



SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, No. 2, November 2003

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the November 2003 Newsletter of SASP.

This represents the first of the newsletters to emanate from the Flinders University psychology department. At present, I am starting to organize a newsletter editorial team, however, this has been put on temporary hold due to the changes in social psychology staff at Flinders. Indeed, both members from Flinders of the SASP 2002 (Adelaide) organizing committee have since departed. This, of course, should not be read as suggesting any causal link. As such, the editorial team is still being formulated. I will introduce the members of the team in the next newsletter.

The latest SASP in Bondi (run by Julie Fitness, Kip Williams et al. from Macquarie) continued the tradition of quality SASP conferences and we expect the trend to continue in Auckland. I am sure many are eagerly awaiting this conference and I encourage you to link to the website (see p. 5). I am sure Ginny Braun, Nicola Gavey and colleagues will do a wonderful job.

I have also decided to carry on a feature started in last year's newsletter, which provides a brief summary of the President's Address (or, in alternate years, the Invited President's Address). In this newsletter, we provide a summary of Norm Feather's address at Bondi that focused on his extensive research program into "tall poppies", schadenfreude, and deservingness. I intend to make this a regular feature of the October (it'll be in October next year) newsletter.

Most importantly, I wish to draw your attention to a note from our Treasurer (p. 4). Janine Webb is leaving the position of Treasurer and a new Treasurer is required. Whilst I am sure all of you

will thank Janine for her tireless contribution in the past, I think the best way to show appreciation is for someone to nominate to fill the vacancy. Without a dedicated person acting as Treasurer, the running of SASP will be very difficult.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of those members who contributed and hope to hear from more of you next time (February/March, 2004). In addition, I'd like to thank Mike Innes and Iain Walker from the former editorial team at Murdoch for their help, which has made my job more manageable. I should also acknowledge plagiarism of their newsletter style, which I have been more than happy to adopt.

Paul Williamson
SASP Editor (Sole, temporarily)
Flinders University

REPORTS

President's Report

It's an honour to be President of SASP and I hope that in my few years at this post, I can do some things that most will regard as helping the organization prosper and thrive. In my first column, I will lay out my impressions of what we have to celebrate, what concerns me, and what I will propose in the way of changes.

What We Have to Celebrate

We have a large, enthusiastic, and diverse membership. We are inclusive, with about half of our active members being post-grads. We are active; most of us present at our conference almost every year. We are leaders. Many in our organization are world leaders in their respective topics; we aren't following the trends, we are

setting them. We have a very active and integrated post-graduate membership who is seeking to improve things for the organization and for themselves. I heartily congratulated them on putting together a summer school starting in 2004 (see column in this newsletter, p. 5), and put my full endorsement behind it. We have an enthusiastic membership who is eager to bring the conference to their locales, to take on the task of organising not only the hotels, catering, and logistics, but to bring in keynote speakers and organize the programs. This is not an easy task, but we never come up empty for volunteers. Next year's conference is already moving along very nicely and it looks to be a fantastic venue at Auckland. Check out their excellent website which is at:

<http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/psych/SASP/>.

We have active executive members who work hard all year to keep things working smoothly. We have benefited greatly from SASP Treasurer Janine Webb's thoroughness and concerns about our SASP status as a tax-exempt organization. She has worked tirelessly toward making sure that we are "legit." Janine's resignation from this post is our loss, but I want her to know how much we appreciate what she has done. In addition, I am sure that we will have another concerned and enthusiastic member to take on the role of Treasurer, so please apply.

What Concerns Me

My biggest concern is that we are hamstrung to accomplish new things or to take on new initiatives because we have no money. We have little or nothing to allocate to summer schools, travel expenses for post-grads, exchange programs, or participation in other organisations' summer schools or workshops. Basically, we have enough to put on a yearly conference. I think we can and should do more than this.

My other concern is that as diverse and tolerant as we are, the Critical Psychologists within our group wish to segregate themselves from the larger group, yet enjoy the benefits of group membership. If subgroups within SASP feel stigmatised for their orientation, then requesting segregation, in my opinion, will do nothing more than perpetuate the stigmatisation. If we are a group committed to social psychology in Australasia, then we should meet and exchange ideas as a group, not as two groups. We should encourage participation within symposia, not

between symposia. We should approach our research interests from as many perspectives as possible and appreciate what each method can contribute. We should be willing to take on the questions, even the tough questions, from our colleagues, rather than trying to avoid these interchanges and seeking the protection of like-minded others.

Changes I Propose

To address my two major concerns I propose the following:

At the next AGM, I will put forth a proposal to raise our membership dues. Currently, we pay an extremely low amount relative to similar organizations in the US (SPSP) or Europe (EAESP). As a consequence, we have nothing to offer in support of the summer school, of the SPSP Internship Program, or assistance to post-grads. We need to do this, it is important for our future.

I would like to urge symposium convenors and conference organizers to practice diversity within the symposia and across the conference. Why have a group of people who talk to each other daily shift to a new location to do the same thing? The conference is our opportunity to exchange ideas and information with people with whom we typically do not communicate. If we are interested in body image, for example, then let us comprise a session with people who examine this issue from various theoretical and methodological perspectives; social cognition, neuroscience, critical psychology, surveys, lab experiments, emotion, role-playing, close-relationships, and evolutionary perspectives.

