



# ISPN

Issue No 4 – Spring 2007

Welcome to the fourth issue of the Institute of Social Psychology Newsletter (ISPN), the final issue for this academic year. Since the launch of the ISPN in March 2006, a substantial and far-reaching range of activities have been undertaken by members of the Institute - numerous high-quality books, journal articles and special edition journals have been published; the Institute has been proudly represented by its students and staff at many events in countries across the world; and the long-standing tradition of collaborating with other academic institutions continues to be a significant feature of the Institute. Also, we have both welcomed and said farewell to many people throughout this year, all of whom have added, and continue to add, to that which makes the Institute what it is. The ISPN has been present throughout, and will continue to be there to share the news, views and achievements of the ISP members.

## In this issue:

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To have your news included in the next issue please email your information to the Editorial Team:

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

## Institute Happenings

Happenings at the Institute have continued apace this term. In February Martin Bauer gave the key note address, 'Resistance to Innovation – The Pain in the Process', at the *Science, Technology and Society* Round Table, held at InnovAction 2007,

University of Udine, Italy. Earlier in the year Sandra Jovchelovitch travelled to Rome, Italy to teach at the University of La Sapienza, within the framework of the European Thematic Network on Social Representations and Communication. She was joined by Professor Denise Jodelet (Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Paris) and Dr Gerard

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Duveen, (University of Cambridge), for two intense days of teaching and debate on the anthropological/socio-cultural approach to the study of social representations. Students were both physically present and "online present". For Sandra, this proved to be very interesting, not least from a pedagogical perspective, where she observed first-hand what new technologies can offer to the old classroom culture of face-to-face teaching.

Between the 15th and 18th March, Sandra was in Salzburg, Austria, participating in an exploratory research workshop organised by Professor Janos Lazlo (Hungarian Academy of Science) and Professor Wolfgang Wagner (University of Linz). Funded by the European Science Foundation, the aim of the workshop was to investigate "Narrative, Historical Trajectories and Representations of the Past". Key questions Sandra and her colleagues aimed to address included how the past weighs on the present, and investigating what the social psychological processes underlying narrations, elaborations and understandings of history are. One of the key aims of the workshop was to build a European research team to look at these issues in a comparative perspective.

Well done to Anne-Katrin Schlag, who has recently taken up a postdoctoral position at King's College, London. Having completed her PhD at the end of last year, Anne will now be working with Prof. Ragnar Lofstedt on an EU project dealing with risk perception and risk communication in relation to farming. Anne will be based in the King's Centre for Risk Management, which is part of the School of Social Science and Public Policy at King's College. And since Anne will be based on the Strand campus - just around the corner from the LSE – keeping in touch will be all the easier!

This year the Institute became a home away from home for Simone Hüning, who spent the year at the LSE to work on her PhD. In Simone's words:

### **Far, But Not so Far Away**

*A message from Simone Hüning on her year in London at the LSE.*

"The world is so small! Yes, I had already known this from reading books. But after spending one year at the LSE, what was once common sense became a real life experience. I cannot help but express my happiness and excitement for the ways that academia can unite people and worlds, not just around academic and theoretical issues, but around lifestyles, cultures, feelings, realities

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and so on. This is the way I think of this period at the LSE, in the corridors of St Clements Building, at room S316, during the coffee breaks, lunches and happy hours!



**Cultural Exchange - In Practice**  
Simone teaching fellow ISPer how to make *caipirinhas*, Brazil's national cocktail!

I came to the LSE to continue work on my PhD, which, based on a Foucauldian perspective, explores the ways that Psychology constructs the concept of mental health.

But I soon came to realise that one doesn't spend her/his PhD just in the office and classrooms - in order to make this experience worthy, one must go beyond the focus of her/his own research. More than formal knowledge, I brought back with me to Brazil a little bit of each one of you and the innumerable things I learned from you.

And now, writing this note, ten days after I have come back to Porto Alegre, I have got myself thinking about distances. And although I sadly have to admit that "we are far...", I smile thinking "not so far away", since we have already constructed the bridges of academia and friendship, which will allow us to overcome the traditional constraints of geography. So, from now on, Porto Alegre is just around the corner. A big thanks for everything and I'm waiting for you! *Saudades...*"

The ISPN Editorial Team wish Simone the very best with everything in Brazil! Simone can be contacted at: [simonehuning@yahoo.com.br](mailto:simonehuning@yahoo.com.br)

A further significant change at the Institute



since the last issue of ISPN is the recent selection of George Gaskell to the Deputy Directorship of the LSE. The editors of the

ISPN, no doubt reflecting the sentiment felt by all members of the Institute, extend a heartfelt congratulations to George on his appointment to this high-standing post at the LSE. This appointment offers recognition of George's vast contribution to the LSE, and the work he has done within the ISP, the Methodology Institute, BIOS Centre and CARR.

