

# 7th INTERNATIONAL BALINT GROUP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Hamburg, Germany  
October 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The International Balint Federation and the German Balint Society are pleased to invite you to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> International Balint Group Leadership Conference, which will be held at the conference center St. Ansgar in one of the central districts of Hamburg, in St. Georg, from October 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The venue is within walking distance to the central station, the Alster lake and the famous Art Museum.

Within this lively and multicultural district, we will stay and work together in a peaceful and quiet place.

IBF holds a leadership conference every two years, organized by the Task Force on Leadership. The conference aims to provide a forum for Balint Group leaders worldwide to study Balint Group leadership together. There will be an opportunity to explore thoroughly issues and themes in Balint Group leadership.

The conference theme will be:

## **Do we lead Balint groups in a bubble?**

How do Balint Group leaders deal with dilemmas of inclusion, exclusion, and polarization within the group and as a reflection of external reality?

Balint Group leaders are often confronted with dilemmas that arise during group work, which may threaten the group's cohesiveness and constructive working atmosphere. These dilemmas may arise from within the group or may be triggered by external influences and parallel processes. We chose to focus on 3 types of dilemmas, which resonate with the current changes in our external reality:

1. Dilemmas of inclusion - which members, cases, and themes to include?
2. Dilemmas of exclusion - what are our "red lines" and how do leaders and co-leaders negotiate them?
3. Dilemmas of polarization - situations during group work that may give rise to splitting and polarization within the group, e.g. related to gender, race, ethnicity, professional identity, values, and politics.

These dilemmas will be the main focus of our work at the leadership conference.

**Staff Team:** The members of the IBF Task Force on Leadership will be in charge of preparing and accompanying the conference.

## **Information for Participants:**

The conference will be held in English. It is intended for accredited Balint Group Leaders from countries affiliated with the IBF. It is intended, that there will be up to a total of 60 participants.

Eligible for participation are:

- experienced leaders
- leaders recently accredited

Participants must commit themselves to staying for the whole event.

The conference center St. Ansgar is a functional, well-kept house which does not provide luxury but friendly hospitality and enough space for all of us to work, eat and stay.

It will be assumed that all participants are willing to present cases and lead a group.

### **Reservation of places**

Everyone interested in attending is advised to apply as early as possible.

In the interest of equity, two places will be reserved for every IBF-affiliated society until **March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**.

If there are more than sixty applicants in total, the organizers will limit attendance by requesting those over-subscribed national societies to decide who they wish to attend. This is over and above IBF Board members, conference staff, and organizing team members who will attend the conference by the nature of their positions.

If you are interested in coming, don't hesitate, please apply now!

No payment is required until attendance has been confirmed.

The conference will be organized in small group workshops, facilitated by members of the staff team. There will be a short introductory talk and a concluding plenary.

The overall aim is to provide a concentrated and coherent experience of working together in an international forum on the challenges and rewards involved in Balint Group leadership.

### **Notification of admission**

Successful applicants will receive notification by April 30<sup>th</sup> along with a payment form (invoice). Payment of the conference fee must be accomplished no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Short application schedule:**

- Apply until **March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**
- Receive our answer until April 30<sup>th</sup> 2025
- Let us know, if you want to stay longer, either prior or after the conference
- Write to [doris.salmen@t-online.de](mailto:doris.salmen@t-online.de) for all questions and wishes
- Make your payment after confirmation until June 30<sup>th</sup>

**Bank charges:**

Participants are responsible for all bank charges levied by banks during the payment of conference fees. Any unpaid bank charges are to be paid in cash in Euro (€) at registration.

For late registrations (after June 30<sup>th</sup>) an additional fee of 60 Euros will be charged.

**Cancellations** notified before August 30<sup>th</sup> will incur a cancellation fee of 60 Euros. After August 30<sup>th</sup> the cancellation fee will be 50% of the conference fee.

**Accommodation and conference fee**

The conference fee includes accommodation in the conference venue incl. breakfast for 2 nights, 3 meals during the conference, the costs for the seminary rooms, and a small social event. For further detailed specification see below:

- participant in single room **355€**
- participant, sharing double room **325€**
- accompanying person, sharing double room, including meals and social event **275€**

**Additional nights** can be reserved for participants who wish to arrive one day prior to the conference (Thursday) or stay one day longer (Monday). These additional nights will be charged together with the conference fee according to following price list.

Additional nights can be booked on the application form.

- Single room incl. breakfast and tax € 96
- Double room per person incl. breakfast and tax € 80

**Accompanying persons:**

Accompanying persons are very welcome.

**Conference venue and accommodation:**

The conference venue St. Ansgarhaus, Schmilinskystrasse 78, 20099 Hamburg, is run by the roman catholic church. The level of comfort is comparable to a nice and clean 2-3\* Hotel, providing single rooms and double rooms. Each room comes with en-suite bathroom.

[Here](#) is a link to the venue's site

**Bursary:**

Bursaries will be available for this conference in line with the IBF International Bursary Program. Applicants who think they might be eligible should contact Albert Lichtenstein, General Secretary of the IBF [Albert.lichtenstein@guthrie.org](mailto:Albert.lichtenstein@guthrie.org) for an application form.

## PROGRAM

### 7th INTERNATIONAL BALINT GROUP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

St Ansgarhaus, Schmilinskystrasse 78, Hamburg, Germany

October 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### **Do we lead Balint groups in a bubble?**

How do Balint Group leaders deal with dilemmas of inclusion, exclusion, and polarization within the group and as a reflection of external reality?

