In 2008 the members of Grup d'Anàlisi Barcelona decided to elaborate the pathway followed by everyone in this association over the years, be it in the field of group analysis or in the sphere of group work in general. This “Pathway in Group Analysis” is the summary of the trajectory of Juan Campos as he himself outlined it last year. In Spanish he chose the word “singladura” to describe this pathway. Singladura is the course traced by a ship as it cuts the waters, the ship of the groups he worked and lived in.

One of the strands of my professional development has been my relationship to the International Association of Group Psychotherapy (IAGP), but also to the Spanish Society of Group Psychotherapy and Techniques (SEPTG) and the Group Analytic Society (GAS). These are the organizational contexts where this development took place, the IAGP being the most encompassing, the one which includes the others. Fifty years ago I had the opportunity of knowing three of its founders. During the recent Mediterranean Regional Conference organized by the SEPTG and the IAGP last February, I realized that my professional development as group psychotherapist has followed step by step the same milestones which I chose to
underline in the development of this Association and which I sum up in my “A history of the IAGP: facts and findings” (1998).

In other words, my developmental stages coincide with the ones of the Prehistory of the IAGP, 1948, Fourth World Congress of Mental Hygiene, during which the idea of creating an international group association is generated and the association changes its original name of World Association of Mental Hygiene to the one of World Health Organization. 1948 is the last year of my preclinical studies in Medicine, when for the first time I sit in a group of peers, in a “círculo de estudios” in the Students’ Residence of the Colegio Mayor of the Opus Dei which will change my life.

In 1954 the I International Congress of Group Psychotherapy is held in Toronto within the context of the Third World Congress of Mental Health. This is the moment I finish my doctorate in experimental surgery and I immigrate to Venezuela.

In 1957 the II International Congress of Group Psychotherapy is held in Zurich, within the context of the Third International Congress of Psychotherapy. The International Council is created in view of founding the International Association —with 100 members and an Executive with Jacob Moreno as president, S. H. Foulkes as first vice-president, Serge Lebovici as second vice-president, A. Friedman as secretary, and Zerka Moreno as the director; from Spain, attending the congress are Professor Ramón Sarró and Drs. José Luis Marti-Tusquets and Carlos Ruiz Ogara, who become members of the Council. It is the year I return to Spain from Venezuela and when I am asked in scarcely three years to take on the chair of Psychiatry of the University of Navarra of the Opus Dei, in the process of being founded.

In 1958, on occasion of the Fourth World Congress of Psychotherapy, takes place the first informal meeting of the International Council attended by the three principal founders —Moreno, Slavson, and Foulkes— and within the Congress two sections are established, one in group and another in psychodrama. In the first, presided by S. H. Foulkes, a first Symposium in Group Analysis is established in which participate various of the founding members of the Group Analytic Society London, and which takes me to choose Foulkes’ Unit at the Maudsley Hospital, by him there described, as the place where to apply my British Council Scholarship for postgraduate studies in Psychological Medicine.

I come from a stock of libertarians, to the limit that my biological father, Juan, after spending six months in prison in the port of Barcelona and in the Castle of Montjuic, refused to sign up in the FAI or the CNT. He was so libertarian that he went for free. He never accepted to carry arms while he was in the African War. This is the imprint I carry in my genes.
I am a doctor, an early vocation, from my very infancy I did not think of anything but become a surgeon. Because of this, at ten years of age, finalized “the long summer of ’36”—lasting the three years of the civil war—I changed over from business school to baccalaureate studies, and at seventeen matriculated myself in the Faculty of Medicine of Barcelona. I was the first of my wider family going beyond elementary education. The summer of 1946, before entering University and the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, I spent in the San Pablo Hospital where I had the opportunity of witnessing the first open mitral comisurotomy performed in Spain. The same than happened to DeBakey in Philadelphia: The operation was a success but the patient died after a few hours. The die was cast, not only was I to be a surgeon, but I was to be a heart surgeon. I drew still another lesson from this experience: without adequate study and preparation of the patient, all technology is useless. Even so, during my first years of Medicine, I decided to “exercise my hands”—*hacer manos*—: the dissection and the autopsy rooms were to become my field of practice. I did not realize that the more expert I became in the human body and the art of cutting and sewing, the less human I became. Years later I saw for myself that the traditional process of becoming a doctor dehumanizes the candidate, a lesson which became a useful base during my years as a medical educator. This is the fate of the institutionalization of the medical act: three months of medical school are sufficient to eliminate any trace of the characteristics which made the person adequate to be admitted as a student.

