

International Society for Theoretical Psychology Newsletter

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President's Message: Rachel Joffe Falmagne

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Spring issue of this Newsletter. I hope you have found the Newsletters useful in maintaining our connection across continents and areas of interest between bi-annual meetings. Laura Kerr, Editor, and Ioannis Lambrou, Associate Editor, have done a superb job keeping us informed and interested, and I trust that you will join me in extending our appreciation to them. Laura has now resigned in light of other commitments. I am delighted that Gavin Sullivan has agreed to serve as Editor from now on. Gavin has been centrally involved in ISTP for years, and we can look forward to his leadership and initiative. I am also delighted that Ioannis Lambrou has agreed to remain as Associate Editor. Our sincere thanks to both. I wish to encourage all of us to contribute to the Newsletter. Gavin's letter in this issue contains many ideas about the kinds of contributions that would be welcome.

As this newsletter reaches you, the conference in Nanjing has just ended. This was a rich and exciting conference, with a wealth of papers and symposia focusing on cutting-edge issues from a range of perspectives and a splendid set of plenary addresses that together have offered a rich view of theoretical psychology informed by a range of disciplinary and cultural roots. Some notes on the plenary speakers are included in this issue. If you have been unable to attend the confer-

ence, you might enjoy taking a look at the conference website. Also, along with the formal talks, the many informal exchanges between sessions importantly fostered intellectual border-crossing and cultural translation. Our ISTP conferences, and in particular this one, are precious opportunities for each of us to challenge and 'provincialize' our own understandings in the light of perspectives originating from social and cultural locations that differ from ours.

Now to a few changes in our leadership. After six years of dedicated and knowledgeable service, Lorrie Radtke has decided to step down as Secretary/Treasurer. Words cannot express how invaluable Lorrie's contributions have been to both the big picture and the details of the functioning of the Society. Our deepest gratitude goes to her, and I also want to add my warm personal thanks for Lorrie's expertise and support in the last four years of our close collaboration. I am very pleased to announce that Desmond Painter has generously agreed to take on the Secretary/Treasurer function, and I thank him for his commitment to the Society. From now on, communications pertaining to Secretary/Treasurer matters should go to Desmond (dpainter@sun.ac.za).

It is also my pleasure to let you know that Mandy Morgan has been elected as President-Elect, to assume the Presidency in 2011. Mandy has been a cen-

tral contributor to ISTP and to the functioning of our conferences for a number of years, and we can look forward to her leadership. Further, three members-at-large of the Executive have reached the end of their term and are retiring. Many thanks go to Aydan Gulerce, Dimitri Papadopoulos and Cor Baerveldt for their commitment and their service. Haosheng Ye, Johanna Motzgau and John Cromby have been elected as new members-at-large, and I want to extend to them my congratulations and my thanks for their willingness to serve.

This will be my last communication to you as President, in this Newsletter. Vasi Van Deventer is now assuming the Presidency. Many of us, including myself, look forward to Vasi's thoughtful and broad-thinking leadership, which already has proven itself extensively in the many contributions he has made to ISTP governance over time.

It has been a pleasure for me to be given the responsibility to think about the ISTP as a whole for the last few years, to nurture its direction and development, and to think about its role in the larger world as a scholarly organization; and it has been a pleasure working in collaboration with our dedicated colleagues on the Executive Committee. I thank you for this opportunity.

With best wishes,
Rachel Joffe Falmagne



Editor's Letter - Gavin Sullivan

Dear all,

Welcome to the first incarnation of the newsletter with a new editor—me—and the existing associate editor, Ioannis Lambrou. Thanks to Ioannis and, particularly, to the previous editor Laura Kerr for her sterling work to revive and deliver the newsletter to the ISTP community!

Despite these changes, many of the aspirations for the newsletter remain. We want the newsletter to become a valuable resource for theoretical and philosophical psychologists. With inspiration from Bourdieu's analysis of *science of science*, this aim could be described as an attempt to increase the social capital of theoretical and philosophical psychologists! Therefore, your suggestions are welcome.

