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The British Psychological Society was founded in 1901, and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1965. Its object is 'to promote the advancement and diffusion of a knowledge of psychology pure and applied and especially to promote the efficiency and usefulness of Members of the Society by setting up a high standard of professional education and knowledge'.

Extract from The Charter

News about Society matters and brief items for News of members are welcome. Please send to *The Psychologist* at the Society's office, or to psychologist@bps.org.uk. Subsystem notices: notices received from elected officers of subsystems of official meetings, events, conferences of Divisions, Sections, Branches and Special Groups of the Society are inserted free of charge. Items should be sent to susepp@bps.org.uk.

Psychology and issues for the citizen

HAVE you ever thought that our discipline should be able to make a much greater contribution to the lives of the people than it does at present? Do you sometimes get the uneasy feeling that psychology has become over-compartmentalised, over-focused on micro phenomena and less directly relevant to the big national and international issues of our age? Would you like to see psychology making a greater contribution to some of the pressing concerns confronting the world today, including issues like –

- the global secular–fundamentalist tension;
- the problems (and possibilities) resulting from an ageing population;
- social exclusion and the roles of nationality, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation in its causation;
- physical and mental health issues across the world;
- climate change, its recognition and behavioural consequences.

The College of Fellows, which was formally established by the Society in July last year, consists of a group of psychologists broadly representative of the different subsystems of the Society. The setting up of such a group of Fellows of the Society is an interesting initiative, which could encourage a reconsideration of those insights and strategies that our discipline might offer to some of the big issues in our world.

Provisional objectives of this group include:

- To enable the Society to draw upon the expertise of members who have achieved Fellowship status and who, having already achieved many career ambitions, may feel less constrained in speaking critically about psychology today.
- To provide a wider perspective of the applications of psychological research and practice that spans the different branches of psychology and that involves the Society membership as a whole.
- To enable members of the Society, the public and central government to recognise how psychology might act as a major, positive force for change in our society. Early suggestions for working towards this objective have included multi-divisional and multidisciplinary forums and symposia, and the collation and review of research papers relating to human problems.

To date, a small core group of research and applied psychologists have met on a few occasions to sketch out

some possible future initiatives. One likely outcome is the organisation of inter- and intradisciplinary forums designed to offer deeper understanding and improved management of human problems. Another possibility is the setting up of rapid response groups to consider the application of psychology to emerging or unexpected social issues. In all cases, although the focus would be on psychology across the spectrum, wider perspectives would also be included and the participation of policymakers, the media and other learned bodies and the research councils would be sought.

Some of the particular topics of widespread concern already mentioned have emerged from the collated data provided last year by Fellowship members. However, we hope to set up a web-based survey of Society members soon, which is likely to yield further issues.

Currently, a formal inauguration of the College of Fellows is being organised for the 2005 BPS Quinquennial Conference ('Psychology for the 21st century') to be held at the University of Manchester between 30 March and 2 April.

Sean Cameron
(r.cameron@ucl.ac.uk)

REPORTS OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

THE Board of Trustees is, after the AGM itself, the principal governing body of the Society. It meets seven times a year, either in London or at the Leicester headquarters.

The Board has agreed to make its proceedings more openly available to members. To this end a brief report of each meeting will from now on be published in the members-only area of the Society's website.

Detecting deceivers

IN 1986 the Society published the report of its first working group on the use of the polygraph in criminal investigation and personnel screening. Since then a considerable further amount of research has been published on this general topic. In 2003 the BPS convened another working party to produce a revised report, which has now been published. The working party was convened by Professor Ray Bull (University of Leicester).

The document presents a review of the current scientific status and fields of application of polygraphic lie detection. The main conclusions of the report are summarised below:

- Most published research on polygraphic deception detection has been concerned with its possible use in criminal

investigations. The results of better-quality research studies demonstrate that while the correct classification of deceivers can sometimes be fairly high, incorrect decisions about who is or is not being deceptive occur at rates that are far from negligible.

- Use of countermeasures may well result in deceivers not being detected.
- Use of the polygraph in employment and security screening is not justified by the available research evidence.
- Use of the polygraph in the clinical setting, with specific reference to its use with sex offenders, has received too little research attention.
- More research is needed on other possible methods to detect deception, honesty and integrity.

