

Letter from the Chair

I AM PLEASED TO SHARE NEWS OF the department with our alumni colleagues and friends. We strongly encourage you to keep us up to date on your whereabouts and accomplishments through the Alumni News column of this newsletter, and we would value your participation in our departmental Proseminar or in one of our lecture series.

This has been a positive and productive year in the Department of Psychology. We have been privileged to sponsor numerous talks through our general departmental seminar and through outside events sponsored by the department. Among our seminar speakers this semester have been Barbara Tversky and Tomi-Ann Roberts, with an upcoming talk scheduled by Paul Boxer. The Psychology Society also held an exciting conference on Ethnicity, Identity, and Conflict that featured talks by faculty from local universities. In addition, the Psychology Diversity Committee continues to sponsor a popular and educationally illuminating film and discussion series.

In other news, the psychology faculty recently voted in favor of a change in the organization of the General Area doctoral program that will go into effect once state certification has been received. The area will be renamed the PhD Program in Cognitive, Social, and Developmental Psychology. Students entering this program will concentrate in one of these three areas of psychology, though they will also be welcome to take courses, work with faculty, and engage in research in the other concentrations. The program will build on common themes that characterize much of the research being conducted by our faculty, with its attention

New Faculty

Jeremy Ginges

I JOINED THE DEPARTMENT AS AN assistant professor in the fall of 2006, with a joint appointment at The New School for Social Research and Eugene Lang College.

I am Australian, but in the late 1990s I decided to leave my peaceful life by the beach in Sydney to pursue my graduate studies in psychology at Tel Aviv University in Israel. I

earned my doctorate there with a study of the social psychology of political extremism that investigated violent behavior on the part of Israeli settlers. Since then I have held a field research fellowship from the Solomon Asch Center for Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict at the University of Pennsylvania, and until last year I was a faculty member at the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the University of Michigan.

My research deals with the psychology of inter-group conflict and cooperation and is supported by research grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institute for Child Health and Development, and the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation. Some of the work I am doing examines the role of psychological distance on inter-group behavior, reasoning in the domain of sacred values, the relationship between religion and popular support for suicide attacks, and the psycho-social effects of persistent exposure to extreme political violence.



Jeremy Ginges

Megan Warner

MEGAN WARNER JOINED THE DEPARTMENT this year as Assistant Professor and Director of the New School Beth Israel Center for Clinical Training and Research.

Megan obtained her doctorate in clinical psychology from Texas A&M University in 2005. At Texas A&M she studied personality assessment, personality traits, and

personality disorders and researched the how changes in traits related to subsequent changes in Axis II disorders. Her dissertation research focused on one of the contemporary models of personality, the Five Factor Model, and tested the degree to which traits can be used to predict behavior for different individuals.

Megan completed her clinical internship at the Yale University Medical School and went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University Medical School. At Yale, she received training in Dialectical Behavior Therapy, participated in the long term psychotherapy program, and worked in the adult inpatient unit. At Brown she further developed her interests in the interacting relationships of PTSD and borderline personality disorder over time while working at the Providence VA.

At the New School Beth Israel Center for Clinical Training and Research, Megan supervises psychology externs in their first



Megan Warner

FACULTY NEWS

EMANUELE CASTANO recently published an article, “Not quite human: Infra-humanization as a response to collective responsibility for intergroup killing,” in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and was invited to talks at Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and the CUNY Graduate Center in connection with his research. Emanuele has also been researching moral disengagement strategies and existential psychology in Japan and was invited to a series of conferences in Japan at the University of Kobe, the University of Tokyo, and the University of Hokkaido. In January, Emanuele chaired a symposium on the use of experimentation in the social sciences at the Institut de Sciences Politiques in Paris, and co-organized the Pre-conference on Group Processes and Intergroup Relations at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Memphis. Emanuele has also been invited to a two-day event at the Italian Embassy in Washington this April: Professori italiani d’America; Le scienze umani e sociali.

DORIS CHANG recently presented on Cultures in Transition: Perspectives on China and the United States in a symposium—Culture and Psychology: Relating to Chinese—conducted at the First World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry, Beijing.

