



Transitions and Reflections: Tokyo 2017

AN INTERVIEW WITH NEW ISTP PRESIDENT PAUL STENNER

With recent changes in the ISTP Executive constituency, Basia Ellis, former Newsletter Editor, joined Evan Shillabeer, newly appointed Newsletter Editor in a conversation with Paul Stenner, ISTP President about his visions for the Society and theoretical psychology more generally.

BASIA: Congratulations on your new appointment as ISTP President! As we look forward to your leadership, could you share with us how you are thinking about your Presidency and what you hope to achieve as President of the Society?

PAUL: Yes, but first let me thank you for your role as Newsletter editor over the last few years. The Newsletter has been an important vehicle for communication amongst ISTP members. As anybody who looks at them on the ISTP website can see, you've done an excellent job in producing Newsletters that are timely, fresh, informative and thought-provoking. As for my leadership of the ISTP, I want first of all



to keep the brilliant spirit of ISTP alive and thriving. It really is a remarkable gathering of talented people most of whom are committed to using theory to make psychology a more critically engaged, socially relevant and transdisciplinary field of study and practice. Psychological knowledge and practice is becoming more and

more socially prominent on a global scale, and there is an ever-present danger of lapses into uncritical and atheoretical forms of psychologism that, in my view, can be culturally and personally damaging. In my experience, ISTP is one of the important international fora in which this problem is seriously addressed. Keeping that thriving takes effort from many hands. But I also hope to extend ISTP membership, and to communicate our message in new ways to new groups of people. Those two jobs go hand in hand, and to that end we've set up a new Communications Team headed by Constance de Saint-Laurent with Evan Shillabeer working on the Newsletter.

[continued on page 3]

IN THIS ISSUE:

• Interview with the President	1
• Tokyo 2017	5
• From the Conference Chair	
• Photo Album	
• Sigmund Koch Award	
• My experience of 'doing' theoretical psychology- a forty year retrospective	13
• Forthcoming Conferences	15
• Opportunity for Graduate Students	17
• ISTP Membership Information	18
• *New* ISTP Executive	19
• Note from the Editor	24

We want to encourage those who are on its fringes to join ISTP, and we want to appeal to those who may not yet know enough about us, but who are interested in theory and psychology. I also want to keep our internal processes simple and transparent, and to continue the egalitarian and critical ethos that has been a part of ISTP from the start. I am delighted to be President because I've got so much out of the ISTP over the years and want to put something back in.

BASIA: Thanks so much for all these kind words, Paul! Like you I greatly appreciate the ISTP and understand wholeheartedly the feeling of wanting to give back to the Society given how central it has been to my development as well. To follow this point, could you perhaps share a bit more about your history with the ISTP and how you think your scholarly work evolved in as you engaged with the Society?



PAUL: Yes. My personal way into ISTP was through the journal *Theory and Psychology*. Whilst *T&P* does not belong to ISTP it has always been tightly connected, and many of us like to publish there. In the early 90s, towards the end of my PhD I was involved with the Beryl Curt Collective and as part of Beryl I gave a talk at the Autonomous University of Barcelona with Chris Eccleston. At the time, Tomas Ibanez led the wonderful critical social psychology group in Barcelona, and he suggested that Chris and I send the paper to Hank Stam at Theory and Psychology, and that we get involved with ISTP. So we did, and in 1994 this turned out to be one of my very first publications (how good that felt!). It took me a few years to get to the biennial conference, since at the time I was very involved with the British Psychology Society History and Philosophy of Psychology Section (HPP is also an excellent group). But I made it to Istanbul 2003 and there was no looking back. For me, what was important was finding a group of very individual individuals (yes,

rich individuality and collective solidarity are not mutually exclusive!) who, in their different ways, allowed me to understand that my own intellectual forays beyond the mainstream of psychology were not completely wild, had been thought in the past, and were being thought afresh now by different groups throughout the world. This gives the courage to seriously develop one's own ideas. All of this applies also to Beryl Curt and HPP, and I still remain, when possible, committed to both. In fact I could tell this as a story of expanding circles: Beryl Curt is a small and intimate group, based in Reading; HPP is UK wide; ISTP is global.

EVAN: Thank you for your thoughtful reflections on your involvement with ISTP. Given your unique history with the society, how do you feel that theoretical psychology, in all its varieties and depth, was practiced at the recent Tokyo conference?

