

## ...with Maryon Tysoe

Fellow of the Society for her work on the dissemination of psychological knowledge, and a former Editor of *The Psychologist*

### One person who inspired you

George Miller, author of *Psychology: The Science of Mental Life*. This was the first book I ever read about psychology, in the 1960s, and that was it for me. Hooked.

### One moment that changed the course of your career

When a university researcher in the late 1970s, I read an article in the sadly long-gone weekly magazine *New Society*, then the highly regarded social science equivalent of *New Scientist*. The article (by a non-psychologist) suggested that perhaps people developed racist attitudes much younger than was previously thought. But I remembered that social psychological research going back to the 1940s had clearly shown that such attitudes can be found in children as young as four. And I thought, what on earth is the point of

researching human beings if we never let them know what we've found out? That flash powered my career for years to come.



Maryon Tysoe

### One memory of your time with *The Psychologist*

The way people became so engaged in helping *The Psychologist* to evolve in new directions. For example, in 1998, I was working with a

professional designer, the office staff and the Psychologist Policy Committee on a complete re-design of the magazine.

I remember, in one PPC meeting, about eight brilliant psychologists passionately discussing typefaces. It was a lovely moment.

### One thing you learned through your involvement with the Society's media training

That people really can transform the way they present their work in a single day, from hiding their light under an over-complex and jargon-laden bushel to communicating a clear, powerful central message. Although I stepped down from media training at the end of last year (feeling that nearly 27 years was enough!), I still feel passionately about it as a service for members and its vital role in the diffusion of psychology.

### One challenge you think psychology faces

To keep on increasing the communication of helpful evidence-based advice, information, insight and

concrete suggestions for action to the public at large, or to targeted groups. But this is a challenge, given the serious constraints on so many people of time, demands and financial pressures.

### One thing that you would change about psychology

Making the applications of psychological findings to people's benefit as highly valued and visible as its research efforts.

### One nugget of advice for aspiring psychologists

To aim for absolute clarity for your audience in your writing and speaking about your work. It's a much tougher intellectual challenge to be clear about complex matters than it is to be abstruse about them, but infinitely worth the effort!

### One cultural recommendation

Almost anything by P.G. Wodehouse: a writer of comic genius, with a superbly inventive use of language. My favourites are the tales of Jeeves and Wooster.

### One alternative career path you may have chosen

Astronomy. When I was little, my father and I spent many happy hours peering at the night sky through a telescope poking out of our attic window; there wasn't so much light pollution in the 1950s. Even now, I get terribly excited by new astronomical discoveries and robotic rovers crawling across the Martian landscape.

### One thing that makes me laugh

*Frasier*. Still.

#### resource

Tysoe, M. (1992). *Love isn't quite enough: The psychology of male-female relationships*. London: Fontana.

'This book was designed to make academic research accessible and useful to a lay audience in a potentially tricky, but impactful, area for many of us.'

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