



SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editors: Rebecca Pinkus & Lenny Vartanian

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Contributed by Nick Haslam

Welcome to the latest issue of the SASP Newsletter, brought to you by the sterling efforts of Rebecca Pinkus and Lenny Vartanian. This is the first newsletter since our 2015 conference and my first as President, so let me begin by applauding the excellent work of Stefania Paolini and her team at the University of Newcastle for organizing a memorable SASP 2015, and also Bill von Hippel for leaving the organization in rude health at the end of his presidential term.

Let me quickly draw your attention to a few noteworthy recent developments in SASP-world. First, we have joined on as a signatory of the TOP ('Transparency and Openness Promotion') guidelines (see <http://cos.io/top> for more information), which promote a research culture of transparency and reproducibility, and were announced in a recent article in *Science*.

Second, SASP has joined with SPSSI to sponsor a small group meeting on immigration in 2016, to be co-organized by University of Queensland's Jolanda Jetten and the University of Western Ontario's Victoria Esses. Stay tuned for more information on this meeting, to be held in Canada, which is a sequel to a successful SPSSI-SASP small group meeting on 'Collective harm-doing' held this April in Brisbane and hosted by our very own Winnifred Louis.

Third, stay tuned also for further information on the next SASP Summer School, to be held in late January 2016 at Deakin University's picturesque Warrnambool campus in South-Western Victoria. Details of the latest installation of this terrific SASP initiative, organized by academic

staff at five Victorian universities, are presented later in this newsletter. I encourage our student members to apply for a place, and our academic members to spread the word.

Fourth, the SASP website now contains enhanced coverage of the association's history, thanks especially to Blake McKimmie and Rebecca Pinkus. It is well worth a look (see <http://www.sasp.org.au/index.php/sasphistory>).

Last but definitely not least, I am delighted to announce that Kate Reynolds of the Australian National University has agreed to serve as SASP's President-Elect from 2015-2017. It is very encouraging to know that the association will be in good hands well into the future. I encourage all of you to be active in SASP by getting involved in current activities, proposing new initiatives, and volunteering for responsible roles.

Best,

Nick Haslam

AWARDS

THE OUTSTANDING POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD (OPRA)

Contributed by Danny Osborne

It was my pleasure to chair the committee for the Outstanding Postgraduate Research Award (OPRA)—a committee that consists of myself and three outstanding (anonymous) SASP members who graciously donated their time to assess this year's applicants. To these ends, we received a record number of submissions to this

year's conference. As such, the committee had the difficult task of identifying six finalists who were invited to present their work at the OPRA plenary session. The quality of these talks were truly impressive which, once again, made the committee's job very difficult. Ultimately, we took a holistic approach and assessed the applicants on the following: (a) quality of written application, (b) demonstration of programmatic research, (c) theoretical scope, and (d) quality of oral presentation. Although the presenters excelled at each of these criteria, the committee identified **Jasmine Fardouly** (UNSW) as the standout and awarded her first place for her research on the effects of Facebook usage on women's body image. **Michael Thai** (University of Queensland) was a very close runner-up whose engaging presentation focused on Asian Westerners' impression management strategies following identity denial. On behalf of the OPRA committee, I would like to congratulate these two outstanding scholars, as well as the four other finalists, for an engaging plenary session showcasing SASP's rising stars. Their work is truly exceptional and I'm confident we'll see these six scholars in the future!

SASP POSTER AWARD

Contributed by Nicholas Harris

The 2015 SASP conference saw the inauguration of a poster award stream. Delegates who opted to present posters had the opportunity to enter the award stream. Eleven of 13 poster presenters elected to enter the award stream. The poster award stream was assessed by several academic delegates of SASP on criteria such as 'layout clarity and design', 'quality and rigour of the research', and 'audience engagement'. The organising committee decided to have three award winners; a winner (\$200) and two runners-up (\$100), who were awarded co-op bookshop vouchers.

Winner: **Damien Crone** (University of Melbourne), with his poster entitled "Development and validation of a moral foundations picture set".

Runner-up: **Nicholas Levy** (UNSW), with his poster entitled "Emotional Responses to Expectancy Violations"

Runner-up: **Sarah Hunter** (University of Adelaide), with her poster entitled "What is a "Stay-at-Home Dad?" A Discourse Analysis on how fathers are instructed to care".

Q & A WITH DANNY OSBORNE, RECIPIENT OF THE 2015 EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARD



How did you get interested in your line of research?

My interest in relative deprivation and collective action came from rather non-traditional sources. Neither of my parents graduated high school, so deprivation has sort of always been a part of me—it has fundamentally shaped the types of research questions I ask, as well as my general research interests. It wasn't until I reached my 'rebellious' teenage years that I connected deprivation with politics, though. As a teen, I was pretty deep into the punk scene (actually, I still am!). It was here that I experienced my political awakening and began focusing on *system*-based inequalities. Really, I just started connecting the dots between my isolated experiences with inequality and the world around me. The punk scene also exposed me to the literature on social justice and the importance of solidarity in fighting for equality. Around the same time, the 2000 U.S. Presidential election happened and the contradictions between self-interest and who was in power became impossible to ignore. I was utterly shocked that so many people could vote in a way that seemed to directly conflict with their best interests. These experiences pulled me towards political psychology, as I desperately wanted to understand the absurdity that seemed to be enveloping the U.S. Unfortunately, I don't think I'm much closer in terms of understanding why self-interest rarely leads to collective action. But it has been a really fun and exciting ride!

