



Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues in the Society for
Theoretical & Philosophical Psychology,

Hello to all and a wonderful Spring to everyone. This is my last newsletter and bears news of our very successful Mid-Winter Meeting, which enjoyed a very robust attendance and certainly warmer weather than most of us would be typically experiencing. Presentations ranged from invited speakers with outstanding philosophical credentials (Michael Slote is UST Professor of Ethics at the University of Miami & Travis Anderson, from Brigham Young University) to a number of graduate student presentations. A more detailed update from Brent Slife is included later in the newsletter.

We hope for similar liveliness and vitality at APA's annual convention. Under convention news, I will convey some of the APA program highlights and talk a little about some of our invited speakers. I am very pleased with the program and the line-up and hope for great attendance at our functions both from members and those psychologists outside the Division who are interested in what we are presenting this year. Naomi Lee has been an incredible program chair and I want to thank her firstly for everything that goes right in this year's program.

Please note that candidates' statements are included in this newsletter. APA will also have a website with their statements, the address for which will be sent to members with the ballots in April.

Best Wishes,

Kareen Ror Malone, PhD.
President, Division 24
Department of Psychology
University of West Georgia



Spring Newsletter for Division 24
American Psychological Association
Society for Theoretical and Philosophical
Psychology



A Public Thank You

A public thank you to those many folks who have helped me throughout this year, particularly Barbara Held who was a very responsible and exceedingly supportive past president. John Christopher has been a wonderful President-Elect. I also wish to thank John Carter for taking on the task of full time webmaster. Jeff Sugarman and Lisa Osbeck have also been quite willing to advise me on short notice in the variety of situations that have arisen over my tenure. All members of the executive committee have been great colleagues and collaborators; smaller divisions require this spirit of collegial esprit du corps and plain elbow grease. I wish to thank all of the members of the executive committee. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Blaine Fowers and Brent Slife for organizing this year's Mid-Winter Meeting.

Again, my deep thanks go to Naomi Lee because her work with the program was marvelous, clear-sighted and permitted me to enjoy many more hours of peace than I thought I would have while putting the APA program together.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to all members of Division 24 for being allowed to serve as the Society's President and my best wishes to Dr. Christopher for next year's ventures.

Christina Wright helped me get the Newsletter together for its Spring edition. Thank you...

March 2010

Awards: Recipients Will Be Recognized at APA in San Diego

Award for Distinguished Theoretical and Philosophical Contributions to Psychology

This is the Society's highest award, and recognizes one of its members each year for lifetime scholarly achievement. This year it is presented to **Rom Harré**, in recognition of an extraordinary range of thought about philosophy, science, psychology, and human interaction that has confronted the orthodoxy in philosophy of science and social psychology. Professor Harré's work has pushed the boundaries of our thinking about people and societies. It has influenced scholars in psychology, philosophy, linguistics, cognitive science, and social theory and has made Harré a leading figure in the philosophy of science as well as a primary contributor to the development of a discursive approach to psychology. He has also been dedicated to mentoring the future of our field, assisting innumerable individuals in their doctoral education.

Distinguished Service Award

This award is intended to recognize substantial contributions to the division that further the goals of theoretical and philosophical psychology. This year it is presented to **Thomas Teo** for his many long hours of service as the journal Editor. Teo has been pivotal in the journal's transition to an APA published journal. He is also commended for his untiring efforts to forward the journal's place in the community of scholars that share our interests.

Sigmund Koch Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology

This award is presented to an excellent young psychologist each year who is within ten years of the Ph.D. degree and has made promising contributions to theoretical or philosophical psychology. This year it is presented to **Sarah Hickinbottom**. Her recent book, *Persons: Understanding self and agency*, co-authored with Jack Martin and Jeff Sugarman, and her articles and presentations show a lively and promising career. We wish the best for her and for her future.

Theodore Sarbin Award

This award honors a specific body of work by an individual psychologist that demonstrates notable achievement in one or more of the fields to which Theodore Sarbin has contributed, including narrative psychology, contextualist theory, social psychological theories of hypnosis, and other innovative theoretical work that is "critical" in the broad sense of the term. This year it is presented to **Mark Freeman**, in recognition of the transformative theoretical contributions he has made to the psychological study of narrative, memory, and the self. Professor Freeman is the rare psychologist whose work is exceptional in its capacity to blend the personal and theoretical, often in emotionally moving ways, and to weave together issues from the fields of psychology, literature, philosophy, and history.