Please feel free to forward relevant calls for papers (e.g., for large or boutique conferences), conference reports, proposals for collaborative work (e.g., books, special editions of journals, or ideas for conferences), accounts of successful teaching in psychology or questions. We want to know what works in teaching a subject that sometimes is placed alongside statistics in the "difficult topic" category. Of course, for those of you teaching in nationally or inter-

nationally esteemed specialised courses or programs, we would love to know how you achieved the "critical mass" necessary for success.

Theoretical topics in psychology can—with empirical backing for the claim!—be described as challenged and marginalized in many countries. In contrast to large-scale, multi-site and international empirical investigations, theoretical psychology seems to lack analogous collaborative endeavours. Critical reflection can, of course, emphasise differences and thereby maintain separate identities in a climate of competition for limited resources. In short, we love to argue and we all have allegiances to particular intellectual figures and schools of thought. Perhaps for these reasons integration or interdisciplinary openness is less evident than it might be. Nevertheless, for the international community of ISTP and potential ISTP members, the newsletter can encourage us to overcome the limitations of our respective academic and regional "forms of life".

As the public face of the ISTP, the newsletter is a reminder of the importance of resisting any positioning of theoretical and philosophical reflection as abstract, indulgent, or unnecessary navel-gazing (whether about the discipline or

specific topics within it). I hope to use my letter in each edition to challenge these ideas.

Here's just one recent example. At a recent social science and health meeting at Monash University, it was encouraging to hear a presentation on a quality hierarchy of qualitative research methods in which the presenter reiterated the importance of theoretical concepts (i.e., themes are not atheoretical descriptions) and that one must know social theory. To many of us, it is not surprising that these points must be repeated often and not just in the context of meetings of qualitative researchers. But it is important that theory continues to be promoted as vital, relevant and practical even in research activities (such as various forms of qualitative research) which have emerged as post-positivist methodological advances.

I hope that our contributions support the work of all theoretical, philosophical, critical and reflective psychologists. Naturally, we welcome your recommendations and suggestions too.

Best wishes
Gavin Sullivan

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International Society for Theoretical Psychology

5W/1H on open access - Piotr Trzesniak



And so, my fellow researchers: ask not what open access can do for you - ask what you can do for open access (adapted from Kennedy, 1961)

The 5W/1H technique

When engineers and managers try to get familiar, quickly, with some process or problems, they use the 5W/1H technique. This consists of writing down objective (short and to the point) answers to six direct questions related to the situation: **What? Who? When? Why? Where? How?**

It seems to be time for the Theoretical Psychology community to start discussing open access. The ISTP Newsletter may provide a starting point, through a 5W/1H exercise. Hopefully, you can express your opinions on this topic through the newsletter or in other ISTP fora. We will also try to answer and to get answers to all questions and inquietudes, and we have the expectation that you all, dear readers, will at least form an opinion concerning open access in scientific research.

What? A definition, which is both formal and operational, of open access can be found in the [Bethesda Statement](#), issued by a group of researchers and information science specialists in Maryland in 2003. But if one focuses on the spirit of open access, one can also use a definition quoting from the former [Budapest Initiative](#) (2002):

An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good. The old tradition is the willingness of

scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research in scholarly journals without payment, for the sake of inquiry and knowledge. The new technology is the internet. The public good they make possible is the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds.

There are some very important points in these few words:

Open access does not concern a new kind of scientific information, but the old traditional *peer-reviewed journal literature*.

Scientist and scholars are not professional writers, they are professional *investigators in science*, and this is what they are paid for to do. They usually do not care very much about transferring their copyright to journals, since this uses (or used to be) the only way for them to have their research distributed around the world. After all, traditional journals had full control of the *means* of knowledge dissemination, i. e., formatting, printing and distribution. There is certainly *the willingness of scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research*.

The internet (new technology) supercedes the need for "printing" and has put formatting and distribution issues in the hand of the individual scientist!

Open access, as stated above, is an *unprecedented public good*.

Who? Who started open access is not the point here. You can find an excellent account of the development of open access in [Peter Suber's timeline](#). What is important is *who will support open access and make it possible and successful?* An answer is the whole scientific community (with the help of the information science and technology people!). The weakest part of open access is that part of the system in front of the computer keyboard. If this part/person understands that open access is a recently born, highly talented, child, and takes care of this child correctly, it will grow into a giant capable of changing the world for better.

