

# POSTGRADUATE STUDY VISITS 2004

**The Research Board invites applications from research students supported by their supervisors for a grant to facilitate a study visit to another institution**

**Aim** — to provide a grant to enable a research student who is registered for a doctoral degree at a UK university to undertake a study visit to another institution for a minimum of two weeks, to acquire skills directly relevant to their research training above and beyond that required for the completion of the doctoral degree.

**Grants** — six awards, two in each of the following categories:

- up to £250 for a visit to an institution in the UK
- up to £400 for a visit to an institution in Europe
- up to £600 for a visit to an institution elsewhere in the world

**Applications** — a letter should be sent to the Chair of the RB, specifying what the student will gain from the study visit that cannot be gained from the institution at which the postgraduate student is registered for his or her doctoral degree. The following must also be included:

- a supporting statement by the supervisor and by the proposed host institution (the supervisor should not have close personal connections with the applicant, and where such connections do exist, they must be disclosed)
- details of the amount of money needed to finance the visit, how much is being requested from the Society, and where any additional money (if any) is to come from
- an indication of what year the doctoral student is in and a copy of their current CV
- confirmation that the applicant has an income which either attracts no income tax levied by the Inland Revenue, or has an income which is taxed wholly within the lowest tax band (20 per cent)

Applications must reach the Society's office by **Friday 17 September 2004**. Submissions for grants will be assessed competitively on their merits. Late applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

**For further information, contact Lisa Morrison Coulthard at the Society's office (e-mail: [lismor@bps.org.uk](mailto:lismor@bps.org.uk)).**

# VISITING FELLOWS 2004/5

**Members of the Society are invited to nominate overseas behavioural scientists to come to the UK to meet and exchange research ideas**

**Aim** — to allow visits of about 10 days, during which the Visiting Fellow may read a paper at a meeting of one or more subsystems of the Society and give talks at a few university departments or other institutions.

**Criteria** — the candidate must have a strong reputation for research in his or her own field; be fluent in English and a good speaker; and appeal to more than one interest group within the Society.

**Funds** — intended to cover return air fare to the UK, assuming that this is by economy class and taking advantage of cut-price fares such as 'Apex', and, subject to availability, the funding may also contribute to travel and accommodation expenses in the UK, in line with those which can be reasonably claimed under the existing Society expense claims arrangement. Subsystems of the Society or institutions wanting to be included in the Visiting Fellow's itinerary will be expected to meet the cost of rail travel within the UK and hospitality and accommodation involved, as they would for a guest speaker from within the UK.

**Nominations** — nominations must include:

- the nominee's name, position held and full address, plus an account of his or her scientific contributions to psychology (either pure or applied) and a curriculum vitae.
- an estimate of the air fares to and from the UK
- a provisional itinerary, plus a list of other psychologists who have an interest in the nominee's visit and a willingness to contribute to travelling expenses within the UK

The person nominating must be prepared to act as host, or to arrange a host, for the Visiting Fellow if the nomination is successful.

Nominations for 2004/5 should be sent to the Chair of the Research Board at the Society's Leicester office by **Friday 24 September 2004**.

**For further information, contact Lisa Morrison Coulthard at the Society's office (e-mail: [lismor@bps.org.uk](mailto:lismor@bps.org.uk)).**



Ken Brown

Contact Ken Brown via the Society's Leicester office, or e-mail: [president@bps.org.uk](mailto:president@bps.org.uk).

*It's only* a few weeks since I was nominated for President at a meeting of the Representative Council – and I haven't even had the luxury (if that's the right word) of spending a year as President Elect to prepare me. Given the circumstances that led to my election, I want to make it clear that I do not consider myself as merely a 'stand-in' President. In addition, I owe allegiance to no particular constituency; I've spent no time in smoky (not allowed now, of course) back rooms plotting with a cabal of like-minded cronies. This is not to imply that any of my predecessors operated in these ways! I intend to act, as I should, in the interests of *all* members of the Society.

