



Events, news, and reviews from The Society of Australasian Social Psychologists

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WELCOME FROM PETER STRELAN SASP SECRETARY

Welcome to the first SASP newsletter for 2017.

I'm the Secretary of SASP. I'm now into my third year in this position. There were several times between putting my hand up for the role and actually starting it that I wondered what I had done, given I was completely aware that this Secretary business mostly involves doing a bunch of prosaic administrative tasks—yet for me (and most of us), one of the joys of being an academic is not doing prosaic administrative tasks. Fortunately, my predecessor Rebecca Pinkus and our previous communications officer Blake McKimmie left the ship in such a good state that my cognitive dissonance quickly dissolved. My job is also made easier by an executive that jumps on things with great efficiency. I'm grateful to the can-do attitude of Mathew Marques, who is filling Blake's big shoes with apparently remarkable ease, and the experience of our treasurer Stefano Occhipinti and our President Nick Haslam.

When Rebecca and Lenny asked me to pen this little piece, I wondered as to what I might say that could be remotely interesting. I was a little intimidated by the welcoming blurb in the last newsletter by my esteemed colleague

Stef, who waxed lyrical about “Summer school seasons bearing fruit”; “celebrating Spring as only SASP can”; and an exhortation for us to rise “phoenix-like”. I knew I could not hope to match such eloquence. I can, however, share with you what I have discovered to be the rewarding thing about being on the SASP executive, and that is the opportunity to be involved in judging so many high-quality applications from our postgrad and early career researchers.

Every year, SASP makes several awards available (Outstanding Postgrad Research Award; Small Group Research Award; Early Career Research Award), and provides opportunities for postgrads to attend international (EASP, SPSP) and local Summer Schools. It's been inspiring to see not only the research ideas that our up-and-coming researchers are generating, but also the hard work that they are putting in, and the commitment they make to develop their careers. When each panel convenes, we almost inevitably begin by wondering how we will distinguish such great applications.

Sadly, Donald Trump's travel ban had far-reaching effects on some of our own students here in Australasia applying for a scholarship for the SPSP summer school this year. We are living in interesting times. So, more than ever, *noli illegitimi carborundum...* and I hope you all have a great year research-wise (and, indeed, any other pursuit for which you could attach '-wise').

SASP Melbourne conference update

By Nick Haslam

Chair, SASP 2017 Organising Committee

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RYDGES HOTEL CARLTON

The academic program will be highlighted by keynote addresses from Professor Susan Fiske from Princeton University, and Professor Garth Fletcher from Victoria University of Wellington.



PROFESSOR
SUSAN FISKE



PROFESSOR
GARTH FLETCHER

The SASP 2017 Organising Committee is looking forward to welcoming members to the conference in Melbourne, starting on Thursday April 20 and running through Saturday April 22. The Melbourne conference, to be held at Rydges Hotel in Carlton, will have all the ingredients that members have come to know and love in recent SASP conferences.

The academic program will be highlighted by keynote addresses from Professor **Susan Fiske** from Princeton University, who will speak on “Talking Up and Talking Down: Power of Positive Speaking”, and Professor **Garth Fletcher** from Victoria University of Wellington, whose talk is entitled “The Functional Nature and Evolution of Evaluating Mates: Bias, Accuracy, and Sex Differences”. The program will include the usual diverse assortment of snapshot and regular talks as well as range of symposia. It will be preceded by the SPSSI/SASP Small Group conference on “The morality of conflict and cooperation”, being organised on April 17-18 by **Brock Bastian** and **Simon Laham**.



KATHARINE GREENAWAY

Several awards will be celebrated at the conference. Contenders for the Outstanding Postgraduate Research Award will present their work at a special session, and the winner of the Early Career Award, **Katharine Greenaway**, will be feted at a reception.

The John Turner Medal will be bestowed on **Garth Fletcher** prior to his keynote address.

The conference will have a substantial social program. There will be an informal trip to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, a cocktail reception at Rydges on Thursday evening, a screening of Kathryn Millard's Milgram documentary Shock Room (with the involvement of **Alex Haslam**) on late afternoon Friday, and the conference dinner, at University House at the Woodward, 10 stories above Melbourne city, will be held on Saturday night.

Postgraduate members will be well catered for. On the morning of Thursday April 20 there will be two postgraduate workshops, organised by Postgraduate Representative **Anna Klas**, on the subjects of open science and career options outside of academe. The Postgraduate Dinner, also organised by Anna, will take place on the evening of Friday April 21.

We look forward to hosting you in Melbourne.

