

International Society for Theoretical Psychology Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2012

Inside this issue:

President's mes- 2
sage continued

Editor's Letter 2

Recent doctoral 3
student work

Recent ISTP 4
members
publications

Conferences and 5
calls for papers

Conferences and 6
calls for papers
continued ...

APA Society for 7
Theoretical and
Philosophical
Psychology
Conference
Registration
Form

President's Message: Mandy Morgan

Tena koutou (Hello everyone),

Plans for the 15th Biennial conference of the Society are now well developed. The meeting is to be held in Santiago, Chile, from May 3rd-7th 2013 and will be co-hosted by the School of Psychology at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and the Faculty of Psychology at Universidad Alberto Hurtado. The organising committee (Paul Stenner, Johana Motzkau, Antonia Larraín, Andrés Haye, Lorena Medina, Marcela Cornejo, Edmundo Kronmüller, Christian Sebastián, Diego Cosmelli, Nerea Aldunate, and Lucio Gutiérrez) have set up comprehensive website for all the conference details, at <http://www.syntagmas.net/istp2013>.

As I am writing, the deadline for abstracts is rapidly approaching, so I know the scientific (program) committee will have another round of busy reviewing ahead. Antonia Larraín, Andrés Haye, Ole Dreier, Vanessa Lux, Gavin Sullivan, Werner Böhmke have already reviewed and decided on proposals for discussion frames. They're organised into four debate themes that provide a framework for the conference:

- on the social-historical condition of Psychology
- on current cultural challenges to Psychology
- on advances in key conceptual issues
- on meta-theory

The organisers and the scientific committee are strongly committed to this conference being an outstanding opportunity for engaging in lively conversations and debates. Five keynote speakers have been invited:

- Emeritus Professor N. H. Frijda from the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Associate Professor Elena Grigorenko from Yale University and Moscow State University
- Professor Eugene Matusov from the University of Delaware
- Professor Pablo Fernández Christlieb from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- Emeritus Professor Ivana Marková of University of Stirling, Scotland.

There will be the opportunities for social events as well as a strong programme of theoretical psychology to enjoy over the five days of the conference. I hope to see you there.

The volume of proceedings from the 14th Biennial conference held in Thessaloniki will be available for delegates at the Santiago conference. There was a strong response to the call for submissions and the editorial group, Athanasios Marvakis, Desmond Painter, Gavin Sullivan, Martin Wieser, Rose Korir Cheptoo, Johanna Motzkau and Triliva Sofia decided on a larger than usual volume to accommodate as many as possible of the excellent papers received. The selections have been made, the contract has been signed with Captus (our usual publishers), and so thanks to the work of all on the editorial group, an exciting volume is on its way.

Making previous Conference Proceedings volumes accessible more widely has been an interest of the Executive group recently. We've embarked on an archive project led by John Cromby with the goal of making previous volumes available as e-books. I'm pleased to say that as a result of negotiations with Captus and with thanks to John and Thomas Teo for his assistance, we've now reached an agreement with the publishers to produce e-books from previous volumes. In future, the volumes will be distributed in print as usual and after two years they will become available electronically.

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International Society for Theoretical Psychology

President's Message continued

assistance we've now reached an agreement with the publishers to produce e-books from previous volumes. In future, the volumes will be distributed in print as usual and after two years they will become available electronically.

The newsletter has also been revitalised over the past year, and with many thanks to Gavin Sullivan we've produced this third edition which features a section on new student work to give us advance notice of exciting developments in Theoretical Psychology. Submissions for the newsletter are always welcome, and can be sent to either Gavin or me (our email addresses are provided on the Executive page of the ISTP website: <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/istp/executive.html>)

The complexities of coordinating conference organisation, contracts for proceedings publication, new initiatives like the archive project and a revitalised newsletter at a considerable distance from each other are a challenge. I would like to thank all the executive members for their contributions to the work involved, and especially Thomas Teo, our President-Elect who has been unfailing in his support.

Noho ora mai (Stay well, goodbye)

Editor's letter

I'm very pleased to provide you with a latest newsletter that follows its predecessor in a matter of six months (or so) rather than years. It is particularly pleasing also that many members of the society responded to the call to provide items for the newsletter. New additions include a section on student work and papers in press. I strongly encourage all members of the ISTP to email me when you have work that you want to publicise. Naturally, everyone is busy and can find explanations at both micro (everyday, personal) and macro levels (job stress, multiple demands, budget and austerity issues) as to why it takes time to send an email, but I urge you to use this forum to continue advocating for your own work as well as the work of colleagues and students.

