



# SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, No. 2, November 2004

---

### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the November 2004 Newsletter of SASP. It was supposed to be an October edition but that'll have to wait to a later date. Again we reach the end of another year. As always, the conference was a great success. Quoting our President:

I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Ginny Braun and the Auckland SASP Organising Committee for doing a terrific job hosting SASP at Auckland this year. They did a remarkable job, everyone was pleased, and they seemed to do it without being overly stressed (which is quite a feat!). It was clearly one of the best SASP conferences ever put together; from the excellent website, to the frequent information emails, to assembling a diverse and intellectually stimulating program, and to the very smooth running of the conference (without an apparent hitch, I think). The integration of Maori culture and psychology into the program (the welcome and in the sessions themselves) made this a very unique and inspiring event.

We look forward to next year's conference in Townsville (organized by the psychology department at James Cook University) which is sure to be just as successful. [Note the competition on p. 7].

Thanks once again to all those who contributed directly. It is always appreciated and makes our job easier. Also, we'd like to thank those who contributed indirectly. We've decided that all things appearing elsewhere (such as on the SASP bulletin board) are fair game and will be included here if we feel such postings/articles may be of relevance (to at least some SASP members). Hence, some unsolicited material appears here that we have taken from postings

(we usually try to acknowledge the source where possible). We hope you enjoy the read.

SASP Newsletter Editorial Group  
Paul Williamson      Mariette Berndsen  
Yolanda Martins      Ian McKee  
*Flinders University*

---

### REPORTS

#### President's Report

Greetings from 'up-over.' I have been SASP's President-in-Exile now for about 5 months, and I am indeed experiencing a strange mixture of feelings. I am now at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana (that's about 2 hours southeast of Chicago). The University is excellent, as is the Department and the social area (I am one of nine academic staff in social psychology). Of course, Macquarie Uni was great, too, and I miss my colleagues and students dearly. I am still going through the psychological and financial costs of making such a big move, and I guess the biggest surprise is the amount of culture shock I am experiencing—more than I experienced when I moved from the Midwest to Sydney over 8 years ago. Perhaps I became more of an Australian than my accent belied.

In any case, I am here and you are there (or, as you read this, you are here and I am there). One wonders what a president of the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists can do for the Society 10,000 miles away.

Mainly, I view my role as SASP's cheerleader (I was going to send a picture of me in my cheerleading outfit but Paul suddenly became concerned about space restrictions in the newsletter). I tell my colleagues about how great social psychology is in Australasia (I actually say "Australia and New Zealand"...they have no idea what Australasia means). I tell them about our variety of methodological and theoretical approaches to social psychology, the

innovativeness of the ideas, the excellence of research, and the level of excitement in our field that pervades our annual conference. I tell them about how active the post-grads are in the organization. When I'm in research meetings or attending conferences, I make sure to broadcast to all that will listen who in Australasia is doing what. I encourage them to contact SASP members about their research.

Not surprisingly, this cheerleading job isn't very demanding, because for the most part, it isn't necessary. The members of SASP are already well known to social psychologists in the US. Australasian researchers inspire many of the talks I attend. In many ways, research and theory by SASP members is setting the agenda for research in the US. This makes me happy and proud.

As winter approaches (frost covered our lawns this morning!) I will be missing my home on the Central Coast even more, and will be counting the days to sunny Townsville where the SASP-2005 organizing team is already doing a fantastic job preparing for the meeting. I look forward to seeing you all there, so be sure to submit your papers and symposia. I'm doing my best to get people from the US to apply, as well—those who choose to make the trip will be very impressed.

Kip Williams  
President SASP  
Purdue University (ex Macquarie University)

### Report from SASP 2004 Auckland

This year's SASP annual meeting was well attended, with most people indicating that they had had a really good time. Now we are all recovered here (or almost) we can say we are pleased with how the conference went, in terms of intellectual, social, *and* financial outcomes! A lot of hard work went into it, and it was great to see it all run (relatively smoothly), with only the odd hitch! Sections below cover specific areas...

#### *Conference attendance:*

Attendance at both the conference and at the conference dinner on the Saturday night was high. We had a total of **193** registrations at the conference. Of these:

14 were complimentary registrations  
(organising committee, student helpers,  
keynotes)

79 were students

16 were one-day registrations

1 was a 1.5 day registration

3 people have not (yet) paid (I am not following this up further)

#### *Conference dinner:*

In total, 136 people attended the conference dinner. Of these:

5 were complimentary dinners

52 were postgraduates

9 were partners

#### *Sponsorship:*

Tim McCreanor worked really hard on the area of sponsorship and we were able to gain sponsorship from a wide variety of sources.

Most notable was \$5000 sponsorship from the Royal Society of New Zealand, with funding provided from the International Science & Technology Linkages Fund. This enabled us to budget for a significantly reduced postgraduate registration.

Other monetary sponsorship was obtained from QSR International, The Psychology Press, Arnold Journals, and Wiley. In addition, Astra Copy and Matua provided sponsorship by way of reduced costs for printing and wine (for Thursday evening), and Corporate Express supplied us with free conference folders and nametags.