Please register as soon as possible at the following link:

[http://www.sasp.org.au/index.php/events/
register-for-conference](http://www.sasp.org.au/index.php/events/register-for-conference)

SASP Postgraduate Representative

By Anna Klas

SASP Postgraduate Representative

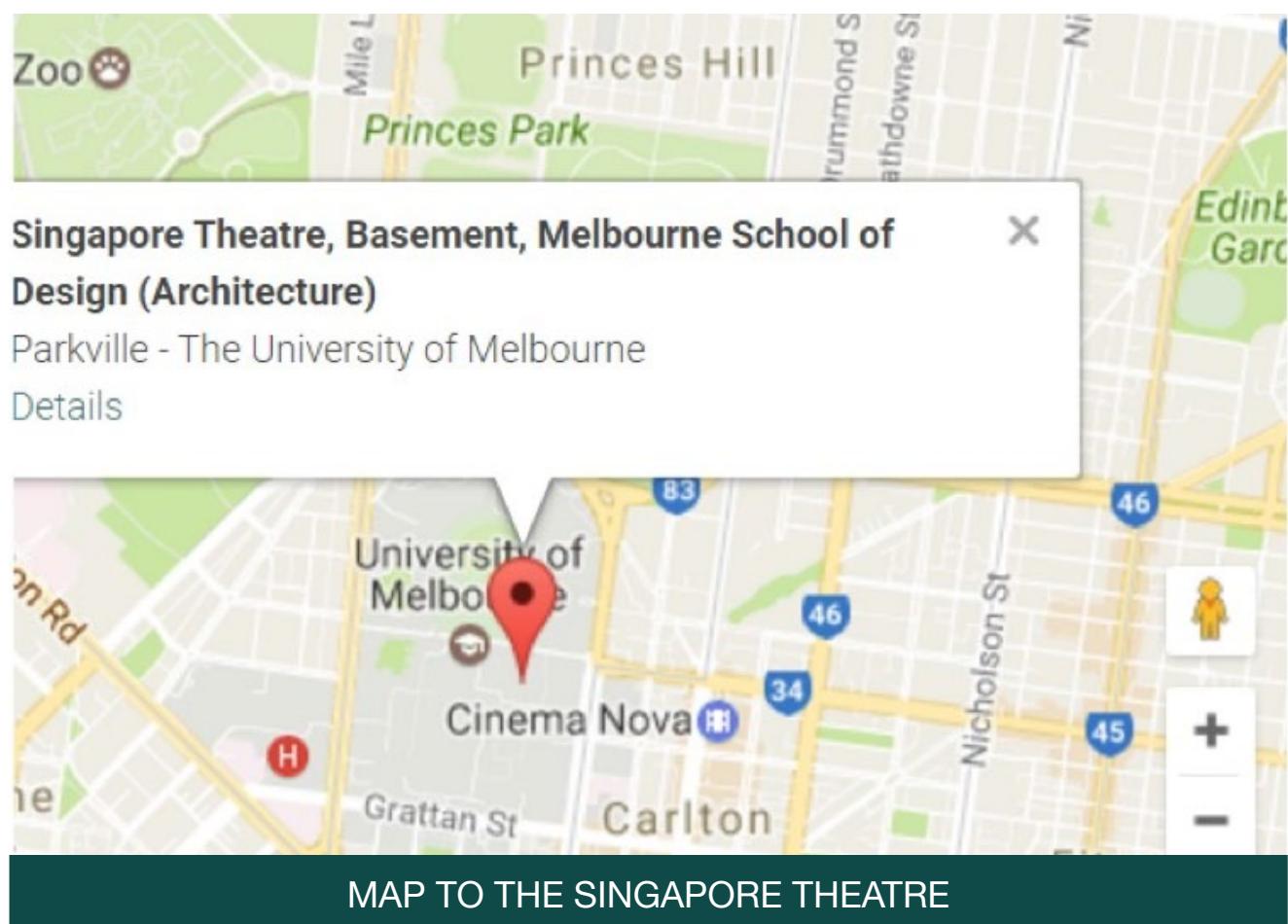
Hello to all SASP Postgrads!

With the 2017 SASP conference upon us, I'd like to draw postgrad student's attention to a number of activities that may be of interested.

Firstly, two postgraduate workshops will run at Melbourne University on the morning of Thursday 20 April (before the official opening of the 2017 SASP Conference). These workshops will be located in **the Singapore Theatre** (in the basement) at Melbourne University (Parkville), and will run from 9 to 11.30am.

The first workshop session 'Post-PhD Career Options' (9-10am) will focus upon discussing employment opportunities outside the traditional route of academia, whilst the second workshop 'What is 'Open' Science and How Do I Do It?' (10.30-11.30am) will focus on providing practical tips on how to implement Open Science principles in research practice.