- Use of the polygraph in attempts to detect deception raises issues concerning human rights and professional codes of conduct.
- Overconfidence in the ability of any procedure designed to detect deception can have serious consequences, especially if the deceivers are few among many non-deceivers.

□ *Copies of the report are available (free of charge) on request. Contact: Lisa Morrison Coulthard (lismor@bps.org.uk).*

USE OF ACADEMIC TITLES

In a recent disciplinary case the Investigatory Committee considered the use of the title 'Doctor'. The committee would like to remind members that an academic title should only be used after the relevant degree has been conferred. Any improper use of an academic or professional title, even if it is used in anticipation of the imminent grant of the title, runs the risk of misleading the public or other professionals. This could be the subject of a complaint and is likely to be a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Presidents' Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychological Knowledge 2005 – Call for nominations

See p.58

Neil O'Connor Award 2005 – Call for applications

See p.58

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES listed by deadline

14 February 2005

British Occupational Health Research. Research project proposals. Contact: BOHRF. Tel: 020 7317 5898; e-mail: admin@bohrf.org.uk; website: www.bohrf.org.uk

15 February 2004

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour. Postgraduate Conference Grants. Contact: Matthew Gage. Tel: 01603 592183; e-mail: m.gage@uae.ac.uk; website: www.ncl.ac.uk/asab/conference_fund.html

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour. Travel Grants, Postgraduate and Research Workshops, and Research Grants. Contact: Emma Cunningham. Tel: 0131 651 3602; e-mail: e.cunningham@ed.ac.uk; website: www.asab.nottingham.ac.uk/grants.html

25 February 2005

Cancer Research UK. Population and Behavioural Sciences Project Grants. Contact: Dr Charlotte Moore. E-mail: charlotte.moore@cancer.org.uk; tel: 020 7601 6096

1 March 2005

Cure Autism Now Foundation. Treatment Related Study Awards. To develop effective therapies to treat both core and domain specific features of autism. Tel: 00 1 323 549 0500; e-mail: info@cureautismnow.org

ESRC/ MRC. Interdisciplinary Research Studentships. Contact: Katie Powell. E-mail: katie.powell@esrc.ac.uk; website: www.esrc.ac.uk

ESRC/ MRC Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Fellowships. Contact: Katie Powell. E-mail: katie.powell@esrc.ac.uk; website: www.esrc.ac.uk

Experimental Psychology Society. Grants for Study Visits. For postgraduate and postdoctoral research in experimental psychology. Contact: Professor Gerry Altmann. E-mail: g.altmann@psych.ork.ac.uk

National Alliance Research Schizophrenia & Depression. Independent Investigator Award. Tel: 00 1 516 829 5576; e-mail: info@narsad.org

Royal Society. Conference Grants Scheme. Contact: Fabio Casula. Tel: 020 7451 2559

11 March 2005

APA. Large Research Grants. Tel: 00 1 202 336 5500; e-mail: executiveoffice@apa.org; website: www.apa.org

15 March 2005

APA. Award for Exceptional Contributions to Consulting Organisational Psychology. Candidates must be members of the APA. Tel: 00 1 202 336 5500; e-mail: executiveoffice@apa.org; website: www.apa.org

18 March 2005

Fulbright Commission. Cancer Research Fellowship and Distinguished Scholar Award. Contact: Programme Director. Tel: 020 7404 6994; e-mail: education@fulbright.co.uk; website: www.fulbright.co.uk

open date schemes

See January issue.

A searchable database containing full details of the various national and international funding opportunities for psychologists can be found on the Society's website at www.bps.org.uk/careers/funding.cfm

If you are a grant-awarding body, please e-mail Lisa Morrison Coulthard (lismor@bps.org.uk) with details of your scheme for inclusion in this column.

Branch benefits

ON 16 April 2005 an interactive careers convention called 'Career Directions from Psychology' will be taking place at the University of the West of England in Bristol. The speakers will be drawn from the Branch membership in the region working in the various

different areas of psychology. The challenge for them will be to make part of their 45-minute session 'interactive' so that delegates get a better idea of, say, the tools that an educational psychologist uses. Other ideas include getting the delegates to role-play being a sports psychologist coaching

a football team, having videos of counsellors working with clients, and planning how you would go about carrying out a research project.

The event is open to A-level students from schools and colleges, undergraduates and postgraduates from the region's universities, careers counsellors, and members of the local Branch. If they all come, there will be a lot of delegates.