The Department of Psychology at The University of Auckland provided significant financial, material, and personnel support for the conference. For example, through paying for printing publicity material for the conference; through supplying laptops and data-shows for two rooms at the venue; through supplying a technician to attend the conference on Friday and Saturday; and through having our finances managed through the department. Without this support, our costs would have been significantly higher.

#### *Financials:*

Overall, the conference income-outgoing balance to be transferred back to SASP came to **NZ\$20,557.89**. However, this amount is not all profit. It still includes the money for publication of the abstracts (AU\$1,500+GST), the deposit SASP 'lent' us for the conference (AU\$4000), and the SASP membership fees paid to us (NZ\$2,460). Once these items have been

removed, the profit for the conference will be approximately NZ\$11,647.89. This profit was obtained via a significant amount of sponsorship, and despite a significantly subsidised student registration fee.

We are very pleased with the conference balance, which is far higher than expected. This balance resulted from a combination of factors: a) a significantly higher number of delegates than anticipated and budgeted on; b) a significant level of sponsorship – both direct financial contributions and otherwise (e.g., Departmental support); c) hard bargaining; and d) tight budgeting.

#### *Postgraduates/students*

We were pleased to be able to be able to maintain *at least* \$110 difference in postgrad/full registration costs. This was largely enabled at an early stage by the Sponsorship obtained from the Royal Society of NZ.

The conference dinner cost for postgrads was reduced, the subsidy coming from full delegate payments. As it turned out, more postgrads than anticipated attended the dinner, so the dinner itself only just broke even.

A large number of students attended the conference – approximately 41% of all delegates registered as students.

A total of 53 people attended the postgraduate dinner on the Friday evening. A number of people indicated that they liked the way this event had been scheduled into the programme, which made it appear an ‘official’ part of the conference.

Postgraduate accommodation was organised by the Postgrad Rep, Katherine Hodgetts in consultation with postgraduates at Auckland, at a cheap hotel close to the venue. Eighteen postgrads stayed in this accommodation.

#### *Points to consider for the future*

I think it is a good idea to offer a subsidy for postgrads to attend the conference dinner. However, I think our \$45/\$65 division was possibly not quite balanced correctly, and we came very close to the conference dinner losing money. (The dinner cost \$55/person.) Perhaps a \$50/\$65 split would have been better. This is something to consider for the future.

One thing to consider is the ‘buying in’ of some help for the mundane tasks associated with it. The conference took a *huge* proportion of my

time in 2004 – I was working almost full-time on it for at least 3 months beforehand.

Day registrations: should these be provided? If so, make sure not to budget them too low (we probably under-budgeted them, slightly). And, if so, should they be advertised on the registration form (I’d suggest not, as it might encourage people to only register for one day).

Should people be asked to make revisions to abstracts (should they even be ‘declined’ in some circumstances)? We asked for clarifications/revisions in some instances where abstracts were unclear. Most people made them, although I suspect this was not seen to be a good practice from some quarters. However I feel it was important, as these abstracts are published as conference proceedings, and to some extent they then reflect the ‘quality and reputation’ of the conference in a public forum.

Limiting the number of presentations from any one speaker – should this be limited to one? If so, how to decided which talk to choose?

Refunds: Develop a clear policy on refunds and have it clearly stated on the registration form.

What is the best use of the profits? I, personally, would like to see at least some of this going to support students at future conferences or for things like the summer school.

#### *Thanks:*

Finally, I personally would like to thank all the people who contributed directly to the conference:

The other members of organising committee: Jeff Adams, Pat Bullen, Fiona Cram, John Duckitt, John Fenaughty, Nathan Gaunt, Nicola Gavey, and Tim McCreanor.

The student helpers at (and before) the conference: Luisa Ape-Esera, Rose Joudi, Matt McAlpine, Pantea Moghaddam, Alice Penfold, Manuwai Wells.

Members of the Psychology Department: Dianne McCarthy, Kamalini Gnaniah, Rajni Herman, Peter Johnston, Margaret Francis, Niki Harré, and Jane Buckman.

And a number of unnamed others who helped at various points along the way, particularly the SASP members (especially Julie Fitness and Janine Webb) whom I bugged frequently with questions about the conference!

I'm glad it's over, and I look forward to Townsville next year (and to not organising it!).

Virginia Braun  
Auckland University

### Post-Graduate Report

There is a new post-graduate representative for SASP: Catherine Philpot from the University of Queensland. I recommend all post-grad students make themselves known to Catherine in the future.

Catherine replaces Katherine Hodgetts (University of Adelaide). On behalf of the SASP membership, we'd like to thank Katherine for her contribution in her role as the post-graduate representative.

Specific post-grad news about the forthcoming SASP conference (Townsville 2005) will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

Also post-grads, in particular, should read the report (that follows later in the newsletter; pp. 7-8) by Jackson Eaton (UWA) on his experiences at the 2004 European Association of Experimental Social Psychology Summer School. We'd certainly encourage all post-grads to consider including such experiences, if at all possible, during their PhD candidature. *[All comments in this section by Editors; we take responsibility for any inaccuracies]*

### SASP Bulletin Board (replacing SocPsyBull)

As you are all aware, there have been changes to the SASP bulletin board (formerly SocPsyBull). Although these details have been emailed, they are repeated here for those who have forgotten or can't remember where the details are.