Please register your interest in these workshops by midnight Friday the **14th of April** at the following link:
https://deakinpsychology.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ePB7E8IWUNCbwV





VENUE FOR POSTGRAD DINNER

Secondly, the annual postgraduate dinner will be run on Friday the **21st of April**, 7.30pm till late. Dinner will be at the La Spaghettata Restaurant (238 Lygon St, Carlton) and will include a set menu of delicious Italian food for \$30.95 per person (including 95c booking fee). This venue will be able to accommodate dietary requirements, including halal, gluten free, vegetarian, and vegan options. Places are limited and given the popularity of the postgrad dinner at past conferences, please register and pay for your spot ASAP to avoid disappointment.

Further details, as well as registration and payment, can be found at the following link
<http://sasppostgraduatedinn.getqpay.com/>

And finally, given I have recently completed my PhD, it is time for me to move on from the role of SASP Postgraduate Representative.

Taking on the postgrad rep role offers students a fantastic opportunity to socialize and network with some of the biggest names of Social Psychology in Australasia (not to mention it's just really fun to do!). If you wish to know more about what is involved in the role, feel free to contact me at anna.klas@deakin.edu.au. Students who wish to seek official nominations should contact the SASP Secretary Peter Strelan at peter.strelan@adelaide.edu.au.

See you all at the 2017 Melbourne SASP Conference.

Cheers,
Anna

Immigration to Major-receiving Countries: Immigrant and Host Perspectives

By Jolanda Jetten

SASP-SPSSI Small Group Meeting Co-convener

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In many major immigrant-receiving countries in the world, the issue of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and their integration into host societies, is higher than ever on the political agenda. Attitudes towards immigration have been at the heart of some recent surprise results we have seen in the political landscape worldwide. In other parts of the world we are witnessing a refugee crisis in the Middle East, and a movement of people of unprecedented proportions. This creates extremely challenging situations for refugees but also for their host societies.

The second joint SASP-SPSSI meeting was concerned with these topics and focused on immigration to major immigrant-receiving countries. The meeting was held on November 29 and 30 (2016) in Ottawa, Canada. It was co-sponsored by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) and the Society of Australasian Social Psychology (SASP) and we obtained additional funding from the University of Queensland, the University of Western Ontario, and the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership. **Victoria Esse** (University of Western Ontario) and **Jolanda Jetten** (University of Queensland) were the two main organisers.

The timeliness of this meeting also became apparent from the many abstract submissions that we received from all over the world. Unfortunately, we had many more submissions than we could accommodate and invited in the end 21 speakers from 10 countries.

The hosts in Ottawa organized a wonderful website that gives a great overview of the speakers, talks and abstracts (see <https://spssi-sasp.com>). When you check this site, you will see that we covered a diverse set of themes.

We started the first day with a session on determinants of attitudes towards immigrants and refugees. The first three speakers focused on the importance of group position, norms and justifications of negative attitudes towards immigrants and refugees (speakers were **Linda Tropp, Danielle Gaucher, and Winnifred Louis**), followed by three talks that focused on the role of identity in predicting such attitudes (**Sahana Mukherjee**, a joint presentation by **Stefania Paolini & Samineh Sanatkaran**, and **Rita Guerra**). After lunch, **Adriana Espinosa, Ravini Abeywickrama** and **Hyeyoung Shin** focused in 3 talks on perceived threat and cultural values to explain attitudes towards immigrants and refugees. The first day finished with two talks on the role of the media and attitudes (**Stefan Stürmer** and **Shantal Marshall**).

The second day started with a session on intergroup contact (**Rupert Brown, Patrick Kotzur, and Roberto González**) followed by three talks on acculturation and well-being (**Zeynep Sagir, Yasin Koc, and Kim Noels**). After lunch, two speakers focused on community and regional experiences of immigrants (**Linda Silka** and **Yuen Huo**) and we ended with two talks on multiculturalism (**Colleen Ward** and **Jessica Gale**).

As you might recall, the purpose of the relatively new collaboration between SASP and SPSSI is to help strengthen links between the organizations so that members of each may have opportunities to discuss research questions of mutual interest. We think this meeting certainly achieved that. The meeting included strong presentations, but also the opportunity for discussion, comparison, questioning, and the possibility of planning future research. All in all, a very successful meeting.

