



The ISTP Newsletter

The Newsletter of the International Society for Theoretical Psychology

A Biannual Newsletter

Fall 2008

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President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Fall issue of this Newsletter. As this newsletter reaches you, the planning for the upcoming conference in Nanjing is proceeding smoothly. The Program Committee has assembled an exciting set of plenary speakers who together are poised to offer a rich view of theoretical psychology informed by a range of disciplinary and cultural roots.

Kuan-Hsing Chen, Institute for Social Research and Cultural Studies and Center for Asia-Pacific/ Cultural Studies at Chiao-Tung University in Taiwan, has published widely in both Chinese and English on critical approaches to cultural studies, including *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies* (with David Morley) and *Towards De-Imperialization: Asia as Method*, whose English edition is forthcoming. **Fengyan Wang**, College of Education Science and Research Institute of Moral Education at Nanjing Normal University, has published

monographs, including a monograph that won the National Book Award, and articles in national and international journals in the fields of Chinese cultural psychology, history of Chinese psychology and moral education psychology. **Wang Dengfeng**, from Peking University, is one of the leading scholars in the field of Personality Psychology from the perspective of Chinese culture. **Hank Stam**, University of Calgary, Canada, founder and Editor of *Theory & Psychology*, has published extensively on theoretical psychology and the history of psychology and related topics, and has lectured widely on theoretical and historical issues in psychology across North America, Europe and China. **Andrea Hurst**, of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, is interested in the philosophy of language, post-structuralist thought, complexity theory and psychoanalytic theory, and has published on the work of Jacques Derrida, Lacan and other Continental thinkers, including her recent *Derrida vis-à-vis Lacan: Interweaving Deconstruction and Psychoanalysis*.

We can look forward to stimulating exchanges and to the opportunities afforded by border-

crossing and cultural translation spurred both by the plenary lectures and the rich array of papers and symposia that can be expected at ISTP conferences. The international scope of our membership provides invaluable resources for supporting the development of new discursive configurations, new methodologies and new research questions through the reciprocal engagement of diverse intellectual traditions. Knowledge production is a social process: Theories and scholarship produced in particular historical and social locations are grounded in the discourses of knowledge, the social and cultural constitutive processes, and the experiences that inform those locations, and, of necessity, these local understandings are partial and contingent. Our ISTP conferences, and in particular this upcoming conference are, therefore, precious opportunities to challenge and 'provincialize' our own understandings in the light of perspectives originating from social and cultural locations that differ from ours.

A word about organizational matters: The ISTP Executive Committee meets in person at each biennial conference and also holds a conference call during the intervening year to



discuss issues of policy and planning. This conference call takes place in early spring. If there are matters that you would like to bring to the attention of the Executive for consideration at the next call, please contact me at rfalmagne@clarku.edu before 15 January 2009.

To conclude, I would like to encourage you to consider contributing to the Spring newsletter. What is your experience in teaching theoretical psychology? Are there interesting conferences you have attended and with which other members perhaps are not familiar? What were some of the highlights of those conferences for you? Do you have thoughts about directions that would be useful to the field? Have you recently read a book that you find important for the field and can you say a few words about its perspective, content, implications? If you are a student, do you have suggestions for or requests from those members who are teaching theoretical psychology?

With very best wishes for an excellent few months, productive and satisfying intellectually and personally, until we meet in Nanjing.

—**Rachel Joffe Falmagne**

CALL FOR PAPERS

ISTP 2009 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE:

'East', 'West', 'South', 'North': Challenges and Transformations in Theoretical Psychology

15-19 MAY 2009

**NANJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY
NANJING, JIANGSU PROVINCE,
CHINA**

Since its inception, the ISTP conference has evolved into a vibrant meeting place for psychologists and scholars from other disciplines to debate emergent themes in contemporary theory and practice. The 2009 conference will build on this tradition. The venue provides a powerful metaphor for the conference, namely new possibilities for transforming the western fictions of 'east' and 'west', 'north' and 'south.'

