

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, No. 1, March 1999

Editorial

Hi everyone, and welcome to the second edition of the Society Newsletter under the editorship of the team at Murdoch. We present the usual mix of news about members of the society and about various upcoming events. In particular, of course, we have the imminent meeting of the Society at Coolum, organised by the people at the University of Queensland. We anticipate a varied and interesting conference, and we will highlight events from the meeting in the next Newsletter.

Obituaries

In this edition there is an obituary section, this time remembering Roger Brown who died last year, written by Mike Innes with a additional comment by Iain Walker. We would encourage members who wish to write such pieces to do so as the occasion arises, without anticipating any imminent deaths, naturally.

Oral History

We shall also take the opportunity to mention the commencement of an oral history project, to collect a series of interviews with people who have been prominent in the history of social psychology in Australia and New Zealand. Mike Innes and Iain Walker initiated the project and we are getting some minor funding from the society to facilitate the project. Contact has been made with several prominent figures and Mike will be starting the interviews at the Coolum conference. We have drawn up a list of people we think should be interviewed, but we would welcome any suggestions from members for people who they think would have interesting points of view about the Society and the people who came before us. Old age is not the sole criterion for being placed on the list.

Other Initiatives

In the last issue we mentioned the possibility of other things appearing in the Newsletter, including book reviews and especially retrospective reviews of books that were particularly important for people in their careers. The Times Higher Education Supplement runs a "First Impressions" column regularly on books that significant people in academe found particularly useful or stimulating. We would like to start the same thing. We have not been exactly overwhelmed by offers. Please think about it and let any of the editorial team know of possible contributions.

Conference 2000

The conference for the new millenium will be in Fremantle, Western Australia, organised by the Murdoch group. We will be making a presentation at Coolum and we hope that everyone will think of making a trip to the West in the New Year.

Keep the copy rolling in.

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From the committee

President's Report

We are still living in interesting times. In the past fortnight, I have heard wild rumours, amid occasional (almost certainly) certified facts, about major changes in funding of research to universities, particularly by ARC, a major review of NHMRC, the new round of enterprise bargaining by academics, radical restructuring of several faculties, the takeover of politics by sex (perhaps this is not so new), and the (possible) implosion of the One Nation party. They still need us out there in the real world. As my term draws to an end, I am glad to see that the star of social psychology cannot fail to shine.

The Brisbane conference promises to uphold the proud SASP tradition of timeliness, inclusiveness, and a good time had by all. Debbie Terry has been the driver of the postgraduate pre-conference, which this year includes a morning skills session on publishing journal articles and two theme sessions in the afternoon: social dilemmas (organised by Margaret Foddy) and prejudice and intolerance (organised by Mike Hogg). Both these sessions fit the overall conference theme very well. Much of this year's conference will be devoted, as it must be, to issues of social inequality, discrimination, and prejudice. I hope that the research presented will help social psychologists to lead policy and practice in these areas, as we have in the past. I am sure that we will enjoy the conference, which is being held in one of Queensland's more pleasant Sunshine Coast resorts. I look forward to seeing all of you on April 8th or 9th.

The initial round of SASP project funding has allowed us to assist five postgraduate students with conference expenses, and also produced two project proposals, which are currently being considered by the executive. We will give a full report on this initiative at the AGM. My own feeling is that, like the postgraduate pre-conference, this is an initiative worth continuing.

I have enjoyed my term as President of SASP. This is still the organisation to which I feel the most emotional attachment, because its members have never failed to be welcoming and inclusive. As my term ends, I would like to thank all my colleagues on the executive and the newsletter for making my job much easier; it is nice to be the front person when everyone else is doing the hard work. In addition, I would like to welcome Graham Vaughan to his term as President, and to express the sincere wish that the trappings of office will improve his email infrastructure. I would also like to welcome Shari Hodgkinson of Murdoch University as the new SASP postgraduate representative, whose term starts at the conference - congratulations and good luck. In doing this, I would like to express my thanks, and the thanks of the whole executive, to Kathryn Strong (from UNSW) for her superb term as postgrad rep. Kathryn has put a huge effort into looking after the interests of postgraduate students in SASP, and her tact and good judgement have been invaluable. Finally, thanks to all the members of SASP for your cooperation and patience with a very low-profile president (but wasn't that the point?).

Best wishes for health and happiness in the year of the rabbit - see you in Coolum.