PAUL: I found it a very stimulating conference, with a lot of variety, and I particularly enjoyed the contributions of our Japanese colleagues. Of course there are only so many papers one person can attend, but in my personal sample there was quite a range of theoretical interests. I saw talks coming from a critical psychology perspective, urging the avoidance of individualism; from a phenomenological perspective, engaging with lived experience; from a semiotic perspective, proposing the skin as a socio-somatic-sign complex; from a cybernetic perspective, exploring robot neuroscience; from the perspectives of queer theory, feminism and psychoanalysis; from a perspective of theorising developmental transitions. Judging from the programme, this was just the tip of the iceberg. Perhaps it would be have been nice to have seen a few more of our more conventional psychology colleagues.

EVAN: Given your recognition of the varieties of theoretical psychology, what does theoretical psychology mean to you?

PAUL: That's a big question. For me, psychology is an incredibly complex and



multifaceted field, and that's an understatement. From a certain perspective, it makes the natural sciences look like a piece of cake, and it makes the social sciences look like a stroll in the park. That's because psychology must necessarily straddle the natural *and* the social sciences, and yet it is both and neither. If you're a geologist, you study rocks, amongst other things of course. These get pretty complicated, but at least they are out there, clearly observable from a third-person perspective. With psychology, it's hard enough even to arrive at a reasonable understanding of what 'the psychological' is. Most of the early psychologists were philosophers, and that's not just because the young science had not yet cut its apron strings. Those who did try to cut the apron strings too often rushed in where angels fear to tread. Typically, they rushed in armed with methods - methods modelled mostly on the natural sciences - and tried to tame and constrain theory to a system of tested and testable propositions (it seems the dream was to get rid of theory altogether!). I'm sure the intention was mostly benign, but the result was, in my view, disastrous, and it played into the hands of those for whom psychology is no more than an instrument for the instrumentalization of human beings. The discipline is still in shock and recovering from the error of this assault, but it is beginning to learn to speculate again, and to theorise in a creative yet rigorous manner, in dialogue with data, cognisant of cultural and political context. That was a round-about answer that took a historical route. Ultimately, to me psychological theory should promote the art of living.

BASIA: Thank you, Paul, for sharing your insightful reflections on the discipline as well as your unique experience with the Society. Needless to say, we greatly appreciate your commitment to developing our Society and look forward to your leadership. May we meet again to promote the art of living!

EVAN: Thank you both for contributing to this interview!

Reflection from the conference chair

Dr. Tetsuya Kono

Ph.D., Philosophy
Professor at Rikkyo University, Tokyo, Japan

The ISTP 2017 conference was held for the first time in Japan since the inaugural 1985 conference, and the conference returned to Asia for the first time in eight years since China.

We have chosen “The Ethos of Theorizing” as the 2017 conference theme to reflect the ethical dimension of psychology as subject matter and discipline. Theorizing, including our epistemological and ontological concepts, is deeply embedded in ethical and normative considerations. Thus, theorizing in psychology is not just an activity, but a practice that engages theoretical psychologists deeply and calls us to take responsibility for doing “good” theory. In deconstructing and critiquing the status quo, we also construct theory and build bridges between geographical locations, the past and the present, and the diversity of theoretical commitments. This theme then invites reflections on our incursions into culture and the aims of our theoretical practice.

This conference had 219 total delegates, including 54 student attendees, out of 32 countries. With diversity, they made their presentations and they had the common attitude, that is, “Ethos of Theorizing.” Especially, the tendency was expressed remarkably in most of the theoretical psychological symposiums.



The conference, of course, was not confined to the theme and provided a variety of topics in 7 keynote speeches and 1 invited symposium.

On the first day, Professor Yoko Yamada gave a keynote speech titled “Time and the life cycle: Visual narratives and cultural representations” and developed her comparative cultural discussion on the visual narratives about the life cycle. Professor Piet Hut discussed the objectivity in science under the title of “When Will Science Become Fully Empirical?”