The ISTP Conferences are the premier opportunities for theoretical psychologists and graduate students interested in theoretical issues in psychology to present, discuss, and reflect on theoretical psychology in a transnational and transdisciplinary context. Generating collaborations with colleagues from all over the world will be encouraged throughout the conference.

The conference invites contributions to theoretical psychology from all scholarly approaches. They include: activity theory, anthropological psychology, clinical theory, cognitive science, critical psychology, cultural psychology, developmental theory, epistemology, ethics, evolutionary psychology, feminist psychology, health psychology, hermeneutics, history of psychology, indigenous psychologies, methodology,

phenomenology, philosophical psychology, postcolonial theory, postmodern psychology, psychoanalytic theory, social constructionism, systems theory, theoretical neuroscience, and theory of psychological practice. Besides submission of individual papers and symposia we specifically encourage submissions to conversation sessions (they can be organized as interactive symposia, theoretical encounters or workshops).

We specifically invite individuals from so-called developing countries to submit proposals.

Send abstract submissions and queries to:

istp.abstracts@massey.ac.nz

The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2008.

For more information, visit the conference website at www.istp2009.com.

Conference Language: English.

Program Committee: Vasi van Deventer (Chair); Haosheng Ye (Organizing Committee Representative); Rachel Joffe Falmagne (Executive Committee Representative); Catriona MacLeod (Conference Theme and Keynotes Coordinator); Mandy Morgan (Abstract Review Coordinator); Eri Park (Program Organizer).

Photo credits, from left to right: Augapfel (<http://www.flickr.com/people/qilin/>); Montrasio International (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/yakobusan/>); JE Rudy (http://www.flickr.com/photos/j_rudy/).

Teaching Psychoanalysis Through the Arts and Literature

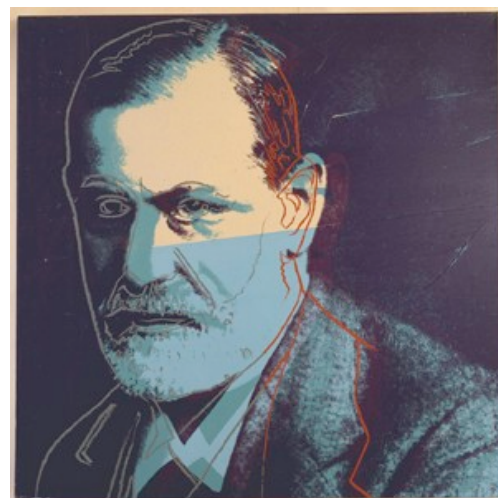
Cultural Studies courses are often the only places today where students are introduced to psychoanalysis on university campuses. This is not an unfortunate turn of events, as many psychoanalysts belabor the disregard of psychoanalytic theory in psychology departments and medical schools today. Since the inception of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud used a literary work, Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, to name one of his most important discoveries, creating the wellspring of his new theoretical field. One needs only to look at the index in the last volume of *The Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud* to see the vast number of artists, authors, and literary figures Freud examined in his writings—including Pieter Breughel the Elder, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Leonardo da Vinci, Victor Hugo, Heinrich von Kleist, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Herakles.

This seems intuitive, as literature and the arts are probably one of the greatest sources of insight into human psychology. They are full of explorations of internal human conflicts, which may either lead to tragedy, as in the case of Chekhov's *Ivanov*, or to salvation, as in Tennessee Williams' *The Rose Tattoo*, or to an intermediate of both—the *catharsis* often found in Greek drama. In what follows, I will share with you my thoughts on a bibliography you might find useful when teaching the arts and literature through psychoanalysis—or psychoanalysis through the arts and literature.