Cindy Gallois

c.gallois@mailbox.uq.edu.au

Secretary's Report

First, the final version of the [1998/99 SASP directory](#), containing 190 entries, is now on the web.

The hard copy of this directory will be distributed at the Coolum conference in April. Members not attending will receive their copy by post. Distributed with the directory will be forms for the 1999/2000 directory. Please note all changes, corrections, additions on this form and return it to me via the conference desk or by post. My address is:

Ruth Scott

Division of Psychology

Australian National University

Canberra, ACT 0200

Alternatively, if you are also paying dues to the treasurer via post, it may be included with it.

Second, a summary of the composition of SASP. As of the start of this conference we had 190 members, down from 224 at the start of the 1998 conference. Since the last conference in New Zealand, 12 former members rejoined and we have welcomed 11 new members who are listed on the handout included with your conference material. However, 57 social psychologists have decided not to continue their association with SASP.

Last, but not least, a reminder that nominations for president-elect will be solicited along with the next newsletter. The person elected will join the executive part as president-elect at the time of the next conference and will serve a two year term as president beginning at the 2001 conference.

Ruth Scott

ruth.scott@anu.edu.au

Treasurer's Report

Just a reminder that annual SASP subscriptions are now due. Those attending the conference in Cooloolah will probably have renewed their subscription when they registered for the conference. Those members who are not attending the conference, should renew their subscription, \$15 (students) and \$25 (non-students), by sending a cheque made payable to SASP or credit card details to:

Dr Julie Duck School of Psychology University of Queensland Brisbane QLD 4072

When providing credit card details remember to print your full name as it appears on the credit card, the type of card, the card number and expiry date, and the amount you wish to pay.

Cheers,

Julie Duck

julied@psy.uq.edu.au

Postgraduate Representative's Report

This is my final report as the Postgraduate Representative for SASP. During the last two years, SASP has demonstrated a genuine concern for the welfare and professional development of its postgraduate members. The introduction of pre-conference workshops designed specifically to cater to the needs of the post-graduate members has been an important initiative. Current discussion by the executive about further projects reinforces their ongoing commitment to postgraduates, and I am confident that SASP will continue its support for postgraduates. I would like to express my gratitude to the SASP executive and those involved with the development of the pre-conference workshops - Cindy Gallois, Margaret Foddy, Julie Duck, Ruth Scott, Deborah Terry and Graham Vaughan. I have always found this team to be extremely helpful and supportive, and I feel that I have learned a great deal through my involvement with them. I would also like to encourage the postgraduate members to keep up the communication between conferences - each of us has the potential to be an excellent source of information and support for the other members. Finally, I would like to congratulate the new Postgraduate Representative - Shari Hodgkinson, and wish her all the best. She is an enthusiastic and committed member of SASP, and I am certain that she will do a fantastic job.

Kathryn Strong

Association news

Conference Reports

Emerging issues in Psychology

Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, recently co-hosted a conference with Osmania University in Hyderabad, India. The title was "Emerging Issues in Psychology." Keynote speakers included Professors Shinobu Kitayama, Hubert Hermans, David Winter, Don Thompson, and Graham Davidson. The conference was a great success in terms of international relations. It was also a great eye-opener for both the Indian and (mostly) Australian delegates regarding the ways we each normally do business! Ask Simone Buzwell, Emiko Kashima or Bruce Findlay to tell you about their impressions of the Osmania conference.

Bruce Findlay

Workshop on social dilemmas The visit of Toshio Yamagishi to La Trobe provided the opportunity for an informal workshop on social dilemmas, which was held on March 18. Professor Yamagishi, from Hokkaido University in Japan, is in Melbourne as a Rio Tinto Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the School of Psychological Science. He has published extensively on social dilemmas, and his recent work is concerned with the bases of trust of strangers. Participants in the workshop were from La Trobe, Monash, Swinburne, Deakin, and ANU. This was the third in a series of workshops held at La Trobe; the other two were an international workshop on the self-concept (December, 1997), and a national workshop on research on leaders and followers (October, 1998).

