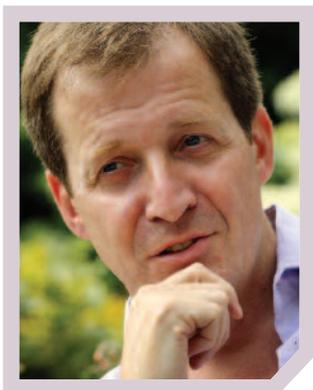


Inquisitive thinking at Cheltenham

Alastair Campbell will be among the authors interviewed by eminent figures in psychology and neuroscience at BPS-supported events at the Cheltenham Literature Festival. We spoke to some of the speakers as well as the psychologists who will be interviewing them.

Campbell, the former Director of Communications for Tony Blair, will be interviewed by Vincent Walsh (University College London) about his new book *Winners* and how they succeed. Campbell told *The Psychologist* that he had a great fascination with the workings of the human mind. He said he had been previously inspired after speaking with a psychiatrist at a National Theatre event.



Alastair Campbell

He said: 'One of my favourite parts of the book actually came by chance from a similar kind of event when I shared a platform at the National Theatre with an American-Iranian psychiatrist called Nassir Ghaemi. We were there to talk about power and madness before a performance of *King Lear*, but he

was fascinating about what in the book I describe as the positive side to what we would term mental illness. Those people and those qualities that sometimes drive them beyond what we would consider normal but in a way that does real good for the world. Churchill. Darwin. Lincoln. Martin Luther King. So who knows – maybe Vincent Walsh will end up in the paperback if he comes out with some interesting insights.'

Professor Walsh, who will also be interviewing journalist Matthew Syed in the same session, said he was hoping to ask both questions around the philosophy of winners – whether

they are born or made and what winning means in different contexts. He added: 'I'll be probing them both on specific examples they use in their books. I'll ask what makes a winner, whether winning is always essential and how important it is to lose. I'll also be talking about how people build resilience to deal with inevitable failures people meet with when they try and get the best out of themselves.'

Professor Kevin Dutton (University of Oxford), will be interviewing journalist Åsne Seierstad whose book *One of Us* explores Anders Behring Breivik, the Norwegian mass murderer who killed 77 people in two terrorist attacks. Dutton said he was hoping to speak to Seierstad about several main areas, including a general view of who Anders Breivik is, whether he is sane, what triggered his murderous spree and what similarities he shows with other mass murderers.

When asked what psychology can bring to such an event, Dutton said: 'For a long time I've been of the opinion that us psychologists got on to the science of the brain pretty late. Right back to the Ancient Greeks and medieval poetry there's a lot of psychology there, but it's just not written in a psychological form. We add a bit of science to insights which have already been put out there by the poets, writers and philosophers of yesteryear. In my chat with Åsne I hope to carry on that tradition, sit down together, work as a team and put science and art literature together and form an offender profile of sorts.'

Rory O'Connor (University of Glasgow) said he thought it was very important for those from the arts and sciences to come together at events such as the Cheltenham Literature Festival not only to share with each other but to reach the general public. He added: 'If you work in an area like suicide

Åsne Seierstad

Understanding malnourishment

A psychologist will be part of a team working in The Gambia to extend a project that was the first functional imaging study of infants in Africa. The longitudinal project named BRIGHT (BRain Imaging for Global HealTh) and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will look at whether malnutrition leads to atypical brain development and cognitive changes across the first two years of life.

Sarah Lloyd-Fox, a Research Fellow at Birkbeck University of London's Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, has spent much of her career optimising an imaging technique, fNIRS (functional near infrared spectroscopy), for the study of infant cognition. Recently her work has turned to the use and transportation of fNIRS into rural communities in the

developing world. After a successful pilot project the multidisciplinary group, led by Professor Clare Elwell (UCL, Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering), Dr Sophie Moore (Cambridge, Human Nutrition Research) and Dr Lloyd-Fox, will now follow 200 children in The Gambia from birth, using fNIRS and a multitude of cognitive tasks.