Two keynote speeches were held on the next day. The first one is “Grasping My Own Words—the World of people with schizophrenia opened up by Self Support Study—” and Professor Ikuyoshi Mukaiyachi and his collaborators explained Tojisha-Kenkyu and presented its cases. Then, Darren Langdridge made his presentation “Benevolent heterosexism and the ‘less-than-queer’ citizen subject” on an analysis of the implicit assumptions underpinning psychological research on sexual prejudice.

On the third day, Professor Michio Okada showed his researches on the human-dependent robots under the title of “Human-dependent Robots and Social Embeddedness” and Professor Dr. Marie-Cécile Bertau made her presentation,

ISTP 2017, JAPAN

“Theorizing as Decided and Situated Activity,” on “theorizing” which was the theme of the conference.

On the last day, one keynote speech and one invited symposium were held. The final keynote speech was “The status of Japanese women psychologists before WWII” which Professor Miki Takasuna gave and this was about the history of Japanese women psychologists. The invited symposium was made by Takashi Ikegami, who is the researcher of complex dynamics, under the title of “Passive Touch, Stimulus Avoidance, and the Android “Alter.”

I would like to express my thanks to 7 keynote speakers, one invited speaker and 3 collaborators.

In this conference, 40 symposia, 87 individual papers, 17 posters, 4 workshops were held. They were high quality and challenging sessions and many attendees from various fields discussed them. I expect that these discussions are developed and continued to the next ISTP conference in the Netherlands.

There was also a rest day and I and 35 others took part in a Nikko tour. Nikko is a Japanese historical spot and famous for one of the World Heritage Nikko Toshogu Shrine, Kegon Waterfall and so on. Thanks to good weather conditions and the excellent tourist guide, we enjoyed the tour, including nice dishes.

The conference took place in Asia, especially Japan. So, it seems that for many attendees, in particular European and American attendees, their long-distance travels were hard jobs, but I hope that these experiences refreshed them and the other attendees also enjoyed Japan on the rest day and other days.

In the conference, there were some frustrating things like last two days’ lunch

and some difficulties to find the location of some rooms. Nevertheless, I really believe that the most part of this conference went well. It is a great pleasure and honor to have held the conference in Japan for our Local Organizing Committee. I would like to express my thanks to the other Local Organizing Committee and Local Organizing Committee Secretaries.

I also appreciate Rikkyo University genuinely. We received the Rikkyo University Special Fund for Research and thanks to it we could hold the conference with the relatively low registration fee and we could use the room without a fee.

Now we begin to edit the conference proceedings and remind those of you who want to submit something. For more information, please check the web (<https://www2.rikkyo.ac.jp/web/istp2017/topic4.html>). I am looking forward to seeing you again in Denmark in 2019!

Photo Album: Japan 2017











Pictures from Paul Stenner, Luca Tateo, Tetsuya Kono, and Evan Shillabeer.

Sigmund Koch Award

Congratulations to Susannah Mulvale of York University for winning the Sigmund Koch Award for the best student paper! The paper was entitled “The perils of individualism in psychology: Philosophical and sociological critiques.” Read the abstract below:



Throughout the 20th century, psychology has been criticized by philosophers and sociologists for going beyond its disciplinary boundaries and permeating other academic and cultural realms – a process that has been referred to as psychologism or psychologization. This paper describes three different waves of these critiques – specifically from early 20th century phenomenologist Edmund Husserl, mid-century sociologist Charles Wright Mills, and late century Foucauldian thinkers Nikolas Rose and Ian Hacking. While the arguments from these philosophers and sociologists take different forms, they all indicate the way in which psychology precludes important theoretical and sociopolitical perspectives on subjectivity. Critiques of psychologism and psychologization reveal that although psychological research has wide-reaching and significant influence on how we conceive of and conduct ourselves, its knowledge is limited by individualistic and positivistic assumptions. I argue that the phenomenological, critical theoretical, and postmodern traditions in which these critiques are based can provide crucial perspectives that get beyond these limitations and enable the cultivation of a more ethically aware and responsible psychology. I draw out two important ethical contributions that can be garnered from these theoretical approaches: they highlight the way in which human experience is fundamentally intersubjective and embedded in a sociopolitical context; and they cultivate the capacity for critical thinking about subjectivity and its relation to larger social structures. In order to achieve its aim of improving mental well-being, psychologists should engage with these critical theoretical perspectives, as they can generate a more ethical psychology that seeks to understand and think beyond oppressive social structures.