Margaret Foddy

Sixth Annual Brisbane Symposium on Social Identity Theory The Sixth Annual Brisbane Symposium on Social Identity Theory, jointly hosted by the Centre for Research on Group Processes, University of Queensland, and the School of Applied Psychology, Griffith University, was held at the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland on 7 November 1998. Paul Grieve was the lead organiser - ably assisted on practical matters by Kelly Fielding, on impracticable matters by Michael Hogg, and on essential social etiquette by Katy White. There were 41 invited delegates - in addition to about 20 from the University of Queensland, others were from Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University, University of Southern Queensland, LaTrobe University, The Australian National University, Swinburne Institute of Technology, University of Amsterdam, the Free University of Amsterdam and the University of Kent. The theme this year was prejudice, discrimination, and extremism in response to recent events in Australia. The five speakers were Michael Hogg, Jolanda Jetten, Matthew Hornsey, Jim Cameron and Deborah Terry, who presented work on uncertainty and extremism, distinctiveness and discrimination, assimilation and multiculturalism, intergroup attitudes, and norms and prejudice. In keeping with our theme, we had an interactive panel session at the end of the day with Craig McGarty, Stephen Cox and Margaret Foddy giving us some insights into how we can translate theory into socio-political action, and social science into social activism. We lunched in typical dry sunny Brisbane November weather at Wordsmith's Café and then had the traditional drinks party, hosted this year by Katy White at her fabulous Paddington pad. We now have another observation in support of our hypotheses that (H1) social psychologists plus alcohol produce spontaneous dancing, (H2) Michael Platow has "courageous" taste in ties, and (H3) Craig McGarty's true vocation is disco-dancing! The seventh symposium will probably be held in the autumn of 1999 to take advantage of the presence of international visitors at the University of Queensland in connection with the

1999 SASP conference. There is the possibility that in 1999 we may, in collaboration with colleagues at ANU and LaTrobe, expand the meeting to last a few days and function to some extent as a graduate summer school on social identity.

For information about the Brisbane Social Identity conference series contact Michael Hogg: (m.hogg@psy.uq.edu.au).

Michael Hogg and Paul Grieve

Forthcoming conferences

Third International Conference on Theory and Research in Group Processes

A small conference on group processes will be held in Krakow, Poland, from June 14-17, 1999 at the Jagiellonian University, Institute of Sociology. This conference will have speakers from the USA, Canada, Australia, The Netherlands, Japan, France, Turkey and Poland, and focuses on sociological social psychology. Contact Margaret Foddy if you want more information. (m.foddy@latrobe.edu.au).

The second Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology, organised by Joe Forgas, Kip Williams and Ladd Wheeler will be held by the University of New South Wales between March 23-25. The Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology is an international meeting convened every March by the University of New South Wales in a Sydney beach-side location. Each year the meeting has a different theme, and a small group of leading researchers are invited to participate. So far two meetings have been organised.

The first Sydney Symposium of Social psychology, convened by Joe Forgas, was held in 1998 with the theme 'Feeling and thinking: The role of affect in social cognition and behaviour'. Participants included Jim Blascovich (UCSanta Barbara), Herbert Bless (Trier, Germany), Leonard Berkowitz (Wisconsin), Eric Eich (British Columbia), Klaus Fiedler (Heidelberg), Joe Forgas (UNSW), Dan Gilbert (Harvard), Anthony Greenwald (UWashington), Jamin Halberstadt (Otago, NZ), Mark Leary (Wake Forest), Leonard Martin (UGeorgia), Paula Niedenthal (UIndiana), Carolin Showers (Wisconsin), Craig Smith (Vanderbilt), Robert Zajonc (Stanford). The proceedings of this symposium are about to be published by Cambridge University Press, New York.

The second Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology will be held in March 1999, convened by Joe Forgas, Kip Williams and Ladd Wheeler (all at UNSW), with the theme 'The social mind: Cognitive and motivational aspects of interpersonal behaviour'. Invited participants include Susan Andersen (New York University), Roy Baumeister (Case Western Reserve), Joel Cooper (Princeton), Bill Crano (Claremont), Garth Fletcher (Canterbury, NZ), Joe Forgas (UNSW) Pascal Huguet (Clermont-Ferrand, France), Michael Hogg (Queensland), Martin Kaplan (Northern Illinois), Norbert Kerr (Michigan State), William and Claire McGuire (Yale), John Nezlek (Coll. of William & Mary), Frederick Rhodewalt (Utah), Astrid Schuetz (Bamberg, Germany), Constantine Sedikides (North Carolina), Jeffrey Simpson (Texas A&M), Richard Sorrentino (Western Ontario), Dianne Tice (Case Western), Ladd Wheeler (UNSW) and Kipling Williams (UNSW). Contributions to this symposium will also be published by Cambridge University Press.

- individual papers or posters and,
- discussion groups on work-in progress.