To make things accessible the interactive talks on the different areas of psychology will be offered in parallel sessions at least twice in the programme. We are also offering exhibition space to local employers and organisations related to psychology such as the BPS, PsyPAG, UCAS, Connexions, and so on. We are also aiming to have careers information on alternative careers open to graduates with a psychology degree, plus careers advisers on hand for one-to-one sessions. We are also hoping to have some real-life research taking place that the delegates can take part in.

Branch activities are in the main carried out voluntarily by Branch members who are passionate about psychology. Getting involved is important. At the very least it contributes to the CPD requirement, and is a very effective way of

AWARD FOR PAPER

MEMBERS of the team of psychologists and psychiatrists collaborating on childhood depression guidelines with the Society's Centre for Outcomes Research and Effectiveness (CORE) have won the *Lancet's* Paper of the Year 2004. Craig Whittington and his colleagues were given the award for their systematic review of selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors in childhood depression. CORE's Director, Steve Pilling, described the award, announced in December, as 'a nice Christmas present for CORE'.

networking. If you want the BPS to change, to do the things that you want, you have to be prepared to get involved and start making things happen. This particular event came from some Branch market research carried out among the students in the region plus discussions with Branch members and careers advisers. If you want to have similar things happening in your region, contact your Branch committee; and if there isn't one, ask the BPS office at Leicester to help you set one up. It really is worth it.

*Sue Jackson, Chair,
South West of England Branch*

MEETING DATES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 1 April 2005

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Friday 11 February 2005 (London)

Friday 18 March 2005 (Leicester)

Friday 6 May 2005 (London)

Friday 24 June 2005 (Leicester)

Friday 16 September 2005 (Leicester)

Thursday 27 October 2005 (London)

Friday 9 December 2005 (London)

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Saturday 12 February 2005

Saturday 7 May 2005

Friday 28 October 2005

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

Friday 4 February 2005

Tuesday 5 April 2005

Tuesday 7 June 2005

Friday 9 September 2005

Tuesday 15 November 2005

RESEARCH BOARD

Wednesday 30 March 2005 (followed by Spearman Medal Committee)

Thursday 23 June 2005 (followed by Presidents' Award Committee)

Friday 21 October 2005 (followed by Visiting Psychologists Committee)

Friday 21 October 2005 (followed by Visiting Psychologists Committee)

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FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE

Thursday 19 May 2005

Friday 30 September 2005

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BOARD

Tuesday 15 March 2005 (OGM)

Tuesday 18 October 2005 (AGM)

GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Thursday 3 March 2005

Wednesday 27 April 2005

Thursday 23 June 2005

Thursday 8 September 2005

Thursday 10 November 2005

FEELING GRUMPY?

Do you complain or grumble about the Society and how it works? Do you feel that our services are lacking? Do you feel that you don't get good value for money for your subscription fee? Do our operations or communications cause you aggravation?

If you can answer yes to any of the above and you are a chartered psychologist, then we would like to hear from you. Early next year we will be conducting research to find out what new services our chartered members would like to see, and we'd like to interview some of our strongest critics. If you can spare about 20 minutes for a telephone call with one of our researchers at a convenient and pre-arranged time, then please let us know.

Contact Anne Pollard, Marketing and Promotions Officer, on 0116 252 9549 or e-mail her at annpol@bps.org.uk.

DSEP IN GOOD SHAPE

Membership of the Division of Sport and Exercise Psychology (DSEP), officially established at the Society's 2004 Annual General Meeting, has grown to 595, with 72 meeting the criteria for full membership through their teaching, research and consultancies. It is hoped that formal training requirements will soon be in place and attract those who wish to pursue careers in this discipline.

The Division's Chair, Dr Sandy Wolfson, said: 'It's an exciting time for sport psychology. We are looking forward to our first AGM on 31 March at the BPS Quinquennial Conference in Manchester. During that event we will hold a pre-conference workshop reflecting on the Athens Olympics and two symposia – interpersonal relationships in sport, and group dynamics in sport and exercise settings. In addition, collaborations with other groups, such as the British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences and the Football Association, are leading to some promising joint endeavours. An FA Psychology for Football diploma is now in place for experienced sport psychologists – contact Andy.Cale@TheFA.com for further details – and a joint DSEP/FA/BASES football conference is planned for May 2005 (if interested, contact me on s.wolfson@unn.ac.uk).