In my first pre-clinical year, when I finally become an assistant in the Surgical Clinic of the Burnt Unit, I start to discover that on this side and the other of the operating theatre, behind the anaesthetized patient, there is a human being that suffers, and a family and a group of people who suffer, and this way I start a long process of re-humanization which leads me to serve ten years in the Opus Dei, and to become a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and group analyst.

### From an authoritarian institution to a democratic institution

**1958-1963 Years of Training**

1958 At the Maudsley Hospital in London with S. H. Foulkes.

1959-1963 At the Postgraduate Center for Psychotherapy (later of Mental Health), in New York. During those years of my training, the Kennedy Mental Health Act leads towards important developments in community psychiatry.

That first decade 1948-1958 of the development of the IAGP parallels my development of belonging to the Opus Dei, without doubt an authoritarian institution, centred on the figure of Father Escrivá, its founder. In 1958 starts my training at the Maudsley Hospital with S. H. Foulkes, the world of groups, of group analysis and of psychoanalysis, definitely a democratic world. Following Foulkes, health care with a dynamic slant developed by professionals with...
little preparation in this field is possible if and when the training goes accompanied by investigation. Between others, this is an idea which accompanies me in my future projects of training of professionals.

My experience in London in turn takes me in 1959 to New York to follow there two training programs at the Postgraduate Center of Psychotherapy, one in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, and another in Analytic Group Psychotherapy. The latter, at that moment, was the first and only training in group psychotherapy and analysis in the world. My graduating project in this area was "The Living Room", a project of a social-therapeutic club, the development of which was entrusted to me by the then director of the Department of Social Rehabilitation of the Postgraduate Center. I carried it out together with two other colleagues of my promotion who participated in the development of the project. However, as always happens, although the programs are in training in the field of groups, the academic and training centers demand that the projects be presented by individual students, so that this graduation paper is presented in three parts. Anyhow, my postgraduate training in a relatively small group of about sixteen professionals as well as the socio-psychiatric and group developments in the United States during the first part of the sixties powerfully influenced my own future professional development.

1963-1968 The Return

In 1963, the year I return to Spain, the III International Congress of Group Psychotherapy is held in Milan. In the meeting of the Council during the Congress three alternatives of membership were suggested for the future international association, a question which always seemed important to me. S. Hadden from the United States proposes that only already established societies should be admitted; s. H. Foulkes proposes, instead, that the association be organized from schools and orientations already dominant in the movement; and J. L. Moreno points out that for its development it is indispensable that at the same time collective members as well as individual members be included, a decision which finally is adopted. Also accepted is the proposal of S. Lebovici that the members of the Council pay a fee of ten dollars.

S. H. Foulkes, who maintained a wide correspondence with members of the Council and group therapists the world over, at the end of 1967, institutionalizes this correspondence with the foundation of Group Analysis International Panel and Correspondence (GAIPAC). I always considered of great importance the creation of this dialogue by correspondence which Foulkes edited personally almost till the end of his life and thought of it as a counterweight to the progressive institutionalization of training in group analysis which was taking shape in London. For me, GAIPAC has been a basic model of professional communication. Making a stopover in a Mediterranean cruise, Foulkes brought me the number cero of this correspondence. This same year he retires from the Maudsley and, as honorary doctor of the Bethlem Royal and the Maudsley Hospitals starts to investigate networks of
In 1963 I return to Barcelona from New York and I initiate in Barcelona my clinical and teaching practice in child and family psychiatry, psychoanalysis and group analysis. As chief of service of child and family psychiatry I establish a multidisciplinary training program at the Asylum Hospital of San Juan de Dios. Without doubt, my professional reinsertion is influenced by the training received at the Maudsley in London with S. H. Foulkes and at the Postgraduate Center for Psychotherapy in New York, in other words by a multidisciplinary approach in the training of professionals and in health care.

It is from this platform, and thanks to a progressive movement taken forward by the Orders Brothers of San Juan de Dios within the psychiatric and charity hospitals from an asylum type care system towards a health care system in favour of mental health, that my work developed. The conception of community psychiatry is in harmony with the one of ‘sector psychiatry’ then developed in France and with the democratic psychiatry which was beginning to see the light in Spain. The idea that any change is possible starts to take root here. But, as a Spanish saying goes, happiness is short-lived in the house of the poor, and when the 1968 movement arrives, the Order of San Juan de Dios takes a step backwards. They sell the Asylum and construct an elegant private Hospital of which the principal client is the Social Security.

However, during these years, apart from the interdisciplinary training system I introduced in the Hospital, I contribute, on one hand, as professor of their nurses school to the development the Order is taking forward in pastoral psychiatry and, on the other, as professor of Child and Family Psychiatry at the Professional School of Psychology (educational and industrial branch) of the University of Barcelona, chaired by Prof. Miguel Siguán.