One reading that should be in the basic bibliography of any film student is Laura Mulvey's "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema." Its accurate language and comprehensive use of psychoanalytic axioms can clear the confusion that someone is sure to have when he or she comes to contact with the rather complex subject of psychoanalysis for the first time. Another good entry point into psychoanalysis for students of film would be Christian Metz's *The Imaginary Signifier: Psychoanalysis and the Cinema*, which deals successfully with how the experience of viewing cinema is related to dreaming.

Furthermore, as it is widely acknowledged that film operates through the identification of a filmmaker or viewer with cinematic protagonists, students of film should also have a look at psychoanalytical writings that address how artists and their public identify with fictional and literary characters. Such psychoanalytical writings include Freud's *Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming* and Otto Rank's *The Myth of the Birth of the Hero*. These studies not only serve as good explanatory notes to Mulvey and Metz—who analyze, among other things, cinematic processes of identification—but they are also good entry points into psychoanalysis for literary theorists as well as they deal primarily with literary processes.

Literary theorists in particular should benefit from reading psychoanalytical writings in conjunction with literary works. One example would be reading Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* in conjunction with Freud's first formulation of the Oedipus complex in *The Interpretation of Dreams*. Another combination might be Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Ernest Jones' *A Psycho-Analytic Study of Hamlet*, along with



Laurence Olivier's cinematic rendition of the Shakespearean play (which was greatly influenced by Ernest Jones' study). Furthermore, Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, or *The Brothers Karamazov*, could be read with Freud's paper *Dostoevsky and Parricide*. Dostoevsky's work and psychoanalysis both stem from similar *fin de siècle* ideologies, which challenged classicism and certain ideas of the enlightenment in the last half of the 19th century, thus shaping the modern way of thinking. A reading of both sheds light on how psychoanalysis and modern and contemporary art and literature share the same ancestry. Freud's paper on Dostoevsky also contains perhaps the most clear-cut and complete summary of Freud's ideas on the Oedipus and Castration complexes. This summary can serve as a rather reliable compass to both these complexes for anyone new to psychoanalysis.

Two of Freud's writings are particularly useful for interpreting the visual arts. In *Leonardo da Vinci and a Memory of His Childhood*, the founder of psychoanalysis demonstrates the impact of da Vinci's instinctual and infantile life on his creative work. In *The Moses of Michelangelo*, Freud shows how Michelangelo's statue of Moses was mainly

shaped by the artist's subjective interpretation of the biblical figure rather than on the way that Moses is actually depicted in the bible. Therefore, these two papers may provide students of the visual arts the key to understanding the psychological processes behind the making of a work of art.

For visual arts students, film students, and literary theorists alike, Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams* is an indispensable tool for the analysis of symbols that are recurrent in dreams, which are also encountered in all artistic and literary creativity. If reading the whole *Interpretation of Dreams* seems too time-consuming for someone who just wants an introduction to Freudian views on the symbolic function of dreams, then he or she can read the chapter "Symbolism in Dreams" from Freud's *Introductory Lectures in Psychoanalysis*, which gives a very well-rendered summary of his interpretation of the recurrent symbols that surface in dreams and, consequently, in literature and the arts.

In the selection of these works, I deliberately avoid including works that rely heavily on Jungian, Kleinian, Lacanian, or Kristevan theory since this list is for students who are getting their first exposure to psychoanalysis. I feel that a person dealing with psychoanalysis for the first time should initially get to know Freud as well as possible and then move onward. Having mentioned this, I would like to also make a final, extremely important note, at least to my mind: Psychoanalysis is difficult grounds. It is a theory based on many abstract terms and notions, which have an almost philosophical significance and are used with different meanings on different occasions, even by Freud. Therefore, one must be extremely careful in the

use of psychoanalytical terminology, even when this terminology is applied to literature or the arts. For this reason, a dictionary of psychoanalytic terms, such as Laplanche and Pontalis' *The Language of Psychoanalysis*, should be advised by anyone new to psychoanalysis. This dictionary points to the exact passages in Freud's works where each term is used.