My experience of ‘doing’ theoretical psychology – a forty year retrospective

Dr. Michael E. Hyland, Plymouth University, United Kingdom

How does a person ‘do’ theoretical psychology? One answer might be to read papers and books on the topic. Reading and listening to lectures involves finding out about theoretical psychology, but does not produce anything new. By ‘doing’ theoretical psychology, I mean creating something – whether it is a new synthesis of existing ideas, a critique of ideas, or a new theory.

I have considerable sympathy for anyone embarking on a PhD in theoretical psychology. My PhD– some 40 years ago was a theoretical integration of different theories of prejudice, but it did not start out as a theoretical PhD. It just happened because no one prevented me. With an empirical PhD, the student always has data to talk about. The data may be uninteresting and nothing found, but at least there are data. There is something to be written up. With a theoretical PhD, you cannot be sure that you will actually have anything tangible at the end of it. I admire those who go down this route willingly.

I believe that the only way to ‘do’ theoretical psychology is to think. That means having the time and space in a busy life to think. I had time to think as a postgraduate, but when I took up a university post time seemed in much shorter supply. The expectation of producing papers and acquiring grants provides little opportunity for someone to think, and perhaps produce no papers or grants for a period of time. Theoretical psychology is difficult because it can be achieved only by doing, what to others, appears to be ‘nothing’ but is in reality hard work.

I started my university career as a theoretical psychologist, teaching it to students, and publishing a short book, *Introduction to theoretical psychology* in

1981. I had a number of theoretical interests, but in particular mind body theory. I was fascinated by the developing field of psychoneuroimmunology (then called psychoimmunology) though at the time we had no facilities to investigate it empirically. Largely due to chance, I was invited to develop an asthma quality of life questionnaire, and although I had little initial interest in asthma (I tend to go through doors that are open because so many in life are closed) I soon became immersed in that field. I wasn’t the first respiratory psychologist in the world (that honour goes to the late Tom Creer), but I was the first in the UK. Being first at something leads to other people thinking you are an expert – even if you are not. I was in demand at conferences and expert panel meetings in Europe and the USA sometimes working frequent flyer. I didn’t have time to think and stopped doing theoretical psychology. The result of this hectic lifestyle was that I became ill with chronic fatigue syndrome – though I did not see the connection straight away. Becoming ill stopped what, for me, was an interesting, exciting and rewarding lifestyle. I hated becoming ill and not just because of the very serious symptoms.

While I was ill, over a period of many years, I had the time and space to think. I was able to observe myself. One of the things I noticed early on was that when I tried to relax, my body exhibited a sympathetic nervous system reaction. I noticed that the pupils of my eyes were very constricted. I realised that my parasympathetic and sympathetic nervous systems had ‘learned something wrong’ because they were behaving in the wrong way. By chance I came across connectionist psychology and complexity theory, and despite the mental fog this illness creates, I began to

develop a new theory. I applied my old skills of theoretical psychology to a new problem, a personal problem. The new theory developed over time, until I realised many years later that it was not just a new theory, but a new type of theory. I used the new theory to create a pattern of lifestyle that was therapeutic, and gradually, over a period of 8 years, I became better. I am a slow learner. As soon as I was better, I threw myself back into my old lifestyle and became ill again - this time taking only 2 years to get better.

I published the basic idea of my theory as a theoretical paper in 2002 in a health psychology journal, and followed this up with a few other publications. These theoretical publications had little impact. I tried submitting to high impact journals but received rejection after rejection. It was interesting, however, to see how much my ideas irritated referees – two actually saying that they felt irritated by what I had written. I was becoming aware of Thomas Kuhn's point that paradigm shifts are often resisted, particularly by those at the forefront of the existing paradigm. Nevertheless, I thought that part of the problem was that the theory integrated several areas of psychology and biology and this could not be done easily in a paper. So I wrote a book *The origins of health and disease*, which was published in 2011. With hindsight, I would have written the book differently, but I did get a few positive comments sent to me, particular from general practitioners (family physicians). Again, by chance, it was read by a hospital physician specialising in fibromyalgia at the main hospital in my university city. Fibromyalgia is similar to chronic fatigue syndrome, but with a preponderance of unexplained pain. The physician, Tony Davis, felt that the theory made sense and invited me to develop an intervention for patients with fibromyalgia, which we have now done is running successful in Plymouth (see www.bodyreprogramming.org).