What does it take to be a successful early career researcher?

This is a really difficult question, as there are many ways to define success! I would like to start, however, by noting that I do not think success should be defined by the number of papers published, grants received, or awards won. Measuring success in those terms will set you up for failure. That caveat aside, academia can be very challenging. Success (no matter how you define it), then, can be achieved by tenacity, self-discipline and a general degree of stick-to-itiveness. I often set myself a series of small goals such as, “this week, I’m going to write for X hours.” Or, “I’m going to read X articles on a new stats method today”. Although these seem like small tasks in the grand scheme of things, by the time the year is over, I’m able to produce much more than had I started the year telling myself I’m going to write X papers. The smaller tasks allow you to pace yourself and set realistic goals that will add up in the end (obviously, it’s critical to follow through with these goals!). This has definitely helped me in my career.

What is your advice for early career researchers?

The best advice I can offer early career researchers is to identify a topic that you find intrinsically interesting and give it your all. Academia can be very unforgiving and you quickly have to grow a thick skin. As a post-graduate student, I applied for—but never received—countless scholarships. I coped with the constant rejection of fellowship applications and manuscripts (and now grants!) by focusing on an area of research that I find personally rewarding. If you’re studying a topic for fame and fortune, you will be disappointed. Pursuing topics that you’re personally interested in will help you persist when the going gets tough (and it will definitely be tough at times!).

Another piece of advice I think is important to consider is to avoid comparing yourself to others. There will always be someone who is doing work that seems more important than your own. Others will also publish at a faster (or slower) rate than you. It’s really easy to get caught up in these pebble-counting games, but try to avoid it. When I fall into this trap (and it happens fairly often), I remind myself of how far I have come relative to where I began. Each of

us has a unique success story, as we are constantly improving ourselves—it’s the nature of a cumulative science. Be happy with how far you have come and remember that one of the best predictors of future behaviour is past behaviour.

PAST CONFERENCE REPORTS

44TH ANNUAL SASP CONFERENCE

Contributed by Stefania Paolini

One hundred and seventy social psychologists from 23 Australasian and 15 overseas institutions gathered at Noah’s on the beach, Newcastle, between the 9-11th April for SASP 2015. This year’s conference was organised and hosted by UON School of Psychology—including Stefania Paolini, Mark Rubin, Emina Subasic, Kylie McIntyre, Saminhe Sanaktar, Scott Turnbull and Nicholas Harris and an engaged crew of research student volunteers from UON social and organisational psychology research group. Eighteen months of careful planning have led to a successful event, which contributed to mark UON’s 50th birthday anniversary. The scientific program consisted of 12 symposia, 20 thematic sessions, 4 poster sessions, and 2 postgraduate workshops. It included keynote addresses by **John Dixon** (Open University, UK) on intergroup segregation and collective action, **Norm Feather** (Flinders University) on tall poppy syndrome and **Danny Osborne** (University of Auckland) on system justification beliefs.



Bill von Hippel presenting Norman Feather with the John Turner Medal



SASP delegates on the beach at Newcastle

SASP 2015 CONFERENCE POST-GRADUATE WORKSHOP

Contributed by Annamaria Klas

For postgraduate students, the 2015 SASP conference began on a chilly Thursday morning, in a warm room stocked with fresh tea and coffee (which is a must for any student!). Here students attended two postgraduate workshops, where we listened diligently to the musings of our esteemed presenters: Professor John Dixon and Dr Mark Rubin. The first postgraduate workshop, run by John, focused on a topic students know too well – the importance of publishing. John's workshop was both friendly and interactive in nature, helping students realise the importance of carefully checking journal requirements before submitting manuscripts, lest they be rejected! This was followed by a thought-provoking workshop run by Mark, who drew on his own personal experience to discuss the importance of promoting your research online. Here we learnt that the more one promoted their research online to the public, the more likely one would also get cited professionally. After an informative few hours, where the coffee flowed steadily, students went away passionate about sharing their research with professionals and laypeople alike.

Looking forward to seeing what the Brisbane conference offers postgraduate students next year! ☺

INAUGURAL SPSSI-SASP SMALL GROUP MEETING REPORT

Contributed by Stefania Paolini &
Winnifred Louis

The inaugural SPSSI-SASP small group meeting took place in Brisbane April 6-7 2015. The topic of the meeting was 'collective harm-doing'. It was organised by Winnifred R. Louis (The University of Queensland, Australia), Catherine E. Amiot (Université du Québec a Montréal, Canada), and Emma F. Thomas (Murdoch University, Australia).