When? For a history of open access, [Peter Suber's timeline](#) is again recommended. But *for you to act*, the time is *now* (actually, is *still* now, although it could have been some years ago). Your first action can be to add your name to the almost five thousand persons and almost five hundreds institutions which already signed [Budapest Initiative](#). (Of course, read it carefully before signing!). Or separate some time to learn more about the subject! Just don't ignore it. *When is now!*

Why? In 1999, Alison Buckholtz wrote a small tale, which could have been called *open access in seven days*. The first day started with *curious scientists conducting research on the heaven and the earth (...). journals (...). On the fourth*

5W/1H on open access —continued



day, commercial publishers bought scientific journals (...). And the reason why open access appeared on the fifth day, when publishers publishers merged, acquired smaller firms, and achieved sky-high profits by raising journal subscription rates. Libraries cut scores of monographs and journals in the humanities and social sciences to maintain subscriptions to the expensive journals their science faculty demanded. A black cloud settled over scholarly communications. Open access comes after the seventh day, with a real prospect of a renewed blue sky.

Where? Where can you find high quality, peer-reviewed scientific research results published in the open access philosophy? Let's start with only three important sources at this time:

A list of more than 3700 open access journals in all languages and all fields of knowledge is available at the Swedish Directory of Open Access Journals - DOAJ. 1300 of them are searchable, offering more than 215000 articles.

Hundreds of peer reviewed journals, from almost twenty Countries, are available through the (originally Brazilian) Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), and through the excellent Mexican *Red de Revistas Científicas de América Latina y el Caribe, España y Portugal* (RedALyC). Although about 70% of the 290.000 articles in SciELO and in RedALyC are in Spanish, but all have abstracts in English, so you may contact the authors.

How? Well, we already made it clear that *who* is you! There are some ways for you to help with the *how*. But let discuss all this first. Let's save the *how* to a

future newsletter (although the [Budapest Initiative](#) gives some hints!).

To Conclude Do you see how many persons and institutions are voluntarily dedicating time and resources to make open access possible? Do you feel how important it is for everyone to take her or his share, working professionally, but also with passion for science, towards an *unprecedented public good*?

Like bees, scientists and researchers for centuries built knowledge and science (the honey!) adding up a huge amount of small efforts. Let's transform open access in a scientific project of the whole research community. The immeasurable success of our science, from the Stone Age to space traveling, shows that it will work extraordinarily well.

References

- Buckholtz**, A. (1999). Electronic genesis: E-journals in the sciences. *Academe* 5 (online; Sep-Oct), 65-68. Available at http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3860/is_199909/ai_n8872624/pg_1?tag=artBody:col1. Accessed 26/Oct/2008, 22:36 hs (GMT).
- Kennedy**, J. F. (1961): *Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You speech* (Inaugural Address, January 20th 1961). Available at http://www.famousquotes.me.uk/speeches/John_F_Kennedy/5.htm. Accessed 26/Oct/2008, 20h00 (GMT)

Hyperlinks (all are embedded in the document, but if any gets lost, they are given explicitly below)

Bethesda Statement: <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm>

Budapest Initiative: <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml>

Peter Suber's timeline: <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/timeline.htm>

DOAJ: <http://www.doaj.org/doi?func=home>

SciELO: <http://www.scielo.org>

RedALyC: <http://redalyc.uaemex.mx/>

Buckhotz' article: http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3860/is_199909/ai_n8872624/pg_1?tag=artBody:col1



ISTP 2009 Sigmund Koch Award Winner

It has become tradition at the biennial conference of the ISTP to present an award for the best student contribution. Student presenters are asked to submit their papers before the conference. In addition to the paper the student's presentation at the conference itself is also judged. The judges, Paul Stenner and Johanna Motzkau, were impressed with the high quality

of the student contributions. Despite the hard choice Paul and Johanna were in no doubt that the winner of the Sigmund Koch award should be Brady Wagoner (Cambridge) for his paper "Meaning Construction in remembering: a synthesis of Bartlett and Vygotsky."

The prize entails \$300.00 cash (CAD, of course) and a certificate bestowing the honour. And, of course, all the prestige that ISTP can offer.

