12th international Working Conference

Learning From Action - LFA 2022

DECISION MAKING, ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESILIENCE

7-9 October 2022

Casa del Sacro cuore, Possagno (TV) North Italy

with the Sponsorship of Mito & Realta’ Association

Places are limited

In this edition the Training Group will be activated

Learning From Action - LFA 2022
This is a training model which offers participants an opportunity for direct learning, through a brief period of living together in a community-style setting.

**Learning from action** is at the core of this training. It involves exploring other languages besides the verbal one. The focus of this Working Conference is learning to give actions an intelligible meaning, considering them part of a different language.

The idea of these Working Conferences originates in the early 2000s from the joint thinking and cooperation between Robert D. Hinshelwood and Enrico Pedriali and from 2010 carried on by Luca Mingarelli. This type of conference is now an item in the Standard Quality Manual of Community of Communities and the project “Visiting” promoted by Mito & Realtà Association.

The attribution of meaning to the action becomes an essential working tool, not only because of the dynamics present in any group but above all for those difficulties encountered by most members of therapeutic communities in expressing emotion in words.

Indeed, LFA is aimed at developing fundamental competencies for all those who work in residential or semi-residential services and communities, and more generally in mental health institutions. Such competences are highly valuable for a wide range of professionals such as educators, nurses, assistants, administrators, managers, consultants, psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists, neuropsychologists, neuropsychiatrists, social workers, carers, etc. However, as has already been successfully experienced in the past editions, professionals working in other areas, like the branch of profit and the corporate world, are also most welcome to join the conference.

The “Learning from action” Working Conference integrates the Group Relations model (www.ilnodogroup.it) and the TC model and is aimed at helping community staff and carers to explore and study the value of their daily activities as a form of communication.

The primary task of LFA is to learn from the experience of exploring how unconscious and nonverbal communication and group dynamics shape Decision-Making processes and influences accountability and other aspects of living and working together.

Members of the conference and staff together will constitute this temporary learning community.

Within this special training context, the main learning objective of the conference is to enhance the participants’ understanding of conscious and unconscious dynamics affecting
Decision-Making processes both at an individual and group level, along with their organisational and institutional implications. Participants will have a chance to explore their own roles and the way they operate within and on behalf of the whole system (the temporary learning organisation), with a focus on non-verbal and unconscious communication. Consequently, they will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own contribution to the environment as they take part in daily life and relationships within the community.

A further learning objective of this event is to explore the various dimensions and connections between acting, thinking and learning so that the acquired insight can then be transferred and applied to different workplaces and practices.

This working conference will create an opportunity for a direct experience of the different elements that come into play when making decisions, and will stimulate reflection on what might constitute a democratic practice and an environmentally sustainable use of available resources in a healthy institution.

The themes focused upon in this year’s Working Conference are: The ability to make decisions, the accountability and capability to build resilience within the organizations.

The basic needs of community life will be dealt with by forming groups aimed at the following tasks:

- cooking and catering;
- cleaning and tidying communal areas;
- organizing leisure activities;
- managing money
- organizing other activities agreed upon during the course of the conference.

As in any other community or institution, participants will witness the emergence of interpersonal dynamics related to cohabiting and sharing, such as taking and delegating responsibility, working for others, making decisions, relating to authority and leadership, managing relationships between individuals and within groups, managing conflicts, using or wasting resources and much more.

In order to achieve these learning objectives, the conference will employ a “Learning from Action” methodology and it will be organised around a programme with several daily events, such as: Opening and Closing Plenary, Decision-Making Event and Decision-Making Groups, Activity Groups, Morning and Evening Community Meetings, Review and Application Groups and possible Emergency Meetings.
The languages spoken in LFA 2022 will be Italian and English using the resources in the system and we will focus and try to learn the unconscious language and the not verbal language

The LFA Working Conference is the first and only experience drawn from the “Group relation conference” model in which participants can experiment in money management for the needs of the group and can learn from this experience.

