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To submit to the *ISTP Newsletter*, please contact Laura Kerr at laurakkerr@gmail.com.

President's Message: Rachel Joffe Falmagne

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this second issue of the ISTP newsletter. As you will see the dates and location of the 2009 Bi-annual conference are now set (June 15-17, Nanjing). This will be an exciting opportunity to enrich developments in theoretical psychology by engaging in dialogue across a wide range of different cultural and intellectual traditions. The international scope of our Society is the ideal context for supporting the development of new theoretical horizons beyond local understandings. The productive and critical engagement between theoretical works across intellectual and cultural traditions offers rich resources for enhancing the development of theory beyond cultural and social boundaries and for leading the field in new directions. We can look forward to a rich and stimulating experience in Nanjing, and I would like to express public thanks to Professor Ye Haosheng for extending this invitation to us.

The Program Committee is working actively, and is approaching closure in formulating the theme of the conference and the list of plenary speakers. You can expect that information to be posted on the conference website soon, as well as the call for papers. Please bring the conference to the attention of colleagues and students for whom it is pertinent. We hope to encourage the participation of students in the Society and in our bi-annual conferences, and the Executive has recently decided to provide some travel subsidies for students, within the constraints of the Society's funds. The specifics are currently being discussed and will be included in the conference announcements.

As was the case two years ago, the Executive met by conference call in April. This practice of holding a committee meeting in the intervening year between two conferences, in addition to the meeting held at the conference itself, has worked well and has been helpful both for efficiency and for communication and community. You will find in this Newsletter a summary of the minutes of that meeting.

Also, at this time, I would also like to bring your attention to two matters, the process for nomination to the Executive, and the process for submission of student papers for the Sigmund Koch prize. At its 2006 conference call, the Executive set up the details of this process. Although some of us already are familiar with the process, which we followed for the 2007 meeting at York, others may not be, thus the details are included in the "Summary of Executive Procedures" section of this newsletter.

With best wishes,

Rachel

Dates Set for the 2009 ISTP Biennial Conference!

Mark your calendars! The dates for the 2009 ISTP Biennial Conference in Nanjing, China are 15-19 May 2009. The official website for the conference, www.istp2009.com, is still under construction. Meanwhile, visit the ISTP website at <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/istp/> for the latest information concerning the conference.

Eye on China:

Interview with Professor Ye Haosheng, ISTP 2009 Conference Organizer

In the following interview, Ioannis Lambrou, Associate Editor for the ISTP Newsletter, talks with Professor Ye Haosheng, head of the Institute of Psychology at Nanjing Normal University and upcoming ISTP 2009 Conference Organizer, about theoretical psychology in China and the upcoming ISTP conference.

Professor Ye, you are head of the Institute of Psychology at Nanjing Normal University, which runs the largest History and Theory of Psychology program in China. What do you think is the general status of theoretical psychology in China today?

The Institute of Psychology at Nanjing Normal University is one of the centers of theoretical psychology in China. Many researchers who major in history and theory of psychology complete their doctoral dissertations here and are taking charge of relevant curricula in their colleges. Most of my students focus their theses on theoretical or even meta-theoretical study, though “pure” theoretical study is hard to be accepted for publication by the handful of mainstream professional journals for psychologists. Of course, in China, most articles on theoretical psychology appear in general academic periodicals, which cover most of the social sciences and humanities. Theoretical study once had a privileged position in Chinese psychology from 1949 onwards, with Chinese Marxism as its main methodology. Today Chinese psychologists are trying to unite traditional materialistic dialectic Chinese psychology with mainstream psychology and, especially, with modern trends in theoretical psychology.

As a whole, theoretical psychology is growing very fast in China. More and more researches are published in mainstream journals, key people in other fields recognize the importance of theoretical psychology, and many academic psychology conferences are motivated by theoretical issues. By the way, “Theoretical Psychology in the Future” was the subject of this year’s annual conference of Chinese Theoretical Psychology, which took place this April. Many of the conventioners had a background of experiential study.

What are the main characteristics of Chinese “indigenous” psychology? What are its main differences with Western psychology?

