



The
British
Psychological
Society

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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.

New policy on getting political

IN March the Board of Trustees approved a new policy on campaigning and political activity by the Society (see box). This is intended to apply not only to the Society as a whole but also to its constituent parts when engaging, or thinking about engaging, in political activity. To this end, President Ken Brown wrote individually to all chairs of BPS boards and subsystems and to senior

managers advising them of the new policy.

Although the policy may seem rather brief, the view of the Trustees and Representative Council is that the Charity Commission guidelines document referred to within the policy is adequate, and that risk assessment of each 'campaign' will deal with individual issues about whether it is straying from evidence into unsupported opinion or even ideology. The

Trustees and Representative Council also feel that anything more specific will inevitably fail to cover specific issues that may arise.

There has been debate in the letters pages of *The Psychologist* recently on whether the BPS should speak out against the coalition action in Iraq. This new policy will be central to this debate. Perhaps the key provision to interpret in the Charity Commission document is the single sentence under the heading 'Commenting on public issues'. It reads: 'A charity can make public comment on social, economic and political issues if these relate to its purpose or the way in which the charity is able to carry out its work.' This should be read in conjunction with the Society's Royal Charter objective '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'.

POLICY ON CAMPAIGNING, LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

In all such activities the Society, and all parts of the Society, shall:

1. only work towards the achievement of the Society's Royal Charter objective [see adjacent panel]
2. as a science and research based body, only produce outputs that are grounded in the most up-to-date and available evidence
3. work within the Guidelines contained within the Charity Commission document CC9 [see www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc9.asp], and any succeeding version of this document
4. ensure that risk assessment and management is undertaken that conforms to current Society processes and protocols, as promulgated by the Risk Audit and Management Committee and approved by the Trustees.

Award for student recruitment campaign

A RECENT successful campaign to increase student membership has reaped further benefits for the Society, scooping an award from the Institute of Association Management – the Membership Recruitment award, the first of its kind to be presented by the Institute.

Student subscriptions had fallen every year from 1999 to 2002, and as transfers (at graduation) from student subscription form a large proportion of the Society's

new member intake, this was a concern. The objective was to increase the number of student subscribers by 20 per cent over 30 months to December 2005.

There were two major strands to the campaign – a simplified joining process and cost-effective publicity, including redesigned leaflets and posters and improved communication with psychology departments.

The new recruitment method has led to a 31 per cent increase in new student joiners. The cost of printing and posting application packs has fallen, while the number of applications has increased in relation to the number of packs posted.

Fellowship citation

Dr Neil Brooks

DR Neil Brooks has been awarded a Fellowship of the Society in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the advancement and dissemination of psychological knowledge and practice. Dr Brooks began his professional career in clinical neuropsychology in 1968 with his appointment as Research Fellow to Professor Bryan Jennett at the Institute of Neurological Services in the University of Glasgow – home of the universally used Glasgow Coma Scale. From that time he has published prolifically in the specialised and growing area of brain injury. His edited book *Head Injury*, published in 1984, has become a classic in focusing on the social and familial impact of closed head injury; prior to that it was generally only the ‘victim’ that received attention.

Neil Brooks moved on to direct the clinical psychology training programme in Glasgow being raised to professional status in 1985. He moved from academic work to applied neuropsychology on taking up the post of Clinical and Executive Director of the Kemsley Unit in Northampton. Early 1995 saw him establishing Rehab Without Walls as an independent community-based rehabilitation and support organisation of which he became its full-time director and consultant neuropsychologist.

Dr Brooks’s international contribution is significant, with his membership of the Kurt Goldstein Institute of Neuropsychological Rehabilitation, part of the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine in New York and Bavaria. He is also known for his development of the European Head Injury Evaluation Chart and is a member and past president of both the European Brain Injury Society and the International Neuropsychological Society.

He was also a founder member of the voluntary organisation ‘Headway’ and later became its president. Headway has become a major influence in services for brain-injured people in the UK.