Thanks to the following members of the Sarbin Award committee: Donald Pokinghorne, Dan McAdams and Kenneth Gergen.



Announcements

Please, if you are able donate to the Student Professional Development fund, mail a check to Amy Fischer Smith, Department of Psychology, University of Dallas, 1845 E. Northgate Drive, Irving, Texas 75062-4736. You can help the proverbial poor graduate student attend APA and present his or her work to scholars in the field.

Hank Stam is Fellows Chair, and I really appreciate his willingness to serve in that capacity.

A reminder that the deadline for nominations and self nominations for the 2010 Gittler Award (administered by the APA) is June 1, 2010. Please see the APF link on the APA website for more information, including how to submit (self) nominations:
<http://www.apa.org/apf/funding/gittler.aspx>

Student paper competition: Division 24 recognizes the best student paper presented at APA. Students who have been contacted by Naomi Lee, please submit your paper to Dr. Lee via e-mail at naomilee1@gmail.com by **May 15th, 2010**. The paper must be single-authored and not exceed 30 double-spaced pages with 12-point font, including the reference section.

As a reminder, we will be voting on these two issues at the San Diego Business meeting. We announced these proposed changes in the Fall Newsletter: moving to electronic voting and changing from "professional" to "scholarly" affiliate as a membership category.

2010 Convention, San Diego, August 12-15

We hope our program this year will be one in which we discuss our theoretical differences and create new bridges between us as well as introduce more theoretical reflection into the issue of Diversity as it is usually understood within Psychology itself. I think that our invited speakers will attract members from Divisions 6, 26, 44, 32, 35 & 39 as well as appeal to members of our own Division. We are sharing a social hour with Divisions 1 & 26; both have been gracious co-sponsors of this event and delightful to work with. We have an excellent symposium on various perspectives with our Division regarding the limits and scope of Critical Thinking within Psychology. The symposium is chaired by Thomas Teo and involves a range of well known figures in our Society. We have a similar theoretical moment of diversity with a discussion of Ken Gergen's text, *Relational Being*, chaired by Brent Slife. We have a symposium on Persian Psychology and other symposia and papers directly addressing the issue of Diversity. There are also other excellent symposia on relevant issues such as values, psychological constructs, mood, and depth psychology. These symposia will appeal to those within the Society and are relevant to the future of the discipline. The scheduled time for the social hour fête is Saturday from 5:00 - 6:50 pm after the Business meeting. I would also like to encourage all Division members to also attend our excellent poster sessions. Although admittedly a conceptual feat in many respects, a poster for Division 24 allows for a keen discussion with the presenter and perhaps more dialogue than even a paper presentation. **Please join us.**

We are also very excited about our invited addresses!

Shared Session: "Subject of Psychosis: A Lacanian Perspective" Stijn Vanheule, PhD, Thursday, August 12, 12:00PM

Lacan's psychoanalytic theory subverts a number of commonly accepted assumptions about psychosis, which to the present day form the basis of much of the clinical research in this area. Instead he focuses on the nature of psychotic subjectivity. Lacan believed that psychotic experiences are marked by a certain structure. Hence, for him it is the subject who is constituted through these experiences that is really at stake.

Shared Session: "Phenomenological Movements, Turns, and Returns: Implications for Psychology" Frederick J. Wertz, PhD, Thursday, August 12, 12:00PM

Wertz will explicate how phenomenology is a method and an approach rather than a body of knowledge claims, let alone a dogma; He reviews phenomenology in its many turns, in keeping with different knowledge interests and subject matters, while noting how it maintains certain fundamental characteristics that he suggests should continue to play a central role in psychology.

"Psychoneurology: A Science for the Third Millennium" Rom Harre, PhD, Friday, August 13th, 11:00AM

Two areas of psychology seem to be flourishing in the third millennium, neuropsychology and discursive/ cultural psychology. At first glance they seem to be incompatible – the one based on a causal metaphysics and the other on an ontology of meanings. However, there are ways in which they can be coordinated into a hybrid science, that is non-reductive and by preserving the key concept of 'person' avoids the mereological fallacy – ascribing to parts of people attributes that are meaningful only as ascribed to people. The metapsychology outlined in this discussion uses the same grammatical analyses it is advocating for the study of psychological phenomena to analyse the phenomenon of scientific psychology itself'.