I invite your reactions to my ideas. Let us have an open interchange, not only here in this newsletter but also using socpsybull as our forum (socpsybull@lugb.latrobe.edu.au).

I look forward to my next 1-1/2 years as President. Thank you for allowing me the honour.

Kip Williams
President SASP
Macquarie University

Report from SASP 2003 Bondi

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Australasian Social Psychologists was held between April 24th and 27th, 2003, at the Swiss Grand Hotel on beautiful Bondi Beach, Sydney. Hosted by Macquarie University. The conference was one of the largest ever, with 210 registrants and over 165 paper and poster presentations. The Keynote address, on the topic of “Sexual treachery” was delivered by David Buss to a full house, and Norm Feather’s Presidential address on “Tall poppies and Schadenfreude” was one of the highlights of the conference. Postgrad students were well catered for, with a successful workshop program on Thursday featuring excellent presentations by Nick Haslam (taxometric methodology) and Joe Forgas (grant/publication writing); thanks also to Mike Hogg for providing some extremely useful written material on grants and publication writing.

The weather was wonderful throughout the conference and people made the most of Bondi’s beach and café culture. However, there was also an impressive attendee turnout at the various symposia and paper sessions, indicative of the uniformly high standard of presentations and the fascinating range of material on offer, covering every imaginable aspect of social psychology. The only rather sparsely attended event was the AGM; not surprising, perhaps, as most of us spend so much of our lives in meetings – why spoil a good conference talking about business? However, we would really encourage more active member involvement in the society - SASP needs your committed and enthusiastic support. We will be putting out a call for committee nominations before the next conference. Please keep an eye out for this, and also think about whether you might want to host a conference in future years (it’s not so bad – once it’s over!)

Many people worked really hard to make the 2003 conference so successful, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to them all (with special mention to Cassie Govan; to our student volunteers; and to Brian Fitness, our ‘troubleshooter’). We would also like to thank our generous sponsors, including Macquarie University, the Australian Psychological Society, Blackwell Publishing, Guilford Publications, The Psychology Press, Footprint Books, Empirisoft, and VR Solutions. We look forward to seeing

everyone again in Auckland, 2004, for what promises to be another great conference in a beautiful harbour city.

Julie Fitness and Kip Williams
Macquarie University

Post-Graduate Report

Bondi 2003

April in Bondi saw a record number of SASP post-grads assert themselves as major players on the Australasian psychology scene. Oh, and the conference was good too!

Proceedings began with post-graduate workshops on taxometric methodology and publications and grants, before the ‘welcome and book launch’ affair signalled the start of some serious wine and cheese-fuelled mingling.

Friday night’s post-grad dinner was an Italian extravaganza – the wine flowed, the spaghetti twirled and the cork and cutlery party tricks added an intellectual edge. A lot of biographical data was shared and, by the end of the evening, a sophisticated system for predicting the future of each SASPgrad had been devised. I would particularly like to thank Cassie Govan (who, according to our calculations, will one day run both the APS and a mini-golf course) and Tim Kurz (future Professor of Social Psych and Olympic hurdler) for their organization of this event.

The conference dinner on Saturday night was the post-grads’ chance to show the academics how to party, and the night was full of stories. Which Melbourne post-grad/poet lost his battle with a feisty crustacean? Which Adelaide post-grad found intellectual expression through the chicken dance? That would be telling!

All in all, the conference was an important site for social and intellectual stimulation, discussion and collaboration for all the post-grads in attendance – we hope to see all of you, and more, next year in Auckland.

Other news

As you may well know, there is a special page devoted to post-grad students on the SASP website

(<http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/SASP/pgrad.html>).

At the moment we have 17 SASPgrad profiles up on the site. We are aiming to put up profiles for all SASPgrads, so if you haven't sent yours in yet, check out the website for the profile format and then send your details to Megan Oaten (megan@galliform.psy.mq.edu.au) who is caretaker of the site.

The official self-subscribe, self-unsubscribe email list for SASP post-grads has now been up and running for some time. You can find out more information and sign up to the list at: http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/sasp_grads

Girish Lala (girish.lala@anu.edu.au) was responsible for setting up this list, and he encourages SASPgrads to use it as a useful way to co-ordinate accommodation for upcoming conferences.

Auckland 2004

The post-grad dinner for the 2004 conference will be organised for the evening of the Friday, and we will do our best to find a cozy and cheap venue.

There is a dinner included in the registration fee for the Thursday evening (which we hope everyone will attend) and the conference dinner will be on the Saturday. The price of the conference dinner will be kept as low as possible for post-grads, so please come along and get into the action!

In terms of accommodation, we are hoping to organise a central place for post-grads to stay which we will publicise through the post-grad list. The conference hotel itself will be NZ\$155 twin room (or about A\$136 or A\$68 per person), but we will also look into some slightly cheaper hotels and cheaper hostels. Some good rates will no doubt be available on wotif.com for those who want to take a chance with that.

Katherine Hodgetts
SASP Post-graduate rep
University of Adelaide

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

As your retiring Treasurer (at the end of June, 2004), I have been asked by Kip Williams to write a few words detailing what has happened

during my term as Treasurer and any concerns I have for the future.