We are looking forward to more papers from you at future ISTP conferences.

Vasi Van Deventer

Congratulations Brady!!

Brady Wagoner Bio-sketch

BRADY WAGONER received his BA in philosophy and psychology at Clark University, and is now completing his Ph.D. in psychology at University of Cambridge with the support of the Gates Cambridge Trust and the ORS award. His interests include the history and philosophy of psychology, cultural psychology, remember-

ing, the self, existentialism, and the absurd pursuit of mountain summits. He is co-creator of the *Sir Frederic Bartlett Internet Archive* [accessed at:

www.ppsis.cam.ac.uk/bartlett/].

In addition, he is on the editorial board of *Culture & Psychology*, *Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science*, *International Journal of Dialogical Science*, and *Psychology and Society*) and is co-founding edi-

tor of *Psychology & Society* [accessed at:

www.psychologyandsociety.sps.cam.ac.uk]. His co-authored

books include *Symbolic Transformation: the mind in movement through culture and society* (Routledge, in press) and *Culture and Social Change: Transforming society through the power of ideas* (Information Age, in preparation).

Winners of the Graduate Student Travel Awards

Five students won travel awards to attend the biennial conference in Nanjing. They included:

(1) Marissa Barnes, whose paper was entitled *Empathy Without a "Me" or a "You": A Critique and Reconstruction*. She is a PhD candidate in the History and Theory of Psychology program at York University, Canada. Her primary area of research interest is the concept empathy. By mapping the etymologies of empathy through an historical re-construction, her aim is to provide conceptual clarity, and propose a re-orientation of focus for continuing research on this topic. Her complementary research foci include: interpersonal under-

standing, intersubjectivity theories, relational ontology, hermeneutics, phenomenology, discourse analysis, the positioning and use of neuroscience in Psychology, and the praxis of qualitative research methods. Her secondary research interests include: the history of psychological aesthetics, the history and theories of motivation, historiography, and broadly a consideration of philosophical and metatheoretical issues in the discipline of Psychology.

(2) Dane Burns, whose paper was entitled *A Place for New History in Psychology: Theorizing a Bridge Over the Epistemological Divide*. He

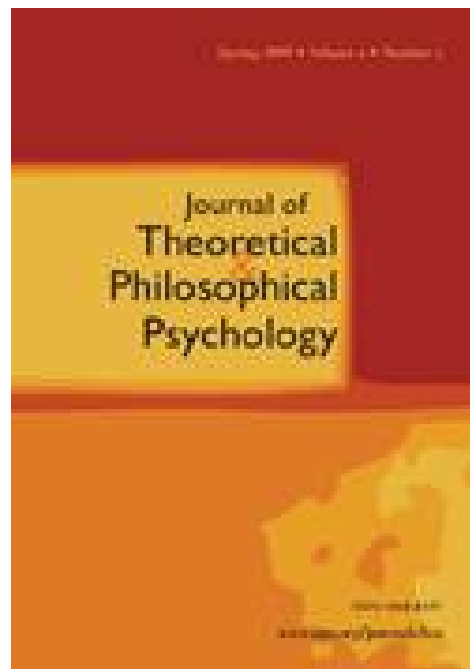
is a PhD candidate in the Theoretical Psychology program at the University of Calgary, Canada. His current research interests are in discourse, historiography in psychology, and the history of early North American psychology. His previous research has focused on the use of language to examine the construction and function of psychological concepts. In particular, his Masters thesis was on the discourse of critical thinking in post-secondary education. His current research is concerned with elucidating the foundational and fundamental assumptions of psychological practice as the discipline of

Continued on page 6

APA publishes Journal for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology

The *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology* is now published within the APA Journal Program!

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, it 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 Associate Professor Thomas Teo

Email: tteo@yorku.ca

Graduate Student Travel Awards - Continued

North American psychology was beginning to take shape. This involves an examination of John Dewey's psychology situated in his sociohistorical context.