Chinese “indigenous” psychology is both theoretical and experiential. In China there are many practices of “indigenizing” psychology. For example, most “indigenous” psychologists are looking for indigenous research methods in order to investigate “indigenous psychology.” Many theorists emphasizing the idiosyncratic properties of psychology consider Chinese indigenous culture a source of epistemology or even knowledge of psychology. A meta-theoretical integration approach insists on differentiating “study” from “knowledge” of psychology and professes that the indigenous nation is an agency in the discourse of psychology. On the other hand, all experiential studies should be seen as part of the scientism and humanism mainstream, but focus on “culturally specific” phenomena. Chinese “indigenous” psychology takes the Chinese indigenous culture as a granted premise or as the focus of psychological study.

What is the Chinese view on schools of psychology such as psychoanalysis, which many consider Eurocentric? Are their concepts and methodologies used? And, if yes, are their meanings the same as in the West?

The schools of psychology should be seen as approaches and facets of psychology as a whole. We now have no single solid foundation for scientific psychology. Therefore, any of the so many perspectives in psychology, including the multifarious views of psychoanalysis which have led cultural studies to numerous adventures, should be seen as a source and resource of meta-theoretical research for psychology as a whole. Though you can successfully use a

concept of psychoanalysis to analyze the psychology of a Chinese man, there are no such typically “etic” concepts in Chinese cultural tradition. If we use a Eurocentric concept of psychology in Chinese “indigenous” psychology, the meaning of the concept will soon be transformed by Chinese life. In China there are some indigenous versions of psychoanalysis, and many consultants use the concepts and methodologies of psychoanalysis just as in the West. A few research psychologists care about indigenizing psychoanalysis, while most are busy working on experiential investigations. To them, of course, psychoanalysis is indicative of what a scientific and professional psychology should be like, or at least a worthy and trustworthy perspective to human psychology.

What made you interested in organizing an ISTP conference in China?

Though theoretical psychology has gained its essential recognition in China today, theoretical study remains of an inferior status, which does not match the privileged position of theory in history. As head of the Institute of Psychology at Nanjing Normal University, I hope that theoretical psychology will contribute more to scientific and professional psychology in China and worldwide. The ISTP conference of 2009 in China will motivate more Chinese psychologists to pay attention to theoretical issues within their field and lead to an increased study of theoretical psychology in China. As an oriental nation, which greatly values spirit and thought, China should develop and realize its potential in investigating theoretical psychology.

What do you think will be the impact of ISTP 2009 on China and worldwide?

Due to the different discourses used by China and the West, Chinese and Western psychologists lack full comprehension of each others work, especially in the field of theory. Chinese psychologists have made great efforts to study scientific work in English and other Western languages, but very few Chinese theoretical psychologists can freely express themselves in a foreign language. This afflicts “indigenous” theoretical study. Moreover, as a working theoretical language, Chinese can effectively and creatively generate dialectic signifiers, new to Western thought. On the other hand, when the different discourses of the world are being intertranslated, their hidden Logos and latent meanings emerge. Maybe the so-called three worlds of psychology imply the existence of a unilateral linguistic order. While many of the eminent Chinese psychologists contribute to Anglo-Western mainstream psychology, psychology has learnt little from Chinese language and culture. Reports of experiential studies in the internationally established format have no trouble in their use of language, but theoretical narratives demonstrate an internal dichotomy between each native language and the heavy burden of the unilateral linguistic order. An international conference means to open a window to native languages and cultures, and perhaps this window will be the “impact” on psychology that we should be looking forward to, in China and worldwide.

“Chinese Theoretical Psychology Seeks Its Identity”

By Bo Wang

Bo Wang, graduate student in the Department of Psychology at Nanjing Normal University, the site of the ISTP 2009 conference, shares his reflections on Chinese theoretical psychology.