Submissions are sought in any area relevant to:

- the interactional production of culture;
- discourse and conversation analysis;
- the production of psychologised knowledges.

The aim of the symposium is to offer a forum for workers in Australasia, in any discipline concerned with the analysis of talk-in-interaction, to come together to discuss ongoing research, present work in progress and to develop stronger interdisciplinary links.

Invited Overseas Participants include:

Charles Antaki (Discourse and Rhetoric Group, Loughborough University, UK), Hanneke Houtkoop-Steenstra (Utrecht Institute of Linguistics, The Netherlands) and Ivan Leudar (Department of Psychology, Manchester University, UK) who will be Visiting Fellows in the CRCC.

Workshops: Our visitors have agreed to offer workshop sessions in the areas of the analysis of professional-client interviews (Houtkoop-Steenstra); the discursive management of identity-in-interaction (Antaki) and membership categorisation analysis (Leudar). Also, Carolyn Baker (School of Education, University of Queensland) will present a workshop on negotiating competence in call centre interactions.

It is hoped that the event will be informal in character. While precise arrangements and requirements for their presentation will be negotiated with intending presenters, it is intended that contributions should offer participants an opportunity for wide ranging discussion; for example papers should last around 40 minutes, including 20 minutes for discussion within this time.

The Symposium will be held immediately prior to the Annual Conferences of the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia and the Australian Linguistics Society, which are also to be held in Perth. Expressions of interest from participants at these events would be especially welcome. Information about these events may be obtained at the ALAA website <http://www.cltr.uq.oz.au/alaa/alaa99.html>

Information and Submissions:

The deadline for submissions is 30 April 1999. For further information, and to submit contributions, please contact:

Dr. Mark Rapley mrapley@socs.murdoch.edu.au

School of Psychology, Murdoch University, Perth, 6150, WA. (Tel: +61-89-360-2861)

Political Psychology

This is a call for interest in forming a political psychology network in the Australasian region. I attended the 1998 Summer Institute of Political Psychology and have dutifully returned with the encouraging words of Peg Hermann to drum up a regional network. Tim Crosier and Julie Duck, from University of Queensland, have done a wonderful job of organising a political psychology symposium for the upcoming Coolum conference. As such, this would appear to be a great time to call for interest for the development of an email list, newsletter type publication, or some other form of correspondence between people who are somehow connected to the field of political psychology in Australia, New Zealand and Asia. Should this prove to be a successful venture, Peg has offered to campaign for support from the ISPP (International Society of Political Psychologists) in the way of funding for a worthy initiative. Additionally, a sub-conference, or at the very least a regular political psychology symposium, would be a valuable addition to the SASP conference programme. There will be a symposium at SASP 2000. So if you are a member of ISPP, working in the field of political psychology or just have an interest in the area please email me and I'll take it from there!

Contact:

Shari Hodgkinson or Mike Innes

School of Psychology

Murdoch University

Email: sphodgki@cental.murdoch.edu.au

minnes@socs.murdoch.edu.au

Academic visitors

Prof. **Michaela Waenke** from the University of Heidelberg and the University of Linz has been visiting Prof. Joseph Forgas' Affect Research Laboratory at the University of New South Wales supported by a prestigious Heisenberg Fellowship from Germany. Prof. Waenke's research applies the principles of cognitive social psychology to consumer research.

The Centre for Research on Group Processes (CRGP) at the University of Queensland is delighted to announce some of the visitors we are hosting over the next year or two:

Denise Driscoll (Purdue University, USA) - Denise is here from January through June 1999. Denise is a social cognition/stereotyping researcher with practical and research involvement in issues of affirmative action.

Robin Martin (University of Wales, Cardiff, UK) - Robin is here May through June 1999, and will be presenting at the upcoming Industrial and Organization psychology conference in Brisbane. Robin researches on social influence processes (much of it with Miles Hewstone) and evenly spans organizational and social psychology.

Steve Wright (University of California, Santa Cruz, USA) - Steve will be here for the whole of 2000. Steve does research on social identity, prejudice, discrimination and intergroup behavior. He is currently involved in a number of projects with Tom Pettigrew and with Art Aron.

Robin Gilmour (Lancaster University, UK) - Robin is very likely to be here for a few months during the second half of 1999 or perhaps into 2000, Robin is known for his research on interpersonal relationships (some of it with Steve Duck), and has also been very involved in the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) that underpins University Funding in the UK.