As you will have gathered by now, we have a new email list service for SASP - the old "Socpsybull" is no more. We'd like to thank Michael Platow who maintained that list faithfully for such a long time. Since his move to ANU, it has become too difficult to maintain the old list, which was based at La Trobe, so it has been moved to Macquarie. Julie Fitness is looking after the list at the moment. Some useful details of its operation follow below. *[These comments and what follows have been modified/ "stolen" from a posting by Julie Fitness on the new bulletin board].*

To post to this list, send your email to:

[psy\\_sasp@listserv.mq.edu.au](mailto:psy_sasp@listserv.mq.edu.au)

General information about the mailing list is at:

[http://listserv.mq.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/psy\\_sasp](http://listserv.mq.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/psy_sasp)

If you ever want to unsubscribe or change your options (e.g., switch to or from digest mode, change your password, etc.) visit your subscription page. You'll need to check your original email for this although you can get this information or do the same things in the following way.

You can also make such adjustments via email by sending a message to:

[Psy\\_sasp-request@listserv.mq.edu.au](mailto:Psy_sasp-request@listserv.mq.edu.au)

with the word 'help' in the subject or body (don't include the quotes), and you will get back a message with instructions.

Normally, Mailman will remind you of your listserv.mq.edu.au mailing list passwords once every month, although you can disable this if you prefer. This reminder will also include instructions on how to unsubscribe or change your account options. There is also a button on your options page that will email your current password to you.

---

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

### SASP 2005 Townsville 7-10 April, 2005

In case you didn't know, the 34th Annual SASP Conference will be held in Townsville, North Queensland, from 7th-10th April, 2005. It is to be hosted by the School of Psychology, James Cook University, which also maintains the (almost completed) conference website:

<http://www.faess.jcu.edu.au/sop/saspconference/index.htm>

Abstract submission details, registration forms, post-graduate, accommodation and travel information may all be found here. As you will see, a number of social activities are planned that will require your early expression of interest, in particular the Cleveland Bay Dinner Cruise provisionally slated for Friday (April 8th) evening.

Paper or Poster abstracts and Symposium proposals are due **15th January**, a little earlier than in previous years due to the earlier start of the conference. Registration is possible either for the full conference or by the day, and this year - following a decision made at last year's SASP

AGM - we are delighted to offer our Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP) colleagues SASP member registration rates if they are also attending the 6<sup>th</sup> AASP biennial Conference in Wellington, N.Z. a few days earlier. Early bird rates will apply through 1st February.

The main conference venue is Jupiters Hotel and Casino complex on the marina close to the Townsville CBD. This venue obviously also provides the most convenient accommodation, for which we have obtained corporate rates for our delegates.

Best wishes and looking forward to seeing you in Townsville in April,

*The conference organising committee:*

Ben Slugoski                      Jennifer Sojan  
Glenda Blackwell                Kellie Doonan

*[also see the poster on the last page of the newsletter. Editors]*

**AASP 2005  
Wellington 2-5 April, 2005**

We are happy to announce that the website for the Asian Association of Social Psychology's (AASP) 6<sup>th</sup> biennial conference at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand is now live on:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/cacr/aasp/programme/index.aspx>

Registration and abstract submission are now available on-line. We would like to extend a special invitation to SASP members to continue in the spirit of scholarly exchange established at Melbourne and come to Wellington April 2-5, 2005. Deadline for abstract submission is Dec 3, 2004.

As agreed upon at SASP's annual meeting, and noted on the website, SASP members will receive AASP members' rates at the conference (reciprocally, AASP members will get SASP members rates at Townsville). For more information about AASP, see

<http://www.sites.psych.unimelb.edu.au/aasp/>

The conference will be hosted by the School of Psychology and the Centre for Applied Cross Cultural Research at VUW. For those of you unfamiliar with the Centre but interested in the interface between psychology and culture, the

conference would be a good opportunity to get to know the people at the Centre. See the website at: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/cacr/>

While submissions for the conference will range across the wide range of topics across and around social psychology, the plenary theme of the conference is "Global perspectives on Asian Social Psychology". Six distinguished speakers will be invited to comment on Global perspectives on Asian Social Psychology as follows:

The past decade and a half has witnessed the development of a social psychology that could be described as distinctly Asian Social Psychology. Markus & Kitayama's seminal 1991 Psych Review paper was an exclamation point to a long term trend in cross-cultural psychology to see East Asians as having a socio-cognitive-motivational viewpoint not easily subsumed within mainstream American individualism. Such figures as K.S. Yang, D. Sinha, V.G. Enriquez, S.C. Choi, U. Kim, and S. Yamaguchi have gone beyond a comparative framework and examined the indigenous psychological functioning of Chinese, Indian, Korean, Pilipino and Japanese populations.

The founding of the Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP) in 1995 and its publications Progress in Asian Social Psychology (selected conference proceedings) and Asian Journal of Social Psychology (AJSP) has provided an organizational structure for these developments.

Given that the 2005 conference will be the tenth anniversary of the founding of AASP, we thought it appropriate to take stock of (1) what contributions Asian Social Psychology (including research by Asians, for Asians, or using Asian populations) as made to global social psychology including other regional psychologies, (2) the current status of Asian Social Psychology in the global and regional marketplaces of ideas, and (3) the future of Asian Social Psychology.