First, it is a pleasure to note that we are a vibrant group with a strong membership and that we have a new generation of very promising researchers. We also have a wonderful ethos of friendliness and lack of formality that you may recall, we were very concerned to maintain when we decided to become an incorporated society. From a financial point of view, we also seem to be in good health - although be very clear that this is only thanks to making unintended conference profit.

One issue that many of you may be unaware of is that as an incorporated society we are required to meet certain legal requirements. For my part as Treasurer, I thought it was important for us to start giving those requirements some more attention. For example, we now report our finances from financial year to financial year, rather than from conference to conference. I understand that we do also have the issue of when AGM's will be held (a matter that was discussed at last year's meeting) because it is apparently a legal expectation that we have them within six months of the end of the financial year.

Another change has been to apply for and to get an ABN (and tax file number). This has the main advantages of: (1) not losing withholding tax on our term deposits; and (2) streamlining our interactions with Universities that collect conference monies on our behalf.

I also had the concern that maybe we were required to collect GST. To my considerable relief, I was told by phone that this is not necessary for our Society- given our income etc. However, I was told that we are subject to income tax unless we have grounds for income tax exemption and that we should therefore apply for income tax exemption. With AGM approval, we therefore applied for such status. Unfortunately, this application was denied but we are now in the process of appealing that decision. Hopefully, it won't really be expected that we put in annual income tax forms or that we will have to pay income tax!

Another thing I thought important to do was to keep a record of all income and expenditure, rather than to just rely on the bank statements, as per past practice. This means that the auditing

process (that I have also initiated) is much easier. I also shared the job with the Executive of developing some guidelines for conference organizers and of deciding to allocate the money previously earmarked for postgraduate travel grants to conference organizers to spend on another form of postgraduate support. In the capable hands of Julie Fitness, we also re-examined the membership records and you will probably be hearing about this again soon if you haven't paid up! Please don't be a 'free-loader'. We do definitely notice when you don't respond to our global requests for membership payments!

So far, under excellent Presidential leadership, we have managed to steer a safe path between various legal pressures and our strong desire to be a reasonably non-formal society. Nevertheless, I urge all SASP members, and especially SASP Executive members, to keep firmly in mind that there is a tension between these particular forces and to try not to neglect one side for the other. I also strongly urge you to consider giving something back to SASP by nominating for the Treasurer position. SASP is only as strong as you make it and we need to think ahead to the next generation who are relying on us to deliver SASP in as good a state as the one we have been privileged enough to be associated with.

Best regards,
Janine Webb

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

SASP 2004 Auckland

Hello everyone,
it's nearly time to be thinking about Auckland in April next year and your presentation for the SASP conference! Abstracts are due on **1 February**. We are open to receiving proposals for different kinds of formats including symposia, individual papers, and posters. Let us know if you have any other ideas you'd like to suggest.

Preparations for the conference are going well. Check out the website which is now up and running with full information about Auckland and the conference.

<http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/psych/sasp/>

Please contact us with any other inquiries. If you'd like a copy of a poster to help publicize the conference in your department, let us know at

SASP@auckland.ac.nz. Alternatively, they can be downloaded from the website.

We look forward to seeing you in Auckland next April,

Ginny Braun and the organizing committee.
University of Auckland

Australian Summer School in Social Psychology

I am pleased to announce that an Australian Summer School in Social Psychology is being organized for early next year. The event is being organized by La Trobe University, The University of Melbourne, and The Australian National University Schools of Psychology, and endorsed and supported by SASP. The summer school will be held from the 6th to 11th of February, 2004, at the ANU's Kialoa coastal retreat near Bateman's Bay, NSW, and aims to provide 30 postgraduate students with a valuable learning and networking experience currently available only in Europe and the United States. The five-day program will be convened by leading academics in the field including Dr Craig McGarty, Dr Colin Leach, Dr Michael Halloran, Dr Nicholas Haslam, Dr Julie Duck, and Dr Deborah Terry, and include guest presentations and workshops by Dr Craig McGarty, Dr Michael Platow, and Prof John Turner.

Further information and application forms will be circulated shortly through SASP email networks and other avenues. However, if you would like to register your interest early, Julian Oldmeadow can be emailed at the following address, j.oldmeadow@latrobe.edu.au, and we will ensure you receive all relevant information. We ask that Head of Departments and anyone supervising PhD candidates pass this onto their students in case they don't receive the newsletter. Same brief details are as follows:

Dates: 6-11th of February, 2004

Venue: Kialoa Coastal retreat, near Bateman's Bay, NSW.

Cost: Approximately \$200, including all food, accommodation, and transport to and from Canberra.

Julian Oldmeadow
School of Psychological Science,
La Trobe University

The Social Outcast: Ostracism, Social Exclusion, Rejection, & Bullying: The 7th Annual *Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology* Sydney, Australia, 16-18 March, 2004

Convened and Edited by

Kipling D. Williams (Macquarie University), Joseph P. Forgas (University of New South Wales), & William von Hippel (University of New South Wales)

For our 7th Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology, this symposium will focus on the ubiquitous and powerful effects of rejection, social exclusion, ostracism, and bullying. Human beings are an intrinsically gregarious species. Most of our evolutionary success is no doubt due to our highly developed ability to cooperate and interact with each other. It is thus not surprising that instances of interpersonal rejection and social exclusion would have an enormously detrimental impact on the individual. Until 10 years ago, however, social psychology regarded rejection and social exclusion as merely outcomes to be avoided, but we knew very little about their antecedents and consequences, and about the processes involved when they occurred.