In his spare time Dr Brooks enjoys birdwatching, deer stalking, and fishing.

For his immense and influential contribution to clinical neuropsychology the Awards Committee was pleased to offer him the status of Fellow within the Society.

Calls for award nominations

Book Award 2006 See p.258

Award for Distinguished Contributions to Professional Psychology See p.258

Award for Promoting Equality of Opportunity 2005 See p.305

Give your views on new ethics and conduct code

ON 7 May the new Code of Ethics and Conduct will be presented to the Representative Council and will then be consulted on throughout the membership. All the Society’s subsystems will receive the new Code with a feedback form. The documents will also be available on the Society’s website or on request from the Society’s offices in Leicester. The consultation period will end on 1 November. The Ethics Committee would like members and other interested parties to provide comments to produce a final version of the Code by spring 2006 for the Board of Trustees and the Society.

The key function of the new Code is to guide the process of decision making. The Society’s values are stated explicitly as are the principles for action.

The Code has been drafted using lessons learned from the previous Code of Conduct. It also uses learning from psychology organisations in Canada, Europe and the USA, together with experiences from similar organisations in the UK. There has been input from Society staff in terms of members’ queries and the investigatory process. The Ethics Committee has received advice from individuals and groups with relevant experience, including the Prevention of Professional Abuse Network, Lady Mary Warnock and Professor Peter Rickman.

Further work is planned to offer advice on ethical issues in *The Psychologist*. If members would like to suggest topics or vignettes that might illustrate areas for comment, please contact Christine O’Rourke at the Society’s Leicester office (chroro@bps.org.uk).

Disciplinary notice

Beatrice Nagel

AN appeal committee appointed by the Society met on Monday 17 January 2005 to hear to hear an appeal lodged by Mrs Beatrice Nagel, a graduate member of the Society.

The committee was asked to consider additional information that Mrs Nagel had not presented at the original conduct committee in May 2004. The original conduct committee had concluded that Mrs Nagel failed to observe appropriate levels of confidentiality by releasing a report containing personally identifiable information about a former patient to a third party without his authority.

Mrs Nagel argued that her additional evidence was not presented at the original

hearing because she had been experiencing ill health, had expected to be believed and had not been explicitly asked to do so by the Society.

The additional evidence was that the report in question, which was for her client’s wife for use in the divorce proceedings, was actually based on two therapeutic sessions where both her client and his wife were present.

But the legal representative for the BPS argued the report was based on therapeutic sessions her client had attended after the two joint sessions and the original client had not given his express or implied consent for the release of this information.

The appeal committee



Society

concluded that the additional material Mrs Nagel had presented would not have affected the outcome of the original conduct committee and upheld the original decision. This was that by releasing the report Mrs Nagel had failed to observe appropriate levels of confidentiality.

The appeal committee also

upheld the decision of the conduct committee to issue Mrs Nagel with a severe reprimand and to require her to provide undertakings that she would not practise without supervision for one year. She was also required to provide a detailed plan to the Society specifically addressing how she is to ensure patient confidentiality in the future.

PSYCHOLOGY AND MATHS

The Society is again linking up with the Nuffield Foundation to run a seminar for policy makers. This event, scheduled for 8 June, is on the subject of psychology and maths. A series of expert speakers will cover different aspects of the subject – biological bases, cognitive/thinking issues, anxiety, development, and special needs. Each speaker will dwell on what psychology knows from the research base and how the teaching of maths can be helped in the school sector.