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# Reading & Research Groups

Members of the Institute continue to advance creative and collaborative environments in which research interests can be addressed, knowledge exchanged, and relations developed. This is evidenced, for example, with regard to the variety of reading and research groups in which faculty and PhD researchers are actively involved.

2007 saw the further development of **SPRRaM (Social Psychological Research into Race & Multiculture)** - a forum for engaged critical social psychological research into racism and multiculturalism - within the Institute for Social Psychology. This group is made up of academic staff and PhD researchers, including Derek Hook, Caroline Howarth, Eleni Andreouli, Carlos Bruen, Alison Chryssides, Parisa Dashtipour, Shira Keshet, Shose Kessi and Mohammed Sartawi. The aims of the group are to establish an understanding of the transformative potential of social psychological research – particularly in the fields of racism and multiculturalism – in both the academic and public spheres; to develop skills in collaborative research and a sense of how to promote productive dialogue across differences of perspective and theory; and to support individual research

projects of group members by providing a space for discussion of research problems.

In a relatively short period of time since its inception, the group has already marked several achievements. During the Michaelmas term the group initiated a series of focus groups on issues of significant public debate in relation to racism and multiculturalism - such as Islamophobia. At the beginning of the Lent term the group produced a consultation document in response to a public invitation by The Commission on Integration and Cohesion, a fixed term advisory body reporting to the Secretary of State of Communities and Local Government. At present, work on the group's website is going into its final stages, thanks to the dedicated help and support of Steve Bennett. The website will be publicly accessible in the near future

## LSE Social Representations Group

The first meeting of the revival of the Social Representations Group within the LSE's Institute of Social Psychology was held on the 14th February 2007, under the co-ordination of Sandra Jovchelovitch. The first meeting was attended by Dr Gerard Duveen (University of Cambridge), Dr Paula Castro (ISCTE, Lisbon), and a number of postgraduate research students from the Institute of Social Psychology. The group will be

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meeting fortnightly at the Institute of Social Psychology.

The group aims to consolidate and expand the contribution of social psychology to the understanding of social phenomena. Taking the study of social representations as a starting point, the group will explore a range of theoretical and empirical issues that are relevant to the advancement of scholarship and to our understanding of contemporary societies. The group will focus on three axes:


- i. The development of representations ontogenetically and sociogenetically;
- ii. The mapping out of new mentalities that emerge around novel and established social objects;
- iii. The practical consequences of representations and how representational studies can inform, challenge and if necessary, transform social practices.

The group will also seek to establish intellectual partnerships with leading universities and academics in the theory of Social Representations, develop a reading programme amongst postgraduate research students in an effort to untie some of the knots in SRT, and work on the development of an archive of research.

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Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Gordon Sammut for details of the next meeting. E: [g.sammut@lse.ac.uk](mailto:g.sammut@lse.ac.uk)


Some readers may not be familiar with the on-line peer reviewed journal *Papers on Social Representations*. The journal has been publishing empirical, theoretical, methodological and discussion papers since 1992 in the fields of social representation theory, cultural psychology, discourse and communication theory, social construction, societal psychology and related areas. The ISP is represented on the Editorial Board by Caroline Howarth, and on the Scientific Advisory Board by George Gaskell. Articles can be accessed from the following website:

 [www.psr.jku.at/index.htm](http://www.psr.jku.at/index.htm)

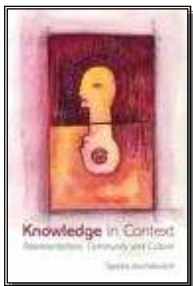
### **Programme in Cognition & Culture**

The Programme in Cognition and Culture, a cross-departmental collaboration between the Institute and the LSE Department of Anthropology, continues to go from strength to strength. Bringing together scholars and students at the LSE whose research focuses on the relationship between psychological development and the socio-cultural environments in which

humans live, the Programme held a special seminar series on culture and cognition in 2006/2007 and continued the development of two MSc degrees at the LSE linked to the programme. Members from the ISP include Bradley Franks, Sandra Jovchelovitch, Andy Wells, Sharon Attia, Ali Chryssides, Japinder Dhesi, Katarina Keresztekova, Carol Norton, Alain Sampson and Ben Voyer. More information about the programme is available from the following website:

 [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/PCC](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/PCC)

## Publications



Those of you who have been waiting for the paperback format of Sandra's book *Knowledge in Context: Representations, Community & Culture* will be pleased to know

that it is now available. And a big congratulations to Sandra on the upcoming launch of the Brazilian edition of the book this summer, as well as on the Portuguese translation, which is well underway.

The launch of Mark Kobayashi-Hillary's book,

co-authored with Dr Richard Sykes of the hi-tech industry association 'Intellect', will take place at the New Theatre, April 30 2007 (19.15 – 20.25).