Understanding how people relate to each other, why they choose to exclude others, and how and why individuals and groups respond as they do to acts of rejection and exclusion has never been of greater importance than today. Acts of exclusion have been linked to depression, alienation, suicide, and mass killings. Marginalization leads people to seek stronger bonds with fringe elements, thus creating more opportunities for anti-social behaviors.

The main objective of this symposium is to explore the powerful consequences of social exclusion, at the neurophysiological, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral levels. Based on our presentations and discussions during the symposia, our aim is to produce an edited book, as we have for the past six symposia.

Several chapters in this book will put forward grand integrative models and theories that try to encapsulate the experience of rejection and exclusion. As sweeping as these conceptualizations are, we also recognize that some individuals are more susceptible to acts of

exclusion than others, and several chapters will explore and explain these individual differences. Once excluded, individuals perceive and respond to their social environments differently, leading them to interpret and attend to particular information that may help them cope, or often, that may perpetuate their state of exclusion. The book will also discuss the nature and antecedents of adaptive and maladaptive reactions to social exclusion. Finally, we will report several research programs aimed at extricating the links between social exclusion and pro-social or anti-social behavior.

Chapter 1.

The Social Outcast: Introduction, Kipling D. Williams (Macquarie University), Joseph P. Forgas (University of New South Wales), & William von Hippel (University of New South Wales)

PART I. Theoretical Foundations

Chapter 2.

A Model of Ostracism for Targets and Sources, Kipling D. Williams (Macquarie University) & Lisa Zadro (University of New South Wales)

Chapter 3.

Conceptualizing the Varieties of Interpersonal Rejection, Mark R. Leary (Wake Forest University)

Chapter 4.

Social Rejection, Cognition, Self-Defeating Behavior, and Self-Regulation, Roy F. Baumeister (Florida State University)

PART II. Deep Roots of Exclusion:

Neuropsychological substrates of Isolation and Exclusion

Chapter 5.

Adding Insult to Injury: Social-Somatic Pain Theory and Response to Social Exclusion, Geoff MacDonald, Rachell Kingsbury, and Stephanie Shaw (University of Queensland)

Chapter 6.

An Isolated Existence in a Changing Social World: A Multi-Level Theoretical Analysis of Loneliness, John T. Cacioppo (University of Chicago), Louise C. Hawkley (University of Chicago), and Gary G. Berntson (Ohio State University)

Chapter 7.

Why it Hurts to Be Left Out: The Neurocognitive Overlap between Physical and Social Pain. Naomi I. Eisenberger & Matthew D. Lieberman (UCLA)

PART III: Individual and population Differences and the Impact of Social Exclusion and Bullying

Chapter 8.

Processing Dynamics of Rejection Sensitivity, Geraldine Downey & Rainer Romero (Columbia University)

Chapter 9.

The Rejected and Bullied: Lessons about Social Outcasts from Developmental Psychology, Jaana Juvonen & Elisheva Gross (UCLA)

Chapter 10.

Finding Belongingness Where You Expect It: Interpersonal Rejection and Prosocial Motivation within Specific Relationships Domains, Kristin L. Sommer & Yonata Rubin (Baruch College/CUNY)

Chapter 11.

Coping with Rejection: Core Social Motives, across Cultures and Individuals, Susan T. Fiske (Princeton University) & Mariko Yamamoto (University of Tsukuba)

PART IV: Influences of Rejection on Emotion, Perception, and Cognition

Chapter 12.

Social Rejection, Emotion, and Replenishing Belongingness, Jean M. Twenge (San Diego State University)

Chapter 13.

The Social Monitoring System: Enhanced Sensitivity to Social Cues and Information as an Adaptive Response to Social Exclusion and Belonging Need, Cynthia L. Pickett (University of Chicago) & Wendi L. Gardner (Northwestern University)

Chapter 14.

Social "Snacking:" Satisfaction of Belonging Needs through the Use of Social Symbols, Wendi L. Gardner (Northwestern

University) & Cynthia L. Pickett (University of Chicago)

Chapter 15.

All Animals are Equal but some Animals are more Equal than Others: Social Identity and Marginal Membership, Michael A. Hogg (University of Queensland)

PART V: Effects of Social Exclusion on Pro- and Anti-Social Behavior

Chapter 16.

Exclusion and nonconscious behavioral mimicry, Jessica L. Lakin (Drew University) & Tanya L. Chartrand (Duke University)

Chapter 17.

Rejection and Self-Control: Effects of Social Exclusion on Aggressive Behavior, Dianne M. Tice (Florida State University)

Chapter 18.

Rejection and Entitativity: A Synergistic Model of Mass Violence, Lowell Gaertner & Jonathan Iuzzini (University of Tennessee)

Chapter 19.

Avoiding the Social Death Penalty: Threat of Ostracism and Cooperation in Social Dilemmas, Jaap W. Ouwerkerk (University of Amsterdam), Paul A. M. van Lange (Free University, Amsterdam), Marcello Gallucci (Free University, Amsterdam), & Norbert L. Kerr (Michigan State University)

Chapter 20.

