

GF PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW “PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY, CONTEXT, AND CULTURE” LECTURE SERIES

by William Hirst

The Psychology Department has initiated a lecture series on “Psychological Theory, Context, and Culture.” The lecture series is one more effort by the Department to build a strong presence in the field of cultural psychology. In the last few years, many psychologists have realized that many so-called basic principles of psychology do not generalize across cultures. They have forcefully argued that one can only fully understand human behavior and cognition by incorporating into any discussion a role for culture and context. The Psychology Department of the

Graduate Faculty has been at the forefront of this endeavor, and in the last few years, substantial progress has been made in incorporating culture and context into the debates taking place within the Department. The Department recently hired Joan Miller, a leading figure in the area of cultural psychology, with a strong emphasis on moral development. Dr. Miller has taught at Yale University and the University of Michigan before coming to the New School. Doris Chang joined us this year. Fresh from a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Chang has studied mental health in China. Finally, Larry Hirschfeld will be joining us in September. Dr. Hirschfeld is presently the Co-Director of the Culture and Cognition Program at the University of Michigan. He works mainly on racism.

Although these recent appointments directly contribute to our effort to build a strength in cultural psychology, other recent appointments complement this effort. Miriam and Howard Steele joined the clinical faculty this September. Their interest in development and attachment adds a social perspective to the study of development. Emanuele Castano, a recently appointed social psychologist, explores the character of groups, the consequence for cognition and behavior when a group begins to view itself as an entity, and terror management theory. His interests add a strong social voice to the cultural concerns of other departmental members. Finally, research by Michael Schober and William Hirst, long-time members of the faculty, is also sensitive to the effects of context, with Dr. Schober interested in social factors affecting comprehension and Dr. Hirst interested in collective memory.

Clearly, the Department is at an exciting stage of development. The “Psychological Theory, Context, and Culture” lecture series aims to broaden the intellectual exchange that already takes place in the Department while at the same time highlight to the larger psychological community the changes taking place at 65 Fifth Avenue.



Dr. Byron Good, of the Harvard Medical School, gives an address entitled “The (Cultural) Variety of Psychotic Experience,” to the Graduate Faculty Psychology Department as part of the newly created “Psychological Theory, Context, and Culture” lecture series.

A LETTER FROM PSYCHOLOGY CHAIR MICHAEL SCHOBER

As we continue our new tradition of sharing department news with our alumni colleagues and friends, I thought I'd use this opportunity to update you on some of the remarkable changes that are going on throughout the university. It isn't only the department that has been undergoing some radical revamping (see William Hirst's piece next to this column for one way the department has been rethinking itself). It's the entire university.

Under the leadership of our provost, anthropologist Arjun Appadurai, and our dean, anthropologist Benjamin Lee, the Graduate Faculty is embarking on an unprecedented degree of collaboration with other divisions in the university. The most immediately apparent collaboration is with Eugene Lang College, our undergraduate liberal arts college. For many years the Psychology Department has been coordinating the undergraduate Psychology major at Lang; our full-time faculty and our advanced graduate students have been Lang's primary psychology faculty. What is new is the formal recognition of that relationship and the greater integration of undergraduate psychology into all that we do. Along with that recognition come significant opportunities for exciting new faculty appointments, which will substantially increase our strength, diversity, and mentoring capacity.

The demand for undergraduate psychology—not just at the New School, but nationally—is enormous. Psychology is one of the most popular majors for liberal arts students everywhere. At the New School, we have large undergraduate populations not only at Eugene Lang College, but at the Parsons School of Design, at the New School B.A. program, at Mannes College of Music, and at the school of Jazz and Contemporary Music. Some percentage of these students are interested in majoring in psychology, and an even greater percentage are interested in taking psychology courses.

