



ISTP 2015 CONFERENCE ISSUE

RESISTANCE AND RENEWAL

16th Biennial Conference

26th-30th June 2015

Coventry

United Kingdom

**International
Society for
Theoretical
Psychology**

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS



A few months ago I watched a performance of Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and her Children* in the small theatre town of Stratford, Ontario. In this play Brecht sought to confront the realities of war and the opportunities for making profit in conflict situations with the realities of individual psychological suffering. Rather than learning from the war, and even after losing all her children, Mother Courage – developed as a complex female character full of contradictions – still seeks to make profit from the war. Brecht intended for the audience to transcend the psychological category of *empathy* with the mother in

order to grasp the socio-political and economic contexts of *war*, as a first step to resist war. One could summarize that it is not an *empathy deficit* that plagues us (in the psychological West) but an *empathy surplus*, meaning that we focus too much on psychological acts such as empathy, and too little on structural problems and systemic injustices. However, in this particular retelling of Brecht's story, the play's director, with surely her middle class audience in mind, downplayed the political-economic dimensions of war and favoured a psychological interpretation that shows the suffering of mothers in war. Yet, in this process of the psychologization of war, in focusing on suffering and empathy, without giving sufficient consideration to the structural sources of war, we undermine the possibility to resist war. This is not only a problem for critical or theoretical psychology but for psychology in general. In order to understand individual subjectivity as well as individual action, theoretical psychology needs social, political, and economic theory. Brecht's project challenges the separation between

individual and society and alludes to a societal nature of human beings. The problem is to conceptualize this relationship in a way that makes clear that society does not determine the individual but that the individual is societally embedded and thus individual agency makes sense only in a societal context. Theoretical psychologists may differ by choosing particular theories of society, and indeed different streams of theoretical arguments are possible by making such choices. We also know that the conceptualization of the society-individual relationship has significant ethical-political consequences. For example, when mental health problems are caused by inequality this means that an individual's health is connected with the larger society. But if mental health issues are embedded in inequality, in something that is social and structural, would it not be unscientific and immoral to suggest that we can solve this issue on an individual psychological level? Based on such problem constellations, I suggest that theoretical psychology needs not focus on deconstruction and reconstruction but also on constructive innovation for grasping such problems. Surely we need to stand on tradition in order to accomplish this goal, but

**“Moving forward in theory
development goes hand in hand
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theoretical psychologists also need to move forward through theory, concept, method, and practice innovation without falling into the trap of “fast psychology” that is so common in the discipline. Moving forward in theory development goes hand in hand with the reality of changing subjectivities in precarious times and locations. In addition, we need to disseminate our theoretical-psychological ideas, although I must admit that I do not have all the answers to the question of how we can improve that process. Finally, we should not forget about reflexivity. Again, Brecht's play *The good person from Szechwan* comes to mind, engaging us with the difficulties and contradictions that we live as academic psychologists when we benefit from the status quo and enjoy enormous privileges while simultaneously being theoretical or critical. Indeed, our opportunity to be theoretical is itself a huge privilege.

Dr. Thomas Teo, ISTP President
York University, Canada



Preparing for ISTP 2015

DR. GAVIN SULLIVAN, CONFERENCE CHAIR

Dear all,

As the conference chair, it's great to be able to announce that submissions are now open for the ISTP conference in Coventry in 2015. The four day conference starts with a welcome event on June 25th and proceeds over four days from Friday June 26th to Tuesday June 30th. Amidst the hard work there is a day off on Sunday June 28th for people to explore Coventry and its surroundings, travel independently to other locations that are relatively close by (e.g., Birmingham, Wales, London), or join us on one of the organized social events. As always, the conference aims are broad and inclusive of conceptual, critical, philosophical, theoretical and theory-driven research on matters pertinent to psychology and its overlapping disciplines. We aim to:

- Stimulate theoretical arguments, innovations and creative theoretical research internationally
- Foster integration across areas and traditions of research
- Promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to psychological questions
- Reflect upon conceptual confusions, new theories and metamethodological issues in sub-areas of cognitive, social, feminist, postcolonial, developmental, clinical, organizational, perceptual, biological and evolutionary psychology
- Challenge assumptions and critically explore psychology's role in local, national and transnational practices
- Reinvigorate any areas of theoretical psychology that challenge and deconstruct the current Zeitgeist
- Renew theoretical psychology by identifying new perspectives and exciting developments
- Encourage early career and established researchers to form new networks of theoretical, philosophical, conceptual, historical and critical psychological activity