Chinese theoretical psychology is a fuzzy concept without clear boundaries. Broadly speaking, it has arisen from several thousand years of ceaseless effort in the Chinese philosophical psychology tradition. However, this indigenous tradition was interrupted when Western scientific psychology was introduced into China at the beginning of the 20th century. In China, psychology in general is usually identified as a “problematic discipline,” and psychologists have always been doubtful about their identity. However, Chinese theoretical psychology is thought to be “the most problematic discipline” and Chinese theoretical psychologists are suffering from their unique “anxiety of identity.” Thus, the history of Chinese theoretical psychology is one of Chinese theoretical psychologists seeking their identity.

Seeking Legitimacy Under the Pressure of Mainstream Psychology

Chinese psychology had existed in the theoretical form for thousands of years. In the beginning, no one doubted its legitimacy. However, after naturalistic psychology established its dominant position in China, theoretical psychology had to struggle for its discursive power. Chinese psychologists have several journals to publish their works, and among them, *Acta Psychologica Sinica* (*Chinese Journal of Psychology*) is the most important. Almost all its papers are experimental reports. Only two or three theoretical papers can be found at most in the six issues it publishes each year.

It is quite common for theoretical psychology programs to have the fewest number of students and to attract the fewest financial grants. Theoretical psychology, together with cognitive neuroscience, brain physiology, and history of psychology, comprise basic psychology in China. Basic psychology, educational & developmental psychology, and applied psychology, are the three fields available for students continuing into graduate studies. Theoretical psychology is usually the smallest program among these branches. Let's take the psychological program at Nanjing Normal University as an example. It was founded in 1920 as the first psychological department in China and enrolled the first theoretical psychology graduate students. However, its theory program is still the smallest compared to other options. Typically, theoretical graduate students do not choose "pure" theoretical topics as their master theses; these projects are not as helpful as empirical studies for their career. A project such as "Research into the Effect and Application of Working Memory in Thinking Activities" is allocated as much as ¥500,000; however, a large theoretical project named "Postmodern Psychology Studies" is granted ¥20,000. (Values cited from the website of the Key Discipline Construction Network at Nanjing Normal University.)

The education of the founders of modern Chinese psychology is also a cause of the limited attention given to theoretical psychology. Before 1916, Chinese students went abroad to study psychology. They returned to China with doctorates of German structural psychology, American behaviorism, Russian conditioned reflex theory, modern cognitive psychology, or industrial and organizational psychology. These scholars set the agenda for the development of modern Chinese psychology. No one returned with a doctorate in theoretical psychology.

Establishing Chinese Indigenous Psychology

Chinese theoretical psychology is very self-conscious of the need to empower itself with an indigenous foundation. Chinese experimental psychologists have historically been engaged in replication studies. Essentially, they changed Caucasian subjects into Chinese subjects and repeated what Western psychologists had done in the original experiments. In the heyday of behaviorism, Chinese psychology was named after B.F. Skinner. When cognitive psychology arose, Chinese psychologists felt honored if they could repeat Herbert Simon's experiments. And after Humanistic psychology was introduced into China, people began to argue about the deep meaning of Karl Rogers's simple word choices.

Chinese theoretical psychologists are sensitive to this issue and are trying to find their own way. Pioneers include Liang Shuming and Pan Shu, among others. Liang advocates for the branch that insists on exploring indigenous resources from Chinese traditional culture. In *Psychology and Life* (Xuelin Press, 1987), Liang proposed a "life psychology" based on Neo-Confucianism, which takes psychology as pivotal and core and combines it with philosophy, the social and natural sciences, as well as theoretical and empirical sciences. Pan represents those who are trying to combine Marxism and Chinese ancient psychological thought. His exploration started in 1921 when he was working on his doctorate in behaviorism at the University of Indiana. He argued that "to follow our own (Chinese) course," means to develop scientific psychology under the auspices of Marxism in order to serve the Chinese social construction. "Make the past serve the present; make foreign psychology serve China" was his epistemological motto. (See Pan's *Constructing Psychology with Chinese Characteristics*. Shanghai: Wenhui Daily (1983, 1, 10.); and *On the Research in Psychological Basic Theoretical Issues*. Nanjing: Jaingsu Educational Press, 1987.)