OTHER INFORMATION

- No lectures will be held
- A continued residence on site is expected for the whole duration of LFA 2022
- It is useful, indeed recommended, to repeat the LFA experience
- It’s recommended a careful and repeated reading of this leaflet

There are two ways to participate:

- **I Group**: this group is designed for first or second-time LFA attendees

- **T Group**: this is a Training Group for up to 4 participants who want to learn the method, are interested in working in therapeutic communities, have attended at least 2 LFA (or one LFA and other GRCs) and have experience in TCs.

**LFA 2022 will start on Friday 7th October 2022 at 13:00 (registration and snack 11:45–12:45)**

**The T Group’s program will start on Thursday 6th October 2022 at 19:30 (registration at 19:00)**

**The single bedroom** of Casa del Sacro Cuore guarantees the respect of Covid19 prevention’s laws. All participants have to take care of their own spaces

**Participation in the Conference is not recommended for individuals who are going through a period of high psycho-emotional stress.**
SCHEDULE

**Friday October 7th**

11,45-12,45 Registrazione dei partecipanti e spuntino / registration and snack

13,00-14,00 Riunione Plenaria di apertura / Opening plenary

14,00-14,30 Pausa / Break
14,30-16,00 Riunione decisionale plenaria / Decision-making plenary
16,00-16,30 Pausa / Break
16,30-17,15 Gruppi decisionali 1 / Decision-making groups 1
17,15-18,45 Attività 1 / Activities 1
18,45-19,00 Pausa / Break
19,00-20,00 Riunione di comunità della sera 1 / Evening community meeting 1
20,00-20,15 Pausa / Break
20,15-21,30 Cena / Dinner

21,35-22,15 Tempo libero comunitario 1 / Community free time 1

**Saturday October 8th**

08,00-09,00 Colazione / Breakfast
09,00-10,00 Riunione di comunità del mattino 1 / Morning community meeting 1

10,00-10,15 Pausa / Break
10,15-10,45 Gruppi decisionali 2 / Decision-making groups 2
10,45-12,30 Attività 2 / Activities 2

12,30-14,00 Pranzo / Lunch

14,00-14,30 Tempo libero comunitario 2 / Community free time 2
14,30-14,45 Pausa / Break
14,45-15,15 Gruppi decisionali 3 / Decision-making groups 3
15,15-15,30 Pausa / Break
15,30-16,45 Gruppi di revisione / Review groups
16,45-17,00 Pausa / Break
17,00-18,30 Attività 3 / Activities 3
18,30-18,45 Pausa / Break

18,45-19,45 Riunione di comunità della sera 2 / Evening community meeting 2

19,45-20,00 Pausa / Break
20,00-21,30 Cena / Dinner

21,35-22,15 Tempo libero comunitario 3 / Community free time 3
Sunday  October 9 th

07,00-08,00 Colazione
08,00-09,00 Riunione di comunità del mattino 2 / Morning community meeting 2

09,00-09,15 Pausa / Break
09,15-09,45 Gruppi decisionali / Decision-making groups 4
09,45-11,30 Gruppi di Applicazione / Application groups
11,35-12,45 Attività 4 / Activities 4
12,45-13,45 Pranzo / Lunch

13,45-14,15 Lavaggio piatti & pulizie conclusive / Washing up & cleaning

14,15-15,15 Riunione plenaria conclusiva / Closing plenary

15,15-15,30 Commiato / Leave taking  (tempo libero comunitario 4 / Community free time 4)

Any changes to this programme will be decided according to Staff needs and shared with partecipants before and during the Event
STAFF

Director – Luca Mingarelli
Psychologist, social entrepreneur, founder director and creator of Therapeutic Communities for Adolescents, President of Charity Rosa dei Venti onlus, Vice President of Il Nodo Group e Board member of Mito&Realtà, Director of The National Network Therapeutic Community for Adolescent, Board member of International Network Democratic Therapeutic Communities (INDTC), Board Member of The Consortium for Therapeutic Communities. Director and Co-Director of LFA since 2011, of LFA in Japan in 2017 and 2019, of other GRC in Italy (ALI, ECW). Author of many volumes: Difficult Adolescents, an autobiography of a therapeutic community for adolescent (Ananke 2009); Rules in Therapeutic Community – life and care organization- (Ananke 2018); Learning from Action Working with the Non-Verbal (Phoenix 2022). Ambassador of Michelangelo Pistoletto’s Third Paradise.

