



SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, No. 1, March 2000

EDITORIAL

Welcome to another edition of the SASP Newsletter, this one prior to the Annual Conference in Perth, 27 – 30 April (fast approaching!). Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see news about the organization of the conference, but for the moment things are happening and we are putting together an interesting and full program which we know will appeal to a lot of people. One sad note is that we were arranging for an address to be given by the political scientist Graham Little in the session on political psychology. This would have been a very different and stimulating paper within the conference, but sadly Graham died at the beginning of March, very suddenly, so we will not have the pleasure of having to respond to his searching questioning of our methods and our dominant paradigms.

You should note that we will have the AGM on the Saturday afternoon, to be followed by Graham Vaughan's inaugural Presidential Address before we break to prepare for the conference dinner. Russell Spears will be giving a Keynote address on the Friday afternoon, and Leon Mann a talk on his large scale project on leadership on the Saturday. This and lots more besides.

Within this Newsletter Mike Innes has contributed a piece on an analysis of the White Paper and what may be its implications for us as social psychologists, not just as academics. These are only his views, albeit from the perspective of a chair of a faculty research committee and member of a university Research and Development Board. We hope that the piece may stimulate response, not only in the Newsletter but also in the forums of the Conference.

We hope all members will continue to make use of the Newsletter to communicate news of what is happening in their locale and also what they know is happening overseas. I can mention a forthcoming conference/seminar which is being organized through the APS Division of Research and Teaching on the evaluation of the utility of IT in teaching and research in psychology. This will be held on 16-18th June at Sydney University. This topic will be of interest to many of you. We will advertise this event on socpsybull when the details are firmer, so keep an eye open for that.

We all look forward to seeing everyone in April.

Ngairé Donaghue (ndonagh@socs.murdoch.edu.au)

Mike Innes (minnes@socs.murdoch.edu.au)

Iain Walker (walker@central.murdoch.edu.au)

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Prez's Words

Conference time is upon us already. Have you enrolled yet? Check out the conference website: <http://psy.anu.edu.au/info/sasp/Con00.html> along with the impressive site for The Esplanade <http://www.esplanadehotelfremantle.com.au/> (use the mouse to make the rooms revolve!). It all adds up to a lot of hard work from our Murdoch team, but we are all in for a real treat -- so come on over to the West and enjoy.

On the matter of websites, we extend our thanks to Michael Platow for the work he has put in on SASP's home page: <http://psy.anu.edu.au/info/sasp/>. It is designed with potential in mind, and will be very helpful for postgrads in the years ahead, as well as for other members. Craig McGarty has also drawn our attention to a listing of PhD programs both inside and outside of the United States: <http://www.socialpsychology.org/socprogs.htm>. Again, this is a site with considerable potential.

Further into the back room of SASP's operations, Margaret Foddy has been busy checking on our behalf with both the European Association of experimental Social psychology (EAESP) and the Society for Personality and Social psychology (SPSP). This new scheme has been designed for the northern hemisphere. Yet to be trialled, a host institution invites a distinguished overseas scholar to a host institution to provide a week of instruction and supervision for a group of up to 16 postgraduate students, some drawn from maybe two or more institutions. The host institution covers the local costs, while EAESP/SPSP put in \$2,000 to cover the scholar's costs. The potential is there for us to participate directly in this, or we could try modelling one of our own, perhaps at a cost to SASP of A\$2,500. Bear in mind that we have been talking for a few years now about getting a postgrad teaching scheme going, so let's hope there is something here we can try out.

See you in Fremantle!

Graham Vaughan

Auckland -- Home of the Americas Cup

Messages from your Secretary and Treasurer

As announced on socpsybull, **Mike Innes** has agreed to serve as SASP's President-elect starting with the WA conference. He will assume the presidency at the Melbourne conference in 2001, serving a two year term. He was the only nominee, so no ballot was necessary.

The final version of the 1999/2000 SASP directory is now on the web (<http://www.psy.edu.au/info/sasp>).

Any corrections /additions should be entered on the SASP directory/dues form for 2000/2001, and returned to the SASP secretary, Julie Duck, along with your dues payment for 2000/2001. Her address is:

Dr Julie Duck

School of Psychology

University of Queensland

Brisbane, QLD 4072

Postgraduate Representative's Report

For all of the PGs attending this year's conference in Fremantle some hopefully helpful info...