When talking about Chinese indigenous psychology it is also worthwhile to mention Yang Guoshu's works. Guoshu made up his mind to choose this topic as a vocation while at Harvard in 1988 when an American psychologist enquired him about what Chinese psychology would be without Western psychology. He argued that we are Chinese in everyday life; however, as soon as we start doing research, we become Westerners. Consciously or unconsciously, Chinese psychologists repress their own Chinese way of thinking and philosophical approach, and accept Western psychological topics, theories, and methods uncritically. Guoshu proposed "indigenous compatibility" as a main methodology in Chinese indigenous psychology (Yang, 1997). This means that researchers should direct their studies towards making them compatible with their mental, behavioral, ecological, economic, social, cultural, and historical contexts. (See Yang's *Indigenous Compatibility and Its Relevant Issues in Psychological Researches*. Taipei: Indigenous Psychological Research in Chinese Societies, 1997; and *The Role of Yuan in Chinese Social Life: A Conceptual and Empirical Analysis*, 1988.)

Based on these ideas, his group has finished several important studies on face (mianzi), favor (renqing), relationship (guanxi), fate (yuan), and other Chinese traditional psychological categories. He emphasized that only Chinese indigenous psychology can be crowned as genuinely Chinese (Yang, 1988, 1990, 1996). Yang has now devoted himself, together with other Chinese theoretical psychologists, to the construction of a Chinese psychological conceptual system that involves rewriting general psychology, social psychology, personality psychology, developmental psychology, and educational psychology, in order to make them compatible with Chinese cultural contexts.

The Psychology Closest to the Chinese Masses

It seems both bold and questionable to claim that Chinese theoretical psychology is the psychology that is closest to the Chinese masses. However, it is also difficult to give this title to experimental psychology, as experimental psychologists are primarily devoted to publishing papers with sophisticated experimental designs and complex statistics that are understood only by them.

There was a passionate argument about what psychology should be at the last annual conference of the Theory & History of Psychology Division. Both theoretical psychologists from Mainland China and Taiwan expressed their dissatisfaction with mainstream, experimental psychology. Some young scholars declared loudly that they did not feel shameful for not understanding the technical reports dominating the *Chinese Journal of Psychology*, a journal devoted to experimental psychology and laden with discussions of experimental design and statistical analyses.

On a personal note, I admire my friends from Furen University of Taiwan. They include: Liu Zhaoming, previously the president of Taiwan Psychological Society; Xia Linqing, director of the psychological department at Furen; and Weng Kaicheng, an associate professor at Furen. They refreshed my spirit with their confident, unashamed engagement with theoretical psychology. These psychologists were all trained in the positivistic tradition. After they received their doctorates in America and returned to Taiwan, they discovered a gap between their knowledge and the Taiwanese experience. What is more, the gap between their knowledge and life was even deeper. In response to their frustrations, they started the journal *Research in Applied Psychology*. Furen shared with me their concern for the “human being” and social responsibility. Psychology, they believed, should take the role of cultural constructor by reflecting on its own social and historical contexts and raising more enlightening ideas. The psychologist's duty is not only to make psychology as socially relevant as possible, but also to turn psychologists into constructors of a more just society. The approach of these scholars is different from mainstream psychology but compatible with the concerns and needs of the masses, reflecting on, acting, and expressing their narrative life stories and finding their subjectivity in social and historical contexts.

They submitted their work first to last year's Biennial Conference of Chinese Psychological Society, and all of their presentations were arranged with the theoretical psychology section. Then they attended the annual conference of Theory & History of Psychology Division held in Tsingdao. Their identity is also doubted by mainstream psychology in Taiwan. Our two minorities on both sides of Taiwan Strait stand together in the name of theoretical psychology. I believe mainland theoretical psychologists could learn from these colleagues in Taiwan. Their work genuinely reflects the concerns of the masses. Perhaps their passionate attempts will stand for an important epistemological turn in psychology.