Accordingly, I'll write a little about some of my current work for the ISTP along with details of some of my research and conference activities in related parts of psychology. Firstly, I've been involved in reviewing and now editing the proceedings from the 2012 conference in Thessaloniki. There have been some excellent submissions which were enjoyable to read and reminded me of just how diverse the rich offerings are at each ISTP conference. The experience of editing the proceedings has been worthwhile too in providing an additional perspective to the academic tasks of submitting and reviewing articles for journals: it has been particularly useful as I prepare chapters for a book I'm editing for Routledge Press on *Collective pride* (for publication mid-2013) and in relation to a book with German and Indonesian colleagues on disasters, culture and coping for Springer. Secondly, I've submitted two papers for the upcoming 2013 conference in Santiago. One continues my work on Wittgenstein's philosophy with the additional consideration of recent arguments for the inclusion (or exclusion as grammatical therapy with no real impact) of conceptual analysis in the methods of scientific psychology. The second paper explores collective positive emotions in the context of large scale celebrations, in relation to background issues of collective guilt or shame, and examines experiences of collective pride, joy and similar emotions in circumstances of conflict. Thirdly, I've submitted contributions to the *International Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology* on pride, shame and guilt, submitted a chapter on collective pride for the Oxford University Press *Handbook of Collective Emotion* (due out in mid 2013), published two papers on Vygotsky, types of speech and internalization with a colleague from South Africa, Maria Damianova, and published in the Qualitative Methods in Psychology Bulletin on qualitative research related to mega-sport events. Finally, I attended a small conference on *Embodied Cognition* in Copenhagen and was privileged to hear excellent contributions from Colwyn Trevarthen and Stephen Cowley. To conclude, the upshot is that while 2012 has been a busy year for me personally, 2013 looks like it will be even better! I hope the situation is similar for everyone connected with the ISTP.

Best wishes
Gavin

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Recent doctoral student work

Epistemological justice: Doing truth as non-violence

Simon Webb

This thesis explores some of the ways violence can constrain, inform, and otherwise impact upon psychological theory, the ways psychological theory can contribute to various forms of violence, and some of the implications of this reflexive cycle. Arguing for non-violence as a truth criterion of psychological knowledge claims, the thesis sets out to question the conditions of possibility for producing non-violent psychological theory. Drawing upon contemporary theory of language, subjectivity, and power, it discusses technologies of truth production in terms of violence. The work of literary theorist and feminist poststructuralist philosopher Judith Butler is discussed in this context. After developing a set of theoretical resources for addressing reflexive epistemological problems of violence, some practice implications of non-violent psychological theory are considered in relation to the specific domain of forensic psychology. Returning to discussion of the broader theoretical issues, the thesis identifies some promising areas of focus for non-violent theory development. A key claim arising from this discussion is that the tradition of validity as representational accuracy or referential truth is closely linked to the prioritisation of power in many Western scientific, economic and other cultural enterprises. In this context psychology can emulate other sciences and produce technologies for more efficient control of subjectivity; but it can also use these technologies reflexively to address the desires embodied in its own pursuit of theoretical power, actively challenging the truth status of violent knowledge claims. The initial commitment to non-violent truth is now articulated as an argument that a theoretical commitment to forms of encounter with others that do not objectify those others can be partially operationalised as a commitment to validate knowledge claims in terms of social justice. This inverts the traditional hierarchy of "hard" and "soft" sciences, in which the truth claims of psychology and other social sciences are positioned as having to conform to the truth claims of natural sciences like physics and chemistry: a social epistemological framework positions psychological theory as a key resource for assessing the truth status of knowledge claims in other sciences. The thesis raises questions around this opportunity, both with respect to some of the details of its possible theoretical forms, and its possible political implications in academic, therapeutic and other contexts.