Contacts:

- *Shari Hodgkinson*: work ph: 08 9360 6629. It is possible that Adam Proll may answer this number; he is also a SASP PG so, on a good day, he may also be able to answer a question...!
- *Murdoch University, School of Psychology*: ph: 08 9360 2186. Frankie or Terry will answer this and can put you in touch with someone who knows what is going on.
- If you have any questions about anything to do with presenting, please call one of these numbers.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The PG 'night out' is set for the Thursday night after the PG pre-conference. We're organising a cheap meal and some free entry dancing! Please bring your dancing shoes, party hats and vitamin B (and some panadol)!!!

Anyone needing lifts, share accommodation or other travel help is urged to email the saspgrad mailing list or email Shari - sphodgki@central.murdoch.edu.au and I'll try to help.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

6th Biannual Symposium on the Science of Behavior, February 2000, in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Bernard Guerin was one of the eight invited speakers at the conference. The theme was on "Social behavior: Experimental analyses and conceptual problems," and the speakers came from philosophy, animal learning, sociology, psychology, social anthropology, primatology, and artificial life. The format was for one hour talks followed by lengthy discussions, with a four-hour siesta (or sightseeing) in the middle of the day. The wide range of perspectives made discussion hard at first but by the third day it became a very rewarding experience to have the longer discussion time to sort through differences of fact and differences of words. This proved much more useful than the usual 15 minute presentation followed by five minutes of question time (if there is any time remaining). Of course, it meant that there were only the eight speakers and that you couldn't escape any sessions to go sightseeing! But there was plenty of time later for the sights and the food. My paper was called "What makes human social behavior look so special? Putting psychology into the social sciences", and discussed ways of integrating the subject matter of psychology with the other social sciences. These ways included using the special properties of generalized exchange to analyse many social practices that appear to be "unmotivated", the use of conversational (discourse) properties to analyse other "special looking" human practices, and a more detailed social analysis of some activities currently analysed in terms of catharsis and uncertainty reduction, delving more closely into the finer details of their generalized exchange and conversational properties.

Bernard Guerin (bguerin@mailserv.waikato.ac.nz)

The Third Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology.

Convened by **Joe Forgas** and **Kip Williams**, this was held at the University of New South Wales recently. The topic of this year's symposium was 'Social influence: Direct and indirect processes'. Invited participants included Herbert Bless (Mannheim), Robert Cialdini (Arizona), Barbara David (ANU), Ap Dijksterhuis (Nijmegen), Stephen Harkins (Boston), Mike Hogg (Queensland), Eric Knowles (Arkansas), Bibb Latané (Florida), Robin Martin (Cardiff), Sik Hung Ng (Wellington), Rich Petty (Ohio), Mark Schaller (British Columbia), Russell Spears (Amsterdam), Chuck Stangor (Maryland), Fritz Strack (Wuerzburg), Debbie Terry (Queensland), Jim Tedeschi (New York), John Turner (ANU). A number of graduate students from various Australian universities also attended.

The Sydney Symposium is now becoming well-established as one of the major international meetings in our field, and has an excellent track record in attracting leading researchers both from the USA and from Europe. The book based on the first Sydney Symposium 'Feeling and thinking: the role of affect in social cognition' edited by Joe Forgas has just been published. Initial comments have been very favourable: "I am filled with admiration for this book" (Ellen Berscheid, Wisconsin); "This exciting book is must reading for anyone interested in the vital role of affect in social life" (Tory Higgins, Columbia); "An impressive collection of findings and theory, this volume will make you wish you had travelled to Sydney to attend the original symposium itself. Excellent investigators showcase their best work" (Peter Salovey, Yale).

The Sydney Symposium series offers an excellent opportunity for Australian and New Zealand social psychologists to meet and work with leading international researchers. As in the past, future Sydney Symposia will be announced first in the Newsletter and on the SASP bulletin board.

Joe Forgas (jp.forgas@unsw.edu.au).

The **1st Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology** was held in Nashville, Tennessee, in February of this year. Under a light covering of snow, Nashville appeared to have settled down for the winter and was not quite the party town we were led to expect, but the meeting itself was a great success. This was the first stand-alone meeting of the society, following many successful APA pre-conferences, and despite fears that it might struggle to draw a crowd, over 700 delegates attended. While this created a severe beverage shortage during the social hours, this was offset by the strong sense of enthusiasm created by such an unexpectedly large turnout.