The Psychological Impact of Social Isolation: Discussion and Commentary Marilyn B. Brewer, Ohio State University

If people want to attend as observers, they should contact Kip. If you wish to try to get some of the participants to come to give talks at your university, it is suggested that you contact them directly.

Fifth Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology: Pre-conference on group and intergroup processes January 29, 2004. Austin, TX.

The inaugural Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) pre-conference on Group

and Intergroup Processes is organized by Michael Hogg, Lowell Gaertner, and Scott Tindale. It runs 8.30-5.30 Thursday January 29, 2004 at the Austin Hilton (the SPSP main meeting venue).

There is no specific theme for the pre-conference. Instead, we want to capture the breadth and diversity of research that falls under the umbrella of group and intergroup processes – research that deals with people in groups and with the impact of social groups and categories on people. This includes the study of small interactive groups, organizational processes, large scale intergroup relations, prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination, group influence, self and group, group decision processes, group performance, leadership and status structures, social categorization processes, and so forth.

There are six talks:

1. Marilyn Brewer, William Maddux & Masaki Yuki
2. Richard Crisp & Catriona Stone
3. Adam Galinsky & Gillian Ku
4. Brian Likel & Toni Schmader
5. Jim Sidanius, Hillary Haley & Felicia Pratto
6. Lisa Zadro, Kipling Williams, Cassie Govan, & Wayne Warburton

There is also a poster session.

For full details about the program, and for registration and poster submission procedures go to:

<http://www.taramillerevents.com/SPSP/spsp.htm>

. Once there, click on “pre-conferences” (on the left under general meeting info), and then on “group and intergroup processes”. Or go directly to:

<http://www.psych.ucsb.edu/~hogg/5th-spsp.html>

The pre-conference registration deadline is December 15, 2003. The deadline for poster submissions is December 31, 2003.

If you have any queries contact Michael Hogg (hogg@psych.ucsb.edu).

SASP WEBSITE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cassandra Govan for her tireless efforts at maintaining the SASP website for the last year, and to wish her well at Stanford.

I would also like to welcome Megan Oaten, our new webmistress (as she prefers to be called). Please take a look at our website (<http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/SASP/>) and if you have any suggestions for Megan, please contact her at: Megan@galliform.bhs.mq.edu.au.

Kip Williams

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Comings and goings

Trevor Case, who completed his PhD at Macquarie University, has accepted a lectureship in social psychology at Auckland University, New Zealand, from 2004.

Cassie Govan, who also completed her PhD at Macquarie University, has been offered a postdoctoral position at Stanford University from 2004.

The School of Psychology at Flinders University is going to miss Rina Onorato who has just returned to Canberra for family reasons (sans Harold and Percy). Rina has only been at Flinders for a little over three years but has made an excellent contribution in that time. She is taking up a position as a research psychologist in the Psychology Research and Technology Group in the Psychology Defence Force Organisation.

At the same time the School Of Psychology at Flinders welcomes Mariette Berndsen who has just taken up a Lectureship. Mariette completed her PhD and then a postdoc at the University of Amsterdam. Her publications span a number of areas of social psychology, including the perception of illusory correlation and the cognitive aspects of emotions.

Other news

Mike Innes (former President of SASP and also member of the Murdoch Editorial team of the SASP Newsletter) has been appointed Editor of the Australian Journal of Psychology. He will be forming an Editorial Board soon and will also be looking for submissions to the journal which will be attempting to re-establish itself as a premier outlet for psychological research.

Leon Mann led a delegation to Hanoi, Vietnam from the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences October 7-14. The delegation

negotiated an agreement with the National Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities Vietnam for a joint research program and exchange of early career scholars. During the visit, he presented a series of seminars on leadership and decision making in the Institute of Psychology, one of the 22 research agencies in the National Centre.

Norm Feather was an invited speaker at the 3rd International Conference on Organizational Justice at the University of Utrecht in June. He also gave invited colloquia at the University of Leuven, the University of Amsterdam, and the University of Utrecht. At these meetings he described his research on tall poppies and schadenfreude, emotions and justice, and deservingness and entitlement.

NOTICES

We need a new treasurer for SASP. Please think about it for the next AGM (in Auckland in 2004).

BOOKS BY MEMBERS

Julie Fitness has co-edited a book due out this month:

Sterelny, K., & Fitness, J. (Eds.) (2003) *From mating to mentality: Evaluating evolutionary psychology*. Hove: Psychology Press.

BOOK REVIEWS

Black, Edwin (2003). *War against the weak: Eugenics and America's campaign to create a master race*. New York: Four Walls Eight Windows.

I attended a dinner recently, which was to do with the award of prizes for entrepreneurial activities and the development of marketing strategies for exciting new products. It was one of those fairly formal occasions, with a lot of smiling and clapping (the kind of things executive deans do a lot of). One of the teams that were short-listed for an award (and came in third on) had developed a product for very fast analysis of DNA so that farmers could rapidly and accurately select out the best animals for future breeding, whether this was for high

quality steak or very fine quality wool. There was no question in anyone's mind, or so it seemed, about the ethics of the process. Breeding selectively for the purposes of profit was not an issue. The sole issue was whether it could be done efficiently to maximise that profit.

So when the book I am reviewing came to hand, I was in a state of mind to think about the matters in the modern context and not simply reflect on the past. No one at the dinner was suggesting the use of the device for human selection. But modern times are so replete with visions of selection and diagnosis of physical conditions that it seemed to this author a small further step to bring together the rising tide of authoritarianism and the solutions recommended in the past for the survival of particular races.

