



IRISH GROUP RELATIONS ORGANISATION REFLECTIVE CITIZENS KOINONIA

All-Island Reflective Citizens Ireland Our first virtual interactive event



**Saturday, 14th October 2023
09.30-13.30 | Dublin IST/UTC+1**



All-Island Reflective Citizens Ireland

Our first virtual interactive event



All-Island Reflective Citizens (ARC) Team

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Hosting staff

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Helena McNeill
Sanja Jokić
Bryan Maguire
Libby Kinneen
and others.

Venue

Virtual zoom hosted by
IGRO

Working language

English

Cost

FREE

This event is sponsored by IGRO, collaborating with International Reflective Citizen Koinonia, and managed by ARC Ireland Sub Committee who report to the IGRO Management Committee.

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What is the Irish Group Relations Organisation?

IGRO was established in 1999 by a group of professionals who had trained at the Tavistock Institute in London. Its founding purpose was the study of group processes and organisational life as we live in a complex, challenging, globalised, and networked world. In response to these realities, IGRO aims to represent and promote group relations in Ireland as an alternate way of understanding and making sense of the group dynamics of contemporary teams, organisations and society in general.

IGRO is part of a global network of group relations thinkers and practitioners offering a different perspective and experiential learning opportunities, while exploring the dynamics 'beneath the surface' that are often difficult to access, name and talk about. It recognises that an ability to engage with unconscious team and / or group dynamics can transform tensions and negative energies into positive forces to enhance collaboration, creativity and overall group and organisational effectiveness.

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or Twitter: @GroupIrish

Welcome



A warm welcome to you. Thank you for registering to attend the inaugural meeting of the All-Island Reflective Citizens (ARC) Ireland event.

What is the All-Island "Reflective Citizens" event Ireland?

The All-Island Reflective Citizens is a reflective space. Participants share their thoughts, feelings, fantasies, dreams, drawings and hypotheses. Sometimes a specific topic is the foundation of the discussion and at other times it's an open session. Through respectful conversations, participants have an opportunity to:

- explore new themes and perspectives,
- learn about yourself and others,
- make visible the unconscious (what's not said or what's 'beneath the surface' of communities,
- develop self awareness about how you interact with others including the host-convenor / facilitator or participants.

Where does this work come from?

Reflective Citizens is founded in the psychoanalytic traditions (psychoanalysis, group analysis, group relations, therapeutic communities, social dreaming, listening posts, and operative groups).

Who can attend the event?

Anyone in Ireland or connected to Ireland throughout the world is welcome to attend. You do not need any experience of this type of event to participate.

How can you get the most from the event?

To get the most from the event, participants need to be curious about interactions and responses. We need to remain open to the variety of discourses and paradigms that may emerge. We also recognise that there is no right or wrong opinion - there is no assumed privilege that any participant 'owns the Truth'.

We hope that you find this to be a rewarding, interesting and inspiring event. We look forward to meeting you on the day. Beir bua agus beannacht (Good luck).

Irene O Byrne-Maguire, Chair ARC Ireland Sub-committee and Bryan Maguire, Chair IGRO

Workshop programme

09.00 - 09.25	Entry Event with part of the hosting team: Arrivals to the zoom room, first encounters, sorting out technical or other practical problems	25 mins
09.30	Beginning of Reflective Citizens Workshop	
09.30 - 09.35	Introduction to WS with steering team	5 mins
09.35 - 10.20	Social dreaming	45 mins
10.20 - 10.55	Reflective Citizens large group	35 mins
10.55 - 11.10	Small break - moving towards the Reflective Citizens small group (break out zoom room)	15 mins
11.10 - 11.45	Work in small Reflective Citizens Group (self directed with hosts available)	35 mins
11.45 - 11.55	Small break - moving towards Reflective Citizens large group two (same room as LG1)	10 mins
11.55 - 12.45	Reflective Citizens - large group	50 mins
12.45 - 13.05	RAG review and application in mini groups	20 mins
13.05 - 13.30	Review, planning and close of All-Island Reflective Citizens	25 mins
13.30	End of Reflective Citizens Workshop	
13.30 - 13.45	Exit event with goodbyes with part of hosting staff Reflective Citizens zoom rooms stays open for 15 mins	15 mins

(break-out small zoom-groups included)

About International Reflective Citizens Koinonia

Reflective Citizens (RC) Koinonia (community of communities) is now collaborating further in applying the unique Reflective Citizens - Methodology to co-create reflective spaces with and for citizens from a wide range of different backgrounds (regarding our ways of living and of experiencing our citizenship, wherever we come from, in varieties of our social-political histories, ethnicity, gender, classes, age, professions...) - finding ways towards global matrices.

The method was founded and developed in Belgrade, Serbia, in the early 2000s by two friends and colleagues - Dr. Marina Mojović and Dr. Jelica Satarić (both psychiatrists and psychotherapists, group analysts, working in therapeutic communities). They established the Reflective Citizens basic building-blocks -

- the seasonal Reflective Citizens - workshops (with Reflective Citizens branches in different cities, villages, organisations),
- the Reflective Citizens Training for Reflective Citizens conveners, and for Reflective Citizens organisers, and
- as well as the Belgrade International RC- Conferences.