The conference consisted of two full days (three parallel sessions) of papers and posters, with a range of offerings as diverse as might be expected from a group with such wide-ranging interests. Symposia offerings included perspective on persuasion, mood regulation, mental control, social exclusion, personal goals, self-construal, social and physical

realities, and social neuroscience, to name a few. A little more specialised focus was provided in the three one-day pre-conferences on Self and Identity, Close Relationships, and Personality. For me, the Self and Identity session was the highlight of the conference, with the relaxed atmosphere and interesting papers leading to some excellent discussions. Four technical workshops were held on the Sunday morning following the conference: electronic experience sampling, functional neuroimaging in social psychology, web-based surveying and experimentation, and multivariate taxonomic procedures.

As far as I could tell, Joe Forgas and I were the only SASPers in attendance. Given the friendly timing of this meeting for we Southern Hemisphere dwellers, this conference is one that we might have a larger presence at in future. The 2001 SPSP meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas, February 1-3.

Ngairé Donaghue (ndonagh@soc.s.murdoch.edu.au).

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

SASP Conference

The 2000 SASP Conference will be held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, Western Australia, from 28-30 April, with a one-day postgraduate pre-conference held at Murdoch University on 27 April.

The conference will begin with a public lecture in the evening of Wednesday 26 April, at Murdoch University. The talk will be given by Dr Carmen Lawrence, federal member for the seat of Fremantle, former Premier of Western Australia, and erstwhile academic psychologist. The talk, and the conference itself, are being featured as part of Murdoch University's 25th anniversary celebrations.

The postgraduate pre-conference will feature two workshops; one on web-based research in social psychology, and the other on non-academic employment for social psychology graduates.

Following a reception on Thursday evening, the conference itself will formally start on Friday morning. There will be three (and at times four) parallel sessions running from Friday morning until Sunday lunchtime. A keynote address will be given by Professor Russell Spears (University of Amsterdam) on Friday afternoon. The current SASP president, Professor Graham Vaughan, will present a Presidential address following the AGM on Saturday afternoon.

A Social Concerns Cooperative will be launched at the conference, and any conference delegates interested are welcome to attend and contribute (see details below).

The preliminary schedule for the conference will be available on the conference web site (<http://about.murdoch.edu.au/psychology21>), and will be posted to socpsybull early in April.

Any inquiries about the conference should be addressed to one of the three conference organisers, who also happen to be the three newsletter editors (email addresses for us appear at the end of the editorial on the first page).

Social Concerns Cooperative.

Interested in being involved in a group whose aim is to bring together people with social psychological theoretical expertise with those working in applied settings? Our website will be going live in the next few weeks (we'll send out a message once it's up and running, but it will be found through the "research" section of the UNSW psychology page: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au>). Some of you have already expressed interest in this group, and we welcome interested people in fields other than psychology as well. You may have experience in theory, application, social policy, or be interested in a more abstract sense. All are welcome. At the forthcoming SASP conference we are planning an informal discussion at a pleasant venue yet to be arranged. If you are interested in participating in this forum, contributing to our website, or joining our group, please contact either Meg Rohan (m.rohan@unsw.edu.au) or Madeline Fernbach (madeline.fernbach@accv.org.au).

33rd Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection.

9th July - 18th August 2000

The Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection offers over 50 one and two-week courses on social survey design and analysis, sampling, regression, multilevel analysis, time series analysis, correspondence analysis, log linear analysis, latent class analysis, discourse analysis, game theory, rational choice, social theory, data visualisation and data mining, social network analysis, maximum likelihood estimation and limited dependent variables, categorisation and sorting, scaling, structural equation models, qualitative data analysis, focus groups, deliberative polls, interviewing, participant observation, content analysis (including the General Inquirer), SPSS, Amos, Lisrel, British Household Panel Survey, time budgets diary collection and analysis, facet theory, frame analysis and international conflict management.

A small number of ESRC bursaries are available to participants from British academic institutions.

For further details see URL <<http://www.essex.ac.uk/smethods>> or e-mail sumsch@essex.ac.uk, or write to The Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis & Collection University of Essex, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ, United Kingdom, or Fax [international] 44-1206-873598 [UK/Eire] 01206-873598 or telephone [international] 44-1206-872502 [UK/Eire] 01206-872502.

Alternatively, contact David Cairns in the Department of Psychology at Macquarie University (email: david.cairns@mq.edu.au), who is also running one of the workshops).

Post-Graduate Pre-Conference to the ISSPR – INPR International Conference on Personal Relationships, June 27, 2000.