(3) Nora Ruck, whose paper was entitled *The Cultural Psychologies of Alexander Luria versus Willy Hellpach: Knowledge as a Way of Affirming and Disturbing Official Doctrines in Totalitarian Regimes*. She has studied psychology and cultural psychology in Vienna, Austria and Nijmegen, The Nether-

lands. Since 2005, she is a PhD candidate in the Department of Psychological Basic Research, University of Vienna. With her dissertation project *The Beautiful Face in the Age of its Technological Reproduction*, she held a Junior Fellow in 2006-2007 and a Junior Fellow Abroad in 2007-2008 at the International Research Center for Cultural Studies (IFK) in Vienna, as well as Visiting Research Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She is currently the recipient of a

DOC-team fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Sciences as part of a transdisciplinary research team. The common project is entitled *Criticizing Science by Politicizing Epistemology and the Body: Feminist Venues for a Transdisciplinary Critique of Science*. In her dissertation, she is analyzing the ways in which psychology helps to create and perpetuate norms of physical normality and deviance.

(4) Brady Wagoner: See paper title and biography on page 5.

Continued on page 7

Varieties of Theoretical Psychology - ISTP 2007 International Philosophical and Practical Concerns Published by Captus Press

Thomas Teo, Paul Stenner, Alexandra Rutherford, et.al. (Eds.)

Captus University Publications, ISBN 978-1-55322-206-4 (2009)
422 pages, 760 g, 7 X 10, \$49.50 (US\$49.50)

This edited, selected, and peer-reviewed collection of chapters represents theoretical discussions in psychology as they are developed throughout the world. The book encompasses a variety of ontological, epistemological, ethical-political, practical, meta-theoretical, and historical projects by international experts in this area of research. The reader interested in the development of theoretical psychology in an international context will benefit from the varieties of reflection at play in the now established field of theoretical psychology.

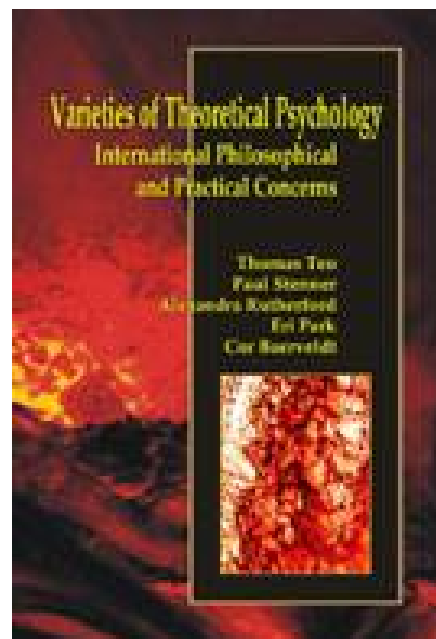
Featuring a vast array of material, the diversity of the submissions gives insight into the variety of theoretical approaches produced by psychologists around the world.

The book is divided into five sections:

Ontological Reflections: Discusses the proper subject matter of psychology, the models for representing human mental life, metaphors for understanding human subjectivity, and theories of the human mind or of human nature in general.

Epistemological Concerns: Addresses the status and development of knowledge in the discipline and include methodological questions.

Ethical-Practical Promises: Includes



reflections regarding what is good and what works in psychology.

Metatheoretical Problems: Refers to the issues that stem from specific theories within psychological research programs such as psychoanalysis.

Historical-Philosophical Discussions: Presents studies that reflect upon historiography and on historical works and figures relevant to theoretical psychology.

Varieties of Theoretical Psychology will provide both senior and junior researchers with theoretical satisfaction when discussing the philosophical and practical concerns expressed in the book.

Graduate Student Travel Awards - Continued

(5) Jeffrey Yen, whose paper was entitled "Boundary Work" in Historical Narratives of Positive Psychology - A Discursive Analysis. He has worked as a researcher in HIV/AIDS prevention at the National Centre for AIDS Prevention and Control in Beijing, China, and as a counselling psychologist and lecturer in psy-

chology at Rhodes University in South Africa. His main research interests are in critical psychology, particularly in relation to discourse and practice in psychological training and mental health care. He is currently pursuing his PhD full time at the University of Toronto, Canada, where he is learning to write

essays again and be a good student. At the moment, he is researching student identity in Psychology graduate training programs, and has discovered a new interest in the field of history of psychology.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIVE WINNERS!