Consistent with the "Renewal" part of the conference "Resistance and Renewal" theme, we are very keen to encourage students and early career academics in psychology and related disciplines to submit an abstract, take part, and join the society (see Membership Form on pg. 16). Information about further keynote speakers as well as sessions, respectively, on the history and future of the ISTP, theoretical psychology and psychology will be announced soon.

Please follow [@istp2015](#) for regular updates of conference information and you are also welcome to email me at gavin.sullivan@coventry.ac.uk or istp2015@coventry.ac.uk (when this is available) if you have any questions. In addition, please check the conference website <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/ISTP2015> regularly for further details.

Coventry is a small but vibrant city with a rich history--symbolized by its old and new Cathedrals--which is showing its own signs of economic and social renewal and regeneration. A further aim that we hope to realize with the conference is to interweave some of these recent developments.

More to follow!

Best wishes,

Dr. Gavin B. Sullivan, ISTP Conference Chair
Coventry University, England

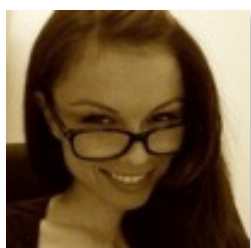
On Practicing Psychology & the ISTP

INTERVIEW WITH DR. JOHN CROMBY, ISTP MEMBER AT LARGE

Dr. John Cromby is a Reader in Psychology in the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences at Loughborough University in England and a member at large of the ISTP. In the past, Dr. Cromby has worked as a researcher in mental health, learning disability and drug addiction settings, and at the Universities of Nottingham and Bradford. Most recently, his book, *Psychology, Mental Health, and Distress*, co-written with Dr. David Harper and Dr. Paula Reavey, has won the British Psychological Society's Book Award for 2014 in the 'textbook' category.

Dr. Cromby speaks to us about his research, his impressions of psychology in the UK, and how he anticipates ISTP 2015.

Congratulations on your most recent award! It is a real pleasure to have you share your stories and ideas with us. Let me begin by asking you to state a few words about your research background and current interests, and please explain what connects you with ISTP.



methodological issues, for example in relation to the use of qualitative methods to investigate affect, emotion and feeling. And because the relationships between bodies and social influences are complex and experience not transparent to itself, it has also meant sustained engagement with theory – Langer, Merleau-Ponty, Sheets-Johnstone, Shotton and others – and therefore an affiliation with the ISTP.

Psychology – at least in its currently dominant incarnation – largely eschews the kind of conceptual work needed to take seriously the ways in which experience is already both socially and bodily co-constituted. Indeed, it's possible to argue that the disciplinary exclusion of these influences is in large part what makes this kind of psychology possible. The ISTP, by contrast, provides an exciting space where this kind of thinking is not merely tolerated – it is shared, encouraged, tested, probed, facilitated, developed and celebrated.



Much of my current research is focused on experience, which I understand as always produced by the contingent meshing of bodies and social influences. This has meant engaging with

substantive topics such as emotion, depression, paranoia, and emotional responses to crime. It has led to some engagement with

Thank you, Dr. Cromby. I agree with you wholeheartedly about the unique intellectual space facilitated by the ISTP. Could you in turn describe the academic context within which you conduct your research and teaching?

I teach on a psychology degree in an interdisciplinary department that also teaches programmes in biology, sport science and the social science and management of sport. Sadly (or not!) I have zero interest in sport – I don't even follow it recreationally – and this limits my immediate personal opportunities for collaboration. But there are some excellent social scientists and social psychologists elsewhere at Loughborough, some of whom are longstanding ISTP affiliates, so other opportunities do exist.

Our students tend to be fairly successful at finding work or further study once they graduate, though we can't claim all of the credit for that because they are on average a fairly privileged bunch anyway. The majority don't pursue careers as psychologists but a sizeable minority do, most often in clinical work. I see teaching them as a process of provoking them into thinking far more critically, showing them how to ask better questions, revealing the complexities within simple everyday events, and equipping them with tools with which to both evaluate and systematically gather evidence.