SELECTED NEWS FROM THE BOARDS

Board of Trustees (18 March 2005)

- *Policy on campaigning and political activities.* The new policy was ratified.
- *Regional offices.* A small working group of honorary officers has been set up to consider support for the regional offices and their location in the Society's structure.
- *Welfare Fund.* The future of the fund was considered.
- *Finance.* Member subscriptions and the Society's financial situation were reviewed.
- *London office.* A small working group comprising President Elect, Honorary General Secretary and incoming Honorary Treasurer has been formed to take forward the sale of John Street and the purchase of a London building.
- *London Branch.* An initial proposal for the formation of a London Branch of the Society was supported in principle and will now proceed to the next stage.
- *Division of Counselling Psychology.* Changes to the DCoP rules were approved.
- *Public relations.* The creation of a dedicated public relations function, predominantly achieved through transfer of existing resources by changing the role of the press office, was approved.
- *Awards.* A Professional Practice Board Lifetime Achievement Award was ratified.
- *Retiring officers.* Thanks were given to the retiring Vice President, Professor Zander Wedderburn, Honorary Treasurer Professor Geoff Lindsay, and to the President, Professor Ken Brown.

Publications and Communications Board (31 March 2005)

- *Website.* The P&C Board pages on the web will be updated, and it was noted that the new *Psychologist* web pages were having problems with the search facility.
- *Corporate redesign.* A review, after six months of operation, will be held to look at any major functional issues.
- *Chelsea Flower Show.* Sponsorship fundraising is continuing so that a submission can be made for the garden to be built in 2006.
- *BPS/Blackwell.* As the Strategy Group has now been in operation for over three years it was agreed to review the membership.
- *Psychologist Policy Committee.* The committee membership and frequency of meetings is to change. The membership will now predominantly come from the associate editors and the boards/subsystems.
- *Media research project.* Focus groups to evaluate the impact of the Society's media activity are being held.
- *Parliament.* It was noted that some of the legislation to which the Society had contributed may not now proceed due to the impending general election.
- *Board Chair.* The current Chair, Dr Pam Maras, comes to the end of her term of office at the AGM in 2006. The board has begun the process of searching for a suitable replacement for passing to the Trustees for consideration.

SUBSYSTEM NOTICES

CONSCIOUSNESS AND EXPERIENTIAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

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

16–18 September 2005 at St Anne's College, Oxford

Full details in February 2005 issue.

Registration enquiries:

Guy.Saunders@uwe.ac.uk. Other enquiries: m.velmans@gold.ac.uk. See also CEP website: www.warwick.ac.uk/cep/

DIVISION OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

2005 Annual Conference

7–9 September, Coventry

Late poster deadline: 3 June 2005

Full details in March 2005 issue.

Student bursaries

Send applications to Professor Derek Johnston, Chair of the DHP – from April until 3 June 2005.

See conference website www.dhp2005.org.uk for details.

WELSH BRANCH

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25 May 2005, 6.30pm, Room D002, Llandaff Campus, UWIC, Cardiff

Any queries should be directed to Helen Taylor (wales@bps.org.uk).

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Test Users Conference 2005

'Occupational testing throughout the employee lifecycle'

25–26 May 2005, Peterborough Moat House

A programme for both days is now available on the website.

For more details see www.bps.org.uk, conferences and events, or contact the BPS conference office in Leicester. E-mail: conferences@bps.org.uk; tel: 0116 252 9555; fax: 0116 255 7123.

DIVISION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY – PSIGE

Conference 'The Silver Jubilee: PSIGE Celebrates Ageing'

In celebrating 25 years, PSIGE bring you the 2005 Annual Conference at University College, Chester, 13–15 July 2005.

Keynote speakers: Dr Mervyn Eastman (Better Government for Older People) and Professor Bob Woods (University of Wales, Bangor).

Conference themes include: Therapy in action; Physical health and ageing; Neuropsychology and rehabilitation; Dementia care issues; Working in partnerships; Diversity and cross-cultural working; Professional issues.

DEADLINE

Copy deadline for Society contributions is **3 June** for the July issue

For more information please visit www.psig.org.uk, e-mail psige2005@bps.org.uk or telephone the conference office on 0116 252 9555.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

52nd Annual Conference, Tuesday 30 August–Thursday 1 September 2005, University of Edinburgh

Conference theme is 'Selves and Groups'.