2011 PhD in Psychology at Massey University: <http://mro.massey.ac.nz/handle/10179/2870>

Contextualising a Problematic Relationship between Narrative Therapy and Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Evaluation in Psychology

Robbie Busch

This thesis problematises a conflict between two discourses: narrative therapy and evidence-based psychotherapy evaluation in psychology. To answer the research question of how narrative therapy can be evaluated, I contextualise both discourses by historically situating them in and through a genealogical examination. Narrative therapy is a postmodern therapy that draws from a diverse history of knowledge involving a range of interpretivist theoretical influences that are resistances to positivist social science. In contrast, evidence-based practice in psychology, the latest model of evidence-based psychotherapy evaluation, is modelled from evidence-based medicine. Evidence-based practice is understood as an improved evaluation model from the empirically-supported treatment movement, and operates within a positivist philosophy that privileges objective methodology over interpretative research approaches. A genealogy enables a power relationship between narrative therapy and evidence-based psychotherapy evaluation to be made visible that indicates an incommensurable conflict (a differend) due to their divergent philosophies on the formation and practice of human knowledge (epistemology). However, a genealogy also enables a fragmentation of the meaning of evaluation and narrative therapy and in doing so pluralises the meaning of evaluation, narrative therapy, and narrative therapy evaluation. I conclude by tentatively considering possibilities for the evaluation of narrative therapy while problematising them within (and reflecting on) the differend between narrative therapy and evidence-based psychotherapy evaluation in psychology.

2011 PhD in Psychology at Massey University: <http://mro.massey.ac.nz/handle/10179/2986>

Recent ISTP member's publications and presentations

Lise Wallach and Michael A. Wallach

SEVEN VIEWS OF MIND has just been published by Psychology Press/Taylor and Francis. Written in a relatively informal, conversational manner, the book offers a sympathetic yet critical examination of the major views of mind that have been proposed by psychologists, philosophers, and neuroscientists. An integrative conclusion is suggested that aims to transcend the problems found in the different views. A fuller description is available at <http://www.psypress.com/9781848729971>

Lise Wallach, Senior Research Scholar
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
Duke University
Durham, NC

Alex Bridger

Bridger, A (2013) 'Visualising Manchester: Exploring new ways to study urban environments with reference to situationist theory, the dérive and qualitative research' <<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/14586>>' Qualitative Research in Psychology. ISSN 1478-0887

This is a methodological paper which outlines how psychogeographical methods and situationist theory can be used to study social environments.

Brownrigg, A., Burr, V., Locke, A. and Bridger, A. (2012) 'You don't know what's around the corner: A qualitative study of professional footballers in England facing career-transition' <<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/14384>>' Qualitative Methods in Psychology Bulletin (14). ISSN 2044-0820

This second article has been published with colleagues from the University of Huddersfield. Andy Brownrigg is the main writer and is currently in the process of writing his PhD. Viv Burr (DOS), Abigail Locke and myself are part of the supervisory team. The paper focuses on using phenomenological methods to study professional footballers experiencing career-transitions.

Bridger, A.J. (in press) 'Doing psychology in a 'crisis' of capitalism: The relevance of situationism and psychogeography for studying environments'. In the International Society for Theoretical Psychology Conference Proceedings. Captus University Press.

This theoretical and methodological paper provides a justification for why a 'turn to place' is needed in psychology and how psychogeographical critical-political methods can be used to study towns and cities.

Alex also presented papers at national and international conferences recently:

Bridger, A.J. (2012) 'Psychogeography, dice walking and urban research' <http://www.academia.edu/1781143/Psychogeography_dice_walking_and_urban_research>' at the Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference at the University of Edinburgh on 3 July - 5 July 2012

Bridger, A.J. (2012) Psychogeography, anti-methods and urbanism <http://www.academia.edu/1781142/Psychogeography_anti-methods_and_urbanism> at the Situationist Aesthetics: The Situationist International, Now Conference at the University of Brighton on 8 June 2012

The paper is an explanation of psychogeography and situationist theory and how these ideas can be developed into critical psychological methods and 'anti-methods' to study environments.

Dr. Alex Bridger, Senior Lecturer
Department of Behavioural and Social Sciences
University of Huddersfield



Conferences and calls for papers

British Psychological Society History & Philosophy of Psychology Section Annual Conference 25-27 March 2013 at the University of Surrey, Guildford



DSM: The History, Theory, and Politics of Diagnosis

Keynote Speaker: Professor Ian Parker

2013 marks the 40-year anniversary of the vote by the members of the American Psychiatric Association to remove 'homosexuality' from its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM). 2013 is also the publication date of the fifth edition of the DSM.

To mark this anniversary and this event, the History and Philosophy Section have themed the 2013 conference 'DSM: The History, Theory, and Politics of Diagnosis.'

Individual papers or symposia in any area dealing with conceptual and historical issues in Psychology, broadly defined, are invited.

The conference is open to independent and professional scholars in all relevant fields, not just Section or British Psychological Society members. A limited number of bursaries will be available to students who have had their paper accepted for presentation.