Associate Director and Director of Activities – Davide Catullo
Organisational psychologist and psychotherapist. He works in a community for young adults with personality disorders and is the head of a psychotherapy centre for the developmental age. He is a consultant for several organisations in the field of training and development (in health and business contexts).
He has been a member and lecturer in psychotherapy at the Institute of Group Psychoanalysis and the Centre for Psychoanalytic Research on Groups, and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Myth and Reality Association. He is a member of the Nodo Group. Member of GRC staff (LFA Japan 2019 and LFA 2021).

Administrator– Stefano Rambelli
Psychologist, Founding Partner and Connessioni Director of Generazioni s.c.s ONLUS. As a member of Generazioni, since many year, he plane and organize terapeuthic community for insane people even crime authority Supervisor and trainer for equipe. Trainer and consultant for organization and institution Profit and No-Profit

Consultant:

Lili Valkó
A clinical psychologist, group analyst psychotherapist from Budapest, Hungary. She has been a colleague of the therapeutic community of Thalassa Ház since 2007 in various forms from a university student volunteer through taking up leading roles to being a conductor of a tc training. She is an editor of the Hungarian psychotherapist journal “Pszichoterápia” and an active member of CSAKIT (the Hungarian group analysis association). She has been in the staff of LFA in 2016, 2017 and 2019, in the staff of PCCA in 2018 and in the staff of ALI 2022.
Mazal Menahem

Marco Lunardon
Psychologist Psychotherapist, since 2010 he is Clinical Director of the CTRP Col Roigo for personality disorders and of the CTRP Biancospin for minors managed by the Social Coop. La goccia. He worked in the Psychiatric Service of Bassano del Grappa from 1990 to 2013 dealing with rehabilitation, clinical and socio-health planning as a referent for mental health within the area plans and in collaboration with the private social sector. He works as a psychotherapist further as clinical and organizational supervisory consultant in other therapeutic communities. He is a member of Il Nodo Group and of Mito & Realtà of which he is co-coordinator of the Scientific Committee. Member of the Social Coop. La Goccia.

Scientific Supervisor (not present at the event): R.D. Hinshelwood
Psychiatrist, Psychoanalyst, former Director of the Cassel Hospital of London. Member of British Psychoanalytic Council, fellow member of The Royal College of Psychiatrists, Professor at the Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies, University of Essex, UK.

TIMETABLE
LFA 2022 will start on October 7th at 13:00 and will and on October 9th at 15.30

We recommend that participants arrive on time on Friday for registration and allocation of rooms between 11.45 and 12.15

. Lunch on Friday is not included. A snack will be available using food shared by participants.

FEES
The I group’ s fee for the conference is 540,00 € (+ Vat = 658,80 €)
The T group’ s fee for the conference is 650,00 € (+ vat = 793,00 €)

Fees include participation to the whole Working Conference and overnight stay, meals included.

. Request for any additional nights must be submitted to the Administrator
3 Bursaries are available to participant, the deadline is 15th settembre: Bursaries must be requested by mail using this mail address lfa@ilnodogroup.it.

There will be: a 10% discount for persons from abroad, for the organisations in partnership and for 2 participants from the same association or company, a 20% discount for 3 and more participants from the same organisation (it’s possible to use only one kind of discount).

To enrol LFA 2022 fill in the form unloadable from www.ilnodogroup.it before September 1th and pay the fee until September 12th.

FOR INFORMATION

e-mail: lfa@ilnodogroup.it - Application form: http://www.ilnodogroup.it

Amministrative Staff: Stefano Rambelli
e-mail: stefano.rambelli@generazioni.eu

LOCATION
Geographically Possagno in the North East of Italy and it is surrounded at North and South by mountains, at West and Est it looks to small countries named Cavaso del Tomba e Paderno del Grappa.