The Institutionalization of Chinese Theoretical Psychology

Institutionalization may be the most obvious sign of Chinese theoretical psychologists' efforts to seek their identity. Chinese Psychological Society was founded in 1921; the Theory & History of Psychology Division was founded about seventy years later. This division was first affiliated to Chinese Academy of Sciences, which is the base of positivistic psychology. It then was moved to Nanjing Normal University in 1996, the research center of Chinese theoretical psychology. Annual conferences are held in turn at universities where theoretical psychology is studied. The chairman is now one of five vice presidents of Chinese Psychological Society. As for professional journals, *Psychological Exploration* is the only one that welcomes submissions on theoretical psychology in Mainland China. *Research in Applied Psychology* is another journal, which, as mentioned, publishes theoretical psychology papers in Taiwan. Theoretical explorations of Chinese indigenous psychology can be found in *Indigenous Psychological Research in Chinese Societies* edited by Yang Guoshu. Nanjing Normal University and Jilin University have the only two doctoral programs of theoretical psychology in China. Except in these two universities, plus Furen University in Taiwan, theoretical psychology is not a secure discipline, but can perhaps be better described as surviving through several professors' personal research interests. Thus, Chinese theoretical psychology has partly finished its institutionalization, but still has a long way to go.

Chinese theoretical psychology has a long past, but a short history. Western theoretical psychology rose in the 1980s, about 100 years after scientific psychology's foundation. Chinese theoretical psychologists are exploring their resources and reflecting on Western colleagues' works in order to seek their own identity, indigenize psychology in Chinese, and promote the well-being of the masses. The next Biennial ISTP Conference will be held at Nanjing Normal University, China. This is a great opportunity for Chinese theoretical psychology. It is my genuine wish that international and interdisciplinary theoretical psychologists can work together to propose a perfect theoretical psychology and a perfect self-image of their own.

Summary of the ISTP Executive Committee Meeting, 14 April 2008

Present: Rachel Falmagne, Lorrie Radtke, Cor Baerveldt, Ole Dreier, Laura Kerr, Leo Mos, Eri Park, Hank Stam, Paul Stenner, Gavin Sullivan, Vasi van Deventer

Regrets: Aydan Gulerce, Dimitris Papadopoulos, Thomas Teo

1. Treasurer's Report

Lorrie reported that the Society's financial situation is healthy.

2. President's Report

Rachel reported that Vasi, as program chair for the 2009 conference, has assembled a program committee in consultation with Rachel. He has organized the committee into working groups, each responsible for different tasks. Catriona Macleod is coordinating the group discussing possible conference themes and plenary speakers. In line with the policy voted upon by the Executive, this group will ensure that half the plenary speakers are women and that there is geographic and ethnic diversity. Mandy Morgan is coordinating the group that will review the abstracts of proposed presentations. She noted that the local organizing committee in Nanjing has not been in touch with the program committee as yet.

3. Upcoming 2009 Nanjing Conference

Report from conference program committee:

Vasi reported that the program committee includes Ye Haosheng, liaison with the local organizing committee; Rachel, representing the ISTP Executive; Catriona Macleod, who is assembling her own working group to develop the conference themes and arrange for plenary speakers; Mandy, who is organizing the peer review process for proposed papers; Eri, who together with Johanna Motzkau, will put the program together and arrange printing. There was some discussion of possible titles. It was noted that the purpose of the title is to guide the choice of plenary speakers and generate interest in the conference, but not to constrain individual presentations.

Travel subsidies for students:

The Executive agreed in principle to provide travel subsidies for students. Lorrie will consult with Gavin and Erin in order to generate a more specific proposal.

Program size:

Rachel noted that this agenda item was carried over from the Executive Committee meeting in Toronto. The Executive had observed that the 2008 conference program was very large and wanted to explore ways to limit the size. Two specific concerns were expressed: the importance of allowing time for informal discussion among conference delegates as well as having audiences of a reasonable size. It was suggested that individual delegates be limited to one paper presentation or symposium paper. Another suggestion was that individuals who choose to submit more than one proposal be asked to rank order them so that if it proved necessary for the program committee to limit each delegate to one presentation, this decision could be based on the delegate's preference.

