

Fall 2008

PSYCHOLOGY

THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

Letter from the Chair

This has been an exciting time of transition for the psychology department. On September 26th, the psychology department moved into its new home on the 6th and 7th floors of 80 Fifth Avenue. The Clinical Psychology program occupies the 6th floor, while the Cognitive, Social and Developmental Psychology program occupies the 7th floor, along with the main departmental office, the *Social Research* and Journal Donation Project offices, and the Student Advising office. Lab, testing, and meeting rooms as well as a student lounge are also housed on each floor.

The new location differs from our former space in a number of ways: notably in lieu of the old system of hard keys, the 6th and 7th floors of 80 Fifth Avenue are equipped with a technologically advanced system of key cards. Rather than having to show IDs at the building's entrance and to carry multiple keys, students' and faculty members' ID cards are now coded to give them access to labs and offices.

Our new home has already seen extensive use by the department's 300 students. It is an attractive and well designed setting in which to work. One student characterized the new space as "neat, white and zen-like", while others have praised the light that comes with the building's many large windows as well as the brightness that is achieved by the striking system of illumination throughout the halls. We are appreciative of the

responsiveness shown to the department's needs by the architectural team and feel that the floors will work well both in making it possible for us to serve the academic and advising needs of students as well as for faculty and students to continue to be highly productive in empirical research. Our alumni are welcome to come by and visit the department in its new location.

In other news, we are pleased to celebrate the founding of the Sandor Ferenczi Center (see article in this issue). We also continue to host a number of distinguished speakers in our Departmental Speaker Series, with our first talk given by **Sue Erikson Boland**, who recently gave a presentation on her book *In the Shadow of Fame*. The CSD program has also initiated a bi-weekly brown bag for presentation of student research, which is attended by faculty and students in the 7th floor student lounge and which is providing an exciting forum for indepth discussion. The first brownbag presentation was led by **Alin Coman** in which he presented his exciting work with faculty advisor **Bill Hirst** on socially-shared retrieval-induced forgetting of memories for 9/11.

Sandor Ferenczi Center

Last Spring our department's **Jeremy Safran** helped to found The Sandor Ferenczi Center at The New School for Social Research, along with co-chairs **Lewis Aron, PhD**, New York University Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy & Psychoanalysis and **Adrienne Harris, PhD**, New York University Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. The organizing committee includes also includes our New School for Social Research colleagues **Eli Zaretsky** from the Department of Historical Studies and **Simon Critchley** of the Philosophy Department.



Sandor Ferenczi

The Sandor Ferenczi Center at The New School has been established at the request and with the support of the International Sandor Ferenczi Foundation. It will function as the American branch of similar centers that have been established in other countries around the world.

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Faculty News

DORIS CHANG was a co-organizer of the 2008 Annual Convention of the Asian American Psychological Association. This year's convention was held in Boston on August 13th and focused on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Resisting Ethnocentrism, Racism and Intersecting Oppressions: Practice, Research, Theory and Community Interventions. At the American Psychological Association convention in August, Doris also chaired a symposium on Making Cross-Racial Therapy Work: Findings from a Phenomenological Study of Patients' Experiences of Cross-Racial Therapy. And in October, she was one of 120 invited participants in the APA's fourth annual Science Leadership Conference.

Doris has also recently had an article accepted for publication. "Prevalence and Predictors of Intimate Partner Violence in Asian Americans" will appear in the upcoming volume of the *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*.

XIAOCHUN JIN has recently had a manuscript, which he wrote with Jane Keat, entitled "The Effects of Change in Spousal Power on Intimate Partner Violence Among Chinese Immigrants" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. His "Hostile Attributional Bias, Early Abuse, and Social Desirability in Reporting Hostile Attributions among Chinese Immigrant Batters and Nonviolent Men", written with Morris Eagle and Jane Keat, will appear in the forthcoming December issue of *Violence and Victims*.

JEREMY SAFRAN has been elected President of the International Association of Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, an international organization founded in 2001 to promote the development of relational psychoanalysis and the dialogue between different psychoanalytic perspectives, other approaches to psychotherapy, and other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities.

DAVID SHAPIRO's book *Neurotic Styles* has been translated and published in Hebrew, Romanian and Castilian Spanish. His *Psychotherapy of Neurotic Character* has been published in Japanese and Italian.