The fNIRS technology to be used in The Gambia, and also on a control group of 50 infants in Cambridge, uses a headband that emits and detects non-invasive near infrared light. This light travels through the skin and skull, but is reflected differently depending on oxygen level, therefore brain activity, in that area.

Dr Lloyd-Fox said: 'It's often said that the first 1000 days of an infant's life, from conception, are the most important. This

work in The Gambia will allow us to see, from the earliest possible point, how these children develop and any deviations from normal developmental patterns. We don't know whether malnutrition affects brain development in a global manner or whether some parts of the brain are susceptible to under-development.'

Malnutrition before the age of two can have far-reaching effects, extending into adulthood. Dr Moore said: 'Nutritional deficiencies in low-income countries impair the growth and development of



DBS checks and mental health



and self-harm, it is vitally important that we go beyond our ivory towers to communicate the science, the evidence-based practice, and also dispel the many myths that exist, in my case, around suicide.'

Professor O'Connor will be interviewing journalist and author Matt Haig about his extraordinarily popular book *Reasons to Stay Alive*, which discusses his own personal experiences with suicidal thoughts and attempts. When asked what psychologists can bring to interviews with authors, O'Connor said: 'As psychologists we try to understand mind and behaviour – so I'll attempt to bring that inquisitive thinking to the interview. I'll also take a life-course approach and explore the emergence of his mental health problems, the moment when, aged 24, he was on the

brink of suicide, his subsequent recovery and his fear of becoming unwell again. As I was reading his book, lots of things struck me as interesting and intriguing, so hopefully some of the questions that I plan to ask will resonate with other readers at Cheltenham.'

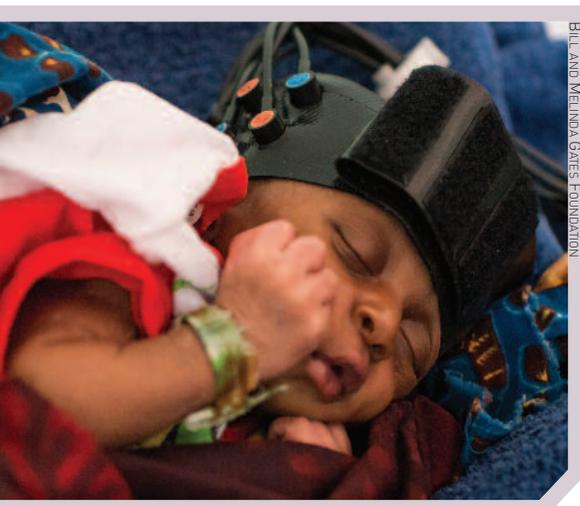
I To find out more about the events at the Cheltenham Literature Festival, which runs from 2 to 11 October, see tinyurl.com/kwwsxb

Many people applying to work or volunteer with children or in health care face background checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS – previously CRB). A review last year raised concerns that irrelevant information about people being detained under the Mental Health Act was being released and having a negative impact on the employment prospects of such people. Now new guidelines call for a number of factors must be taken into account before an individual's mental health crisis is revealed.

The guidelines point out that detention by the police under the Mental Health Act 'does not constitute a criminal investigation and should therefore be treated with great caution when considering relevance for disclosure'. They point out that if a person showed a risk of harming others during their detention this may be disclosed if it is relevant, and how long ago an incident happened should also be taken into account before including such information on criminal record certificates.

If a mental health crisis is disclosed during a DBS check the Home Office guidelines recommend the certificate should give enough information as to why this may be relevant to the employer or voluntary organisation.

Paul Farmer, Chief Executive of Mind, said having a mental health problem or having been detained under the Mental Health Act should not necessarily be a red flag in the case of DBS checks. However, he added, there was still room to go further: 'For example, people should automatically be allowed to make representations about the current state of their mental health if concerns are raised. At the moment it is left to the discretion of the chief police officer to give someone that opportunity. In a society where stigma about mental ill health is still rife, we need all the checks and balances possible to negate any fears and preconceived ideas about the one in four of us who experience mental health problems every year.'



BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

Fox said up to 20 per cent could be severely malnourished. Therefore in the project they will be able to trace both typical and compromised development in these infants from birth. Brain activity during social cognition, attention and memory tasks will be measured with fNIRS along with functional connectivity to see how well the brain is communicating across regions. The families will also take part in a number of general behavioural cognitive tests and questionnaires

to help the research group to understand the interplay between nutrition, brain function and other environmental factors.

One of the benefits of fNIRS, Lloyd-

Fox said, was that it allowed researchers to measure infant development in an objective manner, and to potentially look more closely at individual differences rather than global effects across groups. She will spend her time between the UK and The Gambia, while researchers at the Medical Research Council International Nutrition Unit in Keneba will carry out testing in the country.

Principal investigator Professor Clare Elwell said: 'Extending this work to a long-term study gives us a unique chance to understanding how infants are affected by growing up in extreme poverty and to guide interventions to give these children the best chance of healthy and productive lives.'

I For more information see the project website www.globalfnirs.org

children and contribute to almost half of all child deaths worldwide'.

Of the 200 Gambian infants potentially involved with the study, Lloyd-

'We can make changes – we just need to be brave'

A group of psychologists successfully walked 100 miles between Leicester and London to highlight the impact of austerity on mental health. Their journey caught the attention of both local and national media as well as many members of the general public.

Dr Ste Weatherhead, who organised Walk the Talk, and his group visited food banks and homeless shelters along the route and collected the stories of those who had been hit hard by austerity measures and welfare reform. The group's aim was to highlight three areas in particular: the benefits system, homelessness and food poverty, and at each of the food banks and shelters they visited they took video or audio recordings of people's stories and how their mental health has been affected by such cuts.

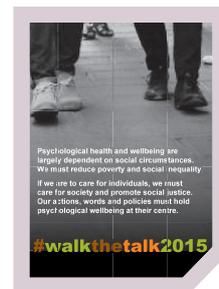
Along their route, Weatherhead said, he was struck by how their cause had caught the imagination of the general public as well as professionals, the media and politicians. He added: 'We had lots of people stop us in the streets to say hi and make points of support for what we were doing. One lady met us at one of our scheduled stops and brought us cakes.

A guy came and said he wanted to join in but due to mobility problems he couldn't walk far. However he did take our bags in his car for 10 miles of the journey, this made such a huge difference to our energy and our walking speed.

The group were interviewed by *The Guardian*, the *Mirror*, BBC Radio Leicester, BBC Northampton, and the BBC World Service, as well as RT TV. Weatherhead said he was overwhelmed to be joined by dozens of supporters on the London section of their walk.

He added: 'As psychologists, our job is in part to show we are listening to what people are saying. Hitting the streets in this way, really did that. It took active listening to a new level, and made us very visible in showing our connection with important issues, our desire to be with people in calling for change, our belief in the possibility of change, and our willingness to actively make that change happen.'

The stark reality of life for people using food banks and struggling with their mental health, Weatherhead said,



had affected him. He added: 'In the food banks and shelters we visited, people were losing hope. They said they didn't think the systems were going to change. They got some hope from what we did.'

He told the story of one woman he met whose partner of 11 years had passed away: 'Her mental health really suffered and she ended up on the streets and needed benefits, but I've heard so many times that there are simply too many hoops for people to jump through and they lose hope.'

Speaking of the future, Weatherhead added: 'This isn't about one person and one mission. Now we need other people, professional bodies and organisations to take new approaches, be brave and step outside their comfort zone in order to show they want to make a positive impact. We can make changes, we just need to be brave.'

To see the media coverage garnered by the walk and to find out more about their cause see their website walkthetalk2015.org. **ER**

Seeking closure on 'closure'

A list of 50 words and phrases to be avoided when writing about psychology was recently published, leading to much debate among academics and science journalists. The article, in *Frontiers in Psychology*, includes misleading terms, misused or ambiguous terms, oxymorons and pleonasm – where more words than necessary are used to convey meaning.

