror’, gathering the insights of others —more an investigator than a discoverer. Occasional creative moments he finds difficult to encapsulate and synthesise, but he has a facility to reinterpret, to outline a schema, to improvise and fill in. He finds this more fun than struggling to ‘complete’ a paper and, after all, as he muses at times, ‘what is complete?’
It is not difficult to see how Malcolm Pines was attracted to the multiple facets of group analysis and how eventually he became a founder member of the Institute of Group Analysis in 1972. After Foulkes death, he clearly was the Heir Apparent but he has never formally assumed this role. He has devoted a great amount of his career to teaching. He enjoys putting his knowledge to use and especially enjoys the dialogue and interaction with students. He sees the group analytic profession extending its influence through the graduates as teachers and practitioners, with more publications and exchanges with other psychotherapies. He says the time for Freud is over. What we need are synthesisers, a Freud who is not so determined to create his own image and school.

At the IGA 24 years on, he is still actively teaching, lecturing, sitting on committees and generally keeping an open and reflective eye on group analytic phenomena. He has held many offices there, but has never wanted to be Institute’s Chair. He has, however, been President of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy.

Politically, theoretically and technically Malcolm Pines is a successful and esteemed practitioner of individual and group analysis, working privately and collegiate at the Group Analytic Practice and internationally.

Written work by Malcolm Pines

Journal Articles

1968
A view of the psychoanalytic theories of sexual instincts, following a clear outline of the work of Masters and Johnson.

1976
Sleep and dreams are examined. A clinical example of a patient sleeping during the analytic session is presented.

Looks at the concept of coherency and the development of processes in the mother/infant dyad. Within the group analytic situation it is the development of coherency that arises from the development of a group matrix. The work of Freud on group psychology and that of Loewald and Lichtenberg—all looking at the early mother/infant relationship—are discussed.

1977
‘A prospect of group analysis’ *Group Analysis*, April, 10(1), pp. 49-55.
The effect of the anthropologist Jean Pouillon upon Pines and his work in the field of group psychotherapy are examined. Pines postulates that the group offers patients chances to rework their early experiences in the family.

1978
Provides observations on patients who have sought help after leaving the institution of school, which provided a boundary and thereby a definition of themselves. Ego boundaries and boundary functions are discussed.

Gives a clear outline of the characteristic of borderline patients despite the difficulty of defining this condition, Looks at crises of reconciliation, Kernberg’s ego weakness, and Winnicott’s transitional object. Pines considers that the demands of borderline patients can be tolerated within the group setting; whereas in psychoanalysis, those demands can be experienced so intensely, that the treatment becomes too painful for patient and analyst.

The two systems of psychoanalysis and group analysis are defined and followed by this paper, which looks at the shift from the instinct model to the object relationship in psychoanalysis and its consequent effect on group analysis. This paper concludes that the similarities are more important than the differences.

1979


Looks at the shorter history of training in group analysis compared with that of psychoanalysis, and shows the effect of the development of object relations theory and studies of group processes by social psychologists. Three principal schools of analytic group psychotherapy are presented, followed by a resume of the training (including a training group analysis) offered by the Institute of Group Analysis at that time.


The phases of development of the group from the viewpoint of the group analyst and that of the patients(s) are considered, along with the various processes of the group and the response of the conductor to these phases.

1980


The basic dynamics of the dyadic situation and that of the group are discussed. A number of people are taken into the group to form their own society to observe and work on their difficulties and reactions to fellow group members. Comparison is made between psychoanalysis where ‘on-body psychology’ and the constant relationship are emphasised and that of the group situation where the patterns of relationships are constantly changing. Group processes are discussed from both the social psychology and the psychoanalytic points of view.

1981


Psychoanalytic theory and technique are considered within the context of the author’s personal preference. Reference is made to psychoanalytic journals and annuals, with a suggestion of a basic text for a more detailed study of psychoanalysis.


Describes Dr. Pines’ family background, training in psychoanalysis and group analytic psychotherapy, and his thoughts on the future of group therapy.


As previous entry.


The identity of the individual and how this is attained is explored within the social context. Group analysis emphasises this social aspect and enables the group member to discover their ‘self’ and those of the other members. Kohut’s school of self-psychology is discussed.

1982


The term ‘mirroring’ is defined and considered within the context of group analytic thought and cultural discourse. The terms ‘benign’ and ‘negative’ mirroring are explored.

Basic cautionary information about the treatment of these patients is followed by a discussion of treatment with reference to the use of group psychotherapy. Hospitalisation of these patients as a treatment is presented.

1983

‘On mirroring in group psychotherapy’ *Group*, Summer 7 (2) pp. 3-17.