Paul Norman (University of Sheffield, UK) - Paul is planning to be with us for three or four months at the end of 2000. Paul is a member of the large organizational group in Sheffield that does research on attitudinal phenomena.

Christie Cathey (University of Connecticut, USA) - Christie will be here for four or five months in the middle of 1999 as part of our various graduate and faculty interrelationships with centres of group research around the world. Christie is a senior graduate student who works with Felicia Pratto on intergroup relations.

We have three honours students here from the University of Amsterdam as part of our faculty, graduate and general research exchanges and relationships with UvA and the other Dutch Universities in the Kurt Lewin Institute. Two students here in semester 1 1999 and one for semester 2 1999.

Emanuele Castano (Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium). Emanuele is here from late March to late April 1999 and will be presenting at the forthcoming SASP conference in Cooloom. Emanuele has recently completed his PhD with Vincent Yzerbyt on European identity and citizenship and motives for social identification.

News of members

Neil Ashkanasy has been elected the incoming (2000) Program Chair for the Managerial and Organizational Cognitions Interest Group of the Academy of Management. The Interest Group expects to be upgraded to full Division status in 2000. Neil believes that he is the first Australian scholar to be elected as an Academy of Management Divisional Program Chair. In the normal course of events, he will be Division Chair-Elect in 2001, and Division Chair in 2002.

John Turner will give the Tajfel lecture at EAESP in Oxford this year. He will be the first non-European to give the lecture.

Patrick Heaven has recently published:

Furnham, A. & Heaven, P. (1999). "Personality and social behaviour". London: Oxford University Press. (ISBN 0 340 67724 4)

This book takes a topic-led rather than theory-based approach to the role of personality in everyday life. Each chapter examines the personality variables which affect particular social behaviours. Topics include ideology, health, close relationships, crime and others. The focus is on the trait correlates of specific behaviours.

Michael Hogg (UQ) and **Joel Cooper** (Princeton) are editing a new handbook of social psychology: Sage handbook of social psychology (published by Sage, UK). This is an international and comprehensive coverage of social psychology - a single volume of 250,000 words across 26 chapters by the world's leading scholars in social psychology. Scheduled probably to appear in 2002. To help us we have three advisory editors: Dominic Abrams (Kent), Elliot Aronson (UCSC) and Shelley Taylor (UCLA). This volume is designed to complement, not compete with, the Gilbert et al. 1998 handbook, and the forthcoming 4-volume Brewer/Hewstone handbook (published by Blackwell, UK).

Leon Mann's Chair at the Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne, has been named the Pratt Family Chair of Leadership and Decision Making. In June 1998, Leon was Visiting Professor at the University of Padua, Italy, where he presented a seminar on adolescent decision making. He returns to the University of Padua in May 1999 to participate in a Conference "Decision-making: Research, development, application", where he will present the keynote address.

Leon and his research team presented a symposium on leadership in R&D Organisations at the First International Work Psychology Conference, held at the University of Sheffield, July 1998. He also participated as an invited speaker at the Celebration held at Flinders University in November 1998 to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Psychology Department and Norman Feather's appointment to the Foundation Chair.

Leon was recently invited to Chair the Business/Higher Education Round Table Awards Panel for outstanding collaboration in Research and Development and Education/Training.

Barbara Masser (formerly of the University of Kent) and **Michael Allen** (formerly of Victoria University, Wellington, NZ) have recently taken up lectureships at the University of Newcastle. Barbara is busy doing research on contemporary forms of prejudice, and Mike is doing research on values, attitudes and objects.

Gail Huon has been awarded the highly prestigious Sir Anthony Mason Fellowship which will support a one month visit to Beijing, China in April-May this year, to carry out some collaborative research. She will be testing her model of the emergence of weight-loss dieting among adolescent females in China (where there are early signs of eating disorders, now that they have opened up to western influences, and about which there is serious concern, but little or no expertise).

Kip Williams (UNSW) has received UNSW infrastructure funding to establish a new psychophysiological research laboratory. His main interest is to investigate the physiological correlates of exposure to ostracism. He would be interested to hear from other researchers in Australia applying psychophysiological measure to studying social psychological phenomena.

Kip Williams, Ladd Wheeler (Psychology, UNSW) and **Michael Edwardson** (Marketing, UNSW) have been doing some contract research on physical attractiveness as portrayed in popular women's magazines, commissioned by Murdoch Magazines Limited.