This book, written by the same person who has earlier written an account of the relationship between the IBM corporation and the bureaucracy of the Third Reich, (IBM and the holocaust) is the story of the development of the eugenics movement in the United States and Britain and the influences that their thinking and writings had on the development of the ethnic cleansing in Nazi Germany. It is an amazing account and one that I believe every student of psychology, and especially social psychology, should be exposed to. The writings and rhetoric of people like Henry Goddard and Carl Brigham should be set texts for students in Psychology 101, to see how recently the psychologists and the fellow travellers were setting out their agendas of social Darwinism and eugenic cleansing. I can remember reading texts in abnormal psychology and testing of intelligence, texts written in the 1950s, in which accounts of the studies of the Kallikak family and the operation of the Alpha and the Beta testing of American troops in World War I, and the social implications of the results were drawn, were faithfully and uncritically reported. This was after the knowledge of the horrors of the Holocaust, after the story of Anne Frank. No connection was made between the horrors perpetrated by the psychologists of the Third Reich and the presentation of the "scientific" facts of "relationships" between social class and intelligence or between the manipulation of procreation and the development of the "race" was made in those texts.

The book in some regards reminds me of an earlier work, less scholarly and more

inflammatory, by Gordon Thomas (1988), *Journey into Madness: Medical torture and the mind controllers*, London: Bantam Press. In this latter work Thomas gave an account of the experiments carried out on brain surgery and drug experiments carried out by the psychiatrist Ewen Cameron and others, funded by the CIA. This material was also peddled by teachers of abnormal psychology in the 1950s, as evidence of the ability and opportunity to control human behaviour through physical intervention. Thomas drew a direct link between these crude experiments and the actions of terrorist squads in the middle east in the 1980s. This work was a more detailed version of part of the story recounted by John Marks (1979) in his *The search for the Manchurian Candidate: The story of the CIA's secret efforts to control human behaviour*, London: Allen Lane. In that account we are regaled with stories of Cameron and his experiments, but are also reminded of the support of the "Human Ecology Project", work by Martin Orne on hypnosis and "demand characteristics" and Charles Osgood and his search for pan-cultural constants in human language evaluations and their role in communication (and also, for the CIA, the detection of espionage).

Authors such as Leon Kamin (1974), *The science and politics of IQ*, Potomac, Maryland: Erlbaum, were successful antidotes to the writings of Arthur Jensen and Hans Eysenck in the 1970s. But the original thrust of the eugenical movement and the degree to which it not only infected the thinking of psychologists in the USA and Britain, that was thoroughly enmeshed in the fabric of society is brought home by Black. Witness the references not only to Brigham and Goddard and Yerkes, but also to Alexander Graham Bell and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

This book brings home, with apparent meticulous scholarship, the story of the links between "science" and the horrors of genetic control and manipulation. Of course it does not typecast all Americans or Britons as eugenicists and guilty of compliance with the racism of National Socialism. But it does demonstrate how historical scholarship can educate us in an understanding of how forces can develop and spread in society and how we must attend to the social consequences of that which we do. Science has its costs. This splendid historical text is another example of how we as psychologists

must set out work in a social context. As we, as social psychologists, need to do at all times.

Mike Innes
University of Adelaide

OTHER NEWS

Australian Unity Wellbeing Index

Results of the seventh survey using the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index, conducted in June 2003, show that subjective wellbeing in Australia has risen to its highest level since surveys began in April 2001. The Personal Wellbeing Index, which measures people's satisfaction with their own lives, rose 0.6 percentage points since the last survey, conducted in March 2003, to 75.9%, which is 2.7 points above its lowest point in April 2001. The National Wellbeing Index, which measures satisfaction with living conditions in Australia, rose 1.3 points to 61.6%, 5.9 points higher than its April 2001 low.

The rise is probably due to a sense of relief and satisfaction over the rapid victory over Iraq, with few allied casualties and none among Australian troops and without, at the time, any retaliatory terrorist attacks. This boost in morale has built upon previous rises in wellbeing following the September 11 and October 12 terrorist attacks. These events appear to have produced a stronger sense of community and patriotism, jolted people out of the rut of everyday life, and made them appreciate more what they have and the preciousness of life. This explanation for the latest rise in wellbeing is supported by the findings that the biggest increases in personal wellbeing occurred in the areas of safety (up 2.2 points) and future security (up 2 points), while the largest increase in national wellbeing was with national security (up 4.6 points).

Satisfaction with the personal domains of Relationships and Community Connectedness, which showed significant rises in the March survey, rose again in June, although not significantly. This is consistent with the suggested effects of threat and danger in increasing social cohesion and strengthening personal relationships.

Satisfaction with the national domain of Government rose significantly (up 2.3 points), recovering the ground lost in the March survey.

The fall in March was probably due to opposition to the war (at that time twice as many people opposed the war as supported it) and/or the dissipation of the boost in support following the Bali bombings. The apparent success of the Iraq war would appear to have restored support. Satisfaction with business also rose (by 2 points), thereby recovering ground lost in the previous survey, possibly because of publicity about chief executive salaries and payouts.