Our greater coordination with Lang College will form the model for our greater coordination with other divisions of the university. From an administrative point of view, this means making decisions about course

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THE SPEAKERS AND TITLES OF THE LECTURES ARE AS FOLLOWS

James Wertsch

Washington University
*“Voices of Collective
 Remembering”*

Dan Sperber

Institut Jean Nicod, CNRS
*“The Causal Chain of
 Cognition and Culture”*

Byron Good

Harvard Medical School
*“The (Cultural) Variety of
 Psychotic Experience”*

Marcello Suarez-Orozco

New York University
*“Moving Stories:
 Interdisciplinary Reflections
 on Immigration and
 Globalization”*

Hazel Markus

Stanford University
*“Psychology:
 Made in the USA”*

FACULTY NEWS



Emanuele Castano has joined the editorial board of the journal *Political Psychology*. *Political Psychology* is an interdisciplinary journal dedicated to the analysis of the interrelationships between psychological and political processes.

The field draws on diverse disciplinary sources including cultural and psychological anthropology, cognitive psychology, clinical psychology, economics, history, international relations, philosophy, political science, political theory, psychology of personality, social psychology, and sociology. To find out more about the journal visit the website at the following address: <http://ispp.org/journal.html>.



Doris Chang had the following articles accepted for publication in Y. Jackson (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Multicultural Psychology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage): "Culture-Bound Syndromes: Shenjing Shuairuo" and "Somatization" (with A. Yeung). Also accepted for publication: "A Brief History of Psychotherapy in China," (in Chinese, with M. Li, H. Tong and Z. Shang) in Q.J. Shi, Q.F. Zeng, X.C. Sheng and W. Senf (eds.), *Psychotherapy: Theories and Practice* (Beijing: Chinese Medicine Pharmacy Science Publishing House).

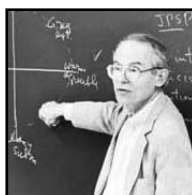
Dr. Chang also has the following articles now in press: "Shenjing Shuairuo and the DSM-IV: Diagnosis, Distress and Disability in a Chinese Primary Care Setting" (with H.F. Myers, A. Yeung, Y. Zhang, J. Zhao and S. Yu) in *Transcultural Psychiatry* (vol. 22, no. 2), "Letting a Hundred Flowers Bloom: Counseling and Psychotherapy in the People's Republic of China" (with H. Tong, Q. Shi and Q. Zeng) in *The Journal of Mental Health Counseling* and "Prevalence and Illness Beliefs of Sleep Paralysis among Chinese Patients in Primary Care" (with A. Yeung and Y. Xu) in *Transcultural Psychiatry*.



Marcel Kinsbourne has recently published an article entitled "Imitation as Entrainment: Brain Mechanisms and Social Consequences" in S. Hurley and N. Chater (eds.) *Perspectives on Imitation: From Mirror Neurons to Memes*, MIT Press (2005).

Dr. Kinsbourne has also published an article entitled "A Continuum of Self-Consciousness that Emerges in Phylogeny and Ontogeny" in H.S. Terrace and J. Metcalfe (eds.) *The Missing Link in Cognition: Origins of Self-Reflective Consciousness*,

Oxford University Press (2005). In addition, Dr. Kinsbourne was recently appointed to the advisory board of the *Public Journal of Semiotics*.



Nathan Kogan has been elected to the Psychology Section Steering Committee of the New York Academy of Sciences. Dr. Kogan has also co-authored a paper, with Barbara Kangas, entitled "Careers in the Dramatic Arts: Comparing Genetic and Interactional Perspectives" that has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Empirical Studies of the Arts*.



Arien Mack has contributed a chapter in a collection honoring the work of Julian Hochberg to be published by Oxford University Press and edited by Barbara Gillam, Hal Sedgwick and Mary Peterson. The chapter discusses Hochberg's work in light of new research on attention and inattention.



Joan Miller presented a paper in April 2005 at the Society for Research in Child Development, in a Symposium organized by Giyao Hatano on "How universal is the Development of Naïve Theories? Naïve Biology and Naïve Psychology as Case Studies." Dr. Miller has also accepted an invitation to contribute a chapter on moral development to the forthcoming *Handbook of Cultural Psychology*, edited by Shinobu Kitayama and Dov Cohen.



Jeremy Safran has been appointed Associate Editor of the journal *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* and a faculty member at the New York University Postdoctoral Program in Psychoanalysis. Dr. Safran's book, *Negotiating the Therapeutic Alliance: A Relational Treatment Guide* (co-authored with Chris Muran), has been translated into Italian and Spanish.



