

Psychology and Social Justice Conference Held at The New School This Year

The annual national **Psychology and Social Justice Conference** was held at The New School for Social Research on Saturday, **April 19**. A number of researchers whose work focuses on social justice issues—including racial and ethnic prejudice and stereotyping, institutional and governmental procedures and outcomes, low status and minority group membership, and economic and social inequity—gathered at **The New School's Arnhold Hall**, 55 West 13th Street.

Issues bearing on social justice are not only theoretically important but also socially relevant; moreover, a multidisciplinary perspective is necessary and PASJ seeks to increase communication between researchers in various academic fields. The conference is typically a diverse affair. Graduate students and faculty of psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, philosophy, and law as well as practitioners and policy makers are among the attendees and presenters.

This year's conference was organized by our colleagues in social and political psychology at The New School. Two faculty members in our department, Dr. Emanuele Castano and Dr. Jeremy Ginges, assisted students Bernhard Leidner and Patricia Slawuta in organizing the multidisciplinary conference.

Russell Hardin (New York University, political science), whose research focuses on collective action, trust and trustworthiness, morality, and group conflict, will deliver this year's keynote address, "Justice as Unintended Consequence." Other distinguished scholars to be present are **John Darley** (Princeton University, psychology), who will present "Moral Psychology of Retributive Justice;" **Tom Tyler** (New York University,



Russell Hardin

psychology and law), who conducts research on the dynamics of authority within groups; **Hulda Thorisdottir** (Princeton University, psychology), who focuses on political ideology and the role of perceptions of uncertainty and threat in forming political orientations; **Larry Heuer** (Columbia University, psychology), who will present a "Multiple Motive Model of Procedural Fairness;" **Courtney Jung** (NSSR, political science), who will present "The Moral Force of Indigenous Politics;" and **Scott Atran** (University of Michigan, anthropology), whose research focuses on terrorism and its moral implications, political conflicts, and intergroup violence.

A complete conference program with other scheduled talks and posters from faculty and students can be found on the Web at www.homepages.newschool.edu/~castano/pasj/

Registration will be open until the remaining seats are filled. Please visit the above website to register.

Psychological Perspectives on Torture

On April 12, NSSR's Psychology Society, in collaboration with the Statue Foundation for Refugee and Immigrant Mental Health Program, held the conference "Psychological Perspectives on Torture." This conference was organized by graduate students in reaction to the APA's endorsement of torture policies for detainees.

The event opened with a clip from *The Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*, a documentary that investigates the psychological and political context of the torture of detainees in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. The film presents interviews with both officers involved in torturing detainees and survivors of torture. Psychologists, psychiatrists, human

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Notes from the Chair

I am pleased to update our alumni colleagues and friends on events in our department. This semester has been extremely active in terms of events organized both within the psychology department and in affiliation with other departments within NSSR. In February, the NSSR Interdisciplinary Memory Group, including psychology faculty advisor Bill Hirst and graduate students Adam Brown and Alin Coman, brought together leading scholars in the field of memory studies for a three-day interdisciplinary conference entitled "Is an Interdisciplinary Field of Memory Studies Possible?" In April, an interdisciplinary group of scholars and graduate students addressed issues of social justice at the annual national Psychology and Social Justice Conference. This event was organized by psychology graduate students Bernhard Leidner and Patricia Slawuta and faculty members Emanuele Castano and Jeremy Ginges. The Psychology Society, our major graduate

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Faculty News

JEREMY GINGES was recently awarded a five-year grant from the ARO in the amount of \$375,000 to study religious values and intergroup conflict in Turkey, Iran, Israel/Palestine, and Morocco. This grant is part of the multi-university research initiative awarded to Carnegie Mellon to study intercultural cooperation and negotiation.

At the ninth annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Albuquerque, Dr. Ginges presented his paper “Religion, Essentialism and Genocidal Beliefs” and (with students) a poster entitled “The Group Size Effect.” In February, a paper by Dr. Ginges, Scott Atran, and Justin Magouirk, “Radical Madrasas in Southeast Asia” was published in the *CTC-Sentinel*.

XIAOCHUN JIN was previously awarded a trainee position in an NIMH-funded program at Columbia University which offers resources and supports the trainee’s growth and development as a researcher with emphasis on HIV/AIDS intervention. He has now received a sub-award to fund his pilot study, entitled “High Risk Sexual Behavior at Four Stages of Immigration, HIV/AIDS Knowledge, and Information/Service Access Among Chinese Immigrant Men.”

Dr. Jin’s paper “Hostile Attributional Bias, Early Abuse, and Social Desirability in Reporting Hostile Attributions Among Chinese Immigrant Batters and Non-violent Men,” was recently accepted for publication in *Violence and Victims*.