Membership and Professional Training Board BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Board of Examiners for the Division of Clinical Psychology is concerned with the assessment of the Society's Statement of Equivalence in Clinical Psychology. Because of completion of current terms of office, the board is seeking statements of interest for:

Examiners for the Board of Examiners in Clinical Psychology

The board would welcome statements of interest from Chartered Clinical Psychologists who have been qualified for at least five years. Examiners will be required to mark essays, reports of clinical activity, small-scale research projects and dissertations submitted from all specialties. There are two Diets of Examinations per year for candidates required to attend a viva examination, as well as ongoing examinations throughout the year for candidates not required to attend a viva.

This work can provide good networking opportunities as well as contributions to the profession. The Statement of Equivalence is currently undergoing some interesting changes including new regulations in line with the competency model of training.

These positions attract payment with travel and subsistence expenses also reimbursed in accordance with the Society's policy.

For further information and a statement of interest form please contact Alex Johnson, Assistant Examinations and Awards Officer on 0116 252 9584 or alejoh@bps.org.uk.

DEADLINE

Copy deadline for Society contributions is **4 March** for the April issue

EP training – No change yet

ON 2 December the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Skills, Stephen Twigg MP, announced that the government intends to undertake a review of the role and functions of educational psychologists. This means that the implementation of the proposed changes to educational psychology training will now not take place in September 2005 as planned. In view of the comments made by Mr Twigg

(see tinyurl.com/5ybhs), there is no guarantee that the changes will take effect in 2006 either.

Individuals who are interested in pursuing educational psychology as a career are therefore advised that the present training route in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (graduate basis for registration, teaching qualification and experience, accredited master's programme, supervised practice) will stand for 2005/6 and 2006/7.

GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Chair of the committee

The Graduate Qualifications Accreditation Committee (GQAC) accredits undergraduate and conversion programmes for the graduate basis for registration. Currently there are over 400 accredited programmes at over 100 institutions around the UK. The committee is concerned with ensuring high standards of undergraduate training in psychology.

The GQAC would welcome statements of interest from members for the position of Chair of the committee. This is a senior position and experience in undergraduate psychology teaching is sought together with previous experience of committee leadership. Additionally, experience of GQAC is desirable. The committee meets six times a year at the BPS office in London. The Chair may also be required to take part in accreditation visits.

Statement of interest forms and further information are available from Sharon Henson at the Society's Leicester office. Tel: 0116 252 9919; e-mail: shahen@bps.org.uk.

SUBSYSTEM NOTICES

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

Cognitive Psychology Section Award – Call for nominations

The award recognises outstanding published contributions to research in cognitive psychology. Eligible publications are scientific papers or book chapters that report novel observations or provide significant theoretical insight into human cognition.

Nominated publications for the 2005 award should have a

publication date of 2003 or 2004, and the authors should be based in the UK, but need not be members of the BPS. It is customary for the winner of the award to present a keynote address at the Annual Section Conference, which in 2005 will be at the University of Leeds, 31 August to 1 September.

Nominations should be sent to the Cognitive Psychology Subsystems Officer, at the BPS Leicester office. Closing date for nominations is **Friday 4 March 2005**.

Enquiries to the Secretary of the Section, Philip Beaman (c.p.beaman@reading.ac.uk).

NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND BRANCH

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at the Quinquennial Conference at the University of Manchester on Friday 1 April, 2005 from 4.15pm to 5.30pm. The AGM will be followed by an informal wine reception.

Items for consideration and nominations for the election of ordinary members of the committee should be forwarded to the Chair, Professor Ian Rivers, no later than **Friday 4 March, 2005**. All Branch members wishing to attend the AGM or who wish to seek nomination for committee membership are asked to notify Nathalie Noret of their intention either by e-mail (n.noret@yorks.ac.uk) or at the address below by Friday 4 March, 2005.

Ian Rivers/Nathalie Noret, York St John College, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7EX. Tel: 01904 716581 (Ian); 01904 716333 (Nathalie)

DIVISION OF SPORT & EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY

Annual General Meeting 2005

The AGM will be held on Thursday

31 March 2005 during the Society's Quinquennial Conference, at the University of Manchester. Specific venue details will be announced in the conference programme nearer the time (see the BPS website: www.bps.org.uk).

There will be no elections for the DSEP committee at this AGM as the present committee was formed in its entirety at the Division's inaugural meeting during October 2004. Elections for committee officers and posts will next be held at the Division's AGM in 2006.