Faced with a blank page (or to be more accurate, a blank computer screen), I'm temporarily overwhelmed by the task before me. Thankfully, I have an obvious and pleasant way to begin. On behalf of the members of the Society, I'd like to thank Zander Wedderburn for his work on our behalf as President. He has carried out his responsibilities in a relaxed, good-humoured style, and I am relieved that he will be around as Vice President to provide me with his advice. Although I have lived in Northern Ireland for the past 35 years, I am, like Zander, a Scot. I suppose this Scottish 'takeover' is inevitable given that the Society's headquarters in Leicester is St Andrew's House!

Several of my closest friends (and one very close relation!) have said that I will have to be careful that these monthly thoughts and comments do not mutate into the 'Victor Meldrew column'. As I grow older I have the distinct impression that the phrase 'I don't believe it' has been entering my conversations with increasing frequency. To say nothing about shouting at the television – but then everyone does that, don't they?

In my mini-interview, published in the May issue of *The Psychologist*, I commented on the tensions that often arise within the Society by the fact that we represent both the scientific community and the professional practice of psychology. This is not to imply, of course, that our professional colleagues do not practise science, or that our academic colleagues are not professional. For many years I was head of an academic department that ran (and still does run) professional training courses in clinical, educational and occupational psychology. I can therefore truthfully claim that I am aware of the problems faced by both sides of our discipline. It can be problematic recruiting professional psychologists to academia. I do not think that successive Research Assessment Exercises in the universities have helped in this matter. An often

obsessive preoccupation with research, without an appreciation of applied practice, has exacerbated these tensions. Why have we made it so difficult in this country for individuals to move from academia to professional practice and vice versa? Why are our universities often so reluctant to recognise the contributions of applied practitioners in appointing them to honorary posts? I well recall when I was on sabbatical 20 years ago at the University of California at San Diego. The department where I was based had one and a half pages of tenured staff, but three and a half pages of adjunct staff; that is, practitioners appointed to honorary posts. Where in the UK university system would we find a situation like that?

I was saddened to read in the February issue of *The Psychologist* of the death of Professor Roy Davis. I served as Secretary of the Association of Heads of Psychology Departments when Roy was its Chair, and he was very supportive of me when I succeeded him in that role. He was a kind, jovial, intelligent man and I was always glad to see his smiling face as he wandered around the book displays at BPS conferences. I last saw him in October 2003 at the retirement party for David Warburton at Reading. Roy was in great spirits among his ex-colleagues and returning graduates, and I know he will be greatly missed there.

I've just returned from our Annual Conference at Imperial College. We were blessed with good weather, and the Standing Conference Committee and the office staff should all be congratulated on organising another successful gathering. I wasn't able to attend as many of the sessions as I would have liked, but there were three highlights for me. The BPS-sponsored Marathon Minds Event at the Dana Centre was a great success. This was well attended, the speakers were spot-on and the audience participation was enthusiastic. The evening was broadcast on the web (see [tinyurl.com/28yn3](http://tinyurl.com/28yn3)). I believe we should repeat this format with other topics. Secondly, this AGM was special for me in that I was formally confirmed as President. Thirdly, I attended an enthusiastic Student Members Group reception and disco and danced longer than I had intended.

Finally, I've been hearing quite a few members asking whether we get any real value from the BPS. Indeed this is one of the points made by Binna Kandola in his letter in the April issue of *The Psychologist*. I would simply ask members to read the Annual Report very thoroughly from cover to cover. The amount of work carried out by many volunteers on our behalf convinces me that I get very good value for my subscription. Now how many Scots have you heard say that?

“I do not consider myself as merely a 'stand-in' President”



News of interest to our readers should be sent to *The Psychologist* on [psychologist@bps.org.uk](mailto:psychologist@bps.org.uk) or at the Leicester office. We also welcome lively, informative and evidence-based analysis of current events (up to 1500 words). Contact the editor first on [jonsut@bps.org.uk](mailto:jonsut@bps.org.uk).