The long journey of the internationalisation of the Reflective Citizens - Koinonia reached new levels.

RC-Koinonia is both the RC-Method & the RC-Community of collaboration among RC-branches / communities using and developing the same RC-Method - being trained in this method, continuing jointly to learn and develop the field. It is also devoted to collaboration with similar / sibling methods.

History and essentials

From informal citizens-groups on the margins of the Belgrade peace protests during the “Horrible Nineties”, and in grass roots style, RC developed through learning to adapt (meeting in schools, coffee shops, museums, dancing theaters, shipwrecks, cottages, parks, libraries... often in highly traumatised communities) - and in corona times, moving to virtual communication platforms.

In essence, RC emerged in response to need, trusting in the capacity of raw human exchanges for learning-through-experience of true dialogue culture and citizens responsibility. RC aspires to enable a free sharing of thoughts, feelings, fantasies, dreams, drawings and hypotheses, opening up the minds to the chaotic and the uncontrollable unconscious of communities within ‘safe-enough’ dialogue situations.

Significant for the RC-conception were long years of dialogue spaces among related psychoanalytic traditions (psychoanalysis, group analysis, group relations, therapeutic communities, social dreaming, listening posts, and operative groups), within the Koinonia-Art learning community - enabling the birth of the RC-offspring – thus, keeping the psychoanalytic flame of liberal and cosmopolitan ideals burning.

Marina Mojović still remembers as a child experiencing the Martin Luther King’s speeches in the Atlanta church (which she attended few times when living in Atlanta, USA in the early sixties), as a lively

internal flame for “dreaming”.

RC-events always reveal many-layers of personal, family, community, regional, European and world related dynamics in their complexity of human interactions.

Appreciation of complexity is strongly present in the core values. RC does not aim to arrive jointly to any sort of homogeneous conclusion. Such human needs are, of course, often encountered, acknowledged and contained as much as possible. RC is primarily a space for freedom of diversity, for learning to listen and to be heard, for allowing difficult feelings (like despair, hate, rage, fears, guilt or shame to be expressed), defenses from them eventually seen / understood, as well as a place to learn to allow positive feelings like appreciation, hope, love etc.

Opening up new themes and perspectives, learning about the others and one-self in relation to the others includes also the convener-participants, without any assumed privileges to own the “Truth”. Essential is the challenge for all participants to open their minds for the variety / diversity of discourses / paradigms and curiosity for interactions, while keeping (or repairing) core human values.

There is an ongoing RC-learning of the ‘art-of-listening’ and the ‘art-of-dialogue’ - indeed, transforming hate into culture of dialogue within the RC-KOINONIA framework or RC “заједничарење” (in terms of Pat de Mare and its cultural origins).

General information about the contents of the Reflective Citizens Workshop

A Reflective Citizens Workshop consists of five major parts:

1. Social Dreaming Matrix

The Social Dreaming Matrix is led in Gordon Lawrence style (author of the Social Dreaming method) - a space for sharing dreams and associations related to dreams. We do not explore the personal contents of dreams but allow them to enrich us with new thought and new thinking related to communities, the world around and in us, in which we are living now. Dreams speak with dreams. (When done in vivo, we sit in snowflake arrangement of chairs.)

2. Reflective Citizens Large Group First

All participants are together (when done in person, we sit in circle) in free-floating conversation reflecting upon various psycho-social themes from our different citizens roles in life. It is like a pool of thoughts, images, emotions, ideas etc. through which we connect and relate to each other, group and society. We invite as many as possible voices to join in.

3. Reflective Citizens Small Groups

Leaderless groups with hosts-facilitators (helping technically, and reminding as to time and task) is a more intimate space for psycho-social dialogue, easier for most voices to emerge, if wish so. Small groups will be created by host using break-out room option on Zoom.

4. Reflective Citizens Large Group Second

Participants continue discussion in the large group and we invite persons to share their thoughts and associations from the small groups if they wish.

5. Review and application group

We invite participants to share, what they might bring home from this Workshop and apply in their everyday life. Also to reflect upon their experience of the Workshop. Groups with two to four participants will be created by host using break-out room option on Zoom.

Technical tips

Confirmation of arrival

We look forward to welcoming you to the event. You will have registered on Eventbrite to gain access. You will receive the zoom link by return. Please do not share the zoom link with others.

Instead, please invite persons to register their email address via our Eventbrite link [here](#) before Friday, 13th October at 14.00 hours so that they too can receive the zoom link by return.

Arrival time

It is advisable to come to the workshop, at least 15 min. before the start of the workshop, in order to solve all technical problems and start working at the exact time. Email help is available during the event from Bryan @ BTMaguire@gmail.com.

Additional technical information

If you do not already have Zoom, please download and install the application, which can be found at www.zoom.us and is free of charge. For those who have registered on Eventbrite, the zoom link is available in your confirmation email. The zoom room will be open 15 minutes before the start so you have the opportunity to join and add your name and county / country on joining. Some members of the host staff will be there to welcome you on arrival.

Technical recommendations

It is recommended, if possible, to provide a quiet environment, with privacy, limited interruptions and with minimal background sounds (no TVs and other electronic devices included). It is also recommended that you mute your microphone when not speaking (turn on the mute option, and open audio when you speak).