Joseph P. Forgas has been awarded one of the inaugural Scientia Professorships by the University of New South Wales. These prestigious Professorships are a new initiative at UNSW, and have been established to recognise outstanding research performance by the University. Only six Scientia Professorships have been awarded, and having one of these go to a social psychologist represents a clear recognition of the importance of our discipline by one of Australia's leading research universities.

Obituaries

Roger W. Brown died on the 9th of June last year. He was a renowned psychologist probably best known for his work on the early language of children conducted over many years in the 1960s, working with the social psychologist Colin Fraser and with Ursula Bellugi, and producing the volume on [A First Language: The Early Stages](#) in 1973. His first book, [Words and Things](#) (1958) was a bomb shell in the field of language and cognition. This followed from the chapter on "Language and Categories" which was part of Bruner, Goodnow and Austin's seminal book [A Study of Thinking](#) (1956) and from his work with Eric Lenneberg on linguistic relativity.

A further significant part of his huge reputation came from his papers on the "Tip of the tongue" phenomenon and the "Flashbulb memory" effect. These two papers, the first in 1966, the second in 1977, created overnight cottage industries in replications and extensions of the effects he found in simple and elegant experiments.

He started as an experimental psychologist, completing his doctorate at the University of Michigan on the authoritarian personality, working with the problem of rigidity in problem solving. He also around this time contributed the chapter on collective phenomena to Lindzey's 1954 [Handbook of Social Psychology](#). He is really renowned in the field of social psychology, however. When he moved from Michigan to Harvard in the early 1950s he was asked to teach the psychology of language and introductory social psychology. Coming from Michigan in those days meant that you were steeped in learning theory. What Brown did, in the course of a few years, was to move entirely from being the author of papers such as "A stimulus-response analysis of language and meaning" to the analysis of language and categories and to evolve to the authorship of what is, for many, still thought of as the best written text in the field, [Social Psychology](#) in 1965. It was not an easy text to use in the normal manner, as its content was different from any other before or since. But every chapter made a contribution in itself to the field. The chapter on the authoritarian personality was the final say on that topic up to that point in time. The chapter on group dynamics introduced a theoretical treatment of the "hot topic" of then, the "risky shift", introducing the concept of "risk as a value"; rarely does a text book get cited as a key reference in subsequent work in the field.

He took work in social psychology and turned it into literature. He also took work in literature and turned it into social psychology. His ability to join his work on social psychology and that on language and cognition was shown in the articles, and the chapter in the 1965 book, on forms of address in English and the use of pronouns in relationships of power and solidarity. This work he did with his lifelong partner Albert Gilman. He was elegant and erudite. There may be some (although I bet there are few) who may remember the review he wrote of Nabokov's [Lolita](#) in [Contemporary Psychology](#) in 1959. Few psychologists would try their hand at that (and few would find it getting into [Contemporary Psychology](#) today!).

He was also extremely polite and never assertive about his position. Although clearly a leader in his field with a great track record at the time the first edition of Social Psychology appeared, I still remember him being quite agitated upon learning that Edgar Schein had reviewed it in Contemporary Psychology. He was not satisfied until Colin Fraser and I had taken him to the University of Birmingham library and showed him the review. Naturally it was a good review, just as were all the others at the time.

He had a final book. Against My Better Judgement (1996) was an account of his life as a gay psychologist. He had come out in public a few years earlier in a chapter included in a festschrift for him. The book is an astonishing account of his life as a gay man and of his quest for love and intimacy throughout his life, but especially after the death of his partner of forty years. It is a quite remarkable and revealing document which exposes many parts of his life that one might think would be kept secret. In his passing social psychology has lost another of its greats. The final book does reveal, however, that great people can have feet of clay, although the revelation of those flaws can be seen as another form of greatness.

Mike Innes

Murdoch University

Note: After finishing Against my better judgement, Mike passed the book to me. I found the book a fascinating insight into the life of one of social psychology's greats. Whereas Brown's frankness about his lustful peccadillos revised Mike's estimation of Brown downward, it enhanced my view of Brown. It endeared the man, whom I have never met, to me. It made a man whose intellect and style have impressed me, human and full of narcissistic foibles and quirks. It made me admire Brown's intellectual accomplishments all the more, since he seemed so wracked with insecurities and distractions. Whatever the outcome for the reader, the book is certainly worth reading, and provides an insightful contribution to the sparse literature on old gay men. As with all of Brown's work, the book is stylish, graceful, and honest.

Iain Walker

Murdoch University