MARCEL KINSBOURNE delivered the keynote address at the International Workshop on Dancing Eyes Syndrome/Kinsbourne Disease. The workshop was held on February 2, 2008 at the Cosener’s House in Abingdon, England. Dr. Kinsbourne also spoke recently on the neurobiology of autism and the brain basis of autism consciousness at Queens College, CUNY, New York University, and the University of Connecticut.

JEREMY SAFRAN was recently chosen as president-elect of the International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy (IARPP) and will assume the presidency of IARPP next year. He has also recently joined the editorial board of *Psychoanalytic Psychology*.

Dr. Safran is currently filming a six-session illustration of psychoanalytically oriented treatment for the American Psychological Association. This DVD will be released along with a book he is writing for the American Psychological Association on psychoanalytic and psychodynamic approaches. The DVD and book are part of a new series being produced by the APA on major approaches to psychotherapy.

HOWARD STEELE recently spoke at a colloquium before the psychology department of Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. He presented “A Longitudinal Study of Attachment from Pregnancy in One Generation to Adolescence in the Next”. Dr. Steele’s article, “A Tribute to the Legacy of John Bowlby at the Centenary of his Birth,” has just appeared in *Attachment and Human Development*.

Both **Miriam and Howard Steele** spoke and participated in a panel discussion at the UCLA Lifespan Learning Institute in March. The Steeles also edited the recently published (Guilford Press) *Clinical Applications of the Adult Attachment Interview*, which contains chapters written by both.

MIRIAM STEELE, who is currently on sabbatical, made presentations at several conferences during December and January. At the International and Interdisciplinary Conference in Munich, she presented “Ways Towards Secure Attachment in Family and Society;” at the University of Erlingen, she presented “Attachment Representations and Adoption Outcome;” and at the Institute for Infants, Children and Families of the Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services, she discussed

clinical applications of attachment theory. Dr. Steele also presented “Parent-Infant Programs at Psychoanalytic Institutes” at the American Psychoanalytic Meeting Winter Discussion Group and gave a talk entitled “Assessment, Diagnosis, and Intervention” for the Hunter School of Social Work’s adoption training program.

Alumni News

Last fall, **SILVIA BIRKLEIN** gave a presentation at the International Movement Analysis Conference in Munich. She is currently working part-time as a consultant for a company that evaluates reality show candidates for television networks and conducting crisis intervention. She recently accepted an adjunct faculty position at Pace University, running the parent/child nursery with Dr. Mark Sossin. Silvia also recently received a Wolstein fellowship grant for postdoctoral training in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy from NYU.

GERALD ECHTERHOFF, together with E. Tory Higgins, Rene Kopietz, and Stephan Groll, recently published an article entitled “How Communication Goals Determine When Audience Tuning Biases Memory” in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

JASON WHEELER had an article published in the *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. The article was based on his dissertation and re-examines contemporary psychoanalytic thinking about the irreducible subjectivity of the psychoanalytic enterprise.

Tell us what you’ve been up to!

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Student News

SOPHIA HAERI was selected to participate in “Psychosocial Programmes in Emergencies,” a two-day workshop at the Oxford Centre for Refugee Studies. The workshop, held on October 27 and 28, examined mental health and psychosocial support in emergency and refugee settings and the complex intercultural issues associated with psychosocial programming.

TERESA HURST presented a poster entitled “Parents with Maltreatment Histories and Their Experiences of Parenting” at the APA summit “Violence and Abuse in Relationships: Connecting Agendas and Forging New Directions” in February. This poster was related to the work Teresa has been doing with Howard and Miriam Steele in their Center for Attachment Research in conjunction with the Center for Babies, Toddlers, and Families at the Rose F. Kennedy Children’s Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University.

BETH MANNING has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical psychology with an emphasis on the treatment of posttraumatic stress and substance use disorders at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. She will begin her fellowship in late August and remain at the medical center for one year.

MATTHEW STEINFELD, with **McWelling Todman**, presented a paper, “Contextualizing Minority Overrepresentation in New York’s Substance Abusing Populations: The Psychological Effects of Second Ghetto Formation,” at the 2008 History Matters conference “Perspectives on Space and Movement,” at The New School for Social Research on April 5.

Along with Lisa Cohen, Yuli Grebchenko, and Igor Galynker in the Department of Psychiatry at Beth Israel Medical Center, Matthew is also a co-author of a paper entitled “Comparison of Personality Traits in Pedophiles, Abstinent Opiate Addicts, and Healthy Controls: Considering Pedophilia as an Addictive Behavior,” currently in press at the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*.

JENNIFER TUCKER, together with Professor Emeritus Nathan Kogan and alumnus Matthew Parker, has been conducting research on pro- and anti-longevity attitudes in older adults. Jennifer and Dr. Kogan will be presenting the results in poster sessions at two conferences, the quadrennial meeting of the XXIX International Congress of Psychology and the biennial meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development, both of which will take place in Germany this summer.