Call for Proposals for 2018 SPSSI-SASP Small Group Conference in North America

By Stefania Paolini

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

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Proposals/Letters of Interest are invited by **May 15, 2017** for the 2018 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 North America in 2018. Successful meetings were held in 2016 in Ottawa and 2015 in Brisbane, Australia. A strong 2017 meeting will be held in Melbourne this April, immediately prior to the annual SASP conference:

SASP-SPSSI Conference on the Morality of Conflict and Cooperation

Tuesday / Wednesday April 18-19, 2017
The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Those interested in submitting a proposal for the 2018 meeting have the option of planning the small group meeting as a pre-conference or post-conference event around the SPSSI conference in June 2018, but this is certainly not essential. Feedback/decisions to this round of proposals/letters of interest will be provided to applicants by **June 15, 2017**.

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:

- (1) This program will support one meeting a year.
- (2) Conference themes will be related to social issues and have international relevance (i.e., not focused on intra-national issues).
- (3) At least 80% of persons attending the conference will be members of one or both organizations.
- (4) Representation from the two societies will be balanced: with no more than two-thirds of the participants being members of one of the organizations.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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

Congratulations to the following SASP members on their achievements

Awards

Nikos Ntoumanis Received the Curtin University John De Later Award for Research Leadership (2016).

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Timothy Schofield & Khandis Blake received the International Society for Research on Aggression “Young Investigator” Program Award.

Timothy Schofield, Khandis Blake & Joanne Beames won three Lagerspetz Awards at the ISRA Conference for outstanding research presentations.

Jasmine Fardouly won the APS Award for Excellent PhD Thesis in Psychology.

Congratulations to **Yasin Koc, Mengyao Li, Rachel Maunder, Sam Stronge & Stefano Verrelli**, who are this year’s recipients of the Margaret Foddy Postgraduate Travel Awards.

Member news

Lydia Hayward (PhD from University of Queensland, 2016) has moved to UNSW Sydney to take up a postdoctoral fellowship working with Lenny Vartanian on an ARC Discovery Project investigating the impact of weight stigma in everyday life.

The last newsletter featured an update on past Outstanding Postgraduate Research Award Winners. Here is 2013 winner **Lauren Hall**’s latest news: “After finishing my PhD I took a year off to help build up a [wedding photography business](#) with my husband, and found myself loving it so much that I decided to change careers entirely. We have recently moved our business (and our cats) to Bristol, UK. We work with couples who tend to shun traditions, so I have never had to hear the phrase ‘obey’ in wedding vows, making it easier to reconcile my new career with the four years I spent on a PhD focusing on perceptions of ambition in women and men.”

SASP members have had a productive end to 2016. Please click on this [link](#) to see a list of recent publications.

Please send updates for the member news section to the [SASP Newsletter editors](#).

The Benefits of Embracing Open Science Initiatives

By Lisa A. Williams

School of Psychology, UNSW Sydney

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We, as a field, are in the midst of fast-changing tides. The past few years have seen increased scrutiny of methodological, statistical, and reporting practices in psychology, with particular focus placed on social psychological research. On the tails of high-profile cases of scientific fraud and repeated failures to replicate some of the classic findings in field, social psychology has been described as being in the midst of a “reproducibility crisis”. Opinions abound about whether or not we are in “crisis”, and, if we are, just how deep that crisis is. Independent of crisis-or-not opinion, we all find ourselves in a new era of standards of practice.

These standards are driven in large part by a desire for Open Science. According to Prof. Dan Gezelter, Director of the OpenScience Project, Open Science reflects four fundamental goals: “(1) Transparency in experimental methodology, observation, and collection of data, (2) Public availability and reusability of scientific data, (3) Public accessibility and transparency of scientific communication, and (4) Using web-based tools to facilitate scientific collaboration” (Gezelter, 2009).

How is Open Science playing out in social psychology? Here I use Gezelter’s typology to assess where things stand in (social) psychology with regard to the four fundamental goals.

1. Transparency in experimental methodology, observation, and collection of data

Transparency in methodology and data collection appears most frequently at the point of publication these days. Simmons, Nelson, and Simonsohn (2012) called upon authors to

pre-emptively include the following 21-word statement: “We report how we determined our sample size, all data exclusions (if any), all manipulations, and all measures in the study.” The journal *Social Psychology* requests this statement for all submissions. Editors and reviewers now frequently inquire about transparency if such a statement is not included in a submitted manuscript. Relatedly, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* now requires full sharing of study materials, including exact wording of all independent and dependent variables.

One novel method of increasing transparency has been adopted by *Comprehensive Results in Social Psychology*, a journal co-sponsored by the Society for Australasian Social Psychologists. At CRSP, research proposals are evaluated via peer review on the basis of substantive contribution and proposed methodology. If accepted, the journal publishes resulting findings independent of outcome, presuming the proposed plan has been followed.