When I was invited to speak at the ISTP conference in Coventry in 2015, I presented the theory as an example of Lewin's dictum 'there is nothing so practical as a

good theory.' This theory is written up more fully as a chapter in the conference proceedings. This book chapter is probably the fullest account to date.

Although the basic insight has remained the same, the theory has developed over time. For me, developing a theory involved an initial insight, that was then followed up by small but important realisations that led to small but important improvements. Theory development takes time. It involves commitment to think about the theory not just in the office (actually I think the office is a bad place to do theoretical psychology) but also when walking or doing everyday activities.

Thinking about theory requires skill, and it requires time to develop that skill. It is hard work. It is risky. With an experiment you have an outcome, even if that outcome is uninteresting. With theoretical development you cannot guarantee any outcome. Society is not sympathetic to failure, and yet failure can be the precursor to success. My very best wishes go to all those who have the courage to go down this route. As Imre Lakatos pointed out, theory-led research tends to be more successful over time than data-led research. Modern physics is characterised by theory-led research. The large hadron collider was developed to test theory. One day, perhaps, theoretical psychology will have the same status and support as theoretical physics. Meanwhile, my message to all theoretical psychologists is to keep faith and keep at it.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES/EVENTS

SECOND INTERNATIONAL WINTER SCHOOL ON THE METHOD OF IMAGINATION: “HIDDEN PRESENT AND VISIBLE ABSENT”

December 18-20, 2017, Vienna, Austria

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Centre for Cultural Psychology (www.ccp.aau.dk) at Aalborg University and the Faculty of Psychology of Sigmund Freud University in Vienna (<https://psychologie.sfu.ac.at/en/>) organise the second International Winter School on 'The Method of Imagination' together. The target of this event is to explore on the topic 'The Hidden present and visible absent': whereas part of the scientific work is about accessing phenomena and generating new knowledge. Some phenomena are hidden while present (e.g. the mental activity) and some of them become acknowledgeable by their absence (e.g. the latent variable). How imagination, aesthetics, apparatus and instruments, social life and atmosphere work together in the emergence of scientific ideas? Some particular combinations of those dimensions occur and produce unique milieu, as for instance the 19th century's Vienna, in which several scientific and philosophical endeavors lived together with literary and artistic explorations. From this peculiar experience, participants will rediscover the sensitivity to imaginative and aesthetic aspects of thinking of that intellectual life. They will then learn how to apply it in idea generation for their own research.

Participation is open (but not limited) to advanced students, PhD and Post-doc students and early stage researchers in the fields of psychology, philosophy, semiotics, art, medicine, anthropology and history of ideas. The winter school will take place in Vienna December 18-20 2017, Sigmund Freud Privat Universität, Campus Prater in Freudplatz 1.

The winter school goal is to mobilise interested early-stage researchers' to develop epistemological, methodological and theoretical new ideas, starting from the concepts of imaginative processes and looking back at original sources to boost the future horizons of social and human sciences. The “method of imagination” consists, indeed, in the systematic exploration and exploitation of the imaginative processes in both everyday life and scientific work of the researcher as a form of enrichment and innovation of the methodological approach. Nowadays, representations of events generated on numerical basis (i.e. FmRi, big data, etc.) apparently make visible the hidden, filling with colored images the absent. Yet these products of instrumental activity require the imaginative and aesthetic activity to be interpreted. What used to happen when instead the medical apparatus had to deal with the physical object (e.g. observing a real brain)?

During the three days of intense and compelling study, participants will explore one of the 19th century capitals of science. Activities will start in one of the most amazing places in the history of psychology and medicine: the Narrenturm, the first panoptical mental asylum which today hosts the worldwide biggest anatomic and instrument collection. The second day, participants will try to catch the atmosphere of the university medical district and its cafés in the streets of the town that has been at the same time the center and the border of European civilization. The third day, at Sigmund Freud Prater campus participants will further develop the concepts in relation with their own research projects.