In the ‘70ies, the years of the late Franco regime, in Spain it begins to be possible to dream! The new Law of Education feeds our expectations of bringing back to life what was the glorious Autonomous University of Barcelona of the Republic in 1932! I believed that the hopes which had brought me back to Spain were taking form.

1968-1975 Turn: Medical School of the Autonomous University, Sociology of Medicine, and Sanitary Reform

1968 Autonomous University of Barcelona. Psychology, Psychiatry, Medical Sociology, WHO-PAHO.
1976-1978 Sanitary Reform
In 1968 I break my relationship with the Service of Child and Family Psychiatry of the San Juan de Dios Hospital and I write the Report which gives account of the five years of functioning of the Service.

In 1968 the IV International Congress of the IAGP is held in Vienna with the theme “Group and Information/Group and Rehabilitation”. Foulkes presents “On Group-Analytic Psychotherapy” (Proceedings, Vol. II, IV-1, pp. 123-130) and informs of the foundation of GAIPAC the following concise way: “I should like to draw attention to a new publication “Group Analysis: International Panel of Group Psychotherapy”.

Although I had already collaborated before with the University of Barcelona in courses of Family Psychotherapy, in 1968 originate three strands of my professional development which determine my activities and productions during more than a decade. Firstly, when the new autonomous universities were founded I find myself actively involved in the creation of the medical curriculum. My objective is to introduce the social sciences in the teaching and the curriculum of Medicine. I also participate in the planning of the new careers of Psychology and Sociology, and am in charge of Social Psychology in the first. The third strand is my professional dedication related to the sanitary reform already starting but only fully developed after the death of Franco.

Specifically, in 1968 I start my academic and teaching activities in Medical Education at the recently created Autonomous University of Barcelona, in the planning committee of the School of Medicine, contracted by the Institute of Educational Sciences of the University. The new universities are born from a double current. On one side, the intention of the Minister of Education to neutralize the effects of the French May (1968) with a pseudo-opening and the incorporation of professors coming back from exile or having been trained abroad and, on the other side, to accept the new plans of studies which came with it. This movement takes place at a moment when in Europe one starts talking about the “free university” and in the United States one starts to incorporate the social and behavioural sciences in the teachings of Medicine and in the organization of the new faculties, establishing Offices of Medical Education. From the start we founded a Spanish Society of Medical Education in view of incorporating these tendencies and, given the fact that at the UAB we did not have resources, I managed to generate private funds for creating an Office of Medical Education which I put at the disposal of the university. The incorporation of Anthropology and Sociology in Medicine leads me to associate myself with the international societies of both these specialities. I am invited to be correspondent of the journal of Social Science and Medicine, participating in its congresses during various years.

In 1974 I enter into contact with the Offices of Medical Education in the United States. This collaboration and my efforts to introduce social sciences in the studies of Medicine leads to that the PAHO (South American branch society of WHO) invites me as expert in the drawing up of the Report on the Teaching of Mental Health in the Schools of Medicine of Latin America. On the other hand, my collaboration with the
The Department of Sociology has always been very intensive, so much so that I helped Dr. Jesús de Miguel, coming back from Yale University where he had completed his doctorate in Medical Sociology, to establish this orientation as a discipline, starting to give conferences together with him in the Academy of Medical Sciences of Barcelona, the Casa de Cultura Italiana and, finally in the Caja de Ahorros de Alicante, all institutions promoting that innovation.

The New Law of Education, personally for me was a great disappointment. In effect, we thought we were going to train general practitioners, in third level hospitals, and we had nothing to do this with. If we trained anything, it was candidates for specialists, candidates to complete their training here as MIR (Intern Resident Doctor) or in the United States as Resident! On top, the question of freedom of teaching, open to non-civil servant professors, rapidly came to an end. All the politics in relation to department chairs started again and with more force. Unfortunately, the brother of the Minister of Education and Rector of the UAB, who had fed our hopes, died. I resigned and continued to train general practitioners at the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the University at Distance, project which failed... The Office of Medical Education, Institute of Educational Sciences of the UAB... boiled down to Emeritus Professor of Medical Education and Associate Professor in Sociology of Medicine...

The most important writings and publications related to these strands of my professional development mentioned during this phase are the following:


The V Congress of the IAGP, celebrated in Zurich in 1973, has the importance of, finally, leading to the foundation of the International Association.
1975- Turn towards the training of professionals


1978 SEPTG Valladolid. Renewed contact with the Spanish Society of Group Psychotherapy and Techniques in relation to the theme of training.