Researchers can of course engage in transparency well ahead of publication. A popular route for this is pre-registration of materials and analysis plans. van ‘t Veer and Giner-Sorolla (2016) provide a helpful pre-registration template for social psychological research. Sites such as the Open Science Framework (OSF, www.osf.io) and AsPredicted (aspredicted.org) enable time-stamped preregistrations that can be provided at the point of manuscript submission. In fact, the van ‘t Veer and Giner-Sorolla template is available as a form on the OSF. It couldn’t get much easier than that to embrace pre-registration!

2. Public availability and reusability of scientific data

Researchers have always been free, and in fact obligated, to share data openly barring confidentiality concerns. Yet, uptake of widespread open data practices has been slow. Kidwell and colleagues (2016) found that only 3% of articles in six psychology journals reported open data in 2012-2013.

Several peer-reviewed academic journals, including *Psychological Science*, now incentivise open data, offering ‘badges’ for putting data in a publicly accessible repository (more here: osf.io/tvyxz). Open Data badges at Psychological Science boosted rates from 3% before badges to 23% in the 18 months following badge introduction (Kidwell et al., 2016). The most recent issue of *Psychological Science* (March 2017) has 4 of 9 articles (44%) obtaining the Open Data badge. Other journals now require open data (e.g., *Archives of Scientific Psychology*, *PLOS ONE*). Online platforms such as the Open Science Framework make the process of sharing data ever-simpler.

It is important to note that researchers intending to share data publicly should consult with their ethics bodies to ensure alignment with approval. In my lab, for instance, our standard Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information section in our Participant Information Statement reads, in part, “If you give us your permission by signing this document, we plan to discuss, publish, and share the results and data of this research in scientific papers, theses, dissertations, at academic meetings, or in online repositories.” This enables us to post data to sites such as the OSF.

The Peer Reviewers’ Openness Initiative (opennessinitiative.org) is another player in the open data scene. Researchers wishing to act in line with the PRO Initiative decline to engage in peer review if data are not open (barring defensible reasons). With nearly 400 signatories at last count, several social psychologists among them, it is clear that the PRO Initiative is gaining speed. Chances are, if you’re trying to

publish these days, you’ll be asked to provide open data or a defensible reason not to.

In the not-too-distant past, data from direct replications, especially those that failed to replicate an original finding, fell into the dreaded file-drawer. Open Science initiatives have substantially changed the prognosis for replication outcomes. For instance, the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and *Social Psychological and Personality Science* welcome submissions reporting replications. A more structured approach comes from Registered Replication Reports at *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, which employs a multi-lab collaborative model to carry out replications and involves the original authors whenever possible.

3. Public accessibility and transparency of scientific communication

The key player in this domain is open access of scientific articles. Several traditional academic journal publishers now offer optional open access for a fee (e.g., *British Journal of Social Psychology*, *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *Journal of Social Psychology*). Newer online-only journals in psychology are entirely open-access, often asking authors to pay an Article Processing Charge (e.g., *Collabra*, *Frontiers*).

Online sites such as ResearchGate and Academia.edu facilitate sharing of publications. A new player on the scene of open access in psychology is PsyArXiv (psyarxiv.com), where authors can post working papers, unpublished manuscripts, manuscripts currently under review, and pre-formatted versions of in-press/published manuscripts. Authors should always check copyright permissions if sharing published work.

4. Using web-based tools to facilitate scientific collaboration

The Internet has eased the roll-out of Open Science initiatives. As mentioned above, online platforms facilitate research transparency and open data sharing practices. The power of the Internet for Open Science doesn't stop there. Multi-lab collaborations are increasingly easy to locate (e.g., via Study Swap osf.io/view/studyswap launched just this month!). Many Labs have an ongoing model of multi-lab replication efforts (see osf.io/89vqh).

Add to this the power of connecting and collaborating via email, Skype, Twitter, and Facebook and it's clear that scientific collaboration and web-based tools go hand-in-hand.

Curious as to what you can do today to progress Open Science in your lab? Here are a few places to start:

- (1) Create an account at Open Science Framework and share your materials and/or data. You could even preregister your studies!
- (2) Consider being a signatory of the PRO initiative, linked above, or the Commitment to Research Transparency (researchtransparency.org).
- (3) Join the Society for Improvement of Psychological Science (improvingpsych.org).
- (4) Hop online and join the lively discussion of Open Science on Twitter or Facebook (e.g., PsychMAP group).
- (5) Have a read of blogs discussing Open Science principles (e.g., Lorne Campbell's *Psychology and Science* [lornecampbell.org], *The 100% CI* [the100.ci], and Simine Vazire's *Sometimes I'm Wrong* [sometimesimwrong.typepad.com]).
- (6) Talk to your colleagues! Best practices are best when shared.