We are inviting distinguished scholars from different parts of the world to comment on these issues, taking a standpoint from their regional community and from a larger global perspective.

Confirmed keynote speakers thus far:

Professor Colleen Ward, AASP Presidential Address

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/cacr/people/bio/colleen-ward.aspx>

Professor Kwok Leung, City University of Hong Kong  
<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/cityu/about/professors/fb-mgt-kleung.htm>

Professor Janak Pandey, University of Islamabad

Professor Tomohide Atsumi, Osaka University

Professor Kai-ping Peng, University of California, Berkeley

Hope to see you there!

Best wishes

Organizing committee for AASP 2005

### **Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology**

Sydney, Australia, 15-18 March, 2005

The next international Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology will be held between March 15-17 2005, in the Coojee Bay Hotel, Sydney. This will be the eight annual meeting in this highly successful series. The theme of next year's meeting is **'Hearts and minds: affective influences on social cognition and behaviour'**, and contributions will be published in a book by Psychology Press, New York. The preliminary program is listed below, together with the email addresses of the invited speakers. If you want to invite any of the speakers to visit your department, please contact them directly.

Convened and Edited by

Joseph P. Forgas (University of New South Wales)

#### *Tentative Program and Participants*

##### PART 1. General issues

The role of affect in social behavior: a historical introduction. Joe Forgas (UNSW).

The social neuroscience perspective on affect and social behaviour. Piotr Winkieleman (UCSan Diego) & John Cacioppo (UChicago).

Evolutionary perspectives on affect and social behavior. Martie Haselton (UCLA).

##### PART 2. Affect and social cognition

Affective influences on social memory and affect priming mechanisms. Eric Eich (British Columbia).

The role of affect in social information processing Bless? Klaus Fiedler (Heidelberg) & Herbert Bless (Mannheim).

Affect as information in social judgments and behaviors. Gerald Clore (UVirginia).

Affect and decision-making. Roy Baumeister (Florida) & Kathleen Vohs (British Columbia).

##### PART 3. Emotions and social behavior

Emotional appraisal of social situations. Craig Smith (Vanderbilt).

Emotional intelligence and interpersonal behaviour. Joseph Ciarrochi (Wollongong).

Emotions in personal relationships. John Holmes (Waterloo).

Positive emotions and their effects on health and cognitive function. Felicia Huppert (Cambridge).

##### PART 4. The social consequences of affect

Affect as a social resource. Yaacov Trope (New York University).

Affect and the self. Constantine Sedikides (Southampton).

Affective influences on interpersonal behaviours. Joe Forgas (UNSW).

Managing affective states. Ralph Erber (De Paul).

#### *List of participants and their email addresses*

Herbert Bless, Mannheim: [bleess@rumms.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:bleess@rumms.uni-mannheim.de)

Kathleen Vohs, UBC: [kathleen.vohs@sauder.ubc.ca](mailto:kathleen.vohs@sauder.ubc.ca)

Craig Smith, Vanderbilt: [craig.a.smith@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:craig.a.smith@vanderbilt.edu)

Felicia Huppert, Cambridge: [fah2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:fah2@cam.ac.uk)

Gerry Clore, Virginia: [gc4q@cms.mail.virginia.edu](mailto:gc4q@cms.mail.virginia.edu)

John Cacioppo, Chicago: [cacioppo@uchicago.edu](mailto:cacioppo@uchicago.edu)

Ralph Erber, DePaul: [rerber@hawk.depaul.edu](mailto:rerber@hawk.depaul.edu)

Yaacov Trope, New York: [yaacov.trope@nyu.edu](mailto:yaacov.trope@nyu.edu)

Eric Eich, UBC: [ee@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:ee@psych.ubc.ca)

Klaus Fiedler, Heidelberg: [klaus.fiedler@psychologie.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:klaus.fiedler@psychologie.uni-heidelberg.de)



Piotr Winkileman, San Diego:  
[pwinkiel@ucsd.edu](mailto:pwinkiel@ucsd.edu)

Joseph Ciarrochi, Wollongong:  
[joec@uow.edu.au](mailto:joec@uow.edu.au)

John Holmes, Waterloo:  
[jholmes@watarts.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jholmes@watarts.uwaterloo.ca)

Martie Haselton, Los Angeles:  
[haselton@ucla.edu](mailto:haselton@ucla.edu)

Constantine Sedikides, Southampton:  
[C.Sedikides@soton.ac.uk](mailto:C.Sedikides@soton.ac.uk)

Joe Forgas, New South Wales:  
[jp.forgas@unsw.edu.au](mailto:jp.forgas@unsw.edu.au)

### **Other conferences that may be of interest to SASP members**

Margaret Foddy (Carleton University, Canada) has suggested the *11th International Conference on Social Dilemmas* and the *Midwestern Psychological Association's* conference. Cindy Gallois (University of Queensland) passed on news about the *COMET VELIM* conference. Ginny Braun (Auckland University) posted news on the *International Conference on Engaging Communities*. Brief details of each follow below.