1979-80 Chapter in the collective work “Psicología Dinámica Grupal” (Dynamic Group Psychology)

Up to this point I tried to apply individual and group analytic principles to health care, prevention and the education of doctors and allied professions. From here onwards I concentrate more on psychiatry and mental health. The role played by what I had learnt under Father Escrivá, now was taken on by what I learnt with Foulkes and at the Postgraduate Center.

This period starts with my resignation as chairman of psychiatry and psychology at the UAB and leads me to develop my teaching activities in group psychotherapy.

In 1975, the VI Congress of the IAGP —cancelled for Madrid and proposed for Lyon, finally takes place in Philadelphia in 1976. Invited by Malcolm Pines, organizer of the Congress of Madrid, I take part in the organizing committee, although did not attend because last hour the IAGP decided not to celebrate the congress due to the massive cancellation of registrations in protest to the Franco Government voting against the admission of the State of Israel to the UN, and also in view of the insecurity transmitted by the precarious state of health of the dictator. Thinking of the Madrid Congress, we decided with Foulkes to translate into Castilian his “Group-Analytic Psychotherapy. Method and Principles". This translation eventually was published by Gedisa in 1981 with a historical-critical introduction by me “Commentary to a posthumous prologue of S. H. Foulkes, pp 15-40.

My dedication to Group Analysis implies a critical revision of its development as an organization and the institutions which sustain it. This critical revision has antecedents in the critique of professional organizations which I carry out during the last years of the Franco regime and the beginning of democracy in Spain in relation to teaching institutions inside and outside the hospitals in which I participated. Coinciding with the death of Franco, 1976 is a decisive moment in this process, when the Tenth Congress of Doctors and Biologists in Catalan Language proposes a Copernican turn towards a democratic Medicine.

In 1978, the Institute of Psychotherapy of Bilbao invites me to conduct supervision groups in group and family psychotherapy on group-analytic lines and to participate in the position paper on training in group psychotherapy which they were preparing for the Sixth Symposium in Valladolid of the Spanish Society of Group Psychotherapy and Techniques. My contribution is “Training of therapists and group therapists”. Also there is a paper published without mentioning my participation in the committee on “a theoretical-practical

In 1979, a group of professionals dedicated to group psychotherapy write Dynamic Group Psychology, published in Madrid by Fundamentos in 1980. The chapter I contribute is “Psychoanalysis, psychoanalysts and group psychotherapies”, pp. 11-44, and 187-256. This project puts me into contact with Nicolás Caparrós of the Grupo Quipu in Madrid and a group of Argentine group therapists, one of them Hernán Kesselman, a colleague with whom afterwards I share projects, hopes and expectations.

1980 Turn towards professional associations

1980 From here onwards gain importance the yearly Symposiums of the SEPTG, the Spanish group society, the congresses of the IAGP and the activities of the GAS London and its European level; also the articulation of the local, the national and the international.

1980 Castelldefels I Workshop in Group Analysis

1981 Cestona, Basque Country, II Workshop in Group Analysis

1980 SEPTG Mallorca, Collective Barcelona “A group approach in a national health service”


1981 V European Symposium of Group Analysis “Training to resist, learning not to change: Freud’s greatest disappointment in analysis”.


In relation to the IAGP, in 1984 takes place the VIII Congress in Mexico with the theme “What is effective in group psychotherapy?”

1984 VI European Symposium of Group Analysis, Zagreb, “From the politics of teaching to the pragmatics of learning: group analysis’ greatest hope in training”.

The return of Hanne Campos after her years of training in London at the Tavistock and the Institute of Group Analysis raises certain hopes of offering in Spain group-analytic teachings. The first two workshops in Group Analysis somehow point in this direction. But, my historical approach to group analysis and my critical point of view of institutions in general and of training institutions in particular contribute to that the teaching of group analysis in Spain does not institutionalize itself in the expected manner.

The historical approach never stopped to be a lead in my thinking and practice. We could say that it starts with that project presented to the VIII Symposium of the SEPTG in Mallorca 1980, “Group approach in a national health service”. Here there intermeshes the historical analysis with the one of the functioning of the research group itself. A nucleus of 26 professionals gather the experience in group work of the Eastern Zone of the SEPTG —particularly Barcelona— during the last decades, recent times, and arrives at certain useful conclusions for the future; one of them being that the group approach involves a new approach to health and new concepts of health, ill health and disease.