Pre-conference Co-ordinators: Kipling Williams, University of New South Wales; Sylvia Niehuis, University of Texas at Austin.

At this year's International Conference on Personal Relationships, we are having a special Post-Graduate Pre-Conference. We have put together what we think will be a fun and educational day, and hope as many post-grads (i.e., graduate students) can attend. We encourage you to drop us an e-mail if you plan on attending so that we can make proper arrangements for rooms and refreshments.

Schedule:

Morning Session: *On the Benefits of Using Multiple Methods* (Presenters: Garth Fletcher, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ;

Kip Williams, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia)

Synopsis: In this presentation/workshop, we will give examples of and discuss the merits behind using multi-method approaches to studying phenomena and testing theories. Every method has strengths and weaknesses, and to rely on a single method means necessarily biasing one's view of the research topic based solely upon the peculiarities of that method. By using multiple methods, the advantages of one method can counteract the disadvantages of another method. Triangulating on common results and themes by using multiple methods gives researchers a stronger foundation from which to understand and communicate one's findings.

Lunch with the Former, Current, and Future ISSPR and INPR officers

An opportunity for post-graduate students to meet and have informal discussions with some of the most influential researchers in the field of personal relationships. Attendees will include: Mark Fine, Garth Fletcher, Pat Noller, Dan Perlman, Jeff Simpson, Harry Reis, and others.

Afternoon Session: *Growth curve analysis: A comparison of three approaches.* (Presenters: Miller, P. J., Niehuis, S., & Smith, S. E., Department of Human Ecology, Division of Child Development and Family Relationships, University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A.)

Synopsis: In this workshop, we focus on growth curve analysis, a current 'hot topic' in the analysis of longitudinal data in personal relationships. We keep the discussion at a very applied level, introducing the basic concepts of growth curve analysis, providing illustrations of its uses, explaining its methodological prerequisites, and demonstrating three different approaches to the analysis using AMOS, SAS PROC MIXED, and HLM.

After the Afternoon Session, there will be appetizers followed by the conference reception and dinner.

We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, please email Kip Williams (kip.williams@unsw.edu.au) or Sylvia Niehuis (SNBM@mail.utexas.edu).

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Neal Ashkanasy was appointed to a Chair in the Graduate School of Management last year; was appointed as the 2000 Program Chair of the Managerial and Organizational Cognition Division of the Academy of Management; was appointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Management; and has just returned from a 6-month appointment as Visiting Professor of Management at the Krannert Graduate School of Management, Purdue University.

Karen Douglas has just submitted her PhD at ANU under the supervision of Craig McGarty, and has taken an appointment as a postdoctoral fellow at Massey University in Auckland, New Zealand.

Robbie Sutton (formerly of the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, working with John McClure), has taken up a lectureship at Massey University.

Karen and Robbie met at SASP 98 in Christchurch and plan to get married sometime early next year. Congratulations!

Michael Wenzel, who was formerly a Visiting Fellow in the Division of Psychology at the Australian National University (ANU), is now a Research Fellow in the Centre for Tax System Integrity (headed by Valerie Braithwaite) at the Research School of Social Sciences at the ANU. The research is concerned with tax compliance and is part of the Regulatory Institutions Network.

Michael Willemyns is looking forward to starting a two-year Postdoc Fellowship in November, with Professor Teresa Amabile and her team, at Harvard Business School, Boston. He will be working on the TEAM project (Team Events and Motivation). The project examines the effects of personality and cognitive factors, social psychological and organisational factors, on team motivation, creativity and innovation in the workplace.

Kip Williams is guest editing a special issue of *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research and Practice*. The special issue is on 'Groups and the Internet' and the deadline for submission is early July. See the general Call For Papers (<http://www.vcu.edu/hasweb/group/gd.html>).

Lucy Zinkiewicz is now working as a Research Fellow at the National Centre in HIV Social Research at UNSW (it moved from Macquarie last year). She is also the Editor for the APS Division of Research & Teaching (DRAT) Newsletter. In what appears to be a common affliction for Newsletter editors, she is really strapped for submissions and would welcome any articles, reviews, news, cartoons, or anything to do with research &/or teaching. Send submissions to Dr Lucy Zinkiewicz, Research Fellow, National Centre in HIV Social Research, Webster Building, The University of New South Wales, SYDNEY NSW 2052 (phone (02) 9385 6959, or email l.zinkiewicz@unsw.edu.au).