Doris and two of her students, Alexa Berk and Shihoko Hijioka, also conducted an interactive session on The Immigrant Client’s Experience with a Racially Different Therapist at Diversity Challenge 2006: Do Immigrants Catch or Carry Race and Culture?, which was sponsored by the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture, Boston College, Boston.

JEREMY GINGES has begun a four-year research program, funded by NICHD, into the long-term effects of exposing Israeli and Palestinian children to extreme political violence. Recently he traveled to Michigan, Jerusalem, and Ramallah to meet with research collaborators on this project. He has presented research findings on other projects to a principal investigators meeting held by the National Science Foundation, to the Society for Judgment and Decision Making, and in an invited talk at Northwestern University. His paper “Sacred bounds on rational resolution of violent political conflict” (with co-authors Scott Atran, Doug Medin, and Khalil Shikaki) has recently been accepted for publication in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

JOAN MILLER, CHLOE BLAND, CHIUNG-YI TSENG, MALIN KALLBERG-SHROFF, KATELIN RYAN, AND JAZMIN MONTES presented a paper entitled “The Impact of Culturally Variable Reciprocity Norms on Friendship” in a symposium at the Society for Research in Child Development in Boston in March, 2007.

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

STUDENT NEWS

CLAUDIA DIEZ was awarded a prize in January by the American Society for Trial Consultants for her grant proposal entitled Jury Psychology: Need for Closure and Jury Decision-Making.

BERNHARD LEIDNER presented a poster at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conference in January 2007 in Memphis, Tennessee, entitled “Moral disengagement, collective emotions, and ingroup reprehensible actions.”

In connection with her geropsychiatry work at the Beth Israel Center, **JENNIFER TUCKER** is presenting posters at the American Psychiatric Association annual meeting in San Diego in May, at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine Davidoff Education Day in January, and at the Beth Israel Medical Center Research Fair in June, entitled, respectively, “An Open-Label Trial of Lamotrigine (Lamictal®) for Unipolar Late-Life Depression,” “Impact of Psychogeriatric Home Visits on Medical Students’ Attitudes toward Older,” and “Lamotrigine as Treatment for Late-Life Depression.”

Jennifer has also conducted research in conjunction with Dr. Nathan Kogan, professor emeritus of the NSSR psychology department, and will present a poster entitled “Extending the Human Life Span: Assessing Pro- and Anti-Longevity Attitudes” at the Association for Psychological Science annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in May.

PATRYCJA SLAWUTA, a new student from the University of Warsaw, has joined Dr. Emanuele Castano’s lab and will be doing National Science Foundation-funded work on the use of moral disengagement strategies.

BETTINA SPENCER, who will be graduating this year, has been hired to fill a tenure-track position at Saint Mary’s College, sister college to the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

SUHEYLA ZUBAROGLU, along with Dr. Joan Miller, presented a paper on “Responsibility for Self and Other in the Transition to Adulthood: A Cross-Cultural Comparison” in a symposium at the Society for Research in Child Development in Boston in March 2007.

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to the socio-cultural and biological grounding of behavior. It will also build on the many areas of shared interest across the department, with some of the clinical faculty contributing to these various concentrations.

This is also an exciting time of physical transition across the university. Whereas most other academic departments in The New School for Social Research will be moving during the summer to their new home at 79 Fifth Avenue, psychology will not be part of this move. Rather, plans are for us to remain in our current location for the coming academic year and to relocate to a new space after that. Although the location of this new space has not yet been finalized, the department has actively been working with the administration in planning for the move, and we are optimistic that it will all go very well.

—Joan Miller, *Chair*

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My research explores fundamental theoretical issues in social psychology in “real world” contexts, as well as in lab settings. For example, recently I developed a theory about what happens when people socially and cognitively transform a preference for a resource (such as land) into a sacred value (“holy land”) by conducting field experiments with Israeli settlers, Palestinian refugees, and members of Hamas. I was able to show that violent opposition to political compromise over sacred values actually increases when people are offered materially better deals. However, purely symbolic gestures by the other side strongly reduce opposