

# Online READING GROUP

January 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th, 2024

## on the Fifth Basic Assumption “Me-Ness”

### What is a reading group ?

GRI's reading groups offered since 2014 have gone through various *avataars* - initially as face to face offerings, they moved online as far back as 2016 (via skype those days!) to allow for participation from multiple locations.

The reading group we are offering is intended to be fast paced, intensive, and immersive. We are choosing one paper - The Fifth Basic Assumption by W. Gordon Lawrence, Alastair Bain, and Laurence Gould. (Published in *Free Associations* (1996) Volume 6, Part I (No. 37): 2855), about 20 pages.

Furthering the work of Wilfred Bion on basic assumptions in groups, the authors postulated basic assumption Me-ness as a state in which groups often find themselves. Many of us group relations practitioners believe that this is a basic assumption that is even more relevant and prevalent today, and can throw light on much of what we puzzle about in our current experience as members of groups.

### The task and how we will work

The task of this reading group is *to engage in a group setting on the ideas offered in the paper in a way that one allows oneself a more close and attentive familiarity with the ideas.*

The way we will work is best described as study and contemplate. Participants will be expected to pre-read a section of the paper. In the reading group sessions, the time will be spent in clarifying or focussing on some aspects that stand out for the participants. The other aspect is contemplating the implications for oneself and the communities and society one is part of or concerned about.

This reading group methodology is intended to be not only intellectual but requiring a greater involvement of oneself to develop a relationship with the ideas. Engagement doesn't mean one has to accept or agree with an idea- but one needs to think about it and link it with one's experience.



## Who can join ?

Anyone interested in working in study & contemplation in this way and who has attended an experiential offering of GRI - a group relations conference or listening to the unconscious workshop. We particularly invite those who have more recently attended GRIs offerings and are looking for ways to continue reflecting on and furthering this journey.

Number of places is 24.

These will be 4 sessions of 1.15 hours, one each week on Thursday night 8.00 to 9.15 pm IST via ZOOM Beginning January 2024, the 4 sessions are Thursdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. Apply if you feel fairly sure you can attend all 4 sessions.

To indicate your intention to join, please fill in this brief [application form](#), and wait for a confirmation of your place from us. [The last date for sending in your application is Friday 22nd Dec 2023.](#)

## Fee/Contribution

As this is a short event and online, GRI is not charging a fee.

## Convening team

Rosemary Viswanath and Uma Ravikumar will convene this reading group.

Write in to [study@grouprelationsindia.org](mailto:study@grouprelationsindia.org) in case of questions or clarifications you may need.

For more information about GRI reading groups offered so far:

<https://www.grouprelationsindia.org/reading-groups>

Should you wish to make a contribution/donation to support bursaries in GRI events which have a fee, please write to Vanya at [office@grouprelationsindia.org](mailto:office@grouprelationsindia.org)