Scheduling Executive and new Executive meetings at the conference:

It was noted that these meetings need to be scheduled as an integral part of the program so as to avoid conflicts and pressures experienced at previous conferences. This also includes the Society business meeting.

4. Model for Dual Fee Structure for Conference Fees

This item was carried over from the Executive Committee meeting in 2007, where it was resolved to adopt a dual fee structure for the 2009 conference, with reduced fees for less affluent areas of the world. At that time, the Executive decided to follow the World Bank's list of lending countries unless a better model was proposed. The decision was to be finalized at the Executive's 2008 meeting. At this April 2008 meeting, the Committee unanimously agreed to use the World Bank list.

5. Policy on use of Society Funds Toward Conference Costs

This item was carried over from the Executive Committee meeting in 2007, where it was agreed that, should Society funds be used toward conference costs, any profit should go to the Society. Rachel noted, however, that the Executive did not formulate a policy as to whether and when they can/should be used. The Committee agreed that in principle the Executive should decide this on an ad hoc basis.

6. Report on Upcoming ISTP 2007 Conference Volume

Paul reported that they had received 80 submissions, and 40 were accepted for publication. He indicated that the editorial committee had informed authors about the status of their submissions. More detailed, editorial feedback was to be provided at the end of April with a July 1 deadline for submission of revisions. He anticipated one more round of editorial feedback before the volume would be ready to print. It was noted that the volumes have to be shipped to Nanjing, which will require more lead-time.

7. Process for Electing the ISTP President

Although the processes for nominating and electing new members to the Executive were formalized in 2006 and used in 2007 in Toronto, there is no formal process for electing the President-Elect. Rachel noted that two decisions were required: (a) who is the nominating body? And (b) who is eligible? It was unanimously agreed that the sitting Executive Committee should be responsible for seeking nominations and for bringing candidates forward to the membership for a vote at the Society's biennial conference.

Note: At the last Executive Meeting, held in June 2007 at the ISTP conference, it was observed that the past practice has been for the Executive to choose the President from among the Executive Committee members. Rachel is the Society's second president, as the Society has gone through a number of changes in governance structure, moving from a 3-person co-Chair model to a single President in its most recent evolution. Hence, there were no clear guidelines on how to choose a President. The most recent structure, established in 2007, is to have a President and a President Elect. Vasi van Deventer is the current President Elect and will be President as of the 2009 conference. We will thus need to elect a President-Elect for the following term.

8. Replacement of Secretary/Treasurer

At the next Society business meeting in 2009, Lorrie will have served three terms as Secretary/Treasurer. Rachel will send an email to the Executive in the fall to address a possible replacement for the ISTP Secretary/Treasurer position.

Summary of Executive Procedures

The following summarizes procedures for nominating Executives to the Executive Committee and for submitting a paper for the graduate student paper award. These procedures were formulated in 2006 and initiated in 2007 and will continue to guide both selection processes.

Nominations to the Executive

A request for nominations will go out to all ISTP members two months before the conference with a deadline for nominations one month before the conference. The request will include a description of the duties or responsibilities of each member to be elected. The nominator must ensure that the person they nominate is an ISTP member and willing to let their name stand. A short biography or justification for the nomination (maximum 100 words) will accompany the nominations. The Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring that there is a full slate of qualified individuals for election. At the Society's business meeting at the biennial conference, the list of nominees and their biographies will be presented to the membership. Nominations from the floor will be accepted if conveyed in writing to the President at that meeting and accompanied by a short written biography or justification (maximum 100 words) and assurance of the nominee's membership status and willingness to let their name stand.

Two months before the conference, an email will be sent to all members to solicit papers for this award. Students will submit their papers one month before the conference. A committee of three ISTP members, including one member of the Executive to serve as Chair, one member of the conference program committee, and one other member, will be established. The Chair is responsible for selecting the other two committee members and coordinating the committee's activities. The committee is responsible for evaluating all submitted written papers, selecting a short list, attending the conference presentations of the short-listed papers, and selecting the winner on the basis of both the written paper and the presentation. Should one of the committee members be unable to attend the conference, the Chair will select a substitute. The winner will be announced and the award presented at the Society business meeting.