## IMPROVING SEARCHING ONLINE

**H**OURS spent in musty basements of libraries are rapidly becoming a thing of the past thanks to online publishing, and the coming months are likely to see further improvements as several firms go head to head with new services.

This autumn, Elsevier will launch Scopus, an online search engine covering abstracts and references from 14,000 scientific journals. This will be direct competition for ISI's Web of Science, and some experts are predicting that they will respond in a publishing 'arms race' that can only be good for researchers.

Also entering the fray is Google, with a pilot scheme called CrossRef. They boast 'free, full-text interpublisher searchability', with the results of a typical Google search filtered to the scholarly research content from participating publishers. Nine publishers are taking part in the pilot, including Nature, Blackwell and the Open University Press, with many more ready to join if it is a success. During the pilot the publishers will solicit feedback from users, while reviewing the quality and functionality of the service itself.

### Weblinks:

- [www.isinet.com](http://www.isinet.com)
- [www.crossref.org/crossrefsearch.html](http://www.crossref.org/crossrefsearch.html)
- [www.scopus.com](http://www.scopus.com)

# Computed... with feeling

**A**N interdisciplinary project in the field of emotion-sensitive computing is starting to gather a head of steam, with several key events this year and a call for new members. EC funding for HUMAINE began earlier this year, and runs until December 2007.

The project coordinator, Professor Roddy Cowie (School of Psychology, Queen's University of Belfast) said: 'There is a degree of emotional colouring in most things that people do, and in many interactions success or failure depends on the way it is managed. At present, computers are blind to that emotional colouring, and that creates a bottleneck in communication. They do not know when the paperclip or the recorded message is driving us to fury, or when the examples in a teaching exercise are boring us to death; and interaction fails completely unless humans keep emotion firmly checked and communicate in a format that computers can handle.'

HUMAINE is the first sustained attempt to bring together the pieces needed to achieve emotion-sensitivity. Professor Cowie explains: 'Perceptual tasks are an obvious starting point. Trying to register emotional signals automatically raises huge questions about the way perceptual systems could integrate subtle information from different modalities. Also, perhaps more surprisingly, it reveals a dire shortage of raw material. There is no store of

recordings showing the signs of everyday emotional colouring: most research has used people acting out their image of extremes.'

There are also other potential inputs that a machine could use to be emotionally sensitive. Professor Cowie points to the 'visceral changes William James thought were the essence of emotion'. He continued: 'Their value depends partly on usability: would we really buy a PC if we had to wire up every time we used it?'

'The range of issues makes HUMAINE an enormous challenge, but it is also an extraordinary opportunity for psychology, because it creates a context where there is the

funding and the technical expertise to assess how far psychological theory really takes us in these areas. Major traditions in psychology consider that their theories should be describing processing that could in principle be done by a machine. The acid test of work in those traditions is "go and do thou likewise" – that is, build the machine, and let us see whether the processes actually generate human-like performance. It is a daunting test, but it is an honest one. In four years' time, it should be clearer how the psychology of emotion measures up to it.'

□ See [emotion-research.net](http://emotion-research.net) for details of forthcoming events and how to get involved.

## RESEARCH SEMINARS COMPETITION 2004

### The Research Board invites submissions

**Aim** – to enable a minimum of two institutions in co-operation with each other to hold a series of at least three scientific seminars, involving a minimum of 10 people, within a period of about two years.

**Grants** – four grants are available, each worth up to £3000, to meet the travelling and accommodation expenses of those attending the seminars. Institutions should be able to arrange and meet the costs of the rooms.

**Criteria** – the seminars should have tangible goals, explicitly focused upon extending and developing the understanding of psychological processes in any field of scientific psychology.

**Applications** – a letter and not more than three pages of supporting appendices (if appropriate) should be addressed to the Chair of the Board. As a minimum of two institutions will be involved, submissions should be made by a primary applicant and a co-applicant, at least one of whom should be a Society member. Details on what information should be included are available from Lisa Morrison Coulthard at the Society's office (e-mail: [lismor@bps.org.uk](mailto:lismor@bps.org.uk)).