COMMENTARY

Knowledge and Innovation: A Policy Statement on Research and Research Training (The White Paper)

A Comment by Mike Innes

Everyone will know about the Green Paper and the White Paper coming from DETYA. I thought that it might be an idea to give some commentary on the outcome of the discussion as they are crystallized in the White Paper. I shall not comment on the Minister's statements on page 4 of the document that "Basic research...has a strong foundation in Australia. Public investment in government and higher education R&D as a proportion of GDP is strong by international standards.." Kemp seems to be living in a universe parallel to the one I live in.

I shall not comment much on the proposed changes to the Competitive Research Schemes, especially ARC, as Margaret Foddy as a member of the ARC Panel concerned with Psychology funding can throw more light than can I on the future implications of change.

I thought that I could condense some of the material on research training initiatives that have implications for most of us as student or as supervisor.

The Need for Reform

The need for reform is seen as due to a number of factors, including an inadequate encouragement of diversity and excellence in the research sector, institutions inadequately targeting areas of strength within them, coupled with research degree students taking too long to complete, or else not completing, with, at the end of the experience, having inadequate preparation for suitable employment. (We are addressing this in the postgraduate pre-conference workshop).

The Vision

So the Government's vision is to create more diverse, high quality training environments, expand choice and enable research organizations to respond to change. All of this in order to create social and community benefits, solve national social and economic problems, enhance community well-being and, while we are doing all of this social engineering, create links with industry to do so.

The Principles

Funding will be predicated on creation of centers of excellence, building critical mass in areas of particular strength. Universities will be allowed to determine their own functions and contributions and to set their own priorities. This is stated (page 6) in the context that "Students should be able to make choices about where they undertake their research training, with whom they work and obtain supervision, *what research they do while training, and the ways by which they undertake their research.*" (italics added). One wonders on how far a principle of laissez faire will be allowed to go in the direction of social science research. This seems to be setting carte blanche for social constructivist, post-modern critical theory as much as anything else. Or am I confused?

There will, of course, be reward of entrepreneurial cultures, with universities facilitating the commercialization of discoveries. "Key among these is the development of an entrepreneurial culture among researchers" (page 7). The allocation of funds and their use will be subject to processes which are transparent, contestable and accountable. I suppose "commercial in confidence" deals with the entrepreneurial collaborators will be included in these processes?

I shall now refer to two matters closely pertaining to our endeavours.

Performance-Based funding

Funding will be targeted towards institutions which provide "high quality research training environments". Two schemes will be introduced:

Institutional Grants Scheme: This new scheme will absorb the funding previously allocated for the Research Quantum and the Small Grants Scheme. The formula on which the allocation will be based will be 60% for research income, 30% for research student numbers (completions) and 10% for research output. The first and the last will be averaged over two year periods. We should note that there is now no mention of external auditing, as per the suggestion in the Green Paper, and publications are included, albeit with a reduced load from the Research Quantum. The publications to be counted will be verified as to quality by the academic community. Participating institutions will be asked to agree on the standards and criteria to be applied and to arrange appropriate verification processes.

The Government will retain the Research Infrastructure Block Grant Scheme as a second block grant scheme and, an important point, income from nationally competitive grants will be retained as the basis for the allocation of funds under the RIBG, so there is a recognition of the significance of NH&MRC and Larger ARC grants.

These changes seem to be positive developments, except for a phrase on page 16 of the document where it is stated that "funding levels for fundamental research are better able to be preserved through *the Government's decision to provide guidance to the ARC* on the balance between fundamental and more applied research"!!!! (italics added).

Funding for Research Training: Funding for research training will be allocated through HECS-exempt scholarships *on a performance basis* (italics added). Scholarships will be available for students who enroll in accredited courses, with a minimum of 67% of assessable content by research. These scholarships will be for a maximum of four years. Once students complete or withdraw, those places will be available for reallocation through a performance based funding

formula. So the student changing from one institution after the equivalent of one year, with the scholarship moving with the student, as suggested in the Green Paper, is not mentioned.

The Government will maintain the current level of funding for total places for each institution and will negotiate the number of research places with each institution.

So, that as I see it is in essence the outcome of major parts of the White Paper. The place of the major grants and the processes of selection, as I said I have left over. I have also not addressed the section on **Regional Support**. The Regional package is very important for many people working in the regional institutions, of which I am not one. Perhaps someone would like to raise the issue of such regional support, pro and con.

I hope that this has been a helpful exercise; it was for me.