The seventh survey asked people for the first time about their satisfaction with their neighbourhood. The score was significantly higher than for community connectedness (78.9% vs 71.2%), suggesting people feel better about the physical aspects of where they live, such as the amenities available, than they do about their relationships with the people who live there. It is also possible that 'community' is understood as a more abstract sense of connection and belonging than 'neighbourhood', so has less personal meaning for people.

The survey also included several specific questions about work. People were asked if they earned money from the work they did. Those who did were then asked about their satisfaction with work security, their ability to find another comparable job if necessary, and the balance between work and family. The average satisfaction scores were, respectively 72.3%, 67.2% and 69.4% - neither particularly high nor low.

There were significant and interesting differences in wellbeing between the earning and non-earning groups. While there was no difference in personal wellbeing index scores, non-earners scored significantly lower in health (72.2% vs 77.3%), but higher in community connectedness (73.6% vs 69.4%) and neighbourhood satisfaction (80.8% vs 77.5%). With national domains, non-earners were significantly more satisfied than earners with social conditions (64.3% vs 61.4%) and government (58.4% vs 53.9%)

Other findings include: Non-earning men aged 26-55 show significantly lower wellbeing than earning men, suggesting the importance of this role to men in this age range, compared to younger and older men (many more of whom are likely to be students or retired). This age effect is not significant among women. Non-earning men who live alone have low wellbeing, indicating

their vulnerability to social isolation. Again, this is not the case for women in this group. Young adults are more likely to remain living with their parents if the household income is high. Having a political preference for the party in power is advantageous for the wellbeing of people with household incomes less than \$30,000. Satisfaction with the balance between work and family does not show a disadvantage for females.

The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index is based on quarterly telephone surveys of more than 2,000 adult Australians in all States and from metropolitan and country areas. The Index consists of two main values: the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI), which is the average level of satisfaction with seven aspects (or domains) of people's personal lives; and the National Wellbeing Index (NWI), the average level of satisfaction with six aspects of national life. The values are expressed as a percentage of the maximum possible score, so representing varying degrees of satisfaction (not the proportion satisfied). Additional questions are asked in each survey to study the effect of specific issues and events on wellbeing.

A full copy of the report is available from: http://acqol.deakin.edu.au/index_wellbeing/index.htm

Cummins, R.A., Eckersley, R., Lo, S.K., Okerstrom, E., Hunter, B., & Davern, M. (2003). *Australian Unity Wellbeing Index: Report 7.0 – The Wellbeing of Australians – The Effects of Work*. Melbourne: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, School of Psychology, Deakin University.

RAPLink

RAPLink Inc (Regional Action Partnership Link) is a self-funded, not-for-profit organisation staffed by volunteers that acts as a link between communities and the resources, skills or information they need to help them develop community projects. Our President for the past year has been APS and SASP member, Dr John Champness.

Many of the problems RAPLink is asked to help with have a social or psychological basis. A group of small farmers in Queensland that felt threatened by the activities of a multinational industry on its doorstep sought help with their

approach government officials — RAPLink linked the community to immediate legal advice and to a social worker for ongoing regular support. A group affected by the January bushfires in the ACT needed information about help that would be available to them in the ensuing months — RAPLink provided contact information on a small leaflet, and has taken steps to ensure that we have experienced counsellors on our volunteer database should they be required.

RAPLink also assists communities by: maintaining a database of resources including research, information and human resources; linking communities with other appropriate organisations, including their nearest Area Consultative Committee (ACC), other volunteering groups, professional resources, and specialist groups in many fields; assisting communities to develop the skills they need when applying for funding of a project, for example, writing submissions, reports and applications for funding, as well as helping people to develop presentation and other personal skills needed when approaching funding or other organizations; providing mentoring services and facilitating community meetings and training groups.

RAPLink encourages individuals, groups and corporations to join as members, and to subscribe to its monthly email newsletter. It has a strong connection with rural and remote communities, and is keen to welcome anyone who is concerned with the social aspects of coping in the outback, as well as in metropolitan areas.

Further details about RAPLink can be found at <http://users.tpg.com.au/raplink> or by contacting the Secretary by email: raplink@ozemail.com.au

INVITED PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, 2003

This is an abbreviated version of the Invited President's Address delivered by Professor Norm Feather to the Annual Meeting of the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists at the Swiss Grand Hotel, Bondi on Saturday the 26th April, 2003.

Conference organised by the Department of Psychology, Macquarie University.

President's Introduction

The President of the Society is in office for a two year period. The tradition of the presentation of a Presidential Address has now been established for two successive Presidents, Graham Vaughan and Mike Innes. In the alternate years another tradition has been established; the presentation by a speaker invited by the outgoing President.

It was my honour to have to choose a distinguished speaker for the 2003 conference. I could think of no-one more qualified than the person I asked to present. Norm Feather has been the most cited Australian social psychologist for many years with an international reputation in the areas of cognitive structure, communication processes, expectancy value theory, the psychology of values, the psychological consequences of unemployment and the social consequences of expectations and beliefs of social justice and equity, among others.

Norm presented a brief resume of his research on social justice in a lunch time address at the Annual Conference in Sydney. He gave a polished address leading us through the processes of building up a full picture of the phenomena he has studied. He has agreed to give a version of this in this Newsletter and I am delighted to be able to introduce it and welcome Norm Feather's continued contribution to Australian social psychology.