**The 2004 competition will close on Friday 17 September 2004. Any submissions received after this date will not be considered.**

### DEADLINE

We welcome news items from members for possible publication; deadline for the August issue is **2 July**

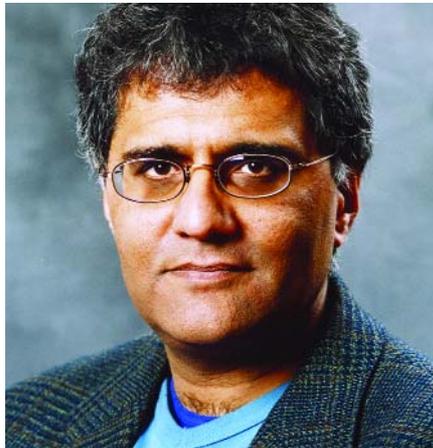
## Kandola to chair government's Minority Ethnic Group

**SOCIETY** member Binna Kandola, an occupational psychologist and specialist in diversity, has been appointed as a member of the National Employment Panel (NEP) of the Department of Work and Pensions, and as chair of its subgroup, the Minority Ethnic Group. The appointment is set for at least two years.

As the successor to the New Deal Task Force, the NEP provides independent advice to the government on the design, delivery and performance of its labour market policies, including the Welfare to Work programme. As chair of the Minority Ethnic Group, Binna has particular responsibility for ensuring that the proposals developed to increase employment opportunities are inclusive of ethnic minority groups.

Binna Kandola is co-founder of Pearn Kandola, a leading practice of occupational psychologists. He has more than 20 years' experience of advising companies on diversity in the workplace and clients include Lloyds TSB, Ford Motor Company and CGNU.

'I'm excited to be joining the National Employment Panel and Minority Ethnic Group,' said Binna. 'The Panel plays a very important role in providing work



Binna Kandola

opportunities for the UK's unemployed, and I hope to make a strong contribution to the Panel's work, particularly on diversity issues.'

Stephen Martin from the NEP added: 'Binna's appointment to the Panel adds a valuable dimension to the group. Since its introduction, the Panel has been instrumental in developing innovative new programmes to help the UK's long-term unemployed people. Binna will be a great asset as we continue to build on our achievements.'

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE RESIGNS

In a short statement issued to the Representative Council and office staff on 28 April, and posted on the members' home page of the BPS website, Society President Ken Brown announced: 'The British Psychological Society's Chief Executive, Mr Barry Brooking, has resigned from his post with immediate effect.'

## WEBSITES

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

Clearing house for resources on eating disorders for professional, sufferers and carers

[www.psych.yorku.ca/classics/](http://www.psych.yorku.ca/classics/)

Full texts of historically significant public domain documents in psychology and allied disciplines

**If you come across a website that you think would be of interest to our readers, let us know on [psychologist@bps.org.uk](mailto:psychologist@bps.org.uk).**

## Making it safer

**A ROYAL Society inquiry into biological and chemical weapons, to which the BPS contributed, published its report in April.**

The Royal Society set up a multidisciplinary working group in March 2003 to investigate the ability of science and technology to improve the detection and decontamination of chemical and biological agents in the civilian environment, during and after an incident. The Society's response to the call for evidence and to specific questions put by the working party was coordinated by the BPS parliamentary representative, Dr Judi Ellis.

Written submissions were made by psychologists Dr Andrew Silke (Home Office), Professor Lorraine Sherr (Royal Free and University College Medical

School) and Professor Judy Edworthy (University of Plymouth).

The BPS response included evidence on the best ways of communicating risk, confidence in public agencies, likely public reactions, how to avoid panic, what information should be given to the public and how it should be given, and social and psychological aspects of decontamination procedures.

The report's main recommendation is for a single agency to coordinate the UK's preparedness for and response to civilian chemical and biological incidents.