The 11th International Conference on Social Dilemmas will be held in Krakow July 24-28, immediately after the European Association's conference in Germany. This conference ranges in size from 50 to 100 people, many of whom have attended all of the meetings since the first in the early 1980's. You may offer either a full paper, or a poster. Sometimes there is some limited support for graduate students. Details about the conference are at the following website: <http://www.come.uw.edu.pl/icsd2005/>

If you happen to be near Chicago in May, you can look up the Midwestern Psychological Association's website. They hold an annual meeting in Chicago at the Palmer House Hilton (good location in downtown Chicago). While this is a general psychology meeting, it has a heavy emphasis on social psychology. You can reach the MPA site on

<http://www.midwesternpsych.org>

The 3rd International interdisciplinary conference on Communication, Medicine and Ethics (COMET) and the 7th annual seminar of the Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine (VELIM) will be held in Sydney, Australia between 30 June and 2 July 2005. The Conference is jointly hosted by the Centre for

Language in Social Life, Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University, Sydney and the Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine of the University of Sydney. The Conference will bring together researchers, practitioners and administrators from different disciplines concerned with issues of communication and ethics in the fields of healthcare and the human and social sciences. Full details, including registration details, are available from: [www.comet-velim.org](http://www.comet-velim.org)

The International Conference on Engaging Communities is an initiative of the United Nations and Queensland Government to be held from 14-17 August 2005 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia. (Unfortunately the due date for abstracts has passed). This unique event will explore all issues related to community engagement and address the experiences, challenges and research which affect all citizens, governments and organisations alike. The program is designed to interest representatives from community groups, academia, government agencies, corporations, associations and the like. For details visit:

<<http://www.engagingcommunities2005.org>

---

### **COMPETITION**

For those who are so inclined, I am running a competition with a small prize to the winner. I would like to offer a travel tip for next year's conference. As I have never been north of Noosa on the Queensland coast, I have no good suggestions for next year's conference. I would therefore welcome any suggestions. A prize will be given to the most novel (quirky/weird but interesting) entry as judged by me. Entries will be received until the end of February. Email any entries to [paul.williamson@flinders.edu.au](mailto:paul.williamson@flinders.edu.au).

---

### **REPORTS ON CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

#### **EAESP Summer School 2004**

Long acronyms and negatively connotative words such as 'school' don't really provide a good indication of the incredibly enjoyable experience that was the 2004 European Association of Experimental Social Psychology Summer School. Perhaps stemming from my love of Scrabble I decided to rearrange the letters of the title and came up with 'pleasures me smooches 2004', which feels much more

representative despite not making a great deal of sense.

If you need filling in, EAESP hold a summer school every two years, which brings together 10 leading academics and 60 PhD students from Europe and abroad (there was one guy from Azerbaijan!) to pour their minds over the latest theories and designs in experimental social psychology. The summer school runs for two weeks and participants belong to one of five workgroups, each with its own specialist topic and leaders. The majority of the time is spent in these workgroups discussing current research and ideas, and designing new research projects. The leaders and guest academics also give lectures in plenary sessions at the beginning and end of each day and, of course, there are some social activities.

This year, the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, were the hosts and myself (Jackson Eaton) and Renata Bongiorno made the trek all the way from Australia to attend the summer school in the first two weeks of August (not to mention a little holiday afterwards). I belonged to the workgroup Automaticity and Goals, which was lead by Ap Dijksterhuis and Henk Aarts. Renata participated in the Intergroup Relations workgroup, which was lead by Russell Spears and Sabine Otten.

Now for the gushy part. The EAESP summer school was easily the greatest thing I have done as part of my doctorate so far. I felt inspired, I felt worthy, I felt connected, I felt drunk. It was brilliant to have the chance to meet *other people* who were interested in studying the same things as me (coming from Perth, this is rare) and to have such a close connection (social and academic) with some of the amazing minds in my field. I came home feeling like social psych research was something I *wanted* to do, and that I wasn't alone. I was able to get many ideas for my own research and impress others with what was done over here. The summer school was perfect in its informal yet focused atmosphere. For example, picking Ap Dijkstehuis's mind about non-conscious thinking at 3pm and having him buy me a beer at a club at 3am the same day. Oh, the memories. Eating herring and drinking horrible Dutch liquor up the martini tower. Throwing a rock along a 10km path for fun? Presenting *first* in front of everyone after the EAESP President on Saturday morning after 3 hours sleep. Bernd Wittenbrink dancing! I could go on....easily.

I *strongly* recommend investigating this or similar sorts of experiences during your PhD. SPSP also hold a summer school in the alternate year to EAESP, which is still taking applications for 2005. Check out the summer school website (<http://www.rug.nl/psy/onderzoek/summerschool/index>) for more info and photos, or email me ([ged@tartarus.uwa.edu.au](mailto:ged@tartarus.uwa.edu.au)) if you have any questions. Summer school rocks!