Mike Innes

Tall Poppies and Schadenfreude

N.T Feather
Flinders University

In this talk I described how research on tall poppies led into an analysis of the concept of deservingness and how shadenfreude or pleasure

in another's misfortune relates to beliefs about undeserved high status and to feelings of injustice or resentment. I will briefly sketch in the conceptual analysis and then summarize some of the relevant findings from my research program.

First, some definitions. The Oxford English Dictionary defines a tall poppy as an especially well-paid, privileged, or distinguished person. The term has a long history, going back to Livy, the Roman historian, who referred to the symbolic decapitation by the elder Tarquinius of the heads of the tallest poppies in his garden, as a message to his son who then destroyed his rivals. A wish to cut down a tall poppy symbolizes a wish to diminish another's high status. The phrase has equivalents in other cultures. For example, in Japan there is the statement that the nail that sticks up gets pounded down.

Schadenfreude is a German word for which there is no single equivalent in English. It refers to pleasure in another's misfortune. Usually it relates to situations in which a person is an observer rather than a direct participant. This emotion has been of interest to philosophers (e.g., Nietzsche) and to psychologists (e.g., Heider, Parrott, Salovey, Smith). I came to it via research on how people as third-party observers react to the fall of tall poppies.

The tall poppy research has involved three kinds of studies: experimental studies in which a tall poppy or high achiever is described in a scenario and subsequently suffers a fall; studies of actual tall poppies in Australia (e.g., high profile sports people, politicians, and entertainers); and correlational studies using a specially constructed Tall Poppy Questionnaire that measures individual differences in the degree to which people favour the reward of tall poppies or favour their fall.

The results of this research show that how one reacts to the fall of a tall poppy relates to your values (eg., egalitarianism), your own comparative position, your level of self-esteem, whether you like or dislike the tall poppy, whether the tall poppy belongs to an ingroup or an outgroup, the perceived personality and character of the tall poppy, the domain in which the tall poppy holds high status (e.g., sports, politics, entertainment), and the culture you belong to (e.g., Australia, Japan, USA). A key

variable, however, is the degree to which the tall poppy is perceived to deserve his or her status.

My research shows that people react positively to the fall of tall poppies who are perceived not to deserve their high positions. That is, they report pleasure or *schadenfreude* about the tall poppy's fall from grace. The concept of deservingness (or "just deserts") is a basic one in legal theory and it is now receiving attention from social psychologists interested in justice research. I have developed a structural model of deservingness that involves situations in which a person is judging the actions and outcome of another person. The model takes account of the perceived responsibility of the other person for the action that is performed, whether the action and its contingent outcome are evaluated positively or negatively, and whether the other person who is being judged is liked or disliked or belongs to the person's ingroup or to an outgroup. I use Heider's principle of balance to determine whether the structure of relations in the model is balanced or unbalanced, and I propose that judgments of deservingness about other's positive or negative outcome are maximal when relations are completely balanced (i.e., are in consistent relation to each other).

Judgments of other's deservingness or undeservingness of an outcome are assumed to be related to positive or negative emotions respectively. We would feel pleasure about a deserving tall poppy who occupied a high position and sad if the deserving tall poppy were to suffer a fall from that position. In contrast, I argue that we would feel resentment about an undeserving tall poppy who occupied a high position and pleasure or *schadenfreude* if the undeserving tall poppy were to suffer a fall.

This line of argument links resentment and a wish to cut down a tall poppy to a belief that the tall poppy does not deserve his or her high status, and it relates subsequent *schadenfreude* when the tall poppy suffers a fall to this resentment and to the wish to see the tall poppy fall. People may also envy a tall poppy who occupies an advantaged position but I argue that it is resentment rather than envy that is responsible for *schadenfreude*. We may envy and admire deserving high achievers without wanting to see them fall. Should deserving tall poppies fall, we would tend to experience sympathy rather than *schadenfreude*.

The results of recent studies from my research program support this analysis. It is resentment rather than envy that predicts schadenfreude. The results also show that the comparative position of the person who is making the judgments is important. If the judging person has low status and that low status is perceived to be undeserved, resentment about the low status is reported. That resentment feeds into resentment towards an undeserving tall poppy, enhancing that resentment.

We can generalize these results to the group level. Thus, resentment felt towards groups or larger collectivities such as nations may often relate to the undeserved advantage that these groups or collectivities are perceived to possess, and also to the comparative undeserved disadvantage of those who make the judgments. This intergroup resentment would be expected to fuel schadenfreude when the advantaged group suffers a reverse and it may also generate conflict.

Thus my studies of tall poppies have led me into new territories concerned with deservingness and resentment. I believe that the study of status differences in relation to feelings of injustice and other emotions is a fertile field for further social psychological research.

Here are three recent references:

Feather, N. T. (1999). *Values, achievement, and justice: Studies in the psychology of deservingness*. New York: Kluwer Academic /Plenum Press.

Feather, N. T., & Sherman, R. (2002). Envy resentment, schadenfreude, and sympathy: Reactions to deserved and undeserved achievement and subsequent failure. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 28, 953-961.

Feather, N. T., & Nairn, K. (in press). Resentment, envy, schadenfreude, and sympathy: Effects of own and other's deserved or undeserved status. *Australian Journal of Psychology*.