#### Friday Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>

14:00 – 14:30	Leaders' meeting
13.30 - 14.30	Registration (with refreshments)
14.30 - 16:00	Welcome and Plenary
16:00 – 17:45	Group work 1
18:00 – 19:00	Dinner

#### Saturday Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

8:00 – 9:30	Breakfast
9:00 – 9:45	Supervision for leaders
10:00 – 11:45	Group work 2
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:15	Group work 3
15:15 – 16:00	Free time
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16.30 - 18.30	City walking tour
19.00	Gala dinner

Sunday Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>

8:00 - 9:30	Breakfast
9:00 - 9:45	Supervision for leaders
10:00 - 11:45	Group work 4
11:45 - 12:15	Coffee break
12:30 - 13:30	Concluding plenary

**Here is the link for the application form.**

## Getting to Germany:

As the venue is located in the vicinity of the central train station note the following instructions to get there:

**By airplane** to Hamburg Airport.

The airport is connected to the central station by city train S1 (green signs with "S1"). It is easy to find and easy to handle, so it is not necessary to spend money on a taxi. Taxis can be found at the airport exit and will cost around 40 € to get to the venue. Uber is also available in Hamburg.

The city train is departing in the airport train station, terminal 1. It is a 25 minutes ride, trains run every 10 minutes until shortly after midnight. A single ticket ("Einzelfahrschein", Ring 1+2) can be bought at the vending machines in any train station and costs € 3,80. A day ticket is € 8,80. The machines usually have terminals for debit or credit cards, but also take coins and bills. At the airport you find ticket vending machines near the baggage carousels in the arrivals area or between the arrivals level and the train platform level.

You can also use "HVV App" (download from app store) and buy tickets online.

On the way back home from Central Station to the Airport you have to make sure to catch the first 3 cars of S1 at the head of the train. You find signs "airport train" at the head of the platform.

**By train:**

From anywhere in Europe to Hamburg Central Station ("Hauptbahnhof").

**By car:**

Take any main road to "Centrum", follow the red "DB" (Deutsche Bahn / German Railroad) signs and the signs "Hauptbahnhof".

The nearest public parking garage is "Parkhaus am Hauptbahnhof", located at: Borgesch 1, 2099 Hamburg (200m from Central Station ("Hauptbahnhof"), backside of the theater "Deutsches Schauspielhaus"). Open 24h. Several more in the vicinity (look at Google maps, not all are open 24h). Walk to venue from there (700m): from Borgesch turn right, follow "Lange Reihe" South, after several blocks you reach Schmilinskystrasse.

To hope for a parking place in the streets around the venue is not advisable: expensive, partly restricted, tow-away zones.

**Walk from central train station to venue:**

From the South end of Hamburg central station it is a 800m walk to the venue, quite easy to find from one of the 2 Southern exits "Kirchenallee".

Outside the station look left: on the opposite side of Kirchenallee you find "Ellmenreichstrasse", between Hotel "Europaeischer Hof" and the big theater "Deutsches Schauspielhaus".

Walk down Ellmenreichstrasse which narrows for "pedestrians only" at Hansaplatz. Continue alongside Hansaplatz and from there follow Rostocker Strasse, which hits Schmilinskystrasse after 2 blocks, where the venue is located (left side, number 78).

Alternative walk: from Kirchenallee one block farther from "Schauspielhaus" turn right, follow "Lange Reihe" South to Schmilinskystrasse 78 (right turn)

**Taxi:** Via the same South exits of the train station you will find a taxi from Hauptbahnhof to Ansgarhaus for a few Euros.

### **Hamburg information:**

Hamburg - St. Georg

The conference is taking place in St. Georg, the historical quarter in the center of Hamburg. St. Georg is one of the oldest parts of the city. Just two blocks down the street from the venue the Alster lake offers beautiful sights on the town and invites to take a walk in the green lakeside parks.

For runners: along the lakeshore you find the most popular running course of town, length once around the lake 7,4km.

In walking distance from the Ansgarhaus the central train station provides access to public transportation to travel anywhere in town by city train ("S"), subway ("U") or bus.

In walking distance from the venue there are three theaters (e.g. "Deutsches Schauspielhaus"), the Art Museum of Hamburg ("Kunsthalle"), the Museum of Arts and Crafts, a movie theatre showing international films in the original version ("Savoy"), and a large variety of restaurants.

We shall provide further details once registration is completed, as by then we shall have a clearer picture of how many accompanying people will be joining us.

### **Weather and water**

You can hear people not living in Hamburg call it the "capital of rain". People living there think it is the most beautiful and most interesting city in Germany. For them weather is just a special feature, that can have 4 seasons in one day. "There is no such thing as bad weather, it's just the wrong clothes".

So be prepared for moisture of all kinds, sun when you don't expect it, wind from all directions.

In the second half of October the average temperature is around 10 degrees C, but this can vary down to 0 and up to 20 deg. C. with all sorts of skies.

So better be prepared for all possibilities.

Whichever way you want to see it: Water is definitely the dominating element of the city, with a big lake downtown, the Elbe river running to the Atlantic ocean with the biggest port in Germany, third biggest port in Europe. With its net of channels Hamburg has more bridges than any city in Europe.

If you have any questions concerning Hamburg information contact Philipp Herzog: [drpferzog@posteo.de](mailto:drpferzog@posteo.de).

### **Here is the link for the application form.**

Hoping to see you in Hamburg next autumn!

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