The Center for Attachment Research, directed by **MIRIAM STEELE** and **HOWARD STEELE**, is extending their study of an evidence-based attachment intervention with high-risk families. This research, in collaboration with Anne Murphy from the Center for Babies Toddlers and Families Albert Einstein College of Medicine, recently received funding to conduct a pilot study incorporating the collection of salivary cortisol alongside ongoing assessments of attachment representations and social emotional development in parents and children whose lives involve much past and current trauma.

Howard Steele gave a recent address, Attachment Theory and Research: An Aid to Decision Making in Family Court Processes and Outcomes to the mental health team working at the Manhattan Family Court. Howard also spoke on The Development of Mentalization in Parents and Children: A report from a 20-Year Longitudinal Study of Attachment Relationship at the Austin Riggs Center, Erikson Institute for Education and Research (Chair: M.Gerard Fromm).

Miriam Steele & Howard Steele recently gave an invited address in the Psychology Department, University of Leiden, Netherlands, on Continuity and Discontinuity in Attachment: Community and Clinical Samples. (Chair: Marinus van IJzendoorn).

Recent publications from the Steeles include:

1. Steele, M., Kaniuk, J., Hodges, J., Asquith, K., Hillman, S., & Steele, H. (2008). "Measuring Mentalization Across Contexts: Links Between Representations of Childhood and Representations of Parenting in an Adoption Sample." In (E.L. Juris, A. Slade & S. Bergner, Eds.) *Mind to Mind: Infant Research, Neuroscience, and Psychoanalysis* (pp 115-138). New York: Other Press.

2. Steele, H., & Steele, M. (2008). "On the Origins of Reflective Functioning." In F. Busch (Ed). *Mentalization: Theoretical Considerations, Research Findings, and Clinical Implications*. Psychoanalytic Inquiry Book Series, 29, pp 133-158. NY: Analytic Books.

MCWELLING TODMAN presented two invited papers: "Boredom and Addiction: The Dangers of Sameness" and "Boredom and Addiction: Interventions, Prevention and Positive Psychology," at the 14th Annual Counseling Skills Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tell us what you've been up to!
gfpsych@newschool.edu

Alumni News

DANIEL ANTONIUS (PhD 2008) has started his postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine. In August he received the prestigious Chris Hatcher Memorial Scholarship award from the Association for Threat Assessment Professionals.

Daniel is also the Co-Editor of a new journal, *Interdisciplinary Research on Terrorism and Political Violence*, which will be published by Taylor and Francis and has co-authored two papers which will appear in *Psychiatry Research* and *Schizophrenia Research*.

GERALD ECHTERHOFF (PhD) was recently appointed Professor of Psychology at the Jacobs University Bremen in Germany.

BILL GOTTDIENER (PhD) has just received tenure in the Psychology Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Bill has been extremely active and productive as a psychoanalytic researcher and has become an important voice in the field.

ANNA ODOM (PhD 2005) received a grant from the International Psychoanalytical Association to continue her work on a pilot study for the development of a treatment for adolescents with borderline personality disorder traits.

PATRICIA YOON (MA) attended the 2008 Annual Convention of the Asian American Psychological Association and presented a paper entitled "Meaning of Race in Patients' Narratives of Cross-Racial Therapy Relationships".

Student News

CATHERINE BITNEY participated in the Making Cross-Racial Therapy Work—Findings From a Phenomenological Study of Patients' Experiences of Cross-Racial Therapy symposium at the 2008 Annual Convention of the Asian American Psychological Association and presented a paper on "Relationship Between Racial and Ethnic Identity Status and Treatment Satisfaction".

ELINOR BOCK presented a paper titled "What Do Prospective Research Participants Want to Know—and What Do They Assume They Know Already?" in the public health ethics section at the 2008 American Public Health Association in San Diego, CA.

As part of a Symposium at the 2008 Annual Convention of the Asian American Psychological Association, **CRAIG FULLER** presented a paper on "Discussing Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Differences in Therapy: Client Perspectives".

SHAUN NANAVATI spoke on Neuropsychology and Integrative medicine at California Pacific Medical Center in June.

MARILINA RUFINO, with guidance from Marcel Kinsbourne, Howard Steele, and Miriam Steele, is coordinating a study of children's emotion understanding across cultures, and between clinical and community samples in Argentina. Dr Guillermo De Quiroz is providing access to the clinical sample in Argentina, while the community sample is coming from Barker College, with the help of Cecilia I. Righetto, Principal; Andrea Lozano and Julieta Toscani, School Psychologists.