Contends that mirroring in a group provides information for the patient through the social processes within the group, and is considered to be part of the foundation of the group matrix. Observations are made on the use of the term ‘mirroring’ in psychoanalytic writings and general literature. Two types of mirroring phenomena are considered, one that is primitive and destructive, the other which is dialogical where differences can be tolerated. Clinical vignettes re included to illustrate the concept.


Compares psychoanalysis and group analysis looking at the basic model of group analysis as defined by S. H. Foulkes.

‘Reflets en miroir: facteur therapeutique en groupe-analyse’ (Mirroring: therapeutic factor in group analysis.) *Connexions*, No. 41, pp.53-77.

Mirroring as a therapeutic process within group analysis is discussed and contrasted with that of individual psychoanalysis.


Argues that Freud was a man of his time, that is, the nineteenth century, who provided a greater understanding of man as an individual. The development of S. H. Foulkes’ theories and the individual in the social context are explored.

1984


S. H. Foulkes’ approach to group analysis, particularly his concept of the matrix, is discussed with a consideration of current developments in psychoanalysis, especially that of the dyadic relationship.


Four aspects of the borderline syndrome condition are considered: anxiety of fragmentation in self-representation and self-organisation, organisation of the personality structure, the model of the inner world; and narcissistic development and psychopathology. Argues that interpersonal disturbances in early development cause a weak structure to the personality, and that the group analytic setting creates a container for the borderline patient.


The concept of ‘mirroring’ is defined and considered within the context of loving relationships. The role of the group analyst as a mirror is explored.

1985


Looks at the early experience of the infant of the mirroring of the infant by the mother. Compares the view of Lacan that the infant’s experience is alienating with that of Winnicott which is the mother and confirmation. Pines also looks at negative mirroring and self psychology.

1986

‘Coherencia y ruptura en el sentido del self’ (Integration and fragmentation of sense of self.) *Clínica y Análisis Grupal*, Julio-Sept, 10(41), pp. 425-438.
The concept of self and integration/fragmentation of self, and the normal and psychopathology of the sense of self are discussed.

   Asserts that the concept of coherency is a basic principle of the psychic development of the human being. Examines the work of significant psychoanalysts such as Freud, Bion and Loewald regarding coherency.

   The step-children of Vienna are Freud, Moreno and Foulkes. Their work and their links are explored within the European culture of the late 1800s and the early twentieth century.

‘The borderline personality: concepts and criteria.’ In M. Jackson and M. Pines (ed) Neurologie et Psychiatrie, pp.34-67
   Historical and current use of the concept of the borderline personality disorder is given, followed by clinical examples of the features of this condition.

‘The borderline personality: psychodynamics and treatment’ In M. Jackson, B. Stevens and M. Pines (eds) Neurologie et Psychiatrie, pp.66-88.
   Borderline personalities have a history of failure in the mother-baby relationship which then threatens the coherency of the self. A detailed explanation is given of the treatment/management offered by the Unit at the Maudsley Hospital.

1987
   Discusses the differences between Freud’s and Bion’s concept of psychosis. Rather than the eruption of instincts causing breakdown, Bion considers that failures in the mother/infant dyad cause incapacity to receive, process and dream about emotional experience. The therapeutic style of the group leader working in the style of Bion’s is compared with that of S. H. Foulkes. Argues that as Bion always dearth with the group as a whole, resisting the needs of the individual, Foulkes’ style is a more mature understanding of the individual and the group.

   Discusses the psychotherapeutic process in understanding the disorders of mental and emotional life. The styles and development of psychotherapy training institutions are considered.

   The reasons for Freud neglecting shame are briefly examined before a detailed consideration of more recent work.

1988
   A concise presentation of the similarities and differences of the roles of mediators and group analysts.

1989
   Considers the category of borderline personality disorder, and reviews the current literature on the treatment of these patients.

   Defines healing so as to bring about wholeness and links this with the group-as-a-whole. The interaction of the individual and the social are examines.

‘On history and psychoanalysis’ Psychoanalytic Psychology, Spring, 6(2), pp. 121-135.
   This was a Freud Memorial Lecture at University College, London in June 1986 and looks at the current reappraisal of Freud and psychoanalysis by using the works of historians with particular reference to Freud. The historical
context of Freud’s development of psychoanalysis —regarding the social context of Freud’s own development— is discussed.

‘The group-as-a-whole approach in Foulksian group analytic psychotherapy. Special Issue: The group-as-a-whole’ Group, Fall-Winter, 13(3-4), pp. 212-216.
Discusses the concept of coherency, linking with the concept of wholeness through to the concept of group-as-a-whole. Argues that coherency is both conscious and unconscious. Also looks at Foulkes’ concept of the group matrix.

1990

Could Freud have been an Englishman? —so begins the article. Compares the work of early pioneers of psychoanalysis in this country during the late Victorian and Edwardian period, with the culture of Europe that enabled growth over there. Notes the effect of the work of neurologists on psychiatry which eventually led to the formation of the Psycho-Analytical Society and the foundation of institutions such as the Tavistock Clinic.