The above works may also be helpful to the student who wants to become a psychotherapist. In today's academic world, it may be likely that a student will make his or her entry into psychoanalysis by first exploring literature and the arts.



Recommended Works:

Dostoevsky, F. (1990). *The Brothers Karamazov*. (R. Pevear & L. Volokhonsky, trans. from Russian). New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Dostoevsky, F. (1993). *Crime and Punishment*. (R. Pevear & L. Volokhonsky, trans. from Russian). London: Vintage.

Freud, S. (2001). *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*. (A. Freud, A. Strachey, J. Strachey & A. Tyson, trans. from German). London: Vintage. Includes: "Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming"; "Dostoevsky

and Parricide"; "Leonardo da Vinci and a Memory of his Childhood"; "Symbolism in Dreams"; "The Interpretation of Dreams"; and "The Moses of Michelangelo";

Jones, E. (1923). A Psycho-Analytic Study of Hamlet. In E. Jones, *Studies in Applied Psycho-Analysis* (pp. 1-98). London: International Psycho-Analytical Press.

Laplanche, J., & Pontalis J.-B. (2006). *The Language of Psychoanalysis*. (D. Nicholson-Smith, trans. from French). London: Karnac.

Metz, C. (1982). *The Imaginary Signifier: Psychoanalysis and the Cinema*. (B. Brewster, C. Britton, A. Guzzetti & A. Williams, trans. from French). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Mulvey, L. (1989). Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema. In L. Mulvey, *Visual and Other Pleasures* (pp. 14-26). New York: Palgrave.

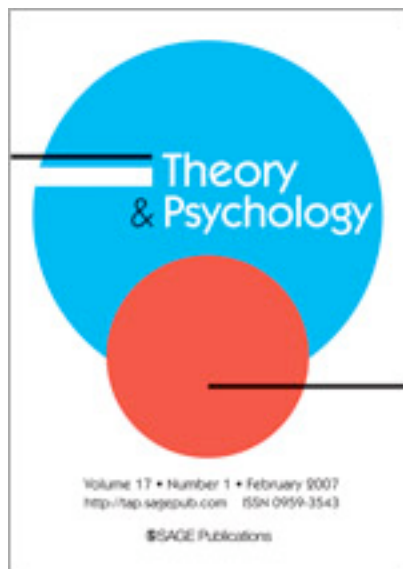
Olivier, L. (Producer/Writer/Director), Shakespeare, W. (Writer). (1948). *Hamlet* [Motion Picture]. United Kingdom: Two Cities Films.

Rank, O. (1990). The Myth of the Birth of the Hero. (S. E. Jelliffe & F. Robbins, trans. from German). In A. Dundes, F. R. S. Raglan, O. Rank & R. A. Segal, *In Quest of the Hero* (pp. 3-86). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Shakespeare, W. (1997). *Hamlet*. Harlow, United Kingdom: Addison Wesley Longman Limited.

Sophocles. (2007). *Oedipus the King*. (S. Berg & D. Clay, trans. from Greek). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

—Ioannis Lambrou



News From Theory & Psychology

Theory & Psychology is a bimonthly journal devoted to scholarship with a broad meta-theoretical intent. It examines such issues as the conceptual frameworks and foundations of psychology, its historical underpinnings, its relation to other human sciences, its methodological commitments, its ideological assumptions and its political and institutional contexts. It fosters dialogue among psychologists and other social scientists interested in psychological analyses.

Founded in 1991, *Theory & Psychology* has grown steadily in both readership and contributors from around the globe. A quarterly publication for its first six years, the success of the journal led to its bimonthly appearance starting with Volume 7, 1997.