The small group meeting in Brisbane was a success. The conference significantly raised SASP members' awareness of SPSSI. Stefania Paolini, co-Chair of SPSSI Internationalization committee, received a SPSSI travel award to attend the event and officially open it on behalf of SPSSI. That was a great opportunity to remind all conference attendees of the significance of the inaugural meeting and of the scheme more broadly for the two societies' mission and partnership. Stefania promoted SPSSI with the support of SPSSI Promotional video and a video recorded message from SPSSI President and council.

The meeting was attended by a total of 34 senior and junior scholars (speakers and observers) from nine different countries. It ran as a single session of 30 min talks plus 15 min Q&A and discussion over two days and offered ample of opportunities for group-based as well as one-to-one research networking opportunities. The discussion was lively and spanned across theoretical, intervention/implementation, and methodological issues. Highlights about the small group meeting from the chairs and the conference conveners were posted on the SPSSI society column 'Forward', issue 253, Winter/Spring 2015.

A second SPSSI-SASP small group meeting was recently awarded to Victoria Esses (University of Western Ontario, Canada) and Jolanda Jetten (The University of Queensland, Australia) on the topic of 'migration' (title: Immigration to major Immigrant-receiving countries: Immigrant and host perspectives'). This small group meeting will take place in Ottawa, Canada, in November 2016.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

SAVE THE DATE

COME TO BRISBANE FOR SASP 2016!

You are warmly invited to attend SASP 2016 in Brisbane.

The conference will be hosted and organised by The University of Queensland and Griffith University. It will be held from Thursday March 31 to Saturday April 2 (with a preconference on Wednesday March 30 and a social event on Sunday April 3).

The conference will be held at the centrally located Rydges at South Bank (see images below).



We are pleased to announce that **Alice Eagly** (Northwestern University) will be our keynote speaker and there will be a Presidential Address by **Nick Haslam** (University of Melbourne)



Alice Eagly



Nick Haslam

Further details will be provided in the next couple of months.

We are looking forward to see you all in Brisbane!

The organising team,

Fiona Barlow, Jolanda Jetten, Winnifred Louis, Tyler Okimoto

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR A NEW SPSSI-SASP SMALL GROUP CONFERENCE SERIES

First Call for Proposals for 2017 SPSSI-SASP
Small Group Conference in Australasia

Dear Colleagues,

Proposals/Letters of Interest are invited by November 1, 2015 for the 2017 small group conference meeting jointly sponsored by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) and the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists (SASP).

Proposals are expected for a small conference meeting to take place in Australasia in 2017 and to follow the successful 2015 inaugural meeting in Brisbane (organizers Winnifred Louis, Catherine Amiot, & Emma Thomas), and the upcoming 2016 meeting in Ottawa (organizers Jolanda Jetten and Victoria Esses).

Those interested in submitting a proposal for the 2017 meeting have the option of planning

the small group meeting as a pre-conference or post-conference event around the SASP annual meeting, but this is certainly not essential. Feedback/decisions to this round of proposals/letters of interest will be provided to applicants early in December, 2015.

A total of \$7,000 in support is available for each meeting as part of a collaboration between SPSSI and SASP. The purpose of the collaboration is to help strengthen links between the two organizations so that members of each may have opportunities to discuss research questions of mutual interest. This new series is modeled after the successful SPSSI-EASP small group conference series.

Conference Proposal Guidelines:

In most cases:

- This program will support one meeting a year.
- Conference themes will be related to social issues and have international relevance (i.e., not focused on intra-national issues).
- At least 80% of persons attending the conference will be members of one or both organizations
- Representation from the two societies will be balanced: with no more than two-thirds of the participants being members of one of the organizations.
- Each conference will have two (or more) organizers; at least one will be a member of SPSSI and one a member of SASP. Preferably one organizer will be located in Australasia and the other in North America.
- Conference organizers are encouraged to facilitate publication of material on the conference topic through the *Journal of Social Issues* or *SPSSI's book series*.

Questions:

Please see the SPSSI - SASP website for additional details and updates:

<http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=1889&nodeID=1>

Those interested in submitting a proposal are strongly encouraged to send a short email with an Expression of Interest to David Livert livert@psu.edu and Stefania Paolini stefania.paolini@newcastle.edu.au so that we can answer any questions and provide assistance in developing your proposal.

Regards,

David Livert & Stefania Paolini, SPSSI and SASP Small Group Conference representatives

MEMBER NEWS

Want to see what our members have been publishing recently? For a quick look at the contributions SASP members have made in the first half of 2015 (January 2015-June 2015) visit <http://www.sasp.org.au/index.php/news/member-activities>

Please send any member news (e.g., publications, media, grants, honours, awards) or any upcoming calls for papers, meta-analysis data requests, job listings, and so on to

lvartanian@psy.unsw.edu.au

for inclusion in future newsletters.

Thanks!

- The Editors

The Editors would like thank to Ewelina Swierad and Angela Pellatt for their help putting together this edition of the newsletter.