□ *The full report Making the UK Safer: Detecting and Decontaminating Chemical and Biological Agents can be downloaded via the Royal Society's website ([www.royalsoc.ac.uk/policy/](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/policy/)).*

# Disorderly conduct?

CLIFFORD STOTT and O.M.J. ADANG on social psychology and the control of football 'hooliganism' at Euro 2004.

**B**Y the time the European Football Championship kicks off in Portugal this month, the issue of football 'hooliganism' will have crept high on the agenda of the mass media. Undoubtedly this coverage will centre on the potential of the English football 'hooligan' to bring a sense of crisis, not just to the game, but also to English national identity. There is good cause. Should the spectre of disorder involving English fans haunt Euro 2004 there is a real chance that the England team will be expelled from the tournament. Such expulsion could lead to a worldwide ban for the national squad and may even affect national club sides competing in European competitions.

At the very least, expulsion would bring a sense of political and economic crisis to English football, and the government would face powerful questions about its ability to control law and order. Lack of international fixtures would wreak havoc upon the repayment forecasts for the new £758 million Wembley stadium. It is little wonder then that the UK government has been doing all it can to try to prevent 'hooligans' from travelling to the tournament. For example, they estimate that by June the courts will have imposed approximately 2500 banning orders, requiring individual fans to surrender their passports for the duration of the competition. But is this focus upon known

troublemakers justified? And will this form of social control be enough to prevent a major incident of 'hooliganism' during Euro 2004?

From a psychological perspective the focus upon the 'hooligan' is essentially a reduction of the problem of 'disorder' to the level of individual pathology, be the origin of that pathology the class-based macro social structures of post-industrial Britain (Dunning *et al.*, 1988) or the abnormal motivational needs of the 'hooligan' (Kerr, 1994; Kerr & de Kock, 2002). From this perspective the riots we have witnessed at major international competitions are understood as an outcome of the convergence of fans who are predisposed toward creating 'disorder'. While this 'hooligan account' is widely accepted as a sufficient explanation for football disorder, it is simply not adequate as a scientific theory. More is needed to understand the problem and to deal effectively with it.

The 'hooligan account' encounters difficulties in explaining *when* and *why* violence is actually going to occur. Major incidents of 'disorder' at football matches are actually very rare. There are many examples of matches where known 'hooligans' have been present which have passed off without incident. So even if we accept the idea of individuals predisposed towards violence, we are still left with the essential question of when these predispositions will actually bubble to the surface. In other words, the challenge is not to explain violence as much as to explain why violence *doesn't* happen in circumstances where the 'hooligan account' suggests that it should.

Another problem faced by the 'hooligan account' relates to who it is that actually

gets involved in these major football-related 'riots' at international competitions. According to the National Criminal Intelligence Service those English fans who have been arrested during these incidents generally have no previous involvement in football-related 'disorder'. Such facts make it difficult to sustain an argument that these fans have a predisposition towards violent conduct, and make a strategy based upon the control of known 'hooligans' vulnerable to failure.

Major incidents of 'hooliganism' at international football matches also display patterns of collective behaviour. For example, several conflicts that have occurred in mainland Europe over the last few years were between English fans and migrant youths of North African or Turkish origin. But on other occasions, or during the events themselves, the targets of attack have been or have become the police. The 'hooligan account' does little to help us to understand these collective behaviours and how it is that they emerge, change and develop over fairly limited time frames.

These explanatory problems are a major issue that we have sought to confront and overcome through our research. In redefining the theoretical framework we aim to generate practical solutions that are not focused upon denying football fans their civil liberties or on indiscriminately confronting fans with riot police as a matter of course. Rather than limiting the explanation to one of individual pathology we have sought to create an understanding of the role of social identity and group-level processes. More specifically we have sought to encourage an understanding of football-related 'disorder' based upon the tenets of the social identity approach (Tajfel & Turner, 1979; Turner *et al.*, 1987)

## WEBLINKS

Clifford Stott's research site for England football

fans: [www.footballfans.org.uk](http://www.footballfans.org.uk)

Euro 2004 official website: [www.euro2004.com](http://www.euro2004.com)

and the elaborated social identity model of crowd behaviour (e.g. Reicher, 2001).