Howard Steele has recently published an article in *Attachment and Human Development* (2004) with E. Phibbs and R.T. Woods entitled "Coherence of Mind in Daughter Caregivers of

Mothers with Dementia: Links with their Mothers' Joy and Relatedness on Reunion in a Strange Situation," and has also published (with Dr. Miriam Steele) a chapter entitled "The Construct of Coherence as an Indicator of Attachment Security in Middle Childhood: The Friends and Family Interview" in K. Kerns & R. Richardson (eds.) *Attachment in Middle Childhood*.

In December 2004, Dr. Steele contributed to an Australian radio science program entitled, "Attachment Therapy and Pseudoscience in Psychology," where he used the occasion to highlight the plight of abused/maltreated children, while criticizing the intrusive a-developmental theory known as "holding therapy," which is not soundly based on attachment theory or research.

In January 2005 Dr. Steele gave the Grand Rounds talk at the Department of Psychiatry at Beth Israel Hospital entitled "On the Importance of Understanding and Resolving Emotional Conflict: Findings from the London Parent-Child Project."



Miriam Steele addressed the Mid-Winter meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association in January 2005. In February 2005 Dr. Steele addressed both the 6th Annual Bridging the Gap between Clinical Work and Attachment Research Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Freudian Society training in Parent-Infant Psychotherapy. Dr. Steele also gave Grand Rounds at Beth Israel and Bronx Lebanon Hospitals. The title of these addresses was "Attachment Representations and Adoption Outcome: The Special Case of Trauma."



McWelling Todman, as director of The Concentration in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling at the Graduate Faculty, has hosted a series of workshops by Dr. Stanton Peele, the last of which was in February 2005 and was entitled "Evidence Based Treatment." Dr. Peele was joined by Dr. Karen D'Avanzo, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Concentration at the Graduate Faculty. The next workshop is scheduled for mid-June 2005 and is entitled "Harm Reduction Treatment."

ALUMNI NEWS

Michael Eigen (Ph.D., 1974) has a new book coming out in April entitled *Emotional Storm* (Wesleyan University Press). It takes off from Wilfred Bion's remark: "When two personalities meet, an emotional storm is created."

Dr. Eigen will also be giving an online seminar on Faith and Destructiveness for PsyBC during the last two weeks of May.

Anna Aragno (M.A., 1985) presented materials pertaining to group processes from the model of conscious and unconscious communication proposed in her new book *Forms of Knowledge: A Psychoanalytic Study of Human Communication* (IUP 2005) in an informal talk at the American Group Therapy Association conference, in New York, in March 2005.

Dr. Aragno also gave a presentation at the Washington Square Institute scientific meetings in May 2005 entitled "Artistry in Psychoanalytic Dialogues."

Max Mulberg (Ph.D., 1985) uses his degree in personality-social psychology to serve as an expert witness for Federal and State prosecutors in white-collar and financial crime. He regularly consults for the New York District Attorneys, where his thinking has been influenced by research in the fields of person perception, witness credibility, social influence, and the psychology of small group processes.

Lauren Lawrence (M.A., 1993) is currently writing an "Ask the Dream Doctor" column for *Trader Monthly* magazine. She also has a new website www.MyDreamDiva.com.

David Manier (Ph.D., 1996) was approved for tenure in the Department of Psychology at Lehman College, CUNY, by the votes of the faculty and officers. He recently received a multi-year research grant from the National Institutes of Health for a project entitled "Effects of Expressive Writing on Students' Psychosocial Adjustment." In the summer of 2004 Dr. Manier gave a presentation entitled "Cross-Cultural Approaches to Studying the Effects of Expressive Writing" at the American Psychological Association conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Catherine DiNardo (Ph.D., 2001) has co-authored (with Michael Schober and Jennifer Stuart) an article entitled "Chair and Couch Discourse: A Study of Visual Copresence in Psychoanalysis," which will appear in *Discourse Processes* Vol. 40 no. 3. The article is an attempt to connect two literatures—psychoanalytic and discourse—respectively, one that has received little empirical testing with one that has been widely empirically tested and that provides an opportunity to make testable predictions about discourse in a unique conversational situation.