How do you think the academic context within which you practice psychology compares with other academic contexts in the UK?

These are challenging times for the University sector in England (as indeed they are in many other countries). It sometimes seems that managers have studied Naomi Klein's book 'The Shock Doctrine' in order to use it as their practice handbook. Of course, the UK is by global standards a very wealthy country. It's also important to acknowledge that, compared to workers in some other professions, academics remain relatively privileged. Nevertheless, many university jobs have been lost, salaries have been cut in real terms by over 13% in the last four years, increasing numbers of staff are employed on less favourable terms and precarious short term contracts, staff-student ratios are becoming ever less favourable, and even our pensions are now under attack. Because Loughborough sits toward the top of most of the UK university 'league tables' the pressures here are sometimes less than those faced by colleagues at less fortunate institutions. They are however very real, and can pose serious threats to the kind of theoretical and critical work showcased by the ISTP.

When research is assessed by managers there is a frequent bias toward quantitative, empirical work with an immediate application to some narrowly-defined real world concern. Sophisticated theoretical

work does not always fare well when set against the immediacy of these instrumental criteria and their inbuilt quantitative biases. Psychology, of course, has long prided itself on being empirical rather than philosophical – as though these were opposed choices rather than mutually-regulating imperatives – and current economic and ideological circumstances are amplifying historical tendencies to think in this kind of restrictive manner. Paradoxically, then, theoretical psychology is being more intensely challenged at the very time when circumstances suggest that its insights are needed most. There is a vitally important role here for the ISTP in bolstering the international standing of theoretical work by affirming its impact, relevance, quality and value.

How then do you imagine the upcoming conference in Coventry and/or what hopes have you for the conference, especially as a psychologist working in the UK?

Often at psychology conferences I struggle to find interesting presentations to attend. By contrast, at the ISTP I regularly find it impossible to choose between two or more equally-inviting streams of presentations. The conference theme of ‘resistance and renewal’ is perfect for these challenging times and should invite some excellent and thought-provoking contributions. Theoretical psychology has a relatively strong base in the UK and I am already aware of a number of eminent colleagues from other universities here who are

planning to attend, and I have also been discussing plans for presentations with colleagues from elsewhere in the world. In my experience ISTP conferences are typically in the ‘Goldilocks Zone’ – neither too big, nor too small – so I am looking forward to mingling with some dear friends, and to making my small contribution to the international community of theoretical psychology.

Thank you, Dr. Cromby. It will be a pleasure to reconnect with you at the ISTP conference in June!

RESISTANCE AND RENEWAL

16th Biennial Conference

26th-30th June 2015

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International Society for Theoretical Psychology

In 2015, the ISTP is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the first conference held in Plymouth (UK) in 1985. The theme of Resistance and Renewal is used to frame the history of the ISTP and theoretical psychology, consider contemporary psychological debates and anticipate future theoretical, meta-theoretical and philosophical issues in psychology.

Submissions for the following are invited:

Symposia
Individual Presentations
Pecha Kucha Presentations
5 minute challenge session
Posters

 **@istp2015**

For details about submission formats and requirements, registration and bursaries available go to:

www.coventry.ac.uk/ISTP2015

Submission deadline: January 16, 2015

Keynote speakers: Professor Erica Burman (The University of Manchester) and Professor Ian Burkitt (University of Bradford). Further keynote speakers to be announced.

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<http://www.coventry.ac.uk/ISTP2015>

YOU can host the next ISTP conference!

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

The International Society for Theoretical Psychology (ISTP) is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for hosting its conference in 2017.

ISTP is an international forum for theoretical, meta-theoretical and philosophical discussions in psychology, with a focus on contemporary psychological debates. Conferences are held biennially, and since its first, founding conference in Plymouth (England), ISTP conferences have been in Banff (Canada), Arnhem (The Netherlands), Worcester (USA), Paris (France), Ottawa (Canada), Berlin (Germany), Calgary (Canada), Sydney (Australia), Istanbul (Turkey), Cape Town (South Africa), Toronto (Canada), Nanjing (China), Thessaloniki (Greece), and Santiago (Chile).

