

...with Stephen Murgatroyd

Professor of Management and Applied Psychology at Athabasca University in Canada, and Executive Director, Centre for Innovative Management

One achievement of my own

Counselling and Helping – a book written while teaching on a First Nations reserve in Saskatchewan during a sabbatical year in Canada – was my attempt to make psychology accessible and clear for a great many who counsel as part of their work. It came about as a result of my work with others in founding the Counselling Psychology Section, which later became a Division of the Society. I was its first secretary. My BPS Fellowship recognised the work I undertook to help 'birth' this section.

One moment that changed your career

When the Open University offered a 'deal' to anyone over 35. I took it and moved to Canada, leaving Britain as a Senior Counsellor and counselling psychologist and landing as the Dean of The Faculty of Administrative Studies and Professor of Management and Applied Psychology. Quite the flight!

One inspiration

Professor Archie Cochrane, with whom I worked straight out of my undergraduate degree – a world leading epidemiologist and a hero of the Welsh miners for helping



Stephen Murgatroyd
stephen.murgatroyd@shaw.ca

to secure compensation for black lung (pneumoconiosis). He encouraged the research

team to be rigorous and to think in terms of systems. His book *Effectiveness and Efficiency – Random Reflections on Health Services* (1971) is still regarded as a classic argument in favour of randomised control trials. The Cochrane Collaboration is named after him.

One book all psychologists should read

Paul Johnson's book *The Intellectuals* (1998) in which he looks at the difference between what the great thinkers – Marx, Rousseau, Ibsen, Russell and many more – said and what they actually did. Insightful, inspiring, an exemplar of good historical research and profound.

One cultural recommendation

Crime thrillers. When I read Joe Nesbo or Henning Mankell I am reading a psychologist at work – they happen to be crime novelists (and very good ones too). What is their understanding of the psychology of the

criminal mind and the police mind and what insights can this provide which support the develop of more comprehensive theories of psychological wellness and 'illness'?

One nugget of advice for aspiring psychologists

'Power corrupts and PowerPoint corrupts completely'. Some of the most powerful presentations I have ever been present at are conversations and talks from the heart.

One challenge you think psychology faces

Getting past our preoccupation with data to focus on understanding and theory.

In my 1970s–1990s work on the theory of psychological reversals the focus was always on deepening our understanding of structural phenomenology and motivational systems – data helped test ideas, but it was the ideas that mattered. We must move back to a more holistic understanding of the person.

One thing that makes you laugh

Thing you overhear in public places. Alan Bennett tells this great story of something he overheard on a bus in Leeds. An elderly woman, talking to a friend, said 'and the doctor said that they would never be any use to me again as feet...'. He had to get off the bus at this point. He said he had spent a chunk of his life trying to work out the whole conversation!

More answers online at www.thepsychologist.org.uk

resource

Murgatroyd, S. (2012). *Rethinking the future: Six patterns shaping a new renaissance*. Edmonton: FutureTHINK Press. Also available at lulu.com and on Kindle.

coming soon

A special feature on working as an expert witness; HIV and psychology; psychology in the operating theatre; and much more...

Send your comments about *The Psychologist* to the editor, Dr Jon Sutton, on jon.sutton@bps.org.uk, +44 116 252 9573 or to the Leicester office address

To advertise *Display*: ben.nelmes@redactive.co.uk, +44 (0)20 7880 6244
Jobs and www.psychapp.co.uk: giorgio.romano@redactive.co.uk, +44 (0)20 7880 7556

contribute

Think you can do better? Want to see your area of psychology represented more?

See the inside front cover for how you can contribute and reach 50,000 colleagues into the bargain, or just e-mail your suggestions to jon.sutton@bps.org.uk