Keynote speakers: Mahzarin Banaji (Richard Clarke Cabot Professor of Social Ethics, Harvard); Constantine Sedikides (Professor of Social and Personality Psychology, Southampton); Margie Wetherell (Professor of Social Psychology at the Open University).

See www.socialpsychology.org.uk for details.

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

Conference, Leeds, 31 August–2 September 2005

Keynote presentations: Professor John Morton (University College London) and Professor Neil Macrae (University of Aberdeen), and the Cognitive Section Prizewinner. Symposia to include 'Working memory: From measurement to conceptual interpretation' organised by Satoru Saito and John N. Towse, and 'Metacognition and subjective experiences of memory' organised by Celine Souchay and Chris Moulin.

Details at the section website (www.bps-cognitive.org/).

First call for papers

Submissions of papers and posters are welcome. Electronic submissions should be made at www.bps-cognitive.org/submit_abstract.htm The deadline for submission of papers and posters is **3 June 2005**.

Submissions and informal enquiries should be made to the Conference organisers, Chris Moulin (c.j.a.moulin@leeds.ac.uk) or Catriona Morrison (c.morrison@leeds.ac.uk).

'Festschrift' event, 3 September Immediately following the section conference a one-day 'Festschrift' will be held at the same venue for one of the keynote speakers,

Professor John Morton OBE.

Confirmed speakers for that event are: Mike Anderson, Phil Barnard, Philip Beaman, Debra Bekerian, James Blair, Richard Byrne, John Fox, Clive Frankish, Uta Frith, Richard Hammersley, Graham Hitch, Jean Mandler, John Marshall, Jacques Mehler, Karalyn Patterson, Sophie Scott and Tim Shallice. All Cognitive Psychology Section delegates are welcome to attend. Submissions to the main conference reflecting the work and influence of Professor Morton within cognitive psychology are welcome.

Informal enquiries to Philip Beaman (c.p.beaman@reading.ac.uk).

DIVISION OF SPORT & EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY

Update

Since the formation of the Division, the committee has been busy on a number of projects including developing a strategic plan, national occupational standards, an MSc in Sport and Exercise Psychology syllabus for accreditation by the BPS, a continuing professional development strategy. These proposals will be presented to the membership in due course.

Any full members interested in being actively involved in the Division are encouraged to contact Joanne Thatcher (Division Secretary) at jet@aber.ac.uk.

Dates for diary

An open meeting will be held on 12 May at BPS London office to discuss the proposed MSc in Sport and Exercise Psychology syllabus, and all interested parties are invited.

WESSEX & WIGHT BRANCH

Public lecture 'Sexual Health and Young People: Psychology, Policy and Practice'

Wednesday 11 May 2005, 6pm–8pm, University College, Winchester

The lecture will be given by Dr Roger Ingham, Reader in Health and Community Psychology at the University of Southampton, and Director of the multidisciplinary Centre for Sexual Health Research. The talk will summarise the key concerns regarding young people's sexual health, outline and critique the ways in which psychologists

have attempted to understand the issues involved, and discuss the policy implications of different approaches. Particular attention will be paid to the relationship between the research process and the role of psychology in real-life social issues.

The Centre for Sexual Health Research has for many years carried out research on various aspects of sexual conduct and service provision in the UK and in other countries. Studies have also

been carried out in other European countries, and the Centre currently runs a large Department of International Development funded programme of work in developing countries across the world.