The launch will feature a presentation by the authors and a discussion by Patrick Humphreys and Fred Adam from the ISP, and AS Lakshmi, UK Country Head of Tata Consultancy Services. This will be followed by a drinks reception. To register for the event or for more information, contact Mark on [mail@markhillary.com](mailto:mail@markhillary.com).



Caroline Howarth continues her research and publications on issues of social psychology, race and representation. A chapter by Caroline titled "Racialisation, Re-presentation and Resistance" will appear in G. Moloney and I. Walker (eds) *Identity as Content, Process and Power*, (London, Palgrave Macmillan), due for publication later this year.

Martin Bauer has recently had articles published that will be of interest to members of the ISP:

Bauer MW (2007) 'The public career of 'genes' – trends in public sentiment from 1946 to 2002', *New Genetics and Society*, 26 (1): 1-17.

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Bauer MW, N Allum, & S Miller (2007) 'What have we learnt from 25 years of PUS research – liberating and widening the agenda', *Public Understanding of Science*, 15 (1): 1-17.

## Forthcoming Workshops & Conferences

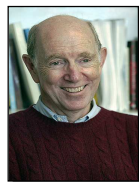
Sandra Jovchelovitch has been invited by the organisers of the 14th IAHP Conference (International Association on Health Policy), the 10th ALAMES (Latin American Association on Social Medicine) and the 4th ABRASCO Conference (Brazilian Association of Collective Health) to be a key note speaker. The key theme of the conferences, which are taking place in Salvador, Northeast of Brazil, from July 13th to July 18th 2007, is *Equity, Ethics and Right to Health: Challenges in a Globalized World*. As Sandra notes:

I am thrilled to have the chance of addressing this meeting, which historically has congregated academics, activists and policy makers working for changes in the health field. I am very honoured by this invitation and adding to the intellectual stimulation, there is the fact that the

conferences will take place in Salvador of Bahia, my favourite place in Brazil!

Through an agreement between the Portuguese Ministry of Science and Technology and the British Council, Sandra and Dr Paula Castro (University of Lisbon, ISCTE) applied and were successful in receiving funds to organise a two-day workshop at the LSE. The focus of this workshop will be on "Social Change and the Transformation of Ideas". Centred mainly on the exchange between established researchers and doctoral students, the workshop will bring together Sandra, Dr Gerard Duveen, Professor Susan Condor, and Dr Paula Castro, and their respective PhD students. The workshop will take place in early May.

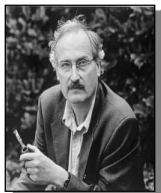
The **Psychology as a Social Science Public Lecture Series** continues into the summer term. Hosted by the ISP and supported by the LSE Deputy Directors' Discretionary Fund, past speakers at the lecture series were Professor Michael Billig and Professor Nicolas Rose. On 16 May Professor Michael Cole (University of California San Diego) will visit the LSE to speak on the topic of "Researching the Potential of Cultural-Historical Psychology". Michael Cole is Professor of Psychology and Comparative



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Human Development at the University of California.

Later in the term, on 21 June, Professor Axel Honneth, (Institute for Social Research



in Frankfurt-am-Main) will give a presentation titled “Appropriation of Freedom: Freud’s conception of the individual self-relation”. Both

public lectures are scheduled to take place in the Old Theatre from 6.30pm and will be chaired by Sandra Jovchelovitch.

On 14th May SPRRaM will hold a workshop on **Current Research into Racism, Multiculture, Islamophobia**. Key speakers for this event are Professor Les Back and Dr Steve Garner. The workshop will focus on current research into the social psychology of racism, multiculture and islamophobia. Aims of the workshop include:

- Identifying the common conceptual issues and challenges in the research presented;
- Examining how to operationalise different theories in developing research and selecting appropriate methodologies;
- Developing an understanding of the objectives of a rigorously critical psychology of racism;

- Recognising some to the limitations of different approaches and different methods;
- Providing PhD and MSc students with a forum to discuss their own research in this field.


For further information please contact: [c.s.howarth@lse.ac.uk](mailto:c.s.howarth@lse.ac.uk)

The **Seminar Series on Culture and Cognition** continues into the summer term, and will host Dr. Peggy Froerer (Brunel) on 13 June. Speaking on “Anthropological Perspectives on the Construction of Social Group Identity in a Central Indian Tribal Community”, this lecture will take place in room D703 at 4.00 to 6.00pm.