My contact with the organizing committee of the VI Congress of the IAGP planned for Madrid leads me to an active collaboration with this Association for ever more. In 1980, to the VII Congress in Copenhagen I take my paper on “Foulkes’ Network Theory and the scope of Group Analysis in Family Therapy”. However, more than towards the therapeutic context of group analysis, this contact with the IAGP leads me to the articulation between associations and the possibilities which their activities offer for meetings. In this case of Foulkes and Pichon, a meeting which Hernán Kesselman and myself had been preparing since we collaborated in the publication of “Dynamic Group Analysis” in Spain. Meeting also of the different categories of members of the GAS, the ones from London and the “overseas” which convert the London society in “European”, and what eventually could make think that the GAS is not so much (London) but is an international society. These meetings extend their roots into the future. First, during the IX Congress of the IAGP in Zagreb in 1986, where with Hernán Kesselman we present our “From psychoanalysis to social psychology: operative group analysis”. The CDR (consonance, dissonance, resonance) in the analysis of the conceptual tripod of Foulkes and Pichon”; and second, in 2004 —passing through Bedford College in 1981-82 and other real and virtual places— when eventually with Hanne Campos we edit and publish “Milestones in the history of Group Analysis: The European Group Analytic Movement and the Question of Internationality of Group Analysis”.

During this decade I start to express more specifically the critical analysis I make of the professional institutions, as put in evidence in my presentations to the European Symposium of Group Analysis in 1981 in Rome (“Training to resist, learning not to change: Freud’s greatest disappointment in analysis”) and to the VI European Symposium of Group Analysis in 1984 in Zagreb (“From the politics of teaching to the pragmatics of learning: group analysis’ greatest hope in training”).
In 1981-82, in collaboration with Hanne Campos I make a first and last advance in the direct investigation of the development of a group culture in a therapeutic group which is given form in the paper we present in 1982 during the annual meeting of the Société Francaise de Psychotherapie Psychoanalytique de Groupe: « Le developpement de la culture groupanalytique dans un groups », Bulletin of January 1982 of the Société, pp. 1-54.

1988 Turn towards a different practice, a historical perception of group analysis, and a personal position as group analyst

1988 Pat de Maré SEPTG —Barcelona and Pamplona— and large group of San Pablo. Bilingual publication of “The history of the large group”, first of Plexus Editor(e)s on the point of foundation.

1988 I International Meeting of Group, Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy on the theme of the next congress of the IAGP “The group, a place of encounter and divergence”, organized by Grupo Quipu of Psychotherapy (organizational member of IAGP). Constitution of the Spanish Association for the Development of the Group, Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis (SEGPA) and election of Juan Campos as its first President.

1988 Contact with the Lifwynn Foundation —groupanalytic community founded by Trigant Burrow in 1927— with Alfreda Galt and Hans Syz. Juan Campos attends a Workshop on “Addiction”, meets a group of colleagues related to the Foundation and gets to know the history of this extraordinary group.

1988 Beginning of the Doctorate Program “Social Sciences and Health”, of the Department of Sociology and Methodology of Social Sciences. Juan Campos collaborates as Permanent Professor offering a course of three credits on the group method of analysis with the aim of facilitating a convergent epistemology and cooperative action with an interdisciplinary character.

1989 Foundation of Grup d’Anàlisi Barcelona

In 1989 take place various anniversary celebrations in relation to the 50th anniversary of Freud’s death. Juan Campos publications are:


“From the dream of Irma to the dream of Mira: Professional dreams or a subject still to pass?” Bilingual Castilian/Catalan. Plexus Editor(e)s de Grup d’Anàlisi Barcelona, 1991, 75 pp.

Another event in 1989 is the foundation of Plexus Editor(e)s of Grup d’Anàlisi Barcelona, which after its first publication of the history of the large group in 1991 publishes a bilingual edition Castilian/Catalan of “From the dream of Irma to the dream of Mira: Professional dreams or a subject still to pass”.

1989 X Congress of the IAGP, Amsterdam, “Encounter or Alienation: The significance of the group in modern society”. “Pioneers’ re-encounter: The fathers of our constitution in a fishbowl”.

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1990 Juan Campos encourages Alfreda Galt, last living member and actual president of the Lifwynn Foundation, to start a new phase of the Foundation with the publication of a Lifwynn Correspondence, which in fact publishes its first number in spring 1990.

1991 Juan Campos contributes to the “First Monography on Therapeutic Community or Community Therapy”, edited by Hanne Campos, “1925 Lifwynn Foundation. Introduction to the work of Trigant Burrow” and “1935 Society for Creative Psychology. The technique of group work of Basil Beaumont”.