Jackson Eaton  
University of Western Australia

---

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

### *Comings and goings*

Dr. Carry Wyland, a recent Phd from Dartmouth college, and Dr. Liz Dunn, who completed her PhD at the University of Virginia have recently commenced their period of postdoctoral fellowship working with Prof. Joseph Forgas and A/Prof. Bill von Hippel at the University of New South Wales, on their research into affective influences on social judgments and cognition. Dr. Dunn will be working on studies exploring affective forecasting phenomena, and the relationship between identity needs and materialistic values and consumption habits. Among other projects, Dr. Wyland will be focusing on a new series of experiments using fMRI techniques to explore the localisation of the brain mechanisms involved in affective influences on cognition, using the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute's new MRI research machine (in collaboration with Scientia Prof. George Paxinos of the POWMRI).

### *Other news*

Joe Forgas has been elected to a Fellowship by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, only the third foreign psychologist so honoured.

Joe Forgas has also received the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the Australian Psychological Society and gave a keynote address at the annual conference of the APS in Sydney on September 30th, 2004.

---

## BOOKS BY MEMBERS

A number of SASP members have books out at the moment. They follow roughly in the order that they were received as contributions.



Guerin, B. (2004). *Handbook for analyzing the social strategies of everyday life*. Reno, Nevada: Context Press. 348 pages.  
Available from [www.contextpress.com](http://www.contextpress.com).

The Social Sciences are becoming increasingly multidisciplinary. In the future, students will be expected to know something about all social science approaches. Knowing only one perspective, from social psychology, social anthropology, geography or sociology, will not be enough. Social scientists are long overdue to stand back from their isolated disciplines and look at the bigger picture of analyzing the contexts of social behavior.

This book brings together for the first time all the social science research showing how to analyze the social behaviors of everyday life. The topics of social psychology are all included although placed in a new taxonomy. For example, most of social cognition is found in a chapter on the subtle uses of language. The overall approach is to pursue the social, cultural, historical, economic and environmental contexts from which our social behavior emerges.

The book has been left purposively open so that teachers from different social science backgrounds can adapt examples and context to their own teaching requirements. Social psychologists, for example, will spend more time in the sections on non-kin-based social relationships and on the effects of group size on social behavior than would social anthropologists. The material derives from Guerin's experience of teaching a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year course on "Social Behaviour for the Social Sciences" and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Year course on analyzing the uses of language in social interaction.

A very original aspect of this book for social psychologists is the inclusion of non-western social groups and not just those living in typical western societies. This includes a whole chapter on analysing the social effects of colonisation, oppression and westernisation on social behaviour, and examples throughout the book from indigenous, minority and under-represented groups. The book is also a practical one, with an Appendix of examples for practical analysis when teaching.

Abrams, D., Hogg, M. A., & Marques, J. M. (Eds.). (2004). *The social psychology of inclusion and exclusion*. Psychology Press. 392 pages. See [www.psyppress.com](http://www.psyppress.com) for further information.

*The Social Psychology of Inclusion and Exclusion* examines the psychology of inclusion and exclusion within relationships between individuals, small groups, and large scale social categories such as nationality and ethnicity. Leading international experts in social psychology explore the impact of being excluded on people's emotions, actions, and reactions. They examine the circumstances that surround social exclusion, the conditions that lead people to exclude others from their groups, and ways that the negative impact of social exclusion can be reduced. As well as setting out the latest theories and evidence, the contributors also address the practical and policy implications of their work. The coverage ranges from the ostracism of individuals within small groups; the impact of not belonging on emotions, thoughts and actions; the stigmatization of individuals who are rejected by society; the analysis of intergroup segregation and exclusion in Northern Ireland; the way that communication affects our images and openness to inclusion of ethnic outgroups; the way deviants are dealt with by other group members; and the role of social exclusion in delinquency.

The volume will be of interest to social psychology researchers, as well as final year undergraduate students and graduate students on a variety of social psychology courses. Its breadth will also appeal to students of intercultural relations, sociology, political science, and even social and public policy. It will also serve as a useful resource for decision makers and social policy officials, and as a tool for social scientists who conduct research on social inclusion and exclusion.

I especially like the focus on social inclusion and exclusion at all three levels of analysis – micro-individual, meso-group, and macro-societal. In short, this volume can be highly recommended for all who are concerned with intergroup phenomena. *Thomas F. Pettigrew, University of California at Santa Cruz*

Policy implications leap out from every chapter. A crucial book for all of us concerned with the current, unprecedented intergroup challenges to the human social condition. *Susan T. Fiske, Princeton University*

Trahair, R.C.S. (2004). *Encyclopedia of Cold War espionage, spies and secret operations*. CT; Greenwood Press, 512 pages

The work is intended for the reference section of public and educational libraries. The book includes a social psychological introduction to espionage and reviews literature on the psychology of keeping and revealing secrets. The 300 short accounts of Cold War espionage are augmented by suggested resources and readings; the book provides chronology of Cold War espionage, shows that the reliability of our knowledge in this field of applied psychology is very weak, and that espionage - an essential political activity for national defence - during the Cold War touched almost every occupation and seamy activity in the daily life of most nations.