The **8th Inter-University Graduate Conference** will be held at the ISP on May 19. Having taken place at Cambridge for the last few years, the 8th Inter-University Graduate Conference returns to London this May. A one-day conference for postgraduate research students, it is traditionally organised by PhD students from the ISP and Cambridge university. The key note speaker for the conference will be Professor Michael Cole, Department of Communication and Psychology, University of California, San Diego. The conference is open to students from a wide range of social science subjects who can present and discuss their work

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in a friendly and open atmosphere. The deadline for submitting abstracts is March 30<sup>th</sup>. For further information, including conference themes, please see:

 [www.sps.cam.ac.uk/gradconf/index.html](http://www.sps.cam.ac.uk/gradconf/index.html)


A rare lecture by **Dame Mary Douglas**, an eminent social scientist and anthropologist, will take place in UCL's Lecture Theatre 1, Cruciform Building on Tuesday 3 April 2007 from 6.30-8pm. Mary has influenced the world of policy as well as academia over the last 40 years on issues as diverse as risk, social conflict, consumption and pollution, through classic books such as *The World of Goods*, *How Institutions Think* and *Purity and Danger*. For this lecture, Mary will be speaking about small groups, their problems of internal organisation, and their tendency to solve them by violence against outsiders. To reserve your place, please contact Carly Schnabl on +44 (0)20 7679 9274 or email [c.schnabl@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.schnabl@ucl.ac.uk). Places for this event is strictly on a first come first served basis.

Two events take place this summer specifically dedicated to the study of social representations. The first of these events, **9th International LAB Meeting, Summer Session 2007**, is hosted by the European PhD on Social Representations &

Communication Multimedia LAB & Research Centre, Rome, Italy. Focusing on the "Structural Approach to Social Representations", this meeting takes place from 7th to 15th July 2007. For more:

 [www.europhd.psi.uniroma1.it](http://www.europhd.psi.uniroma1.it)

The second event, the **15th International Journey and 3rd Brazilian Conference on Social Representations**, takes place in Brasília, Brazil, and runs from July 31 to August 3. The theme of this conference is "Interdisciplinarity and Diversity of Paradigms". Honored guests include Serge Moscovici, Denise Jodelet, Willem Doise and Jean-Claude Abric. For more information please see:

 [www.gosites.com.br/vjirs/principal.asp](http://www.gosites.com.br/vjirs/principal.asp)

Closer to home, the **54<sup>th</sup> BPS Social Psychology Section Conference 2007** will take place later this year, 5th – 7th September, at the University of Kent. The theme of this conference is "Groups, Politics and Organisations", and offers an opportunity for Social Psychologists to present their diverse theoretical and methodological approaches in relation to this theme. Keynote speakers for the event are Professors Marilynn Brewer and Robin Martine.

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Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted by 25th May 2007. Further details available at:

 [www.socialpsychology.org.uk](http://www.socialpsychology.org.uk)

## E-Academia

Deviating from the Suggested Readings section of the ISPN, this edition of the Newsletter brings you some suggested online resources - E-Academia! - that may be of interest.

A number of online videos are available to watch at **Lacan.com**, home to the journal *Lacanian Ink*. Included among currently available videos are presentations by Alain Badiou, Jacques-Alain Miller and Slavoj Žižek:


 [www.lacan.com/zizvideos.htm](http://www.lacan.com/zizvideos.htm)

Many of you will be familiar with **YouTube**, which is becoming an increasingly useful resource to view videos relevant to people's research interests, and not only as a data resource for people's research! Currently available are such presentations as:

- Edward Said's *The Myth of the Clash of Civilizations*

- Videos of lectures by Slavoj Žižek, including *The Spectator's Malevolent Neutrality*.
- Videos of Jacques Lacan (many with subtitles)

To locate these videos, simply copy the details into the YouTube search engine.

 [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

**Webcasts** have also become a popular online resource for academics, where many are freely available. For example, *UC Berkeley* have made many introductory courses available to web-users. Also available for viewing and listening are events that have been held on that campus.

 [www.webcast.berkeley.edu/index.php](http://www.webcast.berkeley.edu/index.php)

Similarly, Oxford University's *Oxford Internet Institute* has made numerous webcasts available of prominent speakers and conferences, where the particular focus is on aspects of new media.

 <http://webcast.oii.ox.ac.uk/>

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# About the Editorial Team

A voluntary editorial team is responsible for the newsletter, with production of each issue alternated amongst its members. Members currently include: Carlos Bruen, Melissa Nolas, Stavroula Tsirogianni and Cathy Vaughan. The current ISPN issue was produced by Carlos Bruen.

## Your ISPN Needs You!

Want to bring those latent editorial talents to the surface? Got ideas on how you would like the ISPN to look? Then now is the time to join the Editorial Team! The end



of this academic year will bring with it changes to the composition of the Editorial Team. We are therefore strongly encouraging one or two research students to consider joining us to help with the production of the ISPN. Please email to inform us of your interest, or any queries you may have about what is involved in producing the ISPN. We will be happy to answer your questions:

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

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