The authors, who include Scott Lilienfeld, (Emory University), state the terms included should be avoided or used sparingly. They suggested that, as the field of psychology is often full of ambiguous terms and concepts, the use of language should be all the

more rigorous and clear to limit potential misunderstanding.

In the inaccurate or misleading terms section of the article, the authors warn against calling drugs such as SSRIs or tricyclics 'antidepressant medication'. They write that there is no evidence to suggest these drugs are any more useful in the treatment of depression than for other conditions, including anxiety disorders or bulimia nervosa.

Among the five 'frequently misused terms' listed is *fetish*. The authors suggest this should only be used, as initially intended, to describe sexual arousal from inanimate

objects or non-genital body parts and should not be used simply to describe general preferences for objects, ideas or people. Secondly, *closure*, they write, should be used in its original gestalt context as a way to describe a tendency to see incomplete figures as wholes rather than a feeling of resolution following trauma.

The use of *medical model* is listed in the article's 'ambiguous terms' section, as many authors who use it think it always means the same thing, although it has a huge number of possible meanings. For example, the authors write, it has been used to describe an emphasis on an underlying disease rather than

presenting signs or symptoms, the assumption that psychological issues are better treated with medication than psychotherapy and the belief that mentally ill people who act irresponsibly are not fully at fault for such behaviour.

Although it may be argued that the changing usage of these words is part of the natural evolution of language, the authors do claim some terms are just plain wrong: for example, the term *hierarchical stepwise regression* when hierarchical and stepwise regression are entirely separate processes. They also suggest the use of the term *biological and environmental influences* is unnecessarily wordy when

Not such a good childhood?

Children in England show some of the lowest levels of happiness with their school lives, compared with 14 other countries surveyed by the Children's Society. Bullying seems a particular problem, with more than half a million 10- and 12-year-olds having been physically bullied each month.

The Good Childhood Report surveyed 53,000 children aged 10 and 12 in Algeria, Poland, England, Colombia, Turkey, Spain, Estonia, Germany, Nepal, Norway, South Africa, Ethiopia, Romania, Israel and South Korea.

Children in England were found to be unhappier with their school lives than those in 11 other countries – only faring better than children in Germany, South Korea and Estonia. In terms of happiness with life in general, they only fared better than those in South Korea.

This work, which marks a decade of the society's work on children's wellbeing in collaboration with the University of York, also found that more than a third (38 per cent) of 10- and 12-year-olds in England had been physically bullied in the last month, and half (50 per cent) had felt excluded. Children in England who were bullied frequently were six times more likely to have low wellbeing in general.

As well as showing unhappiness with school life, the study showed that children in England were notably dissatisfied with their appearance and body confidence. Girls in England ranked bottom in terms of happiness with their body confidence, appearance and self-confidence compared with girls in every other country surveyed, with the exception of South Korea. Girls

environmental influences alone encompasses all the effects on a living being from the moment it is conceived.

Vaughan Bell, writing on his Mindhacks blog, said: 'Some of the recommendations are essentially based on the premise that you "shouldn't use the term except for how it was first defined or defined where we think is the authoritative source". This is just daft advice. Terms evolve over time. Definitions shift and change. The article recommends against using "fetish" except for in its DSM-5 definition, despite the fact this is different to how it's used commonly and how it's widely used in other

academic literature.'