Call for Collaborators: **Special Journal Issue or Edited Book**

The following is a call for collaborators, including co-editor(s) and contributors, for a journal special issue or edited book devoted to research on theoretical psychology. This is a topic that has recently received attention (see references below), but deserves further investigation given its significance for the development of theoretical psychology and its relevance to mainstream empirical psychology. The following sections (or topics) would be central to the project:

1. International trends and historical research on theoretical psychology

This section/topic would be devoted to the role of theoretical psychology in an international context. Work here could examine transnational organizations that support theory; comparisons of national centres that focus on theoretical work (e.g., emerging interdisciplinary alliances with a coherent theoretical framework); analyses of publication trends and attempts to delimit theoretical work; and examinations of the changing nature of relationships between theoretical psychology and other disciplines. Contributions that include a range of research approaches would be welcome. For example, combining the results of surveys, case studies, or interviews with prominent theorists and bibliometric analyses (e.g., numbers of papers per year, citations, etc.) would be welcome that include a critical and reflective understanding of what research on theoretical psychology could and could not contribute.

2. Research on theoretical psychology at a national level

Work in this section/topic would review existing studies and summarize any recent contributions on trends in theoretical psychology within national or regional organizations. This could include trends in theoretical psychology reflected in teaching or research practices, or both; analyses of changing accreditation requirements; and changes in theoretical topics over time (e.g., emergence of local indigenous psychology conceptualizations, perspectives and challenges to mainstream empirical psychology). While some contributors might uncover evidence of a devaluation of or decline in theoretical psychology, an important aim would be to include any positive responses to challenges in contemporary academic and applied communities (e.g., strategies for encouraging international collaboration).

3. Focused investigations of theoretical topics

A range of specific research projects could also be reported. One example would be research that evaluates the contribution of training in critical reflection and theoretical analysis to student outcomes. Further topics could include: the relevance of advanced theoretical teaching and training for the development of innovative approaches in psychology (e.g., how analyses of power lead to new forms of analysis and intervention in clinical and community settings); surveys of, or interviews with, psychologists or students that include positive questions such as how engagement with theoretical topics could be improved; examples of best practice in teaching theoretical topics (e.g., historical and philosophical psychology); and, specific ways empirical work on theoretical psychology has been used to challenge existing views of specialised theoretical training (e.g., that theory 'distributed' across the curriculum is a sufficient approach for preparing critical and creative psychologists).

With sufficient interest, my aim would be to collate potential contributions, refine the proposal, select a co-editor or editors, organise a meeting (and/or symposium) at the ISTP meeting in 2009 to discuss the project and approach journal editors/academic publishers.

Related Works:

- Dawda, D., & Martin, J. (2001). Psychologists on psychology: The inquiry beliefs of psychologists by subdiscipline, gender and age. *Review of General Psychology*, 5, 163-179.
- Slife, B. D., & Williams, R. N. (1997). Toward a theoretical psychology: Should a sub-discipline be formally recognized? *American Psychologist*, 52, 117–129.
- Sullivan, G. B. (2008). What is the status of theoretical psychology in Australia and New Zealand? A qualitative investigation of contemporary teaching and research issues. *Australian Psychologist*, 43, 61-73.

Teaching & Theoretical Psychology: Contribute Your Perspective

Teaching plays a significant role in the lives of many ISTP members, and theoretical psychology as a discipline is strengthened when it is the focus of graduate and undergraduate courses and a required component of degree plans. Indeed, we can likely gauge the status of theoretical psychology by looking at its prominence in psychology departments' curricula.

In an attempt to address the importance of teaching in many ISTP members' lives, as well as pedagogy's influence on the specialty of theoretical psychology, the ISTP Newsletter will begin a column devoted to teaching theoretical psychology. We foresee this column as an opportunity for members to share their personal experiences. This would include teaching methods, curriculum ideas, and perceived attitudes towards theoretical psychology courses. Hopefully, from each other we will obtain a better understanding of the state of theoretical psychology as a specialty as well as gain ideas for making the most of our time in the classroom.

