

Kent Psychologists in the Media

Prof Dominic Abrams and Dr Theresa Gannon have been invited to provide expert commentary on major topics in the media.

On Thursday 29th October, Dominic appeared on the Channel 4 documentary 'The Event: How Racist Are You?'. The documentary, a programme from the *Race: Science's Last Taboo Season*, was aired on Thurs 29 October and can still be viewed online. Please see the link to the Channel 4 website:

<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-event-how-racist-are-you>.



Image sourced from Channel4.com

The programme, presented by Krishnan Guru-Murthy, centred around the question 'Are we all more racist than we realise or would like to admit?' and an exercise carried out by Jane Elliot, former schoolteacher from Ohio. The behaviour of thirty adult British volunteers subjected to discrimination according to eye colour was observed and deciphered by two expert psychologists including Dominic.

In his article on the event, Dominic exposed how Elliot's exercise illustrated the different steps in the process of institutionalising prejudice. After being divided into categories and having power assigned to a select few, the lower power group (the Blue Eyes) start to behave in a way that affirms those negative stereotypes used to separate them. Dominic also draws attention to the powerful group's (the Brown Eyes) inclination to feel responsible for

controlling and bettering the behaviour of the Blue Eyes and to perpetuate the idea that they cannot be given power. Eventually the inequality becomes justified, with both the powerful and powerless groups accepting their positions.

You can download a pdf version of Dominic's article on the programme from <http://raceandscience.channel4.com/>

Theresa, Director of the MSc in Forensic Psychology programme and Chartered Forensic Psychologist, was asked for her comments on the NSPCC's announcement on female sex offenders on Tuesday 10th November. There's comment piece resulted in interviews with Sky Radio News and BBC Radio Kent, a 600 word contribution to the Guardian's *Comment Is Free*, an article in the Kent on Sunday and interest from the Big Issue and Channel 4 news. Theresa also conducted an interview for Radio 4 Woman's Hour regarding her research on how and why female sexual offenders abuse children.

The article titled *It's not just men who abuse* can be found on the Guardian website:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/nov/10/female-sexual-abusers-children>



Theresa has been researching this issue since 2006 when she was awarded an Economic and Social Research Council Grant to investigate female sexual offenders' offence supportive beliefs.

Theresa has expanded her interests through investigating offending styles of female sexual offenders and has developed the first model of this behaviour called the *Descriptive Model of Female Sexual Offending*. Theresa is still developing this model but believes that this, and her publication *Pathways to female sexual offending: A preliminary study* can be used as a preliminary guide to treatment and might be useful to treatment professionals.

If you would like to know more about Theresa's work and her collaborators, please visit her staff page on the School of Psychology website:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/people/gannon/>

Your Course Reps

Remember that your student Course Reps also play a key role in passing your concerns to the School of Psychology. The Undergraduate Student Reps 2009/10 are as follows:

Stage 1: Emily Csizmazia (ec262) & Ben Weeks (bw217)



Stage 2: Filipa Pires (fp43) & Catarina Santos (cs351)



Stage 3: Philip Ulrich (pinu3) & Victoria Vass (vv29)



PG Course Reps

MSc in Group Processes and Intergroup Relations: Claire Powell (cp315)

MSc in Social and Applied Psychology: Nanette Bech-Nielsen (nb257)

MSc in Cognitive Psychology/ Neuropsychology: Jenny Cooke (jac65)

MSc in Forensic Psychology: Benjamin Elliott (bje5)

MSc in Research Methods: Claire Stevens (cls95)

PhD - year 1: Carola Leicht (cl280)

PhD - year 2: Hazel Wardrop (hmw32)

PhD - year3 Shirley Samson (ss547)

The course reps you voted for will meet with School staff, sit on School Committees and keep Kent Union informed of the issues affecting you.

In This Issue

Kent Psychologists in the Media	1
Your Course Reps	1
My Dad Says	2
Applied Psychology Evening	2
CSGP Produces Report for Gov	2
You Said, We Did	3
International Training Workshop	4
Quiz & Christmas Party	4
Plus more...	

My Dad Says...

Dr Lindsey Cameron has recently received funding for 3-year project a research project entitled 'My Dad Says...'. This three-year project is funded by the Department for International Development, and will be conducted in partnership with a local global education charity, the World Education Development Group (WEDG). The project will involve 6 secondary schools in East Kent, and the aim is to raise levels of empathy and critical thinking around the topic of immigration. This is a thorny topic that teachers can find tough to tackle, so we will be working to raise awareness and confidence among teachers in challenging the myths and stereotypes that some young people believe about immigrants.



WEDG will work with Citizenship teachers to develop schemes of work that deal with issues such as migration, poverty, the media and community cohesion. Meanwhile, second year Research Experience Students,

research assistants and volunteers from the School of Psychology will conduct research to establish the effectiveness of this intervention. At the end of the three-year project we plan to publish the results and materials used in a resource.

Lindsey said "This is a really exciting intervention project, as we will help teenagers develop critical thinking skills that allow them to consider the sources of information and its accuracy. With these skills, they can then go on to make up their own minds about controversial issues, such as immigration, rather than believing myths that are often perpetuated by the media and other (sometimes inaccurate) sources of information such as parents and peers. The research experience students and the team leader (PhD student, Nicola Abbott), will have a key role to play in the success of the project."



Back row (l-r): Kimberley Palin, Caroline Lee, Stephanie Mackenzie, middle row (l-r): Danielle Harrison, Gemma Grimwood, Sally Palmer front row (l-r): Nicola Abbott, Sam Lee, Hetal Mehta, Precious Nwosisi

Applied Evening Was Great Success

On Tuesday 10th November, the School of Psychology held an 'Applied Evening' for first and second year students on the applied programme. The aim of the event was to raise awareness of some of the potential placements open to students, provide ideas of how to find the right placement for you, and what students can expect to get up to while on placement.

The evening began with talks from successful chartered Clinical psychologist, and former Kent Applied student, Dr Dan Simmonds and long-term placement supervisor, Reinhard Guss. Their presentations gave us an insight into the procedures required to pursue a career in the clinical field, and how a placement year can help develop valuable knowledge and skills. Dr Simmond's and Guss' experiences inspired many to follow their dream and emphasised the usefulness of an applied year in industry. Other speakers included Sam Cummings (currently on a Sport Psychology placement), Helen Butler and Alice Russell (current fourth year applied students). Helen and Alice worked in Holloway Prison and a Mother and Baby Unit in the Institute of Psychiatry, respectively. They gave us advice based on their experiences, thus informing us of what to expect within a placement, which aided our preparation for the coming year.



After the presentations, during nibbles and wine, students were given an opportunity to meet and greet the speakers, who were able to address further queries. Students who are currently on placement displayed posters outlining their experiences on placement so far, including the concerns they had before starting the placement, their duties and how they found the coursework. Most of the students stayed and chatted with each other and this really gave us an insight into what our placement year will be like. This also gave us the chance to socialise with fellow applied students. This will hopefully lead to potential friendships in the final year.

We hope that, like ourselves, other applied students now have a positive insight into the placement year and are feeling motivated to begin searching for prospective placements. We found this evening really enjoyable and beneficial and recommend its continuation for years.

Lindsey would like to extend her thanks to

all who helped to ensure the event was a success, including the speakers, Jo Dunn, and the undergraduate volunteers Precious Nwosisi, Rachel Perrett, Rachel Carter, Charlotte Rose and Sophie Copeman.



Written by Hetal Mehta and Precious Ndede (2nd year Applied students and volunteers)

Centre for Group Processes Produces Report for Government

Dominic Abrams, Tiina Eilola and Hannah Swift recently wrote a report on Attitudes to Age in Britain 2004-2008, commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions. The report was released on Tuesday 20th October and received some media attention since, being quoted on the BBC website on an article titled 'Youth 'ends at 45' says Research'.

The report itself investigate the following aspects with the aim to inform future government policies set to deal with an ageing population:

- the importance of age to people's self-concept, and what determines how they judge others as 'young' or 'old';
- beliefs that age prejudice and discrimination are a problem;
- personal experience of age discrimination;
- stereotypes that exist about older and younger people, and their implications;
- beliefs that the ageing population endangers employment prospects, access to services and resources, or endangers the culture and way of life of all people;
- the expression of age prejudice;
- beliefs that younger and older people share a single community and intergenerational divide.

You can download the report from the following webpage: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep599.pdf>

The press release is also available on the Department of Work and Pensions website: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2009/october-2009/dwp048-09-201009.shtml>

Congratulations...

Karen Douglas was an invited speaker at the Muncaster Castle Conference on the psychology of paranormal experiences. Muncaster Castle is supposedly one of the most haunted castles in Britain so it was a very good venue for a conference organized by the Skeptics Society! Karen talked about her research on understanding why people believe in conspiracy theories. The conference has been reported in the media in outlets such as New Scientist magazine and the Fortean Times and was a great success.

In September **Theresa Gannon** was invited to present a key note speech at the FIDES 10th Anniversary conference. *Treating sexual offenders: Controversies and future directions*.

Jane Wood was also invited to present her paper *The Journey so far: offender rehabilitation and integrated service management* at the Kent and Medway Integrated Offender Management Conference in Maidstone, hosted by the Assistant Chief Constable.

Well Done to **Tirza Leader** who was awarded £2,900 from Pfizer for an evaluation of a Corporate Training Day.

Congratulations to **Manuela Thomae** and **James Cane** for winning Part-Time Teaching Awards.

Congratulations to **Dominic Abrams** who has been awarded another £30,000 from the Department for Work and Pensions for the project "Measuring attitudes to ageing over time".

Adam Rutland has been made a Board member on the ESRC Training and Developmental Board. He represents psychology nationally on the Board, which is responsible for all postgraduate and post-doctoral affairs for the ESRC. In the coming year he will also be Chairing the Panel that decides the award of ESRC Studentships across all social sciences within the UK.

Well done to **Dirk Janssen** for an extra £8,384 from the Department of Health (via Enterprise) for his project entitled "National Evaluation of Partnerships for Older People Projects: supporting the administration and analysis of the Quality of Life Tool".

Theresa Gannon has been awarded £400 from the British Academy towards attending the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers 28th Annual Conference 2009.

Congratulations to **Jane Wood** who has been awarded another £7,500 from Kent Probation (Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team) for an ongoing project entitled "Integrated services for managing prolific offenders: a longitudinal perspective".

Karen Douglas has become a member of the University Senate. This body exists to support the management, administration and governance of the University.

You Said, We Did

The School of Psychology has made much effort recently to ask for students' feedback into core issues of learning and teaching, resources, and the general environment. Last academic year a range of students gave their opinions via different methods, including informal lunch meetings, the internal student survey, the National Student Survey, and the Staff-Student Liaison Committee. Lots of hot topics have been raised and I am writing now to let you know how some of those comments have directly impacted improvements. Firstly, based on student feedback the School have ensured that the library have up to date editions of all our core texts, and we have recently purchased over 200 books in the last academic year. Secondly, Psychology have adopted the Kent Union drafted policy on how to foster a creative environment in the classroom, this is run through the opening lecture of all modules. Thirdly, we are reviewing our standardized feedback form with input from staff and students to make sure students get the most effective form of feedback on their written work. Fourthly, in response to feedback and discussions the final year project expected word count now better reflects what would be required from a scientific journal publication, at 5-7000 words. We also have a series of additional workshops for final year project students providing additional support and tuition (details below). Finally, the Student Counter is now open longer, with only half an hour closure for lunch. We are hoping to further extend these opening hours. Thanks for all the feedback, please keep it coming! Please take a moment to complete this year's internal student survey and get in touch with your reps or join us in a lunch meeting (details to follow).

Dr Georgina Randsley de Moura
Director of Learning & Teaching

Week 11 – 08/12/09 Tues. 9-11am, N1.04
Letitia Slabu - Ethics Applications Online
(Repeat of Week 6)

TBC , N1.04

Hannah Swift - SPSS REFRESHER: Setting up an SPSS data file; Reliability & Validity of questionnaires

Week 19 - 02/03/10 Tues. 9.30am – 12.30pm, N1.04

Hannah Swift - SPSS REFRESHER: Reverse coding variables; computing new variables

Week 21 – 16/10/10 Tues. 10am – 1pm, N1.04

Hannah Swift & Shirley Samson & Rachel Rogers - DATA ANALYSIS DROP-IN SURGERY

Week 23 – 30/03/10 Tues. 10am – 1pm, N1.04

Hannah Swift & Shirley Samson & Rachel Rogers - DATA ANALYSIS DROP-IN SURGERY

Remember a draft is due in to your supervisor 4 weeks before the deadline

Tues. 27th April 2010, 10am – 1pm, N1.04
Hannah Swift & Shirley Samson & Rachel Rogers - Resolving last minute panics

Recent Publications

Collie, R. M., Gannon, T. A., King, L., & Ward, T. (2009). *Rape assessment*. In M. C. Calder (Ed.), *Sexual abuse assessments: Using and developing frameworks for practice* (pp264-281). Dorset: Russell House Publishing.

Damian, M. F., & Dumay, N. (2009). Exploring phonological encoding through repeated segments. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, 24, 685-712.

Dumay, N., Damian, M.F., Stadthagen-Gonzalez, & Perez, M.A. (2009). *Is the scope of phonological encoding constrained by the syntactic role of the utterance constituents?* In N.A. Taatgen & H. van Rijn (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 31st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 667-672). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Gannon, T. A., & Rose, M. R. (2009) Offence-related interpretative bias in female child molesters: A preliminary study. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 21, 194-207.

Peker, M. & Tekcan, A. I. (2009). The role of familiarity among group members in collaborative inhibition and social contagion. *Social Psychology*, 40, 111-118.

Polaschek, D. L. L., Calvert, S., & Gannon, T. (2009). Linking violent thinking. Implicit theory-based research with violent offenders. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 24, 75-96.

Wood, J. & Moir, A. & James M. (2009) Prisoners' gang-related activity: the importance of bullying and moral disengagement. *Psychology Crime and Law*, 15, 569 - 581

Wood, J., Kade, C. & Sidhu, M. (2009) What works for offenders and staff: Comparing two multi-agency approaches to offender resettlement. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 15, 661 - 678

Zalaf, A. & Wood, J. (2009) Ethnic Minorities Perceptions of the Police *International Criminal Justice Review*, 19:4

Postgraduate Open Events

The University of Kent will be holding Postgraduate Open Events at Woolf College Canterbury on:

Wednesday 2 December 2009: 5-8pm
Saturday 6 February 2010: 11am-3pm

There will be demonstrations and talks about funding opportunities and advice on finding the right course for you. Representatives from our School will be attending to answer all of your questions about Postgraduate Psychology at Kent.

For more information please go to: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/studying/openday/openday/pg.html>

Kent Hosts International Training Workshop for Doctoral Students

In late October, the University of Kent's School of Psychology hosted a truly unique international event for doctoral students. Two different streams of funding converged - one from the German research council's International Graduate College, and another from an ESRC networking grant to promote social cognition in the UK, secured by the School's Dr Mario Weick and Dr Roger Giner-Sorolla. The result was the ESRC/IGC Joint Consultation Seminar, organized by Mario and Roger with the help of postgraduate students Milica Vasiljevic, Jennifer Lord and Mojca Delac. The seminar's theme was bringing together research on social cognition and on social groups.

Six renowned experts in groups and social cognition attended - two from the UK (Exeter's Prof Thomas Kessler and our own Prof Richard Crisp), two from the Continent (Prof Leonel Garcia-Marques and Prof Teresa Garcia-Marques) and two from the USA, coincidentally representing different campuses of the University of California system (Prof Jim Blascovich from Santa Barbara and Prof Jeff Sherman from Davis). The 26 postgraduate students in attendance came from the University of Jena in Germany and from various universities around the UK including Birmingham, Cardiff, Sussex, Sheffield, Bangor and Cambridge. Across the three days of the meeting, students and experts delivered talks on their own research, but the focus of the event was a series of intensive one-on-one consultations. Postgraduate students met with three experts in succession, gaining invaluable feedback from many different perspectives on the theory and methods aspects of their works. Fully funded lunches on campus and banquet dinners at some of the area's most popular restaurants further added to the convivial atmosphere. The seminar made an impression on all attendants and one of the American professors expressed an interest in exporting the Consultation Seminar model to his shores!



Psychology Society Careers Evening

On Wednesday 18th November the Psychology Society organised a careers evening providing an overview of some of the possible Psychology-related careers available for Psychology undergraduates after graduation.

The evening was open to all, with speakers covering 'How to Successfully Apply for a PhD', 'A Career in Learning Disabilities', 'A Career in Teaching Psychology', 'Occupational and Business Psychology', 'Forensic Psychology' and 'Health Psychology'.

The event began in 2006 and has been taking place annually ever since. Yet again, the evening was a great success, with positive feedback from all those who participated.

Any questions with regards to the event or the speakers that attended, please email Charlotte Rose, the Careers and Volunteering Co-ordinator of the Psychology Society, on cr364@kent.ac.uk



Quiz & Christmas Party

The Psychology Society have organised a quiz to be held on Tuesday 1st December, venue tbc. All Psychology students are welcome and will get the chance to outshine the academic and support staff.

All Psychology staff, postgraduate and undergraduate students are invited to attend this year's Christmas Party which will be a joint event with the Psychology Society. The party will be in K-Bar on Thursday 17th December from 7pm. There will be karaoke to start with (so you'll get the chance to hear your lecturers sing) followed by the regular Thursday night Back 2 Basics event from 10pm, with a popular DJ.



We look forward to seeing you there!

Need Help/Advice?

If you have any personal or academic issues that may affect your ability to study you can talk to Lisa Clark, Student Advisor for Psychology.

Please email her at: psychadvisor@kent.ac.uk

There are a range of services available to all Kent students including the following:

- Careers Advisory Service
- Disability and Dyslexia Support Service
- International Students
- Counselling
- Chaplaincy
- Medical

Plus many more...

You can find more out about Student Services from the following webpage:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/guidance/>

Any Suggestions?

If you have any comments or suggestions for the staff in the School of Psychology, then you can feed these back to us by using our suggestions box located outside the Psychology Student Office (Keynes M1.13).

Kent Psychologist

The School of Psychology's Newsletter is for students and staff. We welcome contributions from both staff and students for future issues. If you would like to write an article or have any news you'd like to share, please contact Carly Bloomfield.

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