TEACHING STAFF AND ACTIVITIES

The winter school series is organised by the Centre for Cultural Psychology, Aalborg University, that is becoming a leading location in the field of cultural psychology. Invited teachers are:

Gerhard Benekta, Sigmund Freud University, Austria
Giselher Guttman, Sigmund Freud University, Austria
Irina Mironenko, St. Petersburg University, Russia
Paul Rhodes, University of Sydney, Australia
Ernst Schraube, Roskilde University, Denmark
Jaan Valsiner, Aalborg University, Denmark

The teaching and learning activities will consist of preliminary selected readings that the participants will carefully read and appropriate beforehand. During the activities in Vienna there will be short lectures and nomadic experiences, collaborative discussions and writing workshops to finalize a publication.

REGISTRATION

Early stage researchers (advanced students, PhD, Post-doc, young researchers) in all disciplines are welcome, with particular focus on psychology, philosophy and history of ideas. Participation is open to 15-20 participants, who need to provide a short (approx. 300 words) description of their research interests/projects.

Registration fee (including coffee break and materials) is €150. All the information on registration and payment, scientific program and invited lectures will be available from October 1st 2017 until December 10th 2017 on the Centre for Cultural Psychology website (www.ccp.aau.dk).

To register and pay, please visit the following [LINK](https://goo.gl/forms/7CikvOiSEsnUh0S32) (or copy and paste in your browser <https://goo.gl/forms/7CikvOiSEsnUh0S32>)

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any inquiry about the winter school please contact
Centre for Cultural Psychology

Kroghstræde 3, Room 4.219

DK-9220 Aalborg Øst

Ph: (+45) 9940 3177

E-mail: luca@hum.aau.dk; mkat@hum.aau.dk

The organizing committee is composed by: Luca Tateo, coordinator, Aalborg University; Jaan Valsiner, director of the Centre for Cultural Psychology; Pina Marsico, Aalborg University and University of Salerno; Dominik Mihalits, Sigmund Freud University; and Morten Kattenhøj, Project Academic Officer, Aalborg University.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The History & Theory of Psychology graduate program at York University has a new name! It is now the Historical, Theoretical, and Critical Studies of Psychology program. We are accepting grad applications until Dec. 13th and welcome qualified students.

Please see attached and circulate widely, especially to promising undergraduates.

Historical, Theoretical, and Critical Studies of Psychology Graduate Program

York University, Toronto

*We are interested in culture, race/racism,
gender, feminism, sexuality, subjectivity,
social issues, methods, "big data," and big
questions in/about psychology!*

<http://psychology.gradstudies.yorku.ca/about/history/>



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**Applications now being accepted
Deadline December 13/17**

COME STUDY WITH US

Christopher Green

Michael Pettit

Alexandra Rutherford

Thomas Teo

ISTP Membership Information

A Message from Jim Cresswell, ISTP Treasurer

At the last ISTP meeting in Tokyo, we discussed how the society is expected to spend a little more than we make over the next two years. Some of the costs come from the electronic support/services we are adding to membership (e.g. ISTP members only web site). Others are from a slight dip in members wanting the hard copy of the journal, a low Canadian dollar, and increases in the cost of the journal. In order to compensate for the executive approved a very modest change to our membership fee structure. For nearly a decade, there has been a reduced membership of \$45 (CAD) and full membership of \$140 (CAD). To cover some costs and reduce the risk of cutting important expenditures like student awards, the following fee structure will come into effect in January 2018 (all Canadian Dollars):

- Student membership: \$45 – includes access to the web site and an e-version of Theory & Psychology; same as current reduced fee
- Reduced membership: \$60 – includes access to the web site and an e-version of Theory & Psychology; a little higher to cover more costs
- Full membership: \$155 – includes access to the web site and both a print & e-version of Theory & Psychology; a little higher to cover more costs

Theory & Psychology e-version is included for all members. We've managed to secure the go-ahead to do this from Sage at a very reasonable price and members who prefer the hard copy can still receive it. It should not impact current members since those who purchased 2-year membership at a reduced rate will be 'getting a deal'.

We are inviting membership applications.

Membership dues can be paid by means of credit card, cheque or bank transfer.

The full membership fee is \$155 for a year whilst the reduced fee is \$60 (\$45 for students)

To register, please visit our website
<https://istp.wildapricot.org/Membership-Application/>

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

We have a new website!

