

**50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY OF  
AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.  
November 2022**

Reflections on the Flinders Conference on Social Psychology  
May 20-21, 1972. From small beginnings....

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(Flinders University 1972-1990)

I acknowledge the SASP 2022 Organising Committee, Professors Emma Thomas, Morgana Lizzio-Wilson, Lydia Woodyatt, and Michael Wenzel of Flinders University.

And the custodians of Australian social psychology history. Brian Crabbe (U Sydney), Norman Feather (Flinders U) and Mike Innes (U Adelaide),

**Pay respect to social psychology** elders Professor Ron Taft (Monash) and Norman Feather (Flinders) who were at the Flinders Conference in Social Psychology, May 20-21, 1972,. And in remembrance of Professor Margaret Foddy (Latrobe) first President of SASP.

# FIRST FLINDERS CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY



The first Flinders Conference on Social Psychology was held at the University on May 20-21, 1972.

Dr E. Peay, lecturer in Psychology in the School of Social Sciences, who was Organising Secretary for the Conference, said the purpose of the conference was the dissemination of information about ongoing research.

Social psychologists from various parts of Australia attended the conference and reported on completed projects, work in progress and planned research.

The conference adopted a more informal workshop format rather than formally delivered papers.

It was the first conference of its kind to be held in Australia.

“The 1972 Flinders Social Psychology conference was a great success.

It began 50 years of uninterrupted and lively annual meetings of social psychologists held throughout the Commonwealth and New Zealand.

It initiated a positive welcoming culture for young social psychologists to present their work and receive a helpful, supportive hearing.

It established a network of social psychologists who collaborated, promoted the discipline, and became its leaders.

The Flinders Conference on Social Psychology of 1972 was a significant event in the history of social psychology in this country”.

Leon Mann, November 2022





The Flinders Conference on Social Psychology

The Flinders University of South Australia  
20th-21st May, 1972

Friday

5:00 - 7:00

Social hour at Staff Club

Saturday

9:00 - 10:30

{ N.T. Feather - Studies of values *Verbal responses to religious symbols*  
 G. Stanley & W. Bartlett - Expressing the inexpressible  
 G. O'Brien - Psychology, values, and social action

10:30 - 11:00

Tea

11:00 - 12:30

M. Middleton - Distribution of tasks and responsibilities in Walbiri family life  
 R. Boyd - Use of measures of achievement and affiliation with Aboriginal and White children

11:00 - 12:30

{ J. Sutton - Measurement of social networks among adolescent boys  
 P. Salmon - An attempt to reduce variance in psychological experiments - by eliminating human subjects  
*Computer simulation.*

12:30 - 2:00

Lunch

2:00 - 3:30

{ K. Gibbons & D. Martin - Some consequences of treating *motivation to perceive oneself positively* positive self image as a motivational goal  
*positively. Fear of Failure*  
 M. Bassor - Stigma cooperation and helping *Bernie et al. (Helping handicapped children).*

2:00 - 3:30

L. Gething - The role of meaningfulness of experimental task in the measurement of extreme response styles

{ J.J. Ray - Authoritarian humanism - concerning a general intolerance of ambiguity in social policy preference

3:30 - 4:00

Tea

4:00 - 5:00

{ Discussion of the organization of social psychology in Australia

8:00 - 12:00

Cocktail party at University Hall

Sunday

- 9:00 - 10:30 { G. Gardner - Cognitive dissonance of voters and experimenters  
D. Hill & G. Gardner - Fear-arousing (threat) appeals and attitude change: A psycho-physiological approach  
E. Peay - Personal position and attitude structure
- 10:30 - 11:00 Tea
- 11:00 - 12:30 R. Boyd - Measuring achievement and affiliation motivation  
R.S. Rowe - Achievement motivation and attribution of responsibility for outcome
- 11:00 - 12:30 { R. Taft - Culture conflict and marginality } *Some of the most successful leaders are marginal - why?*  
D.S. Anderson & D.G. Beswick - Dissatisfied students: Characteristics of pupils who desire change in educational methods in senior years in secondary schools
- 12:30 - 2:00 Lunch
- 2:00 - 3:30 { Workshop on methodology in social psychology  
Participants:  
L. Mann - Field experiments  
M. Peay - Naturalistic laboratory experiments  
S. Bochner - Field studies and unobtrusive measures
- 3:30 - 4:00 Tea

A few notes concerning the programme and the conference:

Since some titles of papers were received by telephone, telegram, personal communication, etc. the titles in the programme should not be taken literally in all cases. Apologies to anyone who might feel that the paraphrase in the programme does not correspond exactly to his intentions, but there should not be any great discrepancies.

Due to the larger than expected response and the desire to include all the reports possible, it has been regrettably necessary to go to parallel sessions. Every effort has been made, however, to avoid conflicts in areas of interest, and free circulation of listeners will certainly be possible.

For those staying in University Hall, cafeteria lunches and dinners are available at \$1.00 and \$1.50 respectively if you have no other plans. University Hall staff should be notified on the morning of the day in question.

Maps have been forwarded along with the programmes. Since no convenient public transportation is available between the airport and the University, the use of taxis is recommended. Adelaide fares are reasonable, especially if participants make arrangements to share where possible.

## **The Flinders Conference on Social Psychology May 20-21, 1972**

23 presenters from 10 Universities

Donald Anderson ANU  
 Warren Bartlett U Melbourne  
 Meg Basser UNSW  
 David Beswick ANU  
 Steven Bochner UNSW  
 Rachel Boyd UNSW  
 Norman Feather Flinders U  
 Godfrey Gardner U Melbourne  
 Lindsay Gething U Sydney. Cumberland College of Health Sciences  
 Keith Gibbins UNE  
 David Hill U Melbourne. Anti-Cancer Council Victoria  
 Leon Mann Flinders U  
 Donald Martin UNE  
 Margaret Middleton ANU  
 Gordon O'Brien Flinders U  
 Ed Peay Flinders U  
 Marilyn Peay U Adelaide  
 John J Ray UNSW  
 Robert Rowe U Newcastle  
 Peter Salmon U Melbourne  
 Gordon Stanley U Melbourne  
 Jeffrey Sutton Macquarie U  
 Ronald Taft Monash U

## **History of Social Psychology in Australia. Some source materials**

Norman T Feather, N.T. Social psychology in Australia: Past and present. International Journal of Psychology, 2005. 40, 263-276.  
 Brian Crabbe A HISTORY OF THE TEACHING OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY IN THE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY OVER THE FIFTY-YEAR PERIOD 1959 TO 2008 University of Sydney. Self-published. 2022  
 Mike Innes. A Preliminary History of the Meetings of Australian Social Psychologists: 1972-2005 Unpublished MS 2010