1992 XI Congress of the IAGP, Montreal on “Love and Hate”. Alfreda Galt, getting on in age, makes the effort to attend the Congress and the round tables of Juan Campos on “Beyond Dichotomy: The orientation of Trigant Burrow” and “Burrow, Foulkes and Freud: an historical perspective”, both published in Lifwynn Correspondence 2/2, autumn 1992, pp. 2-9. On occasion of the Congress, Juan Campos promotes the re-admission of the Lifwynn Foundation as organizational member and Plexus Editor(e)s publishes in its new collection Revival of Classics a bilingual facsimile of the original 1932 edition of “The Structure of Insanity”.

1993 Metamorphosis of Narcissus, a group project emerging in part from the relationship with SEGPA and in part from the development of the large group of San Pablo, sustained by the members of Gd'AB.


1994 Juan Campos and Jesús de Miguel: “Psychoanalysis and Sociology”, introduction to the Seminary of ten modules presented y coordinated by the members of Gd'AB for the students of master and doctorate levels of the Department of Sociology of the UB, third trimester of the course 1993-1994.


1997 “Memories, omissions and reminiscences, or the SEPTG and its old histories” for Monografía del Boletín de la SEPTG. “Open history... 25 years of the SEPTG”, IV/11, May 1997, pp. 11-21, History edited by Hanne Campos.


1988-1998 is a decade in which overlap various projects and the main strands of my life. Starting at the end, we will never know if the lung cancer which declared itself in February 1998 has to do with the excess of physical and emotional effort of events, which at that same moment include the death of Susana Jover, friend, colleague and companion of many years and member of Gd'AB.

Almost there are no priorities between the events of that decade. In 1988 I invite Pat de Maré to conduct a large group in Barcelona, before also conducting one during the XVI Symposium of the SEPTG celebrated in Pamplona. Perhaps it is that I consider Pat de Maré one of the two original thinkers as group analyst (the
other being Robin Skynner) and within the Group Analytic Society (London). Perhaps it is because my own conceptions looked for references beyond the one of the small groups. The fact is that the field of the group in Barcelona opened up to the public, to multidisciplinary and intergroup collaboration, on the national and international level. Plexus Editor(e)s, on the verge of being founded, publishes “The history of the large group” of Pat in bilingual Castilian/English version, in Barcelona the space of a bi-weekly large group opened, after the visit of Pat de Maré convened by Hanne, which sustains itself for almost three years, and in London Pat finally achieves to publish his “Koinonia”, a book a long time waiting its turn.

Perhaps on the local as well as the national and international level the soil was fertile for the adventure of a wider perception and conception of the group field. The same year 1988 Grupo Quipu founds in Madrid SEGPA (Spanish Society for the Development of the Group, Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis), electing me as its first president. At that moment I was second vice-president of the IAGP and Quipu was organizational member. The recently founded SEGPA, taking on board the theme of the following congress of the IAGP, “the group, a place of encounter and divergence” for its first annual convention, takes a bilingual Castilian/English group project, coordinated by Hanne, to the X Congress of the IAGP in Amsterdam: “The actual significance of the group: A place of encounter and divergence. A formulation by Spanish Group Workers.” However, my own contribution to the X Congress is a round table on “Pioneers’ re-encounter: The fathers of our constitution in a fishbowl”, which I prepared for a long time as vice-president of the association and in which collaborated and were present the colleagues still alive of these heroic pre-foundational and foundational times, or their representatives: Raymond Battegay, Zerka Moreno, Elizabeth Foulkes...

On a local level there opened still another interdisciplinary space in 1988. We initiate the Doctoral Program “Social Science and Health” in the department of Sociology and Methodology of Social Sciences. I collaborate as Permanent Professor offering a course of three credits on the method of group analysis with the objective of facilitating a convergent epistemology and a harmonic cooperative action of an interdisciplinary character. In 1994, this project takes me to collaborate with Jesús M. de Miguel, chair and director of the department of Sociology of the UB, and to introduce a Seminary of ten modules presented by members of Gd’AB to the students of master and doctorate of the department during the third trimester of the course 1993-1994.

However, I think the principal event in 1988 is meeting with the members still alive of the Lifwynn Foundation, a group community created by Trigant Burrow and colleagues at the end of the twenties of last century. This meeting takes me to make various trips to the seat of the foundation in New England and participate in a workshop organized in New York on “Addiction”. The collaboration with Alfreda Galt, the last president of the foundation, and her collaborators becomes very close. I encourage Alfreda Galt to initiate a new phase of the Lifwynn Foundation with the publication of a Lifwynn Correspondence, which in fact comes out with its first number in the Spring of 1990. In 1991 I contribute to a Monograph: “Therapeutic Community and/or Therapy of the Community” of the SEPTG with an introduction of the work of Trigant Burrow. More important, though, is the contribution to the XI Congress of the IAGP, in Montreal in 1991, with the theme “Love and Hate”. Alfreda Galt, getting on in age, makes the effort to attend the Congress and the round tables organized by me on “Beyond Dichotomy: The orientation of Trigant Burrow” and “Burrow, Foulkes and Freud: an historical perspective”, both published in Lifwynn Correspondence 2/2,
 autumn 1992, pp. 2-9. On occasion of the Congress I promote the re-admission of the Lifwynn Foundation as an organizational member and Plexus Editor(e)s publishes in its new collection Revival of Classics a bilingual facsimile edition of the original of 1932 of “The Structure of Insanity”.

