



# SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, No. 1, March 2005

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### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of the Newsletter of SASP for 2005, just in time for this year's SASP conference in Townsville. As always, the conference organisers have been very helpful for us at the newsletter desk and the conference should be very successful on based on the level of organisation that has been apparent from our viewpoint. Further details can be found later in the newsletter.

This issue is a little sparser than usual but a bumper edition is promised for later in the year. Paul will be approaching a few people in Townsville to gather some material for a few future features.

Enjoy SASP Townsville (and AASP Wellington if you are attending there as well) and we wish you all a fulfilling year.

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

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### REPORTS

#### President's Report

“So long, and thanks for all the fish!”

It's hard to believe that two years have passed by so quickly. It has been an honour to be your president because I am extremely proud of our organization. To me, we are everything that is right about social psychology. We work hard, we are very diverse in our interests and perspectives, we test our theories with rigour, and yet, we are mutually respectful and supportive.

I look forward to coming back for the SASP meeting in Townsville. I know the folks in Townsville who are putting on this conference, and I think they are doing a fabulous job. I'm sure it will be a conference to remember. Also, it

will be my chance to reunite with all my friends and colleagues after having been gone for nearly 9 months. And finally, it will be my turn to hand over the presidency to Debbie Terry, who I am sure will be a forward-thinking and strong president for SASP. I wish her the very best.

One final observation of one of the key differences between being a social psychologist in the US compared to being one in Australia: grant funding. While the ARC has increased its funding (to nearly 30% were funded last year), NSF funded less than 5% in the last round for the social sciences, and NIH is excluding most basic social psychological research from consideration. It is nice to know that the ARC values our research.

I sign off with the phrase, “so long, and thanks for all the fish,” which Douglas Adams used in his *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*. I'm not sure why I've liked this phrase so much, but I have used it every time I have left a job for the last 18 years. It is meant with warmth and, in this case, a bit of truth: the fish was a lot better in Sydney than it is in West Lafayette, Indiana!

I'll see you all in Townsville!

Kip Williams  
President SASP  
Purdue University (ex Macquarie University)

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### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

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

This is just a reminder about the big conference for SASP members to be held in Townsville and organized by the Psychology department at James Cook University. 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. Check

out further information at the well maintained conference website:

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

Be sure to check out the travel tips. The best tip comes from the website. For those who haven't left yet, here is a last minute tip directly from the website:

**Travel Tips on Dress:** In Townsville the dress is usually relaxed and casual which reflects the lifestyle of living in the Northern Tropics. Jackets and ties are not required in any venues and are rarely worn except for formal evening functions. April is the beginning of our "winter" so for those who come from tropical areas a sweater or jacket may be required for the cooler nights. For those who come from cold areas then don your swimsuit! Shorts and swimsuit should be part of your travel wardrobe at any time of the year here in Townsville and indeed North Queensland.

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

Just prior to SASP conference is the Asian Association of Social Psychology's (AASP) 6<sup>th</sup> biennial conference at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. Again, the website is the place to find out more:

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

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

At the *American Psychological Society's annual meeting* this year in Los Angeles, May 25-29, there will be a festschrift for Robyn Dawes. Your old SASP friend, Margaret Foddy (Carleton, Canada), is one of the invited speakers, and you can check out the others on the APS website

<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/index.cfm>.

Margaret also mentions *The International conference on Social Dilemmas* will be held in Krakow, Poland, July 24-28. This is a small conference (usually between 60-100 people), and a wide interdisciplinary mix (psychologists, political scientists, sociologists, economists, philosophers), and an amazing cross-cultural group of presenters. You can check out the details on this website:

[http://www.come.uw.edu.pl/icsd2005/?nr\\_podstrony=5](http://www.come.uw.edu.pl/icsd2005/?nr_podstrony=5)