Interdisciplinary Memory Conference Generates Dialogue

Interest in memory studies is growing in a wide range of academic disciplines. Neurobiologists, psychologists, sociologists, cultural critics, and art historians study how memory functions and how it is constructed and used, either as a unit of research or as a lens through which to explore other phenomena.

This past February, an interdisciplinary group including members of our own department (William Hirst, Adam Brown, and Alin Coman) and of the wider university community organized a conference, bringing together leading scholars in the field and graduate students. The conference was devoted to developing a critical debate in the social sciences and humanities around this question: “Is an interdisciplinary field of memory studies possible?”

Speakers at the three-day conference included Dominick LaCapra, Richard McNally, James V. Wertsch, Atina Grossman, Eviatar Zerubavel, Robyn Fivush, Barbie Zelizer, Marianne Hirsch, David Rubin, Andrew Hoskins, Robin Wagner-Pacifici, and Marita Sturken.

Further highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of memory research and of the conference, an exhibition of multimedia projects by students of Media Studies (The New School for General Studies) and Parsons The New School for Design that address the topic of memory was also installed, and remains on display, at 65 Fifth Avenue.

More information on the conference can be found at www.nssrmemoryconference.com.

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rights activists, and lawyers shared their experiences and knowledge in a psychosocial panel and a treatment panel. Among the keynote speakers were **Martha Davis**, psychologist and head of the APA steering committee Withhold APA Dues; **Samantha Stewart**, psychiatrist at the Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture; **Scott Long**, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Program at Human Rights Watch; and **Ramzi Kassem**, human rights lawyer and a Robert M. Cover Clinical Teaching Fellow at Yale Law School. The treatment panel presented the legal-clinical case of a client recently released from Guantanamo Bay, with psychologists and psychiatrists addressing treatment for survivors of torture.

The event also featured a student art exhibition and poetry related to torture, with an art competition directed by Marisa Olson, curator of the New Museum.

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student organization, also hosted a timely one-day conference in April, “Psychological Perspectives on Torture” The conference brought together psychologists, psychiatrists, human rights activists, and lawyers to discuss concerns raised by the APA’s recent endorsement of torture of detainees.

Within the department, our biweekly departmental speaker series sponsored a talk by Professor Richard Nisbett, “Intelligence and How to Get It: Why Schools and Cultures Count.” We look forward to talks by Dr. Ian Hansen and Dr. Malia Mason, which will complete our speaker series for the spring. The NSSR Psychology Diversity Committee continues to sponsor its highly successful film series. In late March it showed the film *Let’s Get Real*, which examines exclusion and harassment. It will also host a faculty-student forum on diversity.

The department is on schedule for its move to our new location at 80 Fifth Avenue, to be completed by fall 2008. The Clinical Psychology program will be housed on the sixth floor, and the main departmental office, the Cognitive, Social, and Developmental Psychology program, and the offices of *Social Research* and of the Journal Donation Project will be housed on the seventh floor.

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Topics *in Diversity*

The NSSR Psychology Diversity Committee regularly sponsors events that raise awareness and provide a forum for interested students and faculty members to discuss issues related to psychology, diversity, and social justice. In 2006, with the help of funding from the American Psychological Association and the Graduate Students Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, the committee launched a film series with the goal of providing such a forum. The series continues with the help of additional support from the university's Diversity Committee. The schedule for this year's film and discussion series appears below.

***Let's Get Real*, Monday, March 31, 2008, 6:00 p.m.**
Johnson/Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Let's Get Real examines a variety of issues related to taunting and bullying, including racial differences, perceived sexual orientation, learning disabilities, religious differences, and sexual harassment. The film gives a voice not only to targeted kids but also to those doing the bullying to find out why they lash out at their peers and how it makes them feel. The showing was followed by a social hour, refreshments, and a discussion with Debra Chasnoff, the Academy Award-winning director and creator of the film.

***The Split Horn*, Thursday, April 17, 2008, 6:00 p.m.**
Union Square Building, 8 East 16th Street, room 1009

The Split Horn is the story of the Thao family, Hmongs who moved from the mountains of Laos to Appleton, Wisconsin. This poignant film documents 17 years in the lives of Paja Thao and his family, and shows a shaman's struggles to maintain his ancient traditions as his children embrace American culture. The screening will be followed by a discussion, refreshments, and a social hour.

In addition to hosting the film series, this year the Diversity Committee's coordinators will sponsor a faculty-student forum on diversity and social justice in relation to psychology. Faculty and students are invited to attend a conversation hour on Wednesday, April 30 in the Wolff Conference Room. Participants in the forum will discuss the results of the NSSR Psychology Department Diversity Survey of 2008. The survey is intended to assess the extent to which the MA and PhD programs in psychology at The New School are seen as welcoming and facilitating dialogue around diversity, inclusion, and social justice issues in psychological research.

For more information about the activities of the Diversity Committee contact Doris Chang at changd@newschool.edu or McWelling Todman at todmanm@newschool.edu.