Objectives to consider when hosting the 2017 ISTP conference:

- While currently the majority of ISTP's members are located in Europe and North America, one of the Society's goals is to widen its global representation and membership. Preference will be given to conference locations **outside of Europe** (as the 2015 conference will be held in Europe).
- One concern regarding the viability of conference attendance has been cost management. Whereas airplane tickets vary from location to location, high conference fees may have functioned as a deterrent for delegates from countries with lower incomes. One objective would be to **keep delegate fees to reasonable and encouraging amounts**.
- ISTP aims at attracting and fostering international attendance from delegates who have not been able to regularly attend ISTP conferences. Another objective would be a commitment to strengthen theoretical psychology internationally by **advocating and inviting delegates from low-income countries and (local) participants** who have an indigenous perspective on theoretical psychology.
- The conference organizers should be able to **host 200 to 300 delegates for 4-5 days**.

Theory & Psychology: Update



Theory & Psychology is on the cusp of its 25th year, a milestone event for us as we celebrate the rich history of contributions to, what began, as a small quarterly journal in 1990. This year we published a special issue on "Language and the Self" edited by Marie-Cécile Bertau (Germany) which continues our long tradition of publishing occasional papers (and issues) on the dialogical self, broadly conceived. Our most cited paper remains Hubert Hermans's paper "The dialogical self as a society of mind" published in April 2002. A recent article by Dan Robinson on tracing the history of psychology to ancient sources, "Historiography in psychology," has generated a flurry of responses in the past year, all of which are now available in the journal.

We anticipate publishing two special issues in 2015, one edited by Darrin Hodgetts (New Zealand) and Christine Griffin (UK) on the general question of Class and Psychology. We anticipate another special issue due soon, edited by Augustine Brannigan, Ian Nicholson and Fran Cherry (all from Canada) on the fiftieth anniversary of the Milgram obedience studies. Unlike many anniversary pieces that have celebrated this series of experiments as among psychology's "most famous", we expect this special issue to take a critical look at the social, ethical and epistemological questions raised by these studies as well as their ideological place in the pantheon of experimental social psychology.

This year has been an exceptionally busy year for us as the number of submissions suddenly grew by about 25% beyond our normal intake of about 110 papers a year. We are not yet sure what to attribute this to but we are able to manage the numbers. As always we encourage members of the society to think of us as a natural home for their work and look forward to discussing any aspect of the journal at next year's meeting in Coventry.

Dr. Henderikus Stam, Editor
University of Calgary, Canada

Feminism & Psychology

Call for Papers



Editor-in-Chief:

Catriona Macleod, Rhodes University, South Africa

Editors:

Rose Capdevila, The Open University, UK

Jeanne Marecek, Swarthmore College, USA

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Feminism & Psychology has established itself as the leading international forum for cutting-edge feminist research and debate in - and beyond - psychology. The journal fosters the development of feminist theory and practice in psychology by publishing:

- A range of high-quality theoretical and empirical papers
- Dialogue, debate and commentary at the interface of feminisms and psychologies
- Articles integrating research, practice and broader social concerns
- Papers spanning the academic-practitioner 'divide' and representing a range of feminist voices including those under-represented in psychology journals
- Reviews, interviews and special features on topical issues
- Ground-breaking Special Issues

Distinguished Leadership Award 2013

The Committee on Women in Psychology of the American Psychological Association Recognizes *Feminism & Psychology* for its Distinguished Leadership on Behalf of Women in Psychology:

"On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Committee on Women in Psychology, we acknowledge the leadership of the editorial team of *Feminism & Psychology*, an international, feminist, peer-reviewed journal, for encouraging, supporting, and showcasing cutting-edge and transformative feminist theory and research. *Feminism & Psychology* has provided a forum for critical, radical, and provocative feminist scholarship that serves as an impetus for social change and for theoretical and methodological innovations in feminist psychology. *Feminism & Psychology* has contributed to the transformation of psychology, has helped to clarify the dynamics of oppression and discrimination, and has stimulated new directions in the theories, methods, and practices of feminist psychology. We salute the Editorial Boards of *Feminism & Psychology*, who, since the journal's inception, have truly been leaders for women in psychology."