If we open source our Open Science efforts, we are bound to hit our aims sooner.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge that there are likely as many opinions on Open Science in social psychology as there are readers of this article (and, let's be honest, probably quite a few more). Despite that diversity of opinion, or rather because of it, I sincerely believe that there is reason to be hopeful that social psychology as a field will improve as the four goals of Open Science are pursued in earnest.

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Political times have silver lining for researchers?

By Kate Reynolds

*Professor, Research School of Psychology, ANU
 President International Society of Political Psychology
 President-elect Society of Australasian Social Psychology*

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Is there a more interesting time to be studying issues at the intersection between politics and people's psychology; their thoughts, attitudes, emotions and behaviour within the political sphere? As political and social psychologists, what can we say about recent events ("Brexit", "Trumpism", Right-wing movements, "Whitelash", "Truthiness")? And what can countries like Australia learn from foreign affairs as we enter a national election within the next two years?

Social psychology has been on display with a range of theories helping to explain recent political events including: relative deprivation, inequality and system illegitimacy; social identity and leadership; and mobilization and social change. Also we have heard that at the heart of political campaigning were analyses of personality and preferences on-line that offer potential new research and marketing tools.

With respect to inequality, relative deprivation and system illegitimacy, the Pew Research Centre reports that in the US today the hourly wage adjusting for inflation has the same purchasing power as in 1979. There is also evidence that earnings are rising only for the already well off. In fact, the majority of Americans in a 2014 Pew Survey indicated that their income was falling behind costs of living. In the UK, the backdrop for Brexit was concern over community/government services such as infrastructure, health and education more than wages. What these figures reveal is that in people's day-to-day lived experiences there were clear examples that the current system is not working for "us".

On the question of social identity and leadership, the messages and advertising in the UK, at the heart of Brexit were narratives concerning "sovereignty", "powerlessness" and "control" – who makes decisions for the people of Britain, one of "us" or one of "them"; elected officials or the establishment and bureaucrats in Brussels. The issue of control especially over borders and immigration was also front and centre raising questions of national identity; who 'we' are, what 'we' stand for, and what 'we' aspire to.

Reicher and Haslam (2016) point out in *Scientific American* that "control" was also at the heart of Trump's popularity (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-politics-of-hope-donald-trump-as-an-entrepreneur-of-identity/>). They explain that a contest was crafted between the "people" and "establishment" and in this case the establishment was portrayed as serving the interests of the enemies of America. People were portrayed as powerless and not in control of their own destiny. Trump positioned himself as "one of the people" and his opponent Hilary Clinton as representing the interests of the establishment.

American identity was also hotly contested in the recent US election. Hilary Clinton stated in June "Making Donald Trump our president would undo much of the progress we've made and put our economy at risk and beyond that, this election will say something about who we are as a people".

These debates about American identity are continuing with clear divisions between Democrats and Republicans (<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/poll-7-in-10-people-say-america-is-losing-its-identity/>)

With respect to mobilization and social change, the leadership challenge in the UK and US for those seeking a change to the status-quo was to provide a narrative to make sense of people's negative experiences and offer a different future. The change message in both the UK and the US looked back to the future with a catch cry that both countries could be "great" again.

Comparison to the past also helped invoked a more male dominated and less multicultural national image and one where a male Anglo/Caucasian-ethnic group was clearly on top. Many have been startled and surprised with mobilization for social change that is regressive not progressive. The direction of these social movements is misaligned with many people's (including researchers) understandings of social change. Models that focus on the psychological processes that underpin change have proved valuable.

New tools to do research were on display with psychometrics integrating personality, voting behaviour, social marketing and on-line behaviour (https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/how-our-likes-helped-trump-win). Beginning from a large data set that included big 5 personality and Facebook "like" patterns more precise models were developed.

Lead research Kosinski showed that he could predict skin colour (95% accuracy), sexual orientation (88%), political affiliation (85%), religion from an average of 68 facebook "likes". Digital behaviour can be used to discern socio-demographic group memberships which enabled Brexit and the Trump campaigns to better target the delivery of their political messages. Given what social and political psychology already knows about psychological group memberships and social identity processes it is yet to be seen what detecting such collective identities through "on-line" behaviour could offer.

There are many who may be suffering from PTSD – post-Trump stress disorder – but as researchers these events provide ripe contexts to refine theoretical models and explore the measures that are used to understand and predict modern political behaviour. It may also be prescient to get "research ready" for the Australian federal election where many of these same issues and tactics will be on display.