Dr Ingham has worked in these areas for many years and has worked closely with policy makers in this country and abroad. He is a consultant for the WHO on their reproductive health and AIDS programmes, is a member of the government's Independent Advisory

MEETING DATES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (immediately followed by the Open Meeting)

Friday 31 March 2006

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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)

Friday 10 February 2006 (London)

Friday 17 March 2006 (Leicester)

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Saturday 7 May 2005

Friday 28 October 2005

Saturday 11 February 2006

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

Tuesday 7 June 2005

Friday 9 September 2005

Tuesday 15 November 2005

Friday 4 February 2006

RESEARCH BOARD

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

Friday 21 October 2005 (followed by Visiting Psychologists Committee)

Friday 27 January 2006 (followed by Book Award Committee)

MEMBERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING BOARD

Friday 17 June 2005

Friday 16 September 2005 (to be rescheduled)

Friday 4 November 2005

Friday 17 February 2006

PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday 30 June 2005

Thursday 29 September 2005

Wednesday 30 November 2005

Thursday 9 March 2006

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BOARD

Tuesday 18 October 2005 (AGM)

Friday 14 March 2006 (OGM)

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

Friday 8 July 2005

Friday 30 September 2005
Thursday 8 December 2005
Thursday 30 March 2006

FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE

Thursday 19 May 2005

Friday 30 September 2005

Friday 27 January 2006

GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Thursday 23 June 2005

Thursday 8 September 2005

Thursday 10 November 2005

Thursday 19 January 2006

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday 9 June 2005

Thursday 1 September 2005

Thursday 3 November 2005

Thursday 12 January 2006

Thursday 23 February 2006

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Monday 6 June 2005

Thursday 22 September 2005

Monday 16 January 2006

THE PSYCHOLOGIST POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday 10 June 2005

Friday 21 October 2005

Friday 20 January 2006

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Thursday 9 June 2005

Wednesday 20 July 2005

Wednesday 28 September 2005

Thursday 1 December 2005

Thursday 19 January 2006

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday 21 June 2005

Thursday 15 September 2005

Thursday 8 December 2005

Thursday 2 March 2006

FUTURE SOCIETY CONFERENCES, ETC.

Edinburgh Lectures –

Tuesday 8 November 2005

London Lectures –

Monday 5 December 2005

Annual Conference –

30 March–1 April 2006



BPS/POST Postgraduate Award

The Research Board of the Society in collaboration with the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST, see box below) invite applications for their

POSTGRADUATE AWARD

Three-month secondment to POST

Closing date for applications: 31 August 2005

Postal/telephone/e-mail requests should be made to: Lisa Morrison Coulthard, at the Society's office (lismor@bps.org.uk).

See p.36 of the January issue of *The Psychologist* for further details.

The Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology (POST)

POST is an office of the Houses of Parliament. Further details are available at www.parliament.uk/post/home.htm

SATELLITE WORKSHOPS

Bids are invited by the Research Board for Satellite Workshops to be held the day before the Annual Conference 2006

Aim — to encourage the development of special scientific interests through the discussion of work in progress.

Grants — up to four workshops will be funded for the hire of the room, plus travel grants of £500 (approximately £25 each for up to 20 participants who must be members of the Society).

Criteria — a balance of new graduates and experienced research workers as participants; a clear reason to meet; a scientific theme, not solely a professional one.

Applications — bids should be sent to the Chair of the Board, c/o Lisa Morrison Coulthard, at the Society's office by **14 October 2005**. Any bids received after this date will not be considered.

Report — the workshop will not have published abstracts or any press coverage. A short report and any further plans arising from it should be presented to the Board.

Further information can be obtained from Lisa Morrison Coulthard at the Leicester office, e-mail: lismor@bps.org.uk.

AWARD FOR PROMOTING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY 2005

Call for nominations

Do you know a member of the Society who has made a significant contribution to challenging social inequalities in the UK in relation to gender, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability or age?

Someone who has made

- a personal commitment to equality issues
- an impact on the psychology profession
- an impact on other professionals/service providers
- a positive difference to the lives of people from marginalised and oppressed social groups

If so, could they be the next winner?

Contact the Secretary to the Standing Committee for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities (SCPEO) for further details about the award and how to nominate someone (felhec@bps.org.uk or tel 0116 252 9507).

Closing date for receipt of nominations is **1 August 2005**.