Please consider sharing your experiences and ideas. We see the column as an informal meeting of minds where opinions will be valued along with accounts of what works, what has failed, and what has yet been tried. Send your ideas to the ISTP Newsletter editor, Laura Kerr, at laurakkerr@gmail.com. With your contributions, we can begin a dialogue about the vital function teaching plays for theoretical psychology.

Special thanks to member Brad Piekkola, Malaspina University College, Nanaimo, BC, Canada for suggesting teaching as a focus of the ISTP Newsletter.

News From ISTP's *Theory & Psychology* Journal

Alongside its usual publishing schedule, *Theory & Psychology* will be publishing two special issues this year. The first appeared in April and is devoted to an international overview of psychoanalysis, entitled "Psychoanalysis: Cultural Origins and Practices." It is edited by Ian Parker and Aydan Gülerce and contains 9 papers by a strong group of international authors who have cast a fresh and contemporary eye on psychoanalysis around the globe. (See contents at <http://tap.sagepub.com/content/vol18/issue2/> .)

The second special issue will be published in October and consists of a critical overview of the "Positive Psychology" movement entitled "Thinking Through Positive Psychology." It is edited by John Christopher, Frank Richardson, and Brent Slife and contains a strong set of papers devoted to a critical analysis of what Positive Psychology might mean for contemporary psychology and how it could address the more serious questions of human agency, character, and the good life. (See contents at <http://www.psych.ucalgary.ca/thpsyc/Volume%2018/Contents.vol.18.no.5.html> .)

2005 ISTP Conference Proceedings Available:

Citizen City: Between Constructing Agent and Constructed Agency

Edited by Vasi van Deventer, Martin Tere Blanche, Eduard Fourie and Puleng Segalo

This volume can be purchased online from Captus Press at www.captus.com (CAD \$49.95; USD \$45.50).

Subjectivity: International Conference in Critical Psychology, Cultural Studies and Social Theory

Cardiff University

Cardiff, Wales, UK

27 – 29 June 2008

Subjectivity explores shifting conceptualizations of subjectivity in contemporary culture, politics, social science and theory. Although subjectivity is a key analytic term in fields as diverse as critical psychology, postcolonial studies, film theory, gender studies, social theory, geography, anthropology and cultural studies, it is rarely discussed in its own right. The conference attempts to explore subjectivity as a locus of social change, to rethink possibilities for everyday social interventions, to explore how subjectivities are produced and how emerging subjectivities remake our social worlds. For further information, visit the conference website at <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/subjectivity>.

Building Bridges: Political Psychology and Other Disciplines, Political Psychology and the World

Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology

Paris, France

9-12 July 2008

The goal of the 2008 ISPP Annual Scientific Meeting is to create a hospitable forum to facilitate constructive dialogue between political psychologists, politicians, and intellectuals regarding the challenges facing the world. Such collaboration can pave the way toward an improved political psychology, one that not only scrutinizes its progress, but also demonstrates the relevance of our work beyond the academic borders of our discipline. Proposals were solicited that promoted cooperation and communication between academics and non-academics who share the passion for understanding the psychological underpinnings of politics. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://ispp.org/meet.html>.

Language, Culture, and Mind III

Theme: Social Life and Meaning Construction

Odense, Denmark

14-16 July 2008

The goals of LCM conferences are to contribute to situating the study of language in a contemporary interdisciplinary dialogue, and to promote a better integration of cognitive and cultural perspectives in empirical and theoretical studies of language. This conference will articulate and discuss approaches to human natural language and to diverse genres of language activity which aim to integrate its cultural, social, cognitive, affective and bodily foundations. For further information, visit the conference website at <http://www.lcm.sdu.dk/>.

New Journal:

Subjectivity: International Journal of Critical Psychology

Subjectivity (previously *International Journal of Critical Psychology*) is an exciting and innovative transdisciplinary journal in the social sciences. Re-launched by Palgrave Macmillan in 2008, it will examine the socio-political, cultural, historical and material processes, dynamics and structures of human experience. *Subjectivity* attempts to capture

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