In reply to Bell's article, Lilienfeld said the list was not intended as a 'ban list' of terms, but as a guide to use them with more clarity. He wrote: 'We are lobbying for considerably greater clarity in the use of certain terms, especially those that are often used loosely or sloppily in the psychological and psychiatric literatures. When we suggest "avoiding the use of a term," we typically mean avoiding the use of that term in certain ways and in certain contexts.' **ER**

I The Frontiers article is at tinyurl.com/opyyb3x; Mindhacks and Lilienfeld response (in comments) tinyurl.com/pxqzkh

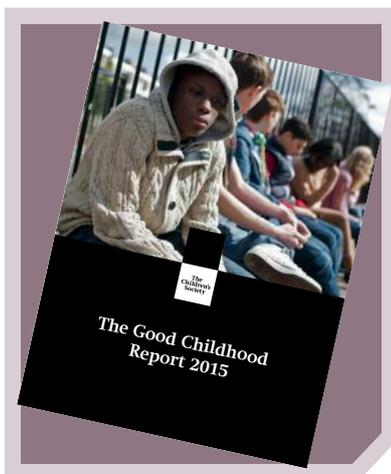
in England were more than twice as likely as boys to say they were unhappy with their bodies, and perhaps surprisingly this gender difference was not found in many other countries.

The Children's Society have urged the government to make it a legal requirement for schools in England to provide counselling to pupils to bring it in line with Wales and Northern Ireland. 'We would like to see independent and qualified counselling professionals available in all schools to support young people with low wellbeing and those who have emotional needs. The provision of school-based counselling should be flexible and should take into account local demand, demographics and existing structures and services in the local area. Young people should also have the ability to self-refer to a school counsellor to make it easier for them to get help when they need it.'

Dr Sue Whitcombe, Communications Lead for the British Psychological Society Division of Counselling Psychology, has worked in schools with children, young people and school staff. She said the trends highlighted in the report were concerning, but added 'they are unlikely to come as a surprise to those who work with children and young people on a daily basis'. Dr Whitcombe told us that although there is increasingly a focus on programmes in schools to increase wellbeing, there were concerns among practitioners about delays and extended waiting times for therapy when referrals are made to CAMHS services. She added: 'It is important to grasp that staff wellbeing is a key factor in whole school functioning and individual pupil experience. Some of our colleagues are now engaged to provide therapeutic support or professional supervision to staff in schools. Counselling psychologist colleagues are employed or contracted to provide a range of services for which our relational approaches and understanding of system dynamics are particularly beneficial.'

Chartered Psychologist Marc Smith, who is also a teacher and PhD student at the University of York, said in a blog for the *Huffington Post* that during 10 years of teaching he had seen growing numbers of young people suffering anxiety and stress related to exam pressure. He added: 'While we all want our young people to do well, our measure of success is a rather narrow one, being based almost entirely on exam grades... The Children's Society call for counselling to be more widely available and programmes to promote positive mental health in schools are certainly laudable and positive steps... but as the emphasis on high-stakes testing and material success increases, such interventions will need to run even faster to catch up.' **ER**

I For the full *Good Childhood Report* see: tinyurl.com/oynee9; to read Marc Smith's *Huffington Post* blog see tinyurl.com/p6pyx8g and for his article on academic resilience in schools from *The Psychologist* see tinyurl.com/ovmjzww



Visit <http://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk> for much more news, including the latest on the American Psychological Association stance on interrogation and a report from an event bringing together psychopharmacology and cognitive behavioural therapy.

Video games and aggression

A report from a task force of the American Psychological Association has found that although violent video game play is linked to increased aggression in players, there is insufficient evidence to link such games with actual criminal violence.

The APA Task Force on Violent Media carried out a review of research literature published between 2005 and 2013, which included four meta-analyses that reviewed more than 150 research reports published before 2009. The group then conducted a systematic evidence review and a quantitative review of the literature published between 2009 and 2013.

A consistent relationship was found between violent video game use and increases in aggressive behaviour, aggressive cognitions and aggressive affect, and

decreases in prosocial behaviour, empathy and sensitivity to aggression. Mark Appelbaum, who chaired the task force, said in a statement that there was very limited research into whether these violent games lead to acts of criminal violence, while the link between violence in video games and increased aggression in players is well established.



The report stated: 'No single risk factor consistently leads a person to act aggressively or violently. Rather, it is the accumulation of risk factors that tends to lead to aggressive or violent behavior. The research reviewed here demonstrates that violent video game use is one such risk factor.'