The most important event of 1989 is the foundation of Grup d’Anàlisi Barcelona, promoted by me. This is a cooperative association of services directed to scientific professionals in the fields of Psychoanalysis and Group Analysis, Analytical Social Psychology and other related Human Sciences. During the last twenty years—one reads in the foundational document—the founders have dedicated themselves to the operative investigation of the process of institutionalization in professional associations at the national and international level. The Conceptual Frame of Reference, Organization, Objectives and Activities of this cooperative have been formulated in accordance with the results of these years of investigation. Coherent with the conviction that professional associations have to include in their reflections the growth and progressive change of their own groups, Gd’AB in 1994 publishes a Reformulation of its Conceptual Frame of Reference, Organization, Objectives and Activities.

There are during this decade echoes of previous years which still have their importance. One is my contribution in 1993 to the group project of the Metamorphosis of Narcissus, in which I am interested in the painting and writings of Dalí in relation to this theme, and also the visit paid by him to Freud in London in 1939. Dalí’s painting presides the working document which Gd’AB edits for the inter-group Symposium of that year.

Another echo of previous years is my contribution in 1994 of “Change in the group-analytic organization” at a Congress in Milan on this same subject, published in “Nel Nome Del Gruppo. Grupoanálisis e società” por Franco Di Maria y Gioacchino Lavanco (eds), Milan: Franco Angeli, pp. 73-99.

Be it as it may, 1989 is the anniversary of Freud’s death and I contribute to related local activities. On one hand, Clínica y Análisis Grupal, a major group journal in Spain, invites me to collaborate with “The group 50 years after…” Clínica y Análisis Grupal XIII/11 (1), January-April 1989, pp. 107-127 and, on the other hand, Práctica Freudiana urges me to present at their congress of homage my “From the dream of Irma to the dream of Mira: Professional dreams or a subject still not passed?” published in their Monograph “Sigmund Freud” pp.65-69. This last paper is published in a more complete form by Plexus Editor(e)s of Grup d’Análisis Barcelona, 75 pp.

There is still another noteworthy event: Since Windows ’95 was launched and seeing the impressive impulse of communication by Internet, I open a dialogue list Group Analysis in Castellano with the server of RedIris. There have been many years of dialogue since, almost always fruitful, of a list which has passed its first decade of existence.

However, the strand of a critical reading of the history of professional associations dominates my written productions of this decade.

In 1997 “Memories, omissions and reminiscences, or the SEPTG and its old histories” is my contribution to the Monography of the Boletín of the SEPTG. “Open history... 25 years of the SEPTG”, IV/11, May 1997, pp. 11-21. In the introductory comments we read: “…I am asked concretely to bring some information...
on the predecessors of the SEPTG and of the pre-history of group therapies in Spain... It would be of great help that the stimulus generated by this table was to contribute to unearth some documents, lost somewhere in somebody's archive, and bring to light some reminiscences almost wiped out in your memory..." In my paper I recuperate “a forgotten psychiatrist... Professor Emilio Mira y López, and between many other memories I recall the contributions of Drs. Garma, Sarró and Molina. The four led me to think of their models which not only influenced the development of psychoanalysis in Spain but also the way we arrived to conducting our groups: their ecumenicism, their fundamentalism, their eclecticism, and their group-gestating way.

1998. The decade concludes —myself already battling with cancer, and with the unconditional support of my colleagues of Gd'AB and of Jesús M. de Miguel— with the publication of "A History of the IAGP: Facts and Findings" / Una historia de la AIPG: hechos y hallazgos", Barcelona: Plexus Editor(e)s, August 1998, ISBN: 84-605-8002-4; bilingual edition Castillian/English, 159 pp. I was preparing it ever since —during the XII Congress of the IAGP in 1995 in Buenos Aires on the theme “Groups on the doorstep of the XXI Century— Nora Speier Fernández of the APD interviewed me, an interview which was recorded and transcribed by her and her colleagues. This was the impulse to investigate and eventually publish a possible history of the IAGP. I presented "A history..." in person during the XIII Congress of the IAGP in 1998 in London with the theme of “Annihilation, Survival, and Recreation.” During the IAGP Congress in Jerusalem in 2000 with the theme of “The spirit of groups 2000: From Conflict to Generative Dialogue”, I presented the book in virtual version. In 2008 it is still to be put on the IAGP Website.