Upcoming in Theory & Psychology

Volume 18, no. 6, December 2008

Special Section:

Unification and the Tree of Knowledge System: Extensions and Critiques

GREGG HENRIQUES

Articles:

The Problem of Psychology and the Integration of Human Knowledge: Contrasting Wilson's Consilience with the Tree of Knowledge System
GREGG HENRIQUES

Theoretical Unification as a Practical Project: Kant and the Tree of Knowledge System
STEVEN W. QUACKENBUSH

Religion as Large-Scale Justification System: Does the Justification Hypothesis Explain Animistic Attribution?
LEIGH S. SHAFFER

Commentaries:

The Critical Role of the Dialectic in Viable Metatheory: A Commentary on Henriques's Tree of Knowledge System for Integrating Human Knowledge
JACK C. ANCHIN

Pruning the Tree of Knowledge
MICHAEL W. KATZKO

Regular Articles:

On the Possibility of Unification: The Reality and Nature of the Crisis in Psychology
JASON GOERTZEN

Demonstration in Experimental Psychology: How to Bring out Perceptual Laws
MICHELE SINICO

News From The Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology

The Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology will be published by APA in 2009!

The Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, the official journal of the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology (APA Division 24), is devoted to fostering discussion at the interface of psychology, philosophy, and metatheory. The Journal addresses ontological, epistemological, ethical, and critical issues in psychological theory and inquiry as well as the implications of psychological theory and inquiry for philosophical problems. In keeping with the Journal's interdisciplinary mission, both psychology and philosophy are construed broadly to encompass a diversity of forms of inquiry such as conceptual, speculative, theoretical, empirical, clinical, historical, literary, and cultural research.



Currently published twice a year, the journal encourages and facilitates the informed, innovative, and critical exploration and discussion of psychological ideas and practices in both their scientific and philosophical dimensions and interrelationships.

The Journal welcomes original articles, essays, and commentaries with philosophical or metatheoretical import from all disciplines concerned with human psychology.

Submissions from the ISTP community are welcome!

For further information please contact the editor, Thomas Teo at teo@yorku.ca.

See also www.apa.org/journals/teo.

Psychologists for Social Responsibility Award Marsella Prize to Floyd Rudmin

Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR) is pleased to announce that Professor Floyd Rudmin of the University of Tromsø in Norway has been awarded the 2008 Anthony J. Marsella Prize for the Psychology of Peace and Social Justice. The Awards Committee, in selecting Dr. Rudmin, cited his "consistent and innovative contributions as a scholar-activist to the understanding of war and peace."

In the early 1980s, Dr. Rudmin helped establish a Canadian PsySR. His own research at that time focused on biographies of prominent psychologists who were also peace activists, such as William James, Ivan Pavlov, and William McDougall. These biographies now number more than 20. Dr. Rudmin also devised quantitative research on the cultural correlates that predict societies waging war.

In the 1990s, Dr. Rudmin began examining historical beliefs as causes of war, concluding that we need a new, interdisciplinary field of "cognitive history." Later, his research shifted to critiques of faulty research on the cultural adjustments of immigrants, indigenous peoples, and other minorities.

Since 2001, Dr. Rudmin has been writing blogs that bring psychological theory to bear to help explain current crises. For example, he has argued that the Bayes Theorem shows it is mathematically impossible to find terrorists by spying on all Americans, that the use of definite articles (e.g. "the") in a government's promotion of war can cause people to believe that untrue statements are true, and that aggressive war plans can create

paranoid projections of the enemy's intentions, thus justifying the aggressive plans and subsequent preemptive war.

PsySR thanks Dr. Rudmin for his peace scholarship and looks forward to his continued contributions to this field, which is so critical to the future of humanity.

Psychologists for Social Responsibility was founded in 1982, with a focus on using psychological skills and knowledge to promote nuclear disarmament and to reduce the threat of nuclear war. With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union, PsySR has expanded its mission to include broader issues of peacebuilding and social justice.

The Anthony J. Marsella Prize for the Psychology of Peace and Social Justice was created to honor Anthony J. Marsella's contributions in cultural and international psychology, especially his efforts to reduce the ethnocentricity and dominance of Western psychology, and to promote international understanding. Dr. Marsella is Past-President of PsySR.