In light of the group's conclusions the APA has called on the industry to design video games that include increased parental control over the amount of violence the games contain. The APA's Council of Representatives adopted a resolution at its meeting in Toronto to encourage the Entertainment Software Rating Board to refine its video game rating system to reflect the levels and characteristics of violence in games. The resolution also urged game developers to design games that are appropriate to users' age and psychological development.

The report pointed out limitations in the research, including a failure to look for any differences in outcomes between boys and girls who play violent video games; a lack of studies that have examined the effects of violent video game play on children younger than 10; and not enough research examining the games' effects over the course of children's development.

Appelbaum added: 'We know that there are numerous risk factors for

aggressive behaviour. What researchers need to do now is conduct studies that look at the effects of video game play in people at risk for aggression or violence due to a combination of risk factors. For example, how do depression or delinquency interact with violent video game use? While there is some variation among the individual studies, a strong and consistent general pattern has emerged from many years of research that provides confidence in our general conclusions.'

In 2013 around 230 media scholars, psychologists and criminologists signed an open letter to the APA expressing concern over the generalisation of findings in lab-based studies onto the general population, as well as the use of meta-analyses which can be misleading. They wrote: 'As a simple matter, boys both consume more violent media and are more aggressive, so small correlations may reflect gender effects. Naturally, other variables may well explain small correlations as well. From our observation, considerable research data bears this belief out.' **ER**

I For Christopher Ferguson's discussion in *The Psychologist* on whether video game violence is bad see tinyurl.com/ozupg5r; see tinyurl.com/nzmj3o4 for a news article from *The Psychologist* on the changing face of attitudes towards video games

AWARD FOR BULLYING RESEARCH

Emeritus Professor Peter Smith (Goldsmiths, University of London) has been given an award for his extensive research on bullying. He has published numerous papers comparing the incidence and characteristics of bullying and cyberbullying across different countries in Europe and in Western and Asian countries.

Smith received the William Thierry Preyer Award for Excellence in Research on Human Development at the European Conference for Developmental Psychology in Braga, Portugal.

It's a jungle out there

Fear within organisations has been in the news of late, following a *New York Times* exposé of online retailer Amazon's treatment of its staff (tinyurl.com/o2vdvtf), and publication of a report, commissioned by employment law specialists Slater and Gordon, showing 37 per cent of 2000 people surveyed had experienced bullying at work (see tinyurl.com/ngqnxk5). But is fear in organisations a growing phenomenon, or are we simply more willing to speak out about these issues in our culture of online naming and shaming? And do psychologists have a role in tackling fear?

Joan Kingsley, a consultant

clinical and organisational psychotherapist and author of *The Fear-Free Organization: Vital Insights from Neuroscience to Transform your Business Culture*, said: 'It is easy to make assumptions that a business that promotes such high values on customer needs, such as Amazon, is following the same ethos with its employees. So readers were rather surprised to read about management tactics producing extreme levels of fear that are reportedly running rampant. The article vividly illustrates a bruising workplace culture, but unfortunately fear-based management strategies are the rule of the day in far too many organisations.'

Kingsley said that prior to labour laws workers had no bargaining power, compensation was low, hours were long, jobs were scarce and unemployment was high. She said: 'Management styles may have evolved but what hasn't changed is the use of fear by leaders and managers to keep order and to motivate. The use of fear as a management tool means a person's energy is entirely diverted from thriving to surviving. Leaders and managers would do well to educate themselves and all employees about the devastating impact of fear-based strategies.'

Psychologists can help

Boost for research

A multidisciplinary, five-year project that aims to research and explore voice-hearing has received £2.75 million from the Wellcome Trust. Hearing the Voice involves experts from cognitive neuroscience, psychology, psychiatry, philosophy, English literature, theology and the medical humanities, led by psychologist Charles Fernyhough (Durham University).

This funding is one of the first of the Trust's Social Science Collaborative Awards; a second was given to the Centre for the History of the Emotions (Queen Mary, University of London).