"Social Identities and the Question of Realism" Linda Alcoff, PhD, Saturday, August 14th, 11:00AM

Social identities—such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or disability--- are rarely viewed today as natural phenomena. More often they are viewed as the result of politically motivated discourses and histories of oppression. This paper argues that social identities are more real than some of the anti-naturalist arguments presume, but this does not make them immune to alteration. However, the dream of total elimination, entertained by some cosmopolitanists, is probably unreasonable. And this is because social identity categories that take root, that are given legitimacy by the self-ascriptions of masses of people, largely do so because of their ability to explain important features of one's material social environment, and because they represent distinctive systems of selective perception and meaning-making through which groups tend to organize both their social and epistemic practices. We need to understand social identities in relation to the formation of subjectivity and not simply in relation to the discourses developed by either colonial or nationalist, imperial or grassroots elements. This will help to make normative plans for the future of identity more realistic.

Webmaster Report

(Submitted by John Carter, edited by KRM):

We are moving forward with completely redesigning and updating our website! The University of West Georgia IT Department has agreed to help with the initial layout and programming. The design and format of this new site is due to the ongoing ideas and diligent efforts of the Website Redesign Subcommittee. Our redesign effort is structured around 4 central objectives: 1) Improved aesthetic appeal, 2) More interactive and dynamic, 3) Inviting to students, 4) Added value for members. As we move forward, please let me know if you spot something that needs to be fixed or updated ...



Downtown San Diego

Mid-Winter Meeting Report

(Submitted by Brent Slife, edited by KRM).

I was quite pleased with the Mid-winter meeting of the Society of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology. It was very well attended, with the number of registrants almost doubling our first mid-winter meeting. Perhaps more importantly in my view, we had a larger proportion of students. I was especially happy that so many students presented papers and even symposia; they received vital experience and feedback from generous and yet straight-shooting audiences.

Also we balanced our financial books. We owe a great debt of thanks to Blaine Fowers for his skill in picking the location and managing the countless details. Blaine and I are not pros at organizing and coordinating academic conferences. Nevertheless, we managed to overcome any oversights as deftly as possible with a tight budget. We missed the Society's long-time friend, Charles Guignon, due to illness, but I heard many positive comments about Travis Anderson and Michael Slote. Their addresses involved cutting edge, but surprisingly accessible philosophical treatises. The execution of the conference was not perfect, but it seemed to have a wonderful spirit about it. I believe it went well and provided an important forum for significant intellectual exchange.

List of Candidates:

PRESIDENT-ELECT: James Lamiell, Ph.D. & Mark Bickhard, Ph.D.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Kathleen Slaney, Ph.D. & David Goodman, Ph.D.

DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE TO APA COUNCIL: Frank Richardson, Ph.D. & Lisa Osbeck, Ph.D.

Please see candidates statements attached below! And do vote...

See you in San Diego! Again thanks to everyone for their support over this past year.

Candidate Statements

For President Elect

Mark Bickhard

My graduate training focused on research methodology and clinical psychology, but, starting at least with (actually, before) a theoretical dissertation, my career has been focused in theoretical and philosophical domains for over forty years — and I have been arguing for the centrality of work in such domains for at least that long. A primary interest has been in models of the ontology of psychological phenomena, such as representation and cognition, learning, emotions, reflexive consciousness, language, and so on; I have published well over a hundred books, chapters, and articles attempting to address such phenomena. This work has generated an integrating model and modeling perspective called Interactivism. A current project is a book with the tentative title of *The Whole Person*: the draft is now over 900 pages and growing (people are complex!). Last year *Synthese* published an invited special issue on Interactivism, and another for *Axiomathes* is in preparation. There is an invited chapter on the Interactivist model in *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Psychology*. I organize a biennial workshop on the model involved in this work: the Interactivist Summer Institute. We held the fifth of these in June 2009 in Vancouver. I am editor of *New Ideas in Psychology*, a journal that has been open to wide ranges of work in theoretical and philosophical psychology since the early 1980s, and my current position is as the Henry R. Luce Professor of Cognitive Robotics and the Philosophy of Knowledge at Lehigh University. <http://bickhard.ws/>