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The Institute of Argumentation, Linguistics and Semiotics of the Università della Svizzera italiana invites applications for a

PhD position (100%, 3 years)

Within the project: "Analysing children's implicit argumentation", funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and developed in collaboration with the Institute of Psychology and Education of the University of Neuchâtel, which is opening a parallel PhD position.

The research project

The selected candidate will participate in a markedly interdisciplinary research project (argumentation - psychology and education) devoted to the study of implicit in adult-children argumentative discussions. The project is jointly led by Professors Anne-Nelly Perret-Clermont and Antonio Iannaccone of the University of Neuchâtel and Professors Sara Greco and Andrea Rocci of the Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano. The PhD candidate will develop his or her dissertation while participating in the theoretical and methodological framework of the FNS research project, to which he or she will also contribute. The project "Analysing children's implicit argumentation" constitutes an advance in an interdisciplinary research stream initiated with the project Argumentum (www.argumentum.ch) as well as the doctoral program Argupolis. Such research is one of the core research streams at the IALS institute (www.ials.com.usi.ch).

Place of work

Lugano. Availability to travel to Neuchâtel for the purposes of this research project is required.

Requirements

A master (or equivalent title) in communication sciences, argumentation, language sciences, social sciences, education, psychology, speech therapy or related disciplines. Fluency in English and French is required. Italian will be considered an added value; in any case, the selected candidate will be required to learn Italian during the project.

Proven interest for the analysis of discourse, and possibly argumentation. Attitude for a fine-grained analysis of implicit in discourse. Inclination towards interdisciplinary work, in particular the study of argumentation in adult-children discussions and interest for the psychological and educational background of this research project, including the development of thinking and argumentation skills in children.

Motivation to engage in the elaboration of a PhD dissertation. Ability to work in team.

Job description

The PhD candidate will participate in all phases of the research project. He or she will have the task of setting up a personal collection of data for his or her dissertation, while at the same time participating in the collection of data by his or her colleagues, with the aim of pursuing the common goals of the project. The PhD candidate will write a

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dissertation related to the research topic of the project. He or she will collaborate in the organization of scientific activities related to the project, which will take place at the two partner universities. It is expected that he or she will regularly collaborate with the project members as well as with other researchers at the IALS. The PhD candidate is also asked to present papers at scientific conferences, and possibly produce publications for scientific journals.

Salary

The project is financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the PhD student will be receiving a salary according to the SNF policies: http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_doktorierende_f.pdf

Starting date

1st January 2015.

Application

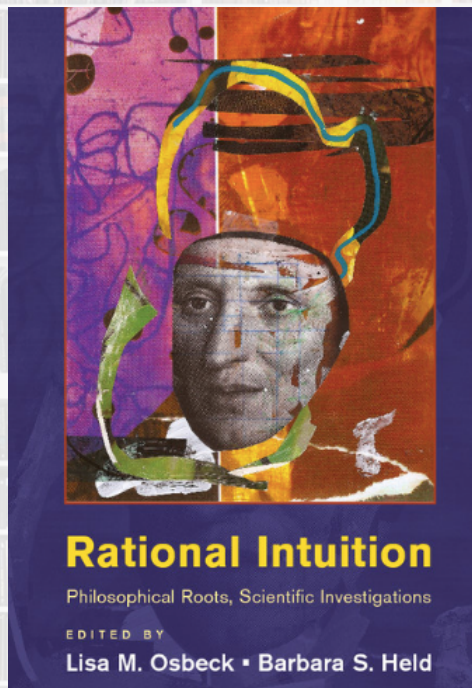
Applications must include: a motivation letter, a complete CV, copies of university titles, an electronic version of a research work (Master thesis or other scientific publication). The latter must be accompanied by a short summary in English (1 page maximum). A support letter written by the Master thesis supervisor (or another Professor who knows the candidate well) is equally welcome.

Applications must be sent to Sara Greco in electronic format (sara.greco@usi.ch). For further information about this position, please write to sara.greco@usi.ch or Andrea Rocci (andrea.rocchi@usi.ch).

Deadline for applications

The deadline for applications is **November 15th, 2014** but applications will be received until the position is filled.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!