1995 Turn towards a virtual professional communication


2000 “Integration”, a virtual-face to face Workshop

2000 Hanne facilitates from 1994 onwards a dialogue list of the CAOA-IAGP and transfers to the new presidency of the CAOA the almost one hundred internet interchanges together with the mail and e-mail addresses of the more than sixty members of CAOA.

2001 Virtual Congress on “Alpha and Omega of the Group Analysis of S. H. Foulkes

2002 Virtual Congress on “Psychiatry of War, Psychology of Peace”

2003 XV Congress of the IAGP, Istanbul
2004 “Milestones of the European Group Analytic Movement”.
2006 Complete Works of S. H. Foulkes in Castilian
2006 XVI Congress of IAGP, Sao Paulo
2007 Interview to Juan Campos conducted through Internet by Iñaki Markez for the Revista Norte de Salud Mental
2008 MedConf IAGP-SEPTG Barcelona: Constructing Bridges. First Plenary Conference presented together with Malcolm Pines. A CD of the conference was available at the bookstore.
2009 In dialogue with the organizers and secretary of the XVI Congress of the IAGP to be held in August in Rome.

This turn towards a virtual professional communication is transcendental. Perhaps, once more, I am very much ahead of my times. Also, perhaps, it is a turn very near in time and I am lacking a perspective for a critical evaluation. At present I can say the following:

In 1998, one month before my cancer was diagnosed, I attended a Virtual Medical Congress (Intermed) in Genova. It was an experience which inspired me and convinced me even more that the new professional communication would pass through Internet.

In 2000 I present my virtual version of “A History…” at the XIV Congress of the IAGP held in Jerusalem. Also in 2000 in Barcelona we organize a face to face workshop on the theme of integration which during the preceding months was discussed in dialogue on the virtual list of Grupo Análisis en Castellano. We prepared a working document parting from the interventions on Internet for the colleagues who could come to the workshop. There came colleagues from the list —some from Argentine— from the SEPTG —from different places in Spain— and others simply because they were interested in the theme and could come to the meeting in Barcelona. It must be noted that “integration” was the theme of that year’s annual Symposium of the SEPTG.

In the new millennium a context of annual virtual psychiatric congresses was created: Psychiatry.com. Invited to participate, I subscribed from the very beginning and up to now contributed to several of these congresses. The first time on the theme of “Alpha and Omega of the Group Analysis of S. H. Foulkes” (2001), another on “Psychiatry of war, Psychology of peace” (2002) and, finally, on “The complete works of S. H. Foulkes” (2006) which was on the point of being published on paper and as CD in Barcelona.

In 2004, together with Hanne Campos, I publish a virtual version of a history of the European groupanalytic movement which was being gestated from 1982 onwards and had partly been published on paper in 1993 with the title of “Group analysis, its roots and destiny, the gaipac way… of course!”. The virtual publication carries the title “Milestones in the History of Group Analysis: The European Group Analytic Movement and the Question of Internationality of Group Analysis”. The latter had the objective of helping the colleagues on the GAS Committee to overcome a difficult moment of the Society.

In 2006, during the XVI Congress of the IAGP in Sao Paulo I took part in the coordination of the virtual list of the Congress. We learnt a lot and I learnt much, so that in 2008 during the following III Regional
Mediterranean Conference of the IAGP the dialogue list worked well. In fact, this Conference with the theme “A bridge called Mediterranean”, organized jointly by the SEPTG and the IAGP, was the last activity in which I participated. I opened a dialogue list for those subscribers who wanted to take part and it worked satisfactorily beyond the end of the Conference.

With the objective of preparing an inaugural conference together with Malcolm Pines, we collaborated virtually during all the previous year, meeting face to face twice during this time in Barcelona. For the second encounter also came E. James Anthony, another student and analysand of S. H. Foulkes, so we had the opportunity to dialogue about time past of group analysis and S. H. Foulkes during the last forty or fifty years. The title of the Conference of Malcolm and mine was “Constructing bridges between groups”. We prepared a Compact Disk on the contents of the conference which was available at the library of the Conference for the people attending. Mercè Martínez, member of Gd’AB coordinated the conference dialogue and our Israeli colleague Mónica Tanny made a video recording of the conference.