Past winners of the Marsella Prize are:

- 2005 Dr. Diane Bretherton, LaTrobe University, Australia
- 2006 Dr. Marc Pilisuk, Saybrook Graduate School, San Francisco
- 2007 Dr. Michael Knox, University of South Florida, Tampa



For more information about Psychologists for Social Responsibility, visit their website at www.psyr.org. Press release by Dr. Tod Sloan, sloan@lclark.edu.

International Society of Political Psychology Announces 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting

14-17 July 2009
Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

For submission information, visit the ISPP website at
<http://ispp.org/meet.html>

Proposals due 16 January 2009

Conference Program Chairs:
Neil Ferguson,
Liverpool Hope University College
Orla Muldoon,
University of Limerick

Join us for the 2009 ISPP annual scientific meeting in Dublin! The theme of the conference is "Overcoming Political Violence, Injustice, and Deprivation: Perspectives from Political Psychology."

Political psychology covers a wide diversity of approaches and theories. It has close ties to disciplines such as social and cognitive psychology, political science, neuroscience, philosophy, psychoanalysis, history, sociology, communications, international relations, political economy, and formal theory,

To address this year's theme, the Program Chairs seek to create a culture of informed discussion and exchange of ideas focused around dealing with political violence, injustice and deprivation in their many guises. Ireland and Dublin offer an ideal backdrop for our meeting focusing on these topics as Ireland, North and South, has been actively facing up to these challenges and developing solutions which offer models for other countries.



In the spirit of Irish hospitality, the 2009 ISPP Annual Scientific Meeting aims to create a friendly forum to facilitate constructive dialogue between political psychologists, politicians, and intellectuals, regarding the challenges facing our world. Such collaboration can pave the way toward an improved political psychology, one that not only scrutinizes its progress, but is also able to demonstrate the relevance of our work beyond the academic borders of our discipline. Proposals are particularly welcomed from junior scholars, members and non-members who share the passion for understanding the psychological underpinnings of politics. In short it'll be a great time to catch up with old friends, create new ones, challenge some of our ideas and attempt to create solutions to the problems the world currently faces.

Submission of proposals opens in mid September 2008. To submit your proposal, visit the ISPP Annual Meeting website at: <http://ispp.org/meet.html> where you will be able to submit your proposal electronically. The deadline for submissions of proposals will be January 16, 2009.

Please note that all presenters, panel chairs, and discussants will need to register and pay for conference attendance. Also, if your paper submission is accepted, you will be expected to electronically upload a copy of your research paper online by June 23rd for panel chairs, discussants, and public archives. You are also expected to distribute it by email to all members of your panel (other presenters, chair, and discussant) by the same date.

Finally, if your submission is accepted, you may be assigned a presentation time on any of the days of the conference.

International Society of Critical Health Psychology Announces Sixth Biennial Conference

**8-11 July 2009
Lausanne, Switzerland**

**For submission information, visit the ISCHP website at
<http://www.unil.ch/ischp09/>**

Proposals due 15 December 2008

The conference will be hosted by the University of Lausanne in Switzerland and is being held for the first time in a non English-speaking area. It will take place at the Dorigny Campus from July 8th to the 11th, 2009. Switzerland is a multilingual country and the seat of several International Organizations interested in health issues. Thus, this country represents an appropriate place for international exchange and dialogue among disciplines and cultures. The aim of this Sixth International Conference of Critical Health Psychology is to promote dialogue between interdisciplinary researchers and practitioners coming from different theoretical and cultural backgrounds, whether they belong to Anglo-Saxon or European and/or French-speaking approaches. The conference is focussed on critical issues in health psychology, but participation is not limited to health psychologists - we welcome participation from researchers in any relevant discipline, including sociology, anthropology, geography, media and communications, cultural studies, etc.