The article examines the form and content of audio-recorded psychoanalytic sessions, comparing sessions in which patients sat in a chair, face-to-face with their analysts, with sessions where patients were reclined on the couch, a seating arrangement that creates an unusual communicative situation. The major finding is that analysts spoke significantly less when patients were on the couch. Despite some other differences in discourse form and content, what is most apparent is how strikingly similar couch and chair discourse were, contrary to what some psychoanalytic views would predict.

Anna Suessbrick (Ph.D., 2005) presented her dissertation research at the American Association for Public Opinion Research's 60th annual conference in Miami.

Dr. Suessbrick's paper examines the conditions under which clarification of survey question concepts improves the reliability of respondents' answers. Telephone interviewers administered a survey on tobacco use to 104 participants. Results suggest that clarification during a survey, though valuable under some circumstances, is not always needed or effective. On the other hand, preventing clarification, as advocated under strictly standardized approaches to interviewing, is insufficient to address the high and unpredictable rates of conceptual variability among respondents, even for seemingly straightforward concepts such as "restaurant" and "cigarette."

Tell us what you have been up to!
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STUDENT NEWS

Rachel Perrulli had her paper entitled "Narcissism and the Fear of Death" accepted for publication in J. Piven (ed.) *Death, Religion and Evil* (Giessen: Psychosozial-Verlag).

The paper, which examines existential anxiety and its relation to religion, culture, customs, narcissism, object relations, terror management theory and symbolic meanings, suggests that death is a universally repressed fear that lies at the root of so much of what we create, define, imagine, believe and dream. Moreover, the fear of death is always present to us though disguised by outward manifestations influenced by human narcissism, fantasies of heroism and modes of avoidance such as repression—all of which have shifted creatively throughout culture and history.

Bettina Spencer presented a paper and served as a reviewer at the 3rd annual Hawaii International Conference on Education, in Honolulu, Hawaii, in January 2005. The title of her paper was "Upwardly (Im)mobile: Stereotype Threat and Social Class in the American School System."

Bettina also presented a poster (also about social class and stereotype threat) at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual conference, in New Orleans, Louisiana, in January 2005.

In addition, Bettina gave a talk here at the New School in March 2005. The talk was entitled, "Sticks and Stones: How Stereotyping and Prejudice Affect the Academic Performance of Low Income Students."

Gina Turner presented a paper, along with Dr. Schober, entitled "How Feedback on Collaborative Skills in a Studio Design Chatroom Affects the Discourse," at the 16th Annual Winter Conference on Discourse, Text and Cognition, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in January 2005. They found that feedback on collaborative skill may improve the quality of collaboration in remote studio design, as it reliably reflects both the designers' design behaviors and word choices, as well as influencing their subsequent collaboration. These findings suggest that perhaps discourse correlates of collaborators' ratings of each other could be used as indications of the quality of collaboration.



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LETTER FROM MICHAEL SCHOBER *continued from page 1*

staffing and committee service in a coordinated way. From the students' point of view, this means that—as at most universities—the undergraduate and graduate populations will be far more integrated, and teaching opportunities for our graduate students will expand. So, for example, we have set up a lab assistantship program where Lang College psychology majors get course credit for participating in our research labs: attending lab group meetings, helping to run subjects, and helping with data analy-

ses. The program provides invaluable contact with faculty and advanced graduate students, and it fosters mentoring relationships that can lead seamlessly into senior thesis work. In conjunction with revamped undergraduate Research Methods courses, this program adds practical experience and rigor to the major, with the side benefit of making our undergraduate students yet more competitive as they apply for graduate training.

Greater coordination—and, we hope, joint faculty hiring—with the New School B.A. program and with Parsons will come next. We have already started making these connections. As only one example,

Sven Travis (from Parsons Design & Technology) and I now co-teach a cross-listed graduate level course entitled “Psychology and Design: Human-Computer Interaction,” in which GF and Parsons students carry out joint projects unlike anything either would do without the others.

As we see it, making these connections across the university is long overdue. Each division of the New School is remarkable in its own way, but the collection of these divisions is extraordinary, with strengths and potentials unlike any other university. The Psychology Department is excited to be at the forefront of these new connections.