

Welcome to the second Institute of Social Psychology Newsletter (ISPN) – your ideal summer reading material! The ISPN is an opportunity for ISP members to share news, views and achievements. The current newsletter consists of four sections: conferences and workshop, Institute happenings, publications, and forthcoming events, and is based on information that was emailed to the editorial team. If you would like your news included in the next issue (to be circulated in the Michaelmas Term) then please email the Editorial Team [ISPNEdTeam@psych.lse.ac.uk](mailto:ISPNEdTeam@psych.lse.ac.uk)

## Conferences and workshops

The **'White Terror/ Post Empire'** event, organised by Caroline Howarth and Derek Hook was a great success. Students described it as "amazing" and "an excellent opportunity to meet some of the people we read about". We were delighted to have Professors Back (Goldsmiths) and Gilroy (LSE) giving the opening lectures on 19<sup>th</sup> May, and had a series of panels on 20<sup>th</sup> May with contributions from Vron Ware, Ros Gill, Valerie Walkerdine, Lorraine Johnson-Riordan, Damien Riggs, Steve Garner, Mike Hill and many others – with some presenters coming quite some way (such as from Norway and Australia) for the event. Caroline and Derek were grateful to Nicola and Jacq for managing the organisation so professionally and ensuring that the conference went smoothly.

The workshop **'Communities and Change: Rethinking Social Psychological Theory and Practice'**, organised by Ama de Graft-Aikins and Melissa Nolas, took place at LSE on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The workshop was attended by Masters, PhD and Post-doc students, as well as experienced researchers, from a variety of Universities across the UK. The workshop was organized around three panel discussions: public health; social exclusion and social conflict; and international development. The aims of the

workshop were to generate a critical discussion around theory, practice and ethics in the area of communities and change, and to create an intergenerational and interdisciplinary forum for researchers with different levels of experience and from different disciplines to come together and exchange research stories. The highly successful day was enjoyed by participants at all levels.

## Institute happenings

Caroline Howarth is continuing publications in the fields of representations, identity and racism. This includes a paper on the critical potential of Social Representations Theory (for the *British Journal of Social Psychology*), a paper comparing SRT and attitude theories for *Theory and Psychology* and a paper on 'Race as stigma' for Cathy Campbell's special issue on stigma in the *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology*. She is also working on papers for *Political Psychology* and the *British Journal of Social Psychology*, both on children's understanding of racism, as well as a book chapter on representations, identities and racialisation (for a book on *Representations and Identities* by Moloney and Walker).

Published anything lately? Gone or going to any conferences? Working on anything new? Been to any thought-provoking events, exhibitions, films? Have a secret artistic talent that might help the newsletter look pretty? Read any new/old publications that you think others may be interested in? *Why not contribute to the ISPN!* 1

### Once bitten, twice shy?

**Carola Nuernberg on *Research Bites 06*, the first ISP workshop for PhD students and staff held on June 1st.**

Research Bites 2006 had quite an energetic start: we all went speed-dating. In the course of 30 minutes and in the middle of a cloud of enormous but happy noise I found myself animatedly chatting to Giuseppe, Katharina and Derek. Equipped with expertly prepared questions by Sally, we discussed our favourite books, parallel career plans and much more.

Things got a bit more reflexive during the Research Journeys Panel: Patrick, Sandra and Caroline sharing their personal stories of doing research --- the very stuff that you rarely get to read about in published work but which can be so valuable to hear about.

We then moved from the reflexive to the self-reflexive and discussed the way PhD students and staff work together in the institute. We explored the notion of the PhD project as a journey, discussed the needs and limits of the institute as a base camp and had good laugh at poor old Freud, the paper-maché figure from the corner of the common room, who silently participated by carrying a backpack full of provisions for the journey. Suggestions emerging from our discussion are being put into action, for example PhD students are compiling a list of their research interests, a PhD committee - comprising of second, third and fourth year students - has been set up to mentor future events, and in line with the literal theme of the event it seems that Friday evening drinks on the steps of St.Clements are becoming something of tradition in the (re)making. Importantly, we (that is the full group of PhD students at the institute) still have unused funds from Teaching & Learning for activities that "benefit the development of our wider skills". So if anyone is interested in organising something,

some resources are still available. But rather than finish on a bureaucratic note, let me rather refer to the literal meaning of research bites: yes, there was yummy food, as well, and plenty of it.

### 'Tis the season?

The 2006 Summer Term at ISP had a distinctly matrimonial feel to it! Congratulations to Derek and Merryn, Ly and Alan, and Viviane and Scott. Congratulations also to Mohammed and Aliah on their engagement.



Viviane and Scott Schwager tie the knot... witnessed by some very glamorous PhD students!



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# Publications

Gaskell, G. and Bauer, M. eds. (2006). *Genomics and Society: Legal, ethical and social dimensions*. London: Earthscan.

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Howarth, C. (2006). "A social representation is not a quiet thing: Exploring the critical potential of social representations theory." *British Journal of Social Psychology*. 45, pp. 65 – 86.

Howarth, C. (2006). "How Social Representations of Attitudes have informed Attitude theories: the consensual and reified." *Theory and Psychology*.

Howarth, C. (2006). Race as stigma: Positioning the stigmatised as agents, not objects. *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology* - Special issue on 'Understanding and Challenging Stigma' by Cathy Campbell and Harriet Deacon.

# Forthcoming events

Caroline Howarth is busy over the summer organising two conference symposia: 'Community participation, power and social change' for the *Political Psychology* conference (Barcelona, 12 – 15 July 2006); 'Representations 'of' us? Representations 'for' us? Resisting racialisation in the media' for the *International Conference on Social Representations* (Rome, 28<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006).

## About the editorial team

A voluntary editorial team has been set up and responsibility for producing each newsletter will be alternated amongst its members. Members currently include: Carlos Bruen, Melissa Nolas, Stavroula Tsirogianni and Cathy Vaughan. The current ISPN issue was produced by Cathy Vaughan (and she sends apologies from Australia for the late distribution of this newsletter!). If anyone else would like to join the editorial team please get in touch! To contact the team please email:

[ISPNEdTeam@psych.lse.ac.uk](mailto:ISPNEdTeam@psych.lse.ac.uk)

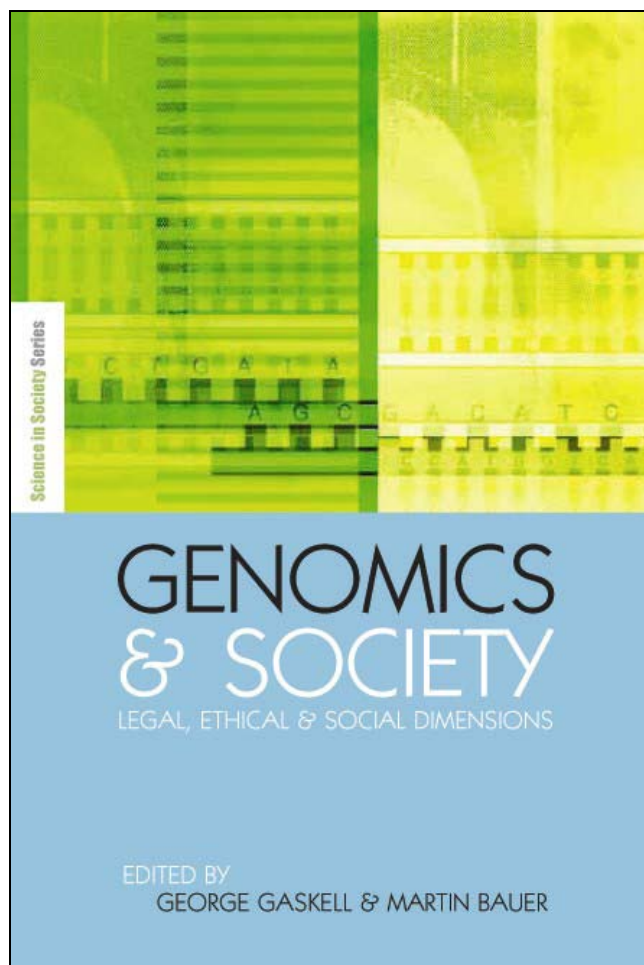
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**George Gaskell** is Director, Methodology Institute at the London School of Economics.

**Martin W. Bauer** is Reader in Social Psychology and Research Methods and the London School of Economics.

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