Clinical examples of patients in group analysis are given to illustrate the concepts of ‘affirmative’ and ‘appropriate’ responses, which Pines prefers, although accepting the phrase ‘correctional emotional experience’.

1991

Shame is considered historically, developmentally and culturally. Four particular aspects of shame are presented: ‘shame by disgrace’, ‘privacy and shame’, shame and the self’ and ‘shame and the face’. It is asserted that the sensitive recognition of shame by the group analyst enables understanding of the patient.

1992

The theories and methods of S. H. Foulkes are outlined and discussed with reference to other forms of analytic group psychotherapy. Particular reference is made to Foulkes’ seminal concept of the group matrix.

1993

‘Psychoanalysis and group analysis: Jews and Germans. Figure ground relationships’ Mind and Human Interaction.
Originally presented at the 9th European Symposium in Group Analysis ‘Boundaries and Barriers’, Heidelberg, 1993. The development of psychoanalysis and group analysis is viewed within the context of German/Jewish relations, and the founders”, Freud and S. H. Foulkes, both Jewish and born half a century apart as discussed.
1996
This special issue of *Therapeutic Communities* contains papers by Main, Bridges, Foulkes and Bion (first published in the *Bulletin* of the Menninger Clinic). Pines recollects and responds to his re-reading of the articles.

**Chapters within books**


‘Difficult’ patients do not have the level of socialisation that the majority of patients have and are often described as borderline. Describes the problems faced by the group therapist of an extremely demanding monopolising rage-filled patient with destructive tendencies, who can provoke the counter-aggression of other group members. Refers to the literature of Kohut, Kernberg and Foulkes.


Considers the work of S. H. Foulkes within the field of analytic group psychotherapy and the development of his theories.


Gives autobiographical information on S. H. Foulkes and his work with colleagues at Northfield Hospital. Outlines the theory, the social foundations, the dynamics and the therapeutic factors of the small slow-open group. Basic details of the format of group psychotherapy are discussed along with the expected functions of the group therapist. N.B. The large group experience, that is, ward group, is described.


An outline of the development of psychological services within psychiatry and the NSH in the twentieth century is given. Group analytic psychotherapy and the Tavistock model are presented.


An outline of psychological and psychoanalytic knowledge of visual interaction in infancy and early childhood.


Demonstrates the differences between group analytic psychotherapy as fostered by S. H. Foulkes and psychoanalytic group psychotherapy as fostered by W. R. Bion, which is often referred to as the Tavistock approach.


Takes World War I as the starting point following the experience of treating shell-shock victims. Describes the founding of the Tavistock Clinic and the Cassel Hospital; the tension between psychiatry and neurology; the entry of psychotherapists into the psychiatric domain; the post-war formation of the British Psycho-Analytical Society; the criticism as well as support of Psychoanalysis, and the links with the Bloombury Group and the Hogarth Press. With the creation of the NHS there came a growth in the provision of psychodynamic psychiatry.

A detailed resume is given of the historical development of psychodynamic psychiatry, beginning with psychiatry at the turn of the century, the recognition of shell-shock during World War I and the post-war work of psychoanalysts such as Rivers and Jones. The impact of World War II on British psychiatry through the work of military psychiatrists is discussed. The foundation of the Tavistock Clinic and the growth of group analysis are described.


The development of Foulkes’ work is outlined and compared with the Tavistock model and other forms of group-as-a-whole therapy. Group analytic therapy is elaborated and the role of the conductor is explored.


Short article on the history, theory, technique and clinical issues of group analytic psychotherapy as defined by S. H. Foulkes.


Defines the term ‘interpretation’ in four ways and elaborates (with clinical examples) on these definitions from the perspective of a group analyst.

Editor and Joint Editor of Books


Contains contributions showing the influence of Bion both as a person and in his writings on associates in group work, researchers, others who have debated the theoretical concepts and Bion’s work during and post war through to his work at the Tavistock Clinic and the Tavistock-style conferences.


Contributions include those from Foulkes’ military hospital experiences, colleagues from the early days of group analysis in England, and colleagues from America and Europe.


An account of the clinical experience of the Group Analytic Practice. Pines has two personal contributions within the chapter, ‘Special categories of patients in groups’: 1. “The borderline patient” (pp.97-99) and 6. “Interminable patients” (pp.112-114).


Proceedings of the VIth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy, Copenhagen, 1980. Two excellent volumes with a multitude of contributions.


Contributors offer personal insights and techniques for the treatment of patients who are very disturbed. Pines shares a joint editorial introduction with Schermer, as well as providing Chapter 6, ‘Borderline phenomena in analytic groups’. 