All submissions (abstracts of 200 words) should be sent via email to **Dr Geoff Bunn:** g.bunn@mmu.ac.uk by Friday 14 December 2012. Further information is available on the Section's website: http://www.bps.org.uk/history/events/events_home.cfm

International Society of Critical Health Psychology 8th Biennial Conference 22-24 July, 2013 at the University of Bradford, UK

The aims of the ISCHP are to: 1) Encourage, enable and disseminate research and scholarship in critical health psychology, 2) provide opportunities for debate and discussion in this field. Provide a forum for scrutinising, challenging and questioning what is said and done in the purported pursuit of promoting and improving "health" by health psychologists and others, 3) Operate as a community of scholars (in the widest definition of that term and absolutely not restricted to people with formal affiliations to a university or other academic body), offering each other mutual support in the pursuit of critical approaches to health and, 4) In particular, nurture and help career-young and emerging scholars in the field, and engage with and learn from communities and groups conventionally excluded or under-represented.

The ISCHP conference provides a vibrant opportunity for health psychologists and scholars from related disciplines to explore ongoing and emerging issues in critical theory and practice in relation to health and health care. Attendance is therefore welcomed from scholars in any discipline with a critical orientation to the field of health. The conference also particularly welcomes and encourages students and emerging researchers.

We include presentations on any topic or theme that takes a critical stance on any aspect of health or health care. At the same time, we have broadly organised the 2013 conference around four key themes:

- Health in places and times of austerity
- The impact of critical health psychology
- Shifting boundaries and health
- Community action and health

Deadline for submission closes:

1st February 2013 (for early review)

8th March 2013 (final deadline)

For details see: <http://www.brad.ac.uk/ssis/ischp/conference-submission/>

Conferences and calls for papers continued

THEORETICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Call for Proposals

The Annual Midwinter Meeting of the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology

Division 24 of the American Psychological Association

Join Society members for in-depth discussions on theoretical and philosophical topics in a relaxed atmosphere at a great location.

Date: Thursday, February 21 – Saturday, February 23, 2013

Location: Austin, Texas, Omni Hotel

Proposal submission: We will be accepting proposals for papers, symposia, and conversation sessions in all areas relevant to theoretical and philosophical psychology. Highest priority will be given to sessions that are interactive. Some suggestions for interactive presentations:

- "Poster" style presentations (i.e., brief presentations highlighting major ideas) by each member of a panel who all address a theme (e.g., implicit cognitive functioning or attachment theory), followed by discussion (with the Chair guiding discussion).
2. A relatively brief presentation by a single author, followed by discussion.
3. Presentations or symposia addressing targeted topics in which ample time is allotted for discussants' comments and audience interaction.
4. Pre-matched presenter-discussant sessions in which each of 2 or 3 focal papers addressing some theme would be commented on by a discussant designated in advance.

NOTE: Your submission implies a commitment to attend and present if your proposal is selected.

Please send proposals to the Midwinter Program Committee at div24midwinter-meeting2013@gmail.com. For papers submit an abstract of 500 words. For symposia, submit a 300 word general abstract along with 300 word abstracts for each presenter. We welcome submissions from graduate students and early career psychologists, and encourage those who are new to theoretical and philosophical psychology to work with a faculty advisor or a mentor in preparing their presentations. Include the institutional affiliation and contact information for all presenters, including a phone number for the corresponding author.

Deadline for submission: December 1, 2012

THEORETICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL PSYCHOLOGY

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

The Annual Midwinter Meeting of the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology

Division 24 of the American Psychological Association

February 21st-23rd, 2013, Austin, Texas

Please print or type your name.

Name:					
Organizational Affiliation:					
Mailing Address: () Home () Work					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Work Phone:		Mobile Phone:			
E-mail Address:					

All confirmation/receipts will be sent via E-mail. If you need us to send the receipt of your registration to your organization, please let us know.

Please select your early registration rate (must be postmarked by January 15, 2013):

Society Member (Div 24): \$140.00	
Non-Member: \$150.00	
Students: \$40.00	

Late registration (including onsite registration) is \$160.00 for members, \$170.00 for non-members, and \$50.00 for students

Please enclose this form AND a check or money order and send to:

Amy Fisher Smith, Ph.D., Treasurer
Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology
University of Dallas
1845 E. Northgate Drive
Irving, Texas 75062-4376
E-mail: afsmith@udallas.edu

Registration form must be postmarked by January 15, 2013, to receive early registration rate!