<https://istp.wildapricot.org>

Thanks to Susannah Mulvale's hard work, we now have a new website with a members only area, where you can:

- Access the newsletters' archive
- Start and participate in forum discussions with other members
- Renew your membership and pay online
- And soon browse the latest issues of Theory & Psychology!

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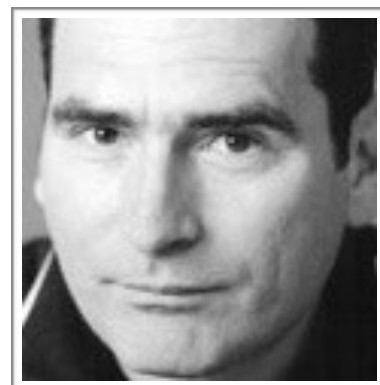
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ISTP EXECUTIVE

NEW MEMBERS



Tania Zittoun, new member at large

Tania Zittoun is professor at the Institute of psychology and education at the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland). She develops a sociocultural psychology of the lifecourse with a specific focus on the role of institutions and the dynamics of imagination. Her theoretical work is in dialogue with psychoanalysis and the critical social sciences. Her current empirical work addresses mobility as well as ageing. She is Associate Editor of Culture & Psychology, and her last books are Imagination in Human and Cultural development (with Alex Gillespie, Routledge, 2016) and the Handbook of culture and imagination (OUP, 2018, co-edited with Vlad P. Glaveanu).

Tetsuya Kono, new member at large

Dr. Kono received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Keio University. His research interests include phenomenology, philosophy of mind, ethics, as well as the philosophy of education. He has employed phenomenological perspectives to conduct collaborative projects on the education of children and adults with disabilities. At present, he is a Professor in the Department of Education at Rikkyo University. His latest publications include the following books (in Japanese): Phenomenology of the Environment (2016), Phenomenology of Body and Special Needs Education (2015), and Phenomenology of Boundaries. He is also interested in philosophical practices, especially in philosophy for/with children as well as the moral education of children.



Morten Nissen, new member at large

Morten Nissen, PhD, Dr. Psych., is professor at the Department of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark. He leads the research program "Rearticulating the Formation of Motivation", and teaches pedagogical psychology and education science. His research has mainly focused on the theoretical problems of collectivity, practice, standards and subjectivity, as these unfold within experimental practices of social work and pedagogy with young people. This represents a version of critical psychology that emphasizes trans-disciplinarity and epistemology of practice. In 2012, he published "The Subjectivity of Participation" at Palgrave.

Evan Shillabeer, new Newsletter Editor

Evan Shillabeer is a graduate student at the University of Alberta in Canada, supervised by Dr. Cor Baerveldt. His research interests concern the acquisition of culturally-patterned dispositions, especially with regard to gender, and the manner by which these dispositions change and develop. He is particularly interested in the development of 'masculine' dispositions.



Constance de Saint-Laurent, Communication officer

Constance de Saint-Laurent is a Research and Teaching Fellow at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, where she is finishing a PhD on the sociocultural psychology of collective memory. Her research focuses on social thinking, imagination and the life-course, and more generally on how we construct and understand the world we live in. She is a senior editor for Europe's Journal of Psychology, and just finished editing a book on « Imagining collective futures: Perspectives from social, cultural, and political psychology », with S. Obradovic and K. Carriere.

Note from the Editor

Evan Shillabeer

Graduate Student

University of Alberta, Canada

Thank you for all your contributions to this issue, and a special thanks to Basia Ellis for her continued support and advice as I've stepped into the role of editor for the ISTP newsletter. I am thankful for the opportunity to put this newsletter together, and hope to hear from many of you in the years to come.

The ISTP newsletter has been, and continues to be, a central forum for the exchange of information relevant to theoretical psychology and a space for reflection and dialogue among those within the research community, more broadly.

Going forward, I encourage everyone to continue to submit notices of conferences, seminars, or workshops; information about major book publications; and/or updates about recent events relevant to theory and psychology. I would also like to solicit extended contributions and reflections concerning the diverse work and experiences of theoretical psychologists globally. On this note, I would like to thank Michael Hyland for an excellent contribution on his experiences as a theoretical psychologist.

Please contact me directly at shillabe@ualberta.ca if you would like to contribute to the ISTP Newsletter or have any questions about this and/or future issues.

Best wishes,

Evan Shillabeer