Around Australia on the Dawn Princess

**By Sandra Bochner and
Stephen Bochner, *Founding SASP member***

September, 2016

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Stephen and I have recently returned from a wonderful trip around Australia on the Dawn Princess, a 14 story passenger ship. The 17-day cruise began in Perth and finished in Sydney. Early on Saturday September 10 we flew from Mascot to Perth, expecting to take a taxi to Fremantle to board the ship. However, having collected our bags, we realised that at least six Cruise Liner persons were directing a crowd of ship's passengers to a fleet of buses waiting outside the terminal, and we were soon on our way!

Our destination was a huge hanger in Fremantle filled with people waiting to embark, each holding a numbered card. Our number 19 was soon called and we began the trail through customs and the ship's entry team. There we were handed an electronic card like a bank card, with a cabin number, sent up the gangplank to level 7 and from there directed by lift to our cabin on Level 11 where our luggage was already waiting. It was an impressive arrival, considering that almost 200 passengers had embarked that morning, and that altogether there must have been 1500 "guests" on board.

Having examined our fully self-contained cabin and its tiny balcony, we took a lift to the top floor where we found a wonderful buffet offering almost any type of food you might want. For the rest of the trip, we ate very well from a varied collection of salads, bread, cheese, ham, hot dishes, fruit, cakes, and ice cream, plus Stephen's choice of Grolsch beer which he had never heard of before. Fine dining was available at a fancy restaurant on Level 7 where you had to dress up, but we happily ate all meals on Level 14, generally sharing a table beside a window with two other passengers. Stephen mentioned that the sea air must have shrunk all his garments, and is now

on a diet to rectify that.

Our first destination was **Geraldton** where we dropped anchor off the coast around 8 am. Those going ashore piled into small power boats but we were content to watch from the ship. Directly opposite, I could see the Memorial to H.M.A.S. Sydney located at the top of a short drive leading off a main road that seemed to follow the coastline north from Perth. By around 5 pm, all passengers were back on board and we continued north.

After two days at sea, with the coastline generally in sight, we reached **Broome**, disembarking by means of a gangplank. Once ashore, we took a 15-minute bus ride into the township. Along the way, our driver explained that as a result of the heat and humidity, timber and bricks could not be used for building in the area, so galvanised iron was employed instead. Which we observed when we drove into the town. However, the metal was painted and in good order (no rust evident). Broome seemed quite busy and inviting for a visitor, and we spent some time and money in the shops close to where our bus stopped. We had passed the airport just before we reached the town, and as I waited for Stephen to finish shopping in Coles, two aircraft flew over me, so close I felt I could almost touch them. There was an ancient open-air theatre, with chairs in rows under the sky and old photos of actors in the entrance. We bought t-shirts and other bits to take home for the family, many on the way back to the ship in a large shed on the wharf where a variety of locally produced craft attire and trinkets were on sale. Overall, Broome was a fun place to visit.

During the next day at sea, one of the most exciting moments of the trip occurred as we travelled along the **Kimberley Coast**. The ship arrived in the late afternoon when the sun was burning red. We passed islands and high, steep cliffs with rocks at the waters' edge in the almost endless series of bays that were scarlet in the setting sun. The skipper slowed the boat to allow passengers to absorb the extraordinary sight. Finally, he slowly turned the ship in a full circle as a wonderful salute to that amazing landscape. I checked on the map and could find only one long straight road leading west to this coast, wondering how many visitors ventured into the area and how much they would see of the wonderful vision that we had from the ship. This was definitely a highlight of our journey.

We reached **Darwin** after two days at sea and tied up at a berth that Stephen and I had been to on our previous visit after flying over from the 2013 SASP conference in Cairns. We were south of the City Centre, looking at parklands and relatively new blocks of flats. Buses delivered passengers up the hill to the Information Centre and from there we wandered across to a busy shopping precinct where we looked at what was on offer and bought a novel for Stephen. The ship left in the early afternoon, heading north. I was interested to note that the last time we visited Darwin, the docks were full of ships and we saw other vessels waiting outside to dock. This time we saw no such traffic.

For the next two days at sea, the ship travelled East through the **Torres Strait**. I had wondered if we would see both sides of the coastline as we passed through, but we hugged the southern side – it seemed to be within sight most of the time. I was disappointed when I realised that I had not been looking when the ship passed the tip of Cape York and turned south, though I had been watching the coastline, waiting for that change in direction. By the time I realised my mistake, we were quite close to **Cairns**.

The ship docked at Trinity Wharf, on the Southern side to the city. It was a short walk into the town and we used this opportunity to replace Stephen's walking shoes at the Birkenstock shop. A taxi took us back to the ship and we were ready for departure.

Leaving Cairns, we turned north for the brief run to **Alotau**, at the south-eastern tip of New Guinea. This was another highlight of the trip. We were greeted and later farewelled by a group of local dancers – the men beating drums and the ladies in grass skirts, no bras (to Stephen's delight). Immediately behind the wharf the land seemed to rise steeply, well wooded with a scattering of houses.