What we already know from this research is that what crowds do (i.e. their normative structure) is determined by the salience of a shared social identity among participants (Reicher, 1987). Moreover, that change from a normatively peaceful to a normatively 'violent' crowd, and therefore changes in the nature of identity itself, can be determined by specific forms of intergroup interaction that occur during the crowd event. For example, when police used indiscriminate forms of coercive intervention during the 1990 poll tax demonstration in London, their actions contributed directly to the development of widespread rioting (Stott & Drury, 2000). In this way this research has highlighted the role that police control techniques can play in creating the kinds of group-level interactions that ironically make 'riots' more likely to occur (Drury *et al.*, 2003; Stott & Reicher, 1998). In applying and developing this knowledge in the context of football we have begun to understand that police attempts to control 'hooliganism' among football fans may actually be generating group-level dynamics that are escalating the very conflict we are seeking to avoid (e.g. Stott *et al.*, 2001).

This emphasis on group-level interaction corresponds with the findings of a major observational study at the last European Football Championship (Adang & Cuvelier, 2001). This study was able to detect two contrasting styles of policing, characterised as high- and low- profile. The styles were differentiated in terms of much greater use of riot police and lower overall quality of interaction between police and fans in 'high-profile' host cities. What was most interesting about this research was that it detected the highest overall levels of 'disorder' in situations that had been defined by the authorities as posing a low risk to 'public order' but where high-profile tactics had been used. In turn, in situations where there was judged to be higher levels of risk there was no significant difference between the levels of 'disorder' in high- and low-profile cities. In other words, throwing 'riot' police officers at the problem of 'hooliganism' was at best ineffectual and at worst counterproductive.

To build upon this work we have been conducting further field research, funded by the UK and Dutch home offices, looking at the different ways in which football fans are policed throughout the

European Union. With this research we have begun to develop an understanding of those police practices that correspond with low levels of 'disorder' among football fans. We have begun to show that low-profile, information-led policing, where officers interact with fans in a friendly manner and on the basis of fans' actual behaviour rather than their reputation, is the most effective at minimising 'hooliganism'.

Moreover, by collecting extensive data from both fans and police we have begun to understand the social psychological processes underlying the impact of police practices. For example, during a series of 34 observations involving fans of English teams playing in continental Europe over the last three years (Stott & Adang, 2003), disorder tended to emerge and escalate where 'heavy handed' policing generated a collective social relationship among large numbers of fans, based on shared perceptions of the illegitimate nature of police action. Fans who saw themselves as having no intention of engaging in hooliganism came to see conflict with the police as acceptable. This suggests that low-profile policing is effective because it manages the group-level dynamics in ways that generate shared perceptions of the legitimacy of the social relationships surrounding crowd members.

Practitioners have found this body of research extremely useful in its application. In particular, over the past two years we have been working directly with the Public Security Police (PSP) in Portugal to provide a theoretical and empirical underpinning for their security policy for Euro 2004 (Adang, 2003; Adang & Stott, 2003, 2004; Stott & Adang, 2003). Our links have helped us to attract an ESRC grant to conduct research on the policing of the tournament.

We hope that by learning the lessons from our psychological approach to the problem, the PSP will avoid the mistakes of previous tournaments: rather than simply relying upon the control of 'hooligans' they will police the tournament in ways that will make the occurrence of large-scale 'disorder' far less likely. But whatever happens, building links between social psychological research and police practice will ensure that we will have extensive data to understand the underlying processes, and hopefully reduce disorder in future competitions.

■ *Dr Clifford J. Stott is in the Henri Tajfel Laboratory at the University of Liverpool. E-mail: C.Stott@liverpool.ac.uk.*

■ *O.M.J. Adang works for the Netherlands Police Academy.*

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