Hearing the Voice, which started in 2012, will now be expanded to help the research team continue their work with local clinicians, mental health professionals, voice-hearers and other 'experts by experience'.

Professor Fernyhough said the group's research so far had revealed voice-hearing to be a complex, varied experience with rich significances across cultures and historical periods. He said of the future of the project: 'We'll be asking about the varied sensory experiences that accompany voice-hearing and how they help us to understand it as a communicative act. We're looking at how voices relate to autobiographical memory, imagination and creativity, and continuing with our examination of the links between voice-hearing

and inner speech, including pioneering new approaches to studying their neural bases.'

On the collaboration between such a diverse group of researchers, Fernyhough said the thing that helped them work together was their drive towards the same end – to understand voice-hearing by speaking to people who have experienced it. He said the funding would be essential in helping the group engage with the public.

'A big part of our work involves trying to change perceptions about voice-hearing and reduce the stigma associated with it. In the next five years we will be working on major exhibitions, publications and artistic initiatives that will, we hope, help to dispel some of the myths and misconceptions that surround hearing voices,' he said.

Dan O'Connor, Head of Humanities and Social Science at the Wellcome Trust, added: 'We are absolutely delighted to be able to support these two genuinely innovative and exciting research visions. These are some of the largest research awards ever made to the humanities in the UK, almost unique in their scale and scope. Both hold out the promise of making genuinely ground breaking changes in both our understanding of, and approaches to, the diverse spectrum of human experience.' **ER**

individuals to deal with stress, anxiety and fear, but can they also help managers to learn about the role emotions play in day-to-day life at the office? Kingsley concluded: 'Leaders and managers who are emotionally savvy develop insight. Empathy for others is built on knowing oneself. Empathic leadership will have zero tolerance for bullying, aggression and undermining behaviours.'

Dr Sheila Keegan, a Chartered Psychologist and author of *The Psychology of Fear in Organisations*, said that although fear had always been a factor in organisations, there was strong evidence that levels of fear, across the globe had

increased considerably. She added: 'There are many reasons posited for this, including job insecurity, zero-hours contracts, rapid turnaround of staff and undercutting by foreign workers.'

Keegan said the key to tackling fear was for organisations to develop greater levels of trust throughout the whole company. She added: 'This is not an easy task, especially where suspicion between senior managers and other groups of staff has been built up over years. It may involve encouraging a staff member to embark on a project they are particularly enthused by,

in the knowledge that the outcome may not be positive, but the staff member has learnt a great deal of general information and learning en route.'

According to Keegan, many organisations deal with their staff in mechanistic ways. 'For example, senior managers are removed from workers on the floor with limited connections between staff in different departments. Building trust and connection helps to build strong, self-sufficient workforces. There is a good deal of scope for psychologists within organisations, working at senior levels to help build resilience, empathy and group cohesion.' **ER**

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

The number of young people studying psychology at AS- and A-level has increased, while there has been a 10 per cent drop in entrants for Scottish Highers in the subject.

After a small decrease in psychology at AS- and A-level last year, in 2015 there was a 4 per cent increase in those taking A-level (the total was 57,014) and a 2 per cent increase in those taking AS-level



psychology this year (up to 103,476). The pass rate for both has also increased from last year, reaching 71 per cent achieving A* to C at A-level and 53.7 per cent achieving the same at AS-level.

Psychology is still the fourth most popular A-level behind maths, English and biology, but candidate numbers in chemistry and history both continue to rise. In Scotland there was a 10 per cent decrease in students taking a psychology Scottish Higher, from 3479 to 3175, the pass rate also decreased by 1 per cent to 74 per cent.

BPS Policy Advisor for Psychology Education, Kelly Auty, said: 'The overall trend of a growth in the numbers of students taking psychology at pre-tertiary level is encouraging, although the situation in Scotland is obviously a cause for concern and we will be looking at factors that may be influencing that. The next issue the Society will be keeping a watching brief on is the implementation of A-level reform and whether the decoupling of AS- from A-level will have an impact on psychology.'