MATTHEW STEINFELD, under the supervision of Dr. **MICHAEL SCHOBER** and with **MICHELLE LEVINE**, presented a paper at the 2nd European Conference on Developmental Psychology of Music, held at Roehampton University from September 10th-12th in London, UK. Matthew also received a graduate student conference award sponsored by (SEMPRE), the Society for Education, Music, and Psychology Research.

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Sandor Ferenczi has historical significance both for psychology in general and for The New School in particular. Ferenczi spent four months in New York in 1926 and gave a series of lectures at The New School after being invited to the United States by **Alvin Johnson**, the President of The New School at that time.

The Ferenczi Center will work to sponsor conferences and promote research, scholarship, and publications regarding Ferenczi, promote new translations and publications of Ferenczi's writings, raise funds to help support the Ferenczi House Project and the International Sandor Ferenczi Foundation and more generally to contribute to the ongoing vitality of psychoanalysis as a cultural, intellectual and psychotherapeutic discipline.

The inaugural lecture for the Ferenczi Center at The New School will be delivered on January 12th by **Judit Meszaros, Ph.D.**, founding member of The Sandor Ferenczi Society in Budapest.

For more information please visit:

www.newschool.edu/nssr/subpage.aspx?id=24638

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foundations and individual donors, and have recently received funding from the New York State Department of Health to expand our service hours into evenings and weekends.

The Rainbow Heights Program has also developed a training program for mainstream care providers that reached over 1,400 individuals in 75 agencies, clinics and hospitals during the past year alone. All clients struggle with the challenges that sexuality and relationships bring. When care providers are more able to be accepting and affirming of their clients' sexuality and gender identity, everyone benefits.

Christian Huygen, PhD, is Executive Director of Rainbow Heights Club, located in downtown Brooklyn. He graduated from the Clinical Psychology Program in 2003. More information and resources are available at www.rainbowheights.org.

1 Extensive data is publicly available at <https://a816-health3ssl.nyc.gov>.

2 *Raising Issues: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People Receiving Services in the Public Mental Health System.* Alicia Lucksted, PhD (2004). Center for Mental Health Services Research, Department of Psychiatry, University of Maryland. The report is available at www.rainbowheights.org/resources.html.

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Topics *in Diversity*

Sexual Minorities and Cultural Competency

By Christian Huygen

Cultural competency in mental health care is usually understood to span issues of race, class and ethnicity. But there's a marginalized, underserved, and poorly understood minority whose particular needs are often overlooked: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people living with mental illness.

According to a 2004 Community Mental Health Survey which was conducted by New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 10% of adult residents of New York City identify as MSM (men who have sex with men) and 4.7% identify as WSW (women who have sex with women). The US Surgeon General estimates that 2.6% of the adult population are currently experiencing serious and persistent mental illness. Assuming lesbian, gay and bisexual New Yorkers are not less likely to suffer mental illness than their heterosexual counterparts, 0.38% of the adult residents of New York City, or approximately 24,000 people, are MSM/WSW and living with serious mental illness.

The DOHMH data demonstrates that the mental health needs of LGBT New Yorkers are, in fact, markedly greater than those of their heterosexual counterparts. They report more poor mental health, more drinking and drug use, more smoking, and more domestic violence. In fact, four times

as many WSW report being the victim of domestic violence as compared to heterosexual women. Even so, according to a 2004 report by Alicia Lucksted, PhD, commissioned by the Center for Mental Health Services at SAMHSA, the needs and concerns of LGBT people living with mental illness are often ignored or overlooked by the mental health system. Moreover, LGBT people often lose the support of their families, which makes them even more vulnerable to decompensations, treatment noncompliance, and rehospitalization.

In 1996, Heights-Hill Mental Health Service, a community based mental health clinic in Brooklyn, established itself as a LGBT Affirmative Treatment Center. (Externship placements at the clinic are available to The New School for Social Research clinical psychology students, and I was a trainee there in 1999–2000.) The clinic soon found itself treating people from across the five boroughs of New York City who could not find affirming, supportive treatment elsewhere. In 2002 the Rainbow Heights Program, a psychosocial support and advocacy program serving this population, was established, and I have served as its executive director ever since. We have grown to serve nearly 400 clients; all of our services are provided entirely free of charge. We are funded by NYC DOHMH, along with numerous

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