Julie Fitness (Macquarie) has advised us about the *Psychology of Relationships Conference* in November, 2005. The 5th Annual Conference of the APS Psychology of Relationships Interest Group will be held on the weekend of the 12th - 13th November, 2005, at Australian Catholic University, Melbourne. The broad theme is "The good, the bad, and the ugly in relationships at the personal, national, and international level". Call for Abstracts: The closing date for abstract submissions is 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2005, and the early-bird deadline for registration is 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2005. Participants also have the option of having their papers reviewed by the scientific committee for possible inclusion in the published Proceedings of the conference. If you want your paper considered for publication, you must submit it in full by the 8th August 2005. Details of submission and registration forms will be on the IG Website:

[http://www.psychsociety.com.au/units/interest\\_groups/relationships](http://www.psychsociety.com.au/units/interest_groups/relationships)

Contact Barry Fallon for more details, and check the website regularly.

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#### **NEWS OF MEMBERS**

##### *Comings and goings*

Tim Kurz (who completed his PhD at Murdoch in 2003) is shifting from his current post at Queen's University of Belfast to take up a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in May 2005.

Michael Wenzel (formerly of ANU) has recently joined the staff at Flinders University where he will be able to pursue his research interests in the social psychology of justice.

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#### **BOOKS BY MEMBERS**

Announcing the Publication of *Psychology & Law: An Empirical Perspective*, edited by Neil Brewer and Kipling D. Williams.

##### *Product Description:*

From the initial investigation of a crime to the sentencing of an offender, a wide range of practices within the criminal justice system draw on psychological knowledge. In this book, prominent cognitive and social psychology

researchers analyze the processes involved in such tasks as interviewing witnesses, detecting deception, and eliciting eyewitness reports and identification from adults and children. Also analyzed are factors that influence decision making by jurors and judges, including the persuasive strategies used by lawyers. Throughout, findings from experimental research are translated into clear recommendations for improving the quality of evidence and the fairness of investigative and legal proceedings. The book also addresses salient methodological questions and identifies key directions for future investigation.

#### *Editorial Reviews*

"A particularly welcome addition to the field. This volume offers the most comprehensive coverage to date of the empirical approach to the study of psychology and law. Brewer and Williams have assembled an international roster of some of the very best researchers, and the resulting book not only provides a complete review of the literature, but also yields perspectives and applications that are important and insightful. While I hesitate to highlight any particular chapter, the Wells chapter on how to influence social policy and Kerr and Bray's vigorous defense of laboratory-based research both deserve special mention. Psychology and Law is a valuable resource for researchers and will most assuredly serve as the state-of-the-art text for both undergraduate and graduate-level courses."--Irwin A. Horowitz, PhD, Department of Psychology, Oregon State University

"Psychology and Law is at once a lively and spritely read and a very up-to-date review of the major areas of forensic psychology. Despite my usual skepticism about edited volumes, this one is really terrific! It comprises consistently high-quality, rock-solid chapters by accomplished researchers in each area. This volume could be used very effectively in psychology and law courses at both the advanced undergraduate and graduate levels."--Stephen J. Ceci, PhD, Department of Human Development, Cornell University

"This book brings recent developments in psychological science to bear on the criminal justice system. Featuring an impressive array of chapters written by leading experts, it spans such core topics as police interviewing, deception detection, trial tactics, pretrial publicity, jury decision making, sentencing, eyewitness identifications, child witness testimony, and

other aspects of law. At a time when it is necessary to separate the science from the junk, this book will serve as an invaluable resource for psychology students, criminal justice students, researchers, and legal professionals."--Saul Kassin, PhD, Department of Psychology, Williams College

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#### **OTHER BITS AND PIECES**

The Evolutionary Psychology Interest Group will be holding an informal meet and greet on Friday 8th April from 6pm (after the conference) in the Lobby Bar/Bay View Room at Jupiter's, for all those interested. This is an added activity to the SASP conference hosted by Dr Michele Surbey & Dr Laurence Fiddick. All who are interested are welcome!

## 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  
The Norm of Self-Interest
- Professor Denis Hilton from Université de Toulouse-II, France  
Getting Things Done Through Logic Words: Creating Collective Value Through Co-ordination

### **Presidential Speaker**

- Professor Joseph P. Forgas  
Hearts and Minds: Affect in social thinking and behavior

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>*