James T. Lamiell

I am currently Chair of the Department of Psychology at Georgetown University, where I have been a member of the faculty since 1982 and a full professor since 1990. I was elected Fellow of Division 24 in 1987, and have maintained my affiliation with the Division *cum* Society ever since. I served as Associate Editor of *The Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology* from 1992 to 1997, and as Consulting Editor from 1997 to 1999. From 1990-93 and then again in 1995-96 I served as the Division representative to the APA Council of Representatives. As a three-time Fulbright scholar to Germany, I have held visiting professorship at the University of Heidelberg in 1990, at the University of Leipzig in 1998, and at the University of Hamburg in 2004. While in Hamburg, I was Ernst-Cassirer Visiting Professor in the University's Philosophical Seminar. My publications over the years have had primarily to do with (a) conceptual and methodological issues in differential psychology generally and with personality psychology in particular, and with (b) the life and works of the German philosopher and psychologist William Stern (1871-1938). I believe firmly that philosophical inquiry is vital to the intellectual life of psychology, and for this reason consider Division 24 my disciplinary home. As president of the division, I would seek to further the tradition of intellectual excellence that the Society has long nurtured, and from which I myself have benefited over the years.

For Council Representative:

Frank Richardson

I have served the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical and Psychology in several capacities over the last two decades, as Program chair, President, and Council Representative, and would be happy to serve as Council Rep for another term. I share the interest of many Society members is increasing conversation among members and their points of view, and in finding new ways for the Society to address problems and concerns among other divisions and sectors of APA, those they articulate and those perhaps just beginning to reach awareness.

Lisa Osbeck

Lisa Osbeck is an associate professor of psychology at the University of West Georgia. She holds a PhD in general psychology from Georgetown University and has been a visiting fellow in the Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, and visiting research faculty in the College of Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She is the recipient of the 2005 Sigmund Koch Award for Early Career Contributions to Psychology bestowed by the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology (American Psychological Association, Division 24), and is on the editorial boards of *Theory and Psychology*, the *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*, and the *International Journal for the Psychology of Science and Technology*. Research interests include philosophy of science, psychology of science, philosophy of cognition, and history of ideas.

For Member at Large:

David Goodman

David Goodman is a clinical psychologist and fellow at Harvard Medical School/Cambridge Hospital, where he engages in clinical work with underserved populations and participates in research looking at therapeutic process and outcome. Additionally, he is currently a Research Fellow and adjunct clinician at Boston University and an adjunct faculty at Regis College and Lesley University. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses including History and Systems of Psychology, Problems in Psychology, Applied Group Dynamics, and Therapy and Religion. He earned his Ph.D. at Fuller Graduate School of Psychology. His publishing record includes a forthcoming book on Levinas, ethical phenomenology, and constructs of selfhood, an article on Levinas and narcissism in *Theory & Psychology*, several articles in *Pastoral Psychology* on social justice, the history of the relationship between ethics and identity, and the implications of Levinas on psychotherapeutic process, and a forthcoming book chapter in Aron and Henik's book *Answering a Question with a Question*. His presenting record includes five consecutive years of presentations at the APA convention (Division 24, specifically), and several dozen presentations nationally and internationally at Levinas conferences, psychoanalytic gatherings, and other APA, APS, and regional meetings. If elected, his hope is to continue building upon prior efforts to identify and cultivate relationships with particular graduate and undergraduate programs and further develop interest for the division within student groups. He believes that to enrich the conversations taking place in the division and help facilitate their impact, it is important to find ways of bridging into mainstream conversations within the APA and welcome diverse voices into the division's discussions.

Kathleen Slaney

Kathleen Slaney joined the Theory and Methods research stream in the department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University in 2006. Her current interests span a number of areas, including historical and conceptual analysis of methodological approaches within psychological science, philosophy of psychological and related sciences, and theoretical and applied statistics and psychometrics. In particular, in her research she attempts to contribute to a better understanding of psychological scientific practice by bridging philosophy and history of science and the application and analyses of quantitative methods within psychological science. She teaches in the areas of both historical/theoretical psychology and quantitative methods for social and behavioural research. She became a member of APA Division 24 in 2008. She hopes to bring a fresh perspective on theoretical and philosophical issues as they pertain to the discipline generally and is dedicated to becoming informed of the diverse interests of the membership of Division 24 and representing those interests to the best of her ability if elected.