



Reading Group

When: Tuesdays 30 January, 6 and 13 February, 2018, 6 -8pm

Where: Council of Adult Education, 253 Flinders Lane.

What: A Reading Group facilitated by GRA members John Newton and Sallyanne Miller.

The complexity of emerging workplaces and the networked society have introduced new challenges to thinking about group relations. Ralph Stacey, who argues for a shift from spatial metaphors (container/contained) to temporal metaphors (emergence and self-organisation) and Philip Boxer, who changes the emphasis from inside-out to outside-in when considering the challenge of meeting demand from a networked environment, are two authors who come to mind. Both of their approaches have considerable implications for how we think about power, authority and identity.

A more recent contribution comes from Paul Verhaeghe in his book **Says Who? The Struggle for Authority in a Market-based Society. Scribe Publications. 2017.**

Verhaeghe is a clinical psychologist troubled by the issues patients bring to him in his consulting room. Traditional diagnoses seem inadequate so he moves his gaze outside the clinic and begins to track down the sources of the existential dilemmas his patients suffer. Why is identity so problematic today? Why is it so difficult to feel confident in role?

In a profound yet readable style he chronicles the erosion of patriarchy and the belief that there is someone on high who knows. What does this erosion mean for parents, teachers, politicians, doctors, police and professional experts, let alone our institutions? Is there an alternative? Should we just be left to sort it out amongst ourselves? Is every one 'right' and to suggest otherwise an unconscionable blow (racist, phobic, sexist, classist etc.) to self-esteem and individual rights? Why has greed become a value and happiness obligatory?

Verhaeghe begins an investigation into horizontal authority; its possibilities and the capacities and critical specifications that enable it to work. What it might mean for organisation, management and accountability?

This requires a re-examination of the concept of authority, that necessary regulator between self and other, pain and pleasure, life and death.

To participate in the reading group you will need to have access to Verhaeghe's book (\$29.99 at Readings bookshop) and sign up for all 3 sessions: Tuesdays 30 January, 6 and 13 February, 2018.

The cost is \$60 for the 3 sessions.

Group membership will be capped at 15 and will likely include longer serving members of GRA and others who have shown an interest in joining our association.

Please register as below by 15 January to secure a place.

Also, please let me know by email if you have registered.

Kind regards

John

john.newton@iinet.net.au

Payment: may be made as follows:

Electronic transfer to our bank account:

Account name: Group Relations Australia Inc.

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account: BSB 06-3262 Account: 10319634

Transaction description: **Read Gp and your surname**

So we can identify your transaction, please email Caroline Kardachi administrator@grouprelations.org.au to advise of your payment.