The town was quite close and many passengers followed the road along the sea shore. We stayed on the boat, watching events, then went ashore and strolled a brief distance to visit what seemed to be an attractive general store with a display of clothing, hats and other paraphernalia hanging outside the shop and from its rather lofty roof inside. I gave Stephen an attractive pair of pants to buy but the shopkeeper would not accept Australian money. We later heard that they had difficulty exchanging it for other currency.

Back at the ship I sat on our balcony and watched many outrigger canoes pass by, heading away from the town, some with passengers holding an umbrella against the sun. Later at home, our neighbour Richard talked of the importance of Alotau, or Milne Bay as it is also known, during the last War. I wished I had known something of that history at the time of our visit.

Two more days at sea and we reached **Brisbane**. Here we had arranged to meet a long-lost cousin and his wife. We had a delightful seafood lunch at the Medley Café, beside the Brisbane River at Kangaroo Point, close to this year's SASP conference venue. Once all the passengers were back on board, we slowly moved down the Brisbane River for the final leg to Sydney.

The Dawn Princess entered **Sydney Harbour** around 5 am, moving slowly down to tie up at Circular Quay (the ship is too high to pass under the Bridge). We had a quick breakfast and were ready to disembark at our allotted time (8.30 am).

By the time we left the cabin, the luggage that we had placed in the corridor had long disappeared and I worried how we could locate it in the expected confusion in the arrival hall. Our four bags had been labelled ‘Gold 2’ and as we left the ship we were directed to the designated location where a young woman waited to help us find our bags. Again, I marvelled at the efficient organisation of this potentially chaotic situation by the ship’s management. Everything was piled onto two trolleys, quickly trundled out to the taxi rank and we were soon our way home. It was a fine end to a wonderful adventure.

Was the cruise good value, I hear you ask. Stephen did his sums and reckons that the answer is definitely in the affirmative. Every service and all the food on board was included in the pre-paid ticket price, including daily room cleaning, changing sheets and towels, television, and tidying up.

We had a Filipino valet who looked after us like royalty. Indeed. Stephen was knighted by the service staff, as they called him Sir Stephen (I think there may have been a hyphen between the two words). The only think we paid for was the grog – beer or wine in the dining room, and spirits in the three bars we frequented for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles. These bars provided “entertainment” in the form of a guitar and violin Ukrainian duo playing semi-classical music; a Brit from the Midlands “singing” Beatles-type songs (which he called the Buttles) while strumming a guitar; and a large European pianist beating the hell out of a gigantic concert piano. There were a couple of fancy restaurants where guests had to pay a surcharge which we did not go to; and organised shore tours that were quite expensive, which we also ignored, doing our own shore excursions using local buses and taxis. Stephen reckons that on a per-day basis, the cruise was a lot cheaper than staying in 5-star high rise hotels in any of the capital cities, or in suites in resorts like Hamilton Island. But I hear Stephen mutter that there were no pet-friendly facilities on board. Indeed, just about everyone we talked to said that they missed their dogs. Now here is an opportunity for an agile and innovative entrepreneur to solve that problem and become an instant billionaire.



Itinerary

Day	Port / Date	Arrive	Depart
1	Fremantle, Australia Saturday, September 10		5:00 PM
2	Geraldton, Australia Sunday, September 11 (Tender Required), (Wheelchair Access Limited)	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
3	At Sea Monday, September 12		
4	At Sea Tuesday, September 13		
5	Broome, Australia Wednesday, September 14	8:00 AM	8:00 PM
6	Kimberley Coast, Australia (Scenic Cruising) Thursday, September 15	3:00 PM	6:00 PM
7	At Sea Friday, September 16		
8	Darvin, Australia Saturday, September 17	7:00 AM	4:00 PM
9	At Sea Sunday, September 18		
10	At Sea Monday, September 19		
11	Yorkey's Knob, Cairns, Australia Tuesday, September 20 (Tender Required), (Wheelchair Access Limited)	9:00 AM	7:00 PM
12	At Sea Wednesday, September 21		
13	Alotau, Papua New Guinea Thursday, September 22	7:00 AM	5:00 PM
14	At Sea Friday, September 23		
15	At Sea Saturday, September 24		
16	Brisbane, Australia Sunday, September 25	7:00 AM	5:00 PM
17	At Sea Monday, September 26		
18	Sydney, Australia Tuesday, September 27	7:00 AM	

The Editors wish to thank
Ewelina Swierad and *Wendy Chen*
 for their assistance in putting
 together this edition of the newsletter.