Robbie Sutton  
Keele University  
[m.r.sutton@psy.keele.ac.uk](mailto:m.r.sutton@psy.keele.ac.uk)

At present I am writing a biography of Eric L. Trist, (1909-93), an early founder of the Tavistock Institute in London, and would be very pleased to hear from any psychologists and social scientists in Australia who knew Eric, worked with him, or have any items of information, documents, letters and so forth that could help me. My email address is [r.trahair@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:r.trahair@latrobe.edu.au) or [r.trahair@bigpond.com](mailto:r.trahair@bigpond.com)

Richard Trahair  
La Trobe University

---

## HELP WANTED

A few of us would like to put together a symposium on communication processes and intergroup relations for the upcoming meeting in Townsville, April 2005. This is a call for papers for that symposium. It's an exciting time for this kind of research. An illustrative but not exhaustive list of suitable topics might be:

- factors affecting the communication of stereotypes and stereotype-consistent information
- reactions to the communication of such information (e.g., reactions to criticisms in the Intergroup Sensitivity Effect)
- implicit versus explicit, or covert versus overt, communication of stereotypes and prejudice
- intergroup biases in language (e.g., the LIB)
- applications of principles from research on social networks, evolutionary theory, and social influence to stereotype communication and prejudice reduction
- motivated communication of stereotypes to achieve social goals (e.g., to facilitate or resist social change)
- effects of communicative context(e.g., public/private; identifiable/anonymous) and medium (e.g., CMC, FtF, TV) on the transmission of stereotypes

Speakers thus far include myself and Karen Douglas from the UK, and Matthew Hornsey from UQ. I am approaching a senior discussant. All contributions welcome - if numbers are high it should be possible to arrange two symposia. Simply reply to this email with your expressions of interest and a working title.

Thanks for your time, and see you in Townsville,

---

## INVITED PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, 2003

*This is an abbreviated version of the President's Address delivered by Professor Kip Williams to the Annual Meeting of the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists at the Hyatt Hotel, Auckland in 2004. Conference organised by the Department of Psychology, Auckland University.*

### Ostracism: Immediate Reactions and Coping Responses

#### Kipling Williams

Macquarie University (now at Purdue University)

"If no one turned round when we entered, answered when we spoke, or minded what we did, but if every person we met 'cut us dead,' and acted as if we were non-existing things, a kind of rage and impotent despair would ere long well up in us, from which the cruelest bodily tortures would be a relief; for these would make us feel that, however bad might be our plight, we had not sunk to such a depth as to be unworthy of attention at all." (James, 1890/1950, p. 293-294).

In this talk, I presented a summary of my research on ostracism, being ignored and excluded. My research, in collaboration with many students and colleagues (listed at the end), focuses mostly on individuals who are targets of short-term ostracism, although we have also examined antecedents and consequences for individuals who ostracize.

Ostracism is universal and powerful. It occurs in all societies, past and present, with most social species, informally and formally, in large groups and dyads. Because of its universality, and because of the results of research that I present here, I have come to the tentative conclusion that ostracism (its use as a means to increase the cohesiveness of the group and to change unwanted behaviours, and reflexive reactions to it) are hard-wired and evolutionarily adaptive.

The essence of my theoretical model is that ostracism is rather unique in threatening four fundamental needs or motives: belonging, self-esteem, control, and meaningful existence. It severs our sense of belonging and feelings of connection with others, it suggests that others devalue us and consequently lowers our self-esteem, it shreds our sense of control, and at an existential level, it challenges our very sense of being. Research with Lisa Zadro and Rick Richardson has shown that ostracism decreases levels of satisfaction for all four of these needs more than when individuals are being verbally derogated.

*Stage 1 responses.* Our research suggests that the effects of ostracism are both rapid and robust, occurring after only short-term exposure and across many social contexts. After being ostracized for as little as four minutes, individuals report lower satisfaction levels for belonging, self-esteem, control, and meaningful existence, and higher levels of sadness and anger. Ostracism activates blood flow in the same region of the brain (the anterior cingulate cortex) that detects and signals physical pain. Ostracism is equally distressing when perpetrated by ingroup and outgroup members or even despised outgroup members, as evidenced by research with Karen Gonsalkorale in which we found that even if people are ostracized by a group they hate, the KKK, they feel distressed. Indeed, the effects of ostracism are unmitigated even in contexts that seem to eliminate personalized explanations for exclusion; Lisa Zadro, Rick Richardson and I found that people feel bad even when ostracized by computers. Much of the recent research on ostracism has used the Cyberball paradigm in which participants believe they are tossing a virtual ball with two other alleged players via computers connected to the Internet. In reality, computer software controls participants' level of inclusion/ostracism by other players. Dependent measures focus specifically on participants' experiences during the game. The accumulated

evidence, therefore, suggests that the immediate reflexive reaction to ostracism is indiscriminately painful and distressing. This suggests that humans are hard-wired to detect ostracism because it signals a threat to survival.

*Stage 2 responses.* With reflection, however, people can presumably cope with meaningless or inconsequential forms of ostracism through thoughtful reflection. With time to consider the circumstances of the ostracism episode, individual predispositions for coping and consideration of relevant situational factors ought to moderate the negative impact of ostracism. For example, Zadro, Bowland, and Richardson found that although immediate reactions to ostracism were similarly negative for individuals who were low and high on social phobia, only individuals high in social phobia continued to feel depleted of need satisfaction 45-min later. Other research also alludes to the importance of time when it comes to responses to social exclusion. After sufficient time for individual differences and thoughtful reflection to occur, people follow one of two distinct paths: one involving tendencies to be re-included, and the other involving anti-social and self-defeating tendencies.