Rational Intuition

Philosophical Roots, Scientific Investigations

Lisa M. Osbeck, University of West Georgia

Barbara S. Held, Bowdoin College, Maine

What is intuition? What constitutes an intuitive process? Why are intuition concepts important? After many years of scholarly neglect, interest in intuition is now exploding in psychology and cognitive science. Moreover, intuition is also enjoying a renaissance in philosophy. Yet no single definition of intuition appears in contemporary scholarship; there is no consensus on the meaning of this concept in any discipline. *Rational Intuition* focuses on conceptions of intuition in relation to rational processes. Covering a broad range of historical and contemporary contexts, prominent philosophers, psychologists, and cognitive scientists explore how intuition is implicated in rational activity in its diverse forms. In bringing the philosophical history of intuition into novel dialogue with contemporary philosophical and empirical research, Lisa M. Osbeck and Barbara S. Held invite a comparison of the conceptions and functions of intuition, thereby clarifying and advancing conceptual analysis across disciplines.

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ISTP Membership Information

We are currently inviting membership applications / renewals for 2015. Membership dues can now be paid by means of credit card, cheque or bank transfer! (**SEE MEMBERSHIP FORM on page 16**)

The full **membership fee is \$125** for a year (including a subscription to the journal Theory & Psychology) whilst the **reduced fee is \$40** (excluding the journal).

Membership application / renewal forms may be downloaded on the ISTP website (<http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/istp/index.html>) or by emailing Desmond Painter (secretary) or Jim Cresswell (treasurer) at istptreasurer@gmail.com.

Money generated from memberships make it possible for us to offer students bursaries for ISTP conference attendance, award the Sigmund Koch Prize for best student member presentation, and facilitate the publication of conference proceedings—now also available in e-format.

ISTP Membership Form

International Society for Theoretical Psychology

2015 Membership Dues Invoice

Date:

Complete and return by **regular mail, email** or **fax** to:

James Cresswell/Treasurer ISTP
Department of Psychology
Booth University College
447 Webb Place
Winnipeg Manitoba Canada R3B 2P2
E-mail: istptreasurer@gmail.com

Name:	
Mailing Address: (For receipt of <i>Theory & Psychology</i>)	

Please check the appropriate boxes below.

Member Type	2014		2015		14+15	
	USD or CAD		USD or CAD		USD or CAD	
Regular (Receive <i>Theory & Psychology</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> 125	<input type="checkbox"/> 140	<input type="checkbox"/> 125	<input type="checkbox"/> 140	<input type="checkbox"/> 250	<input type="checkbox"/> 280
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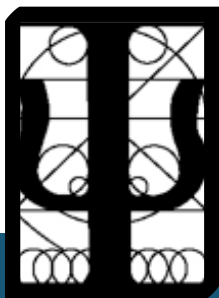
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Direct link to this PDF form: http://psych.ucalgary.ca/istp/membershipinvoice/ISTP_Invoice14-15.pdf



ISTP EXECUTIVE

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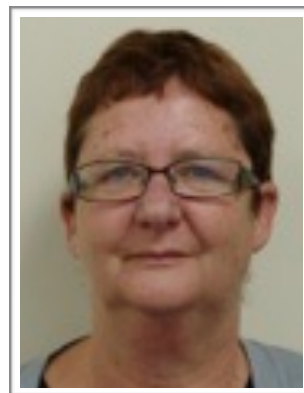
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Note from the Editor

Thank you to all the contributors to this issue!

I view the ISTP Newsletter as (a) an important forum for exchanging current and relevant information about theoretical psychological practice, and (b) an opportunity for engaging dialogue with internationally situated scholars.

I thus encourage readers to submit notices of conferences, seminars, or workshops; information about major book publications; and/or updates about recent events relevant to theory and psychology. More than this however, to generate dialogue between theoretical psychologists, I encourage more informal contributions, wherein scholars relate their reflections and/or experiences on the practice of theoretical psychology.

May the newsletter continue to offer a space for psychologists to dialogue about their practices and reveal what it means to be engrossed in the politics of theoretical psychology in various places!

As always, please contact me at bellis@ucalgary.ca if you would like to contribute to the ISTP Newsletter or have any questions about this and/or future issues.

Warmest regards,

Basia Ellis, Editor
University of Calgary, Canada