WESSEX & WIGHT BRANCH

Annual General Meeting 2005

9 February at the University College Winchester at 6pm
3pm–6pm CPD Roadshow
6pm–7pm Branch AGM
7pm Presidential Talk – Ken Brown: 'A Psychologist's Thoughts on Northern Ireland Troubles'

For further details e-mail: wessex.wight@bps.org.uk.

DIVISION OF COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

Annual General Meeting and call for nominations

The AGM will be at 2pm–2.50pm approx on 2 April 2005, during the Society's Quinquennial Conference at UMIST, Manchester.

Nominations are invited for Chair-Elect, and committee members. Nominations require a proposer and seconder who must be accredited or general members of the Division, and the consent of the nominee to accept office, if elected, must be obtained in writing.

Nominees are asked to supply a personal statement (50–100 words) in support of their candidature. The closing date for receipt of nominations is **Friday 4 March 2005**. If nominations received exceed number of available vacancies, a vote of the membership by postal ballot will be necessary, prior to the AGM.

Please send nominations to: Honorary Secretary, Division of Counselling Psychology, St. Andrews House, 48 Princess Road East, Leicester LE1 7DR.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

2005 Annual Conference 30 August–1 September 2005.

Conference theme is 'Selves and Groups'. Deadline for abstracts: **22 April**.

Details will be available on the conference website, via www.bps.org.uk.

For more details contact Andy McKinlay, Psychology Department, University of Edinburgh.

Annual Award for outstanding PhD thesis

The Section has established an annual prize of £500 to be awarded to the PhD student whose thesis is regarded to be an exceptional, innovative contribution to social psychology knowledge. Work in any area of social psychology will be eligible.

Theses may be nominated for the award only by the external examiner(s) responsible for awarding the PhD. However, supervisors may suggest to an external examiner that a particular thesis is worthy of consideration for the prize. Nominations should

normally be made within two months of the viva taking place. The winner will receive £500, following a presentation of their paper at the annual Social Psychology Section Conference. The winner will also be asked to submit an article for publication in the *Social Psychology Review*, subject to the normal referee process. Nominations will be judged by the committee of the Social Psychology Section. Nominations submitted by Friday 18 March 2005 will be considered at the time of the BPS Annual Conference.

Requests for nomination forms and full details of how to nominate to: Dr Sally Wiggins, Department of Psychology, University of Strathclyde, Graham Hills Building, 40 George Street, Glasgow G1 1QE. E-mail: sally.wiggins@strath.ac.uk; tel: 0141 5484461.

CONSCIOUSNESS & EXPERIENTIAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

9th Annual Conference – 'Reconstructing consciousness, mind and being'

16 to 18 September, St Anne's College, Oxford

Keynote speakers include Richard Bentall (University of Manchester), Thomas Metzinger (University of Mainz, Germany) and Ravi Ravindra (Dalhousie University, Canada).

Call for papers

150-word abstract, plus a 500-word summary or paper on conference themes by **22 April 2005** to Dr Jane Aspell, Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3UD, UK. E-mail: jane.aspell@psy.ox.ac.uk.

Registration enquiries: Guy.Saunders@uwe.ac.uk.

Other enquiries: m.velmans@gold.ac.uk.

Full details on CEP website: www.warwick.ac.uk/cep/

Membership and Professional Training Board **BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

The Board of Examiners in Clinical Psychology is concerned with the assessment of the Society's Statement of Equivalence in Clinical Psychology and, due to completion of current members' terms of office, will shortly have vacancies for board members.

The board would welcome Statements of Interest from Chartered Clinical Psychologists who have been qualified for at least five years and who have strong links with the training community/accredited courses.

The board generally meets twice a year in Leicester although teleconferences between meetings may occasionally be required. These meetings are held after the spring and autumn examinations with the autumn meeting usually being held over two days.

Members of the board are reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses in line with the Society's policy.

For further information and a statement of interest form please contact Alex Johnson, Assistant Examinations and Awards Officer on 0116 252 9584 or alejoh@bps.org.uk.

HISTORY SEMINARS

The fourth series of History of Psychology Seminars will be held on Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm in February and March 2005 at the BPS History of Psychology Centre, 33 John Street, London WC1.

□ Full details from Graham Richards on graric@bps.org.uk.