We are in a small village in the middle of a green area, where we can find the wonderful Tempio di Canova, at the top of the village, and the Istituto Cavanis’ group of houses in Possagno.

Possagno is 30 KM far from Bassano: Bassano in the nearest railway station (if required, we’ll be organized a bus service). Possagno is near Treviso Airport -1 hour by car -(Ryanair) and Venice – 1h and a half by car-.

THE VENUE
Sacro Cuore House, of the Congregation delle Charity School - ISTITUTO CAVANIS, is on the top of Col Draga (600 mt. s.l.m.), at the base of Massiccio del Monte Grappa. The House, recently renovated and retrofitted, allows a comfortable stay.
Il NODO Group is a scientific cultural not-for-profit Association which historically originated from a professional team formed in Turin in the nineties. It has developed study, training and consultancy activities in cooperation with the Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust in London and other national and international scientific institutions. The Members of Il Nodo Group are professionals with interdisciplinary and cross-sector competences in the health and social care fields, in the business world, in education, in social cooperation and in the public administration.

The Primary Task of the Social Enterprise Il Nodo Group is to promote the exploration and understanding of conscious and unconscious relational processes in individuals, groups, organizations and the society, as instruments of change management, support to the development and wellbeing. Following an initial sponsorship with also CESMA and TAVISTOCK, the Association Il NODO Group has become the main sponsor of the residential Group Relations Conference “Authority, Leadership and Innovation” (ALI) that has been organized yearly since 1998. Il NODO Group is also sponsors other GRC informed innovative events such as “Energy, Creative Cooperation and Well-being in organizations” and “Learning from action”. Today ALI is a firmly established member of the “Group Relations” international network and has become “the Italian formula of the Tavistock Method”. www.ilnodogroup.it

Mito & Realtà was founded during the preparation of the international convention “La comunità terapeutica tra mito e realtà” (Therapeutic Community between Myth and Reality”, held in Milan in 1996. It includes members of the traditional “historic” community movement (from England, France and Italy) and several operators from the Italian community. Its promoters are psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists and psychodynamic operators, who joined spontaneously to form this association. Its aim is to promote study, research and data collection on the functioning of Therapeutic Communities and professional training for those working within communities that deal with severe psychic distress. At present it includes a network of CTs for both adults and children, carrying out a peer-to-peer assessment called “Visiting”, aimed at constant quality improvement and at a democratic transmission of best practices. Now it’s a Scientific Association.

PARTNERSHIP
AIRSAM - www.airsam.it
CNCA - www.cnca.it
COIRAG - www.coirag.org
Cooperativa LA GOCCIA - http://www.cooplagoccia.eu/
Cooperativa Sociale UTOPIA - Comunità Acquaviva www.cooputopia.it
CSGSS – www.csgss.org
FENASCOP- www.fenascop.it
Fondazione ROSA DEI VENTI onlus - www.rosadeiventiti.org
GENERAZIONI società cooperativa sociale ONLUS www.generazioni.eu
INDTC - www.indtc.org
Bob Hinshelwood, Giada Boldetti e Luca Mingarelli interview on LFA:

the new book: Learning from Action: Working with the Non-verbal
Authors: R. D. Hinshelwood and Luca Mingarelli
https://firingthemind.com/product/9781912691210/

PARTICIPANTS OF LFA HAVE SAID

“‘I really fell in love with LFA. It was like seeing many of my most significant experiences merge and integrate; I suddenly saw the disclosure of a wholly new and revitalizing perspective from which I could watch several areas of my professional and personal life. As a consequence, my mind keeps coming up with new contributions I might give to such areas”
(D. Catullo, Psychotherapist/CT Coordinator)

This experience represents a very effective method to learn about unconscious behaviour in groups and about one’s own role in the group’s behaviour.
(G. Bratko, a participant from the US)

The key-word of the LFA Working Conference is then «real»: that is, a temporary organization which is, indeed, provisional, but not abstract/fictitious: it is, instead, immediate and concrete: precisely, real.
(G. Foresti, 2015 Staff Member)