*Stage 3 responses.* With individuals who endure long-term or repeated exposure to ostracism, we argue that resources needed to replenish satisfaction levels for the four needs become depleted, and helplessness, alienation, depression, and worthlessness results. Evidence from interviews from long-term sufferers of ostracism, conducted by Lisa Zadro for her dissertation, supports this general downward spiral of human coping and spirit.

*Pro- or Anti-Social Reactions.* Coming back to Stage 2 effects, an apparent controversy has emerged in the literature on ostracism, social exclusion, and rejection. Many studies demonstrate some sort of pro-social reactions, whereas many other studies demonstrate anti-social reactions. For instance, after only 5 or so minutes following ostracism, targets have increased their efforts on group tasks, conformed more, responded more favourably to legitimate and illegitimate groups, unconsciously mimicked others, modeled good citizenship, and have become generally more socially sensitive.

On the other hand, other research has shown that targets of ostracism, social exclusion, and rejection are more likely to retaliate, or even strike out at naïve others, are less likely to

engage in cooperative or pro-social actions, are more self-destructive, and cognitively deficient.

Thus, we have a conundrum to solve. I think the answer does not lie in claiming that one research program is correct whereas the other is not. Rather, the question is, under what conditions will ostracism lead to pro- versus anti-social responses?

Cassie Govan and Trevor Case and I have shown that whereas transparent measures of attitudes toward stigmatized outgroups remain unaltered by ostracism, implicit attitudes become more. This suggests that the pro- versus anti- reactions may depend on the type of measure employed.

But we also think that at the heart of the matter, the aggression will emerge following ostracism to the extent that control has been sufficiently relinquished. For instance, in other research programs where anti-social reactions are more commonplace, social exclusion is manipulated by a prognosis of having a “life alone.” If believed, such as prognosis would suggest that the individual had no control over changing the course of their solitary life. In Wayne Warburton’s honours thesis, he ostracized or included individuals in a game of toss, then subjected them to loud blasts of noxious noise. Half of the participants could control the onset of these noise blasts whereas the other half could not. Then, all participants were directed to allocated hot sauce to a naïve participant who (a) hated hot sauce yet (b) would have to eat the entire allocated sample (a measure that has been used elsewhere in the aggression literature). Wayne’s results showed those who were ostracized but given control were no more aggressive than included participants. But, participants who were ostracized and who had no control over the onset of the noise blasts allocated four times as much hot sauce.

My research continues to examine the conditions under which ostracism produces anti-social, as opposed to pro-social reactions. Current work examines such questions using Virtual Reality technology, and Kate Wallbank has recently found interesting connections between ostracism and aggressive responses, as a function of separating exclusion from being ignored. Likewise, pro-social responses can often be risky and unwise, so Averil Cook is examining susceptibility to cult overtures following ostracism.

*Summary.* This research program has been and continues to be exciting and surprising. I am very grateful to all the students and colleagues who have worked with me on this research program, and whose natural curiosities and clever ideas led us to unexpected directions.

#### *Acknowledgements*

Thanks to Michele Abraham, Trevor Case, Chris Cheung, Shellene Cheung, Wilma Choi, Averil Cook, Vanessa Croker, Maggie Cruikshank, Kate Elliot, Alla Ezrakhovich, Julie Fitness, Jonathan Gerber, Karen Gonsalkorale, Cassie Govan, Jon Grahe, Tim Hulme, Anita Jerrems, Amanda Kerr, Michele Kosasih, Alby Lam, Helen Lawson Williams, Keith Lim, Elizabeth Murphy, Wendy Shore, Anita Smith, Kristin Sommer, Daniel Tynan, Peter Walker, Kate Wallbank, Wayne Warburton, Amy Wheaton, Ladd Wheeler, and Lisa Zadro, and to the Australian Research Council for funding.

#### Suggested readings:

Williams, K. D. (2001). *Ostracism: The power of silence*. NY: Guilford Publications.

Williams, K. D., Forgas, J. P., & von Hippel, W. (Eds). (due out in 2005). *The social outcast: Ostracism, social exclusion, rejection, and bullying*. New York: The Psychology Press.

## **34<sup>th</sup> SASP Annual Meeting**

In 2005 the SASP conference will be hosted by James Cook University

The venue will be Jupiter's Hotel/Casino, Townsville North Queensland

When: 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2005

### **Keynote Speakers:**

- Professor Dale T. Miller from Stanford University, U.S.A
- Professor Denis Hilton from Université de Toulouse-II, France

### **Presidential Speaker**

- Professor Joseph P. Forgas

Apart from researchers in Social Psychology, the Organising Committee is encouraging researchers in the areas of Clinical, Health, Forensic, and Evolutionary psychology to participate where their research interests interact with social psychology

***To register or for more information, contact:***

***Jennifer Sojan Conference Co-Coordinator***

***Ph: 07 47815449 Fax: 07 4781 5117 Email: [SaspConference@jcu.edu.au](mailto:SaspConference@jcu.edu.au)***

***Or check out our Web site:***

***<http://www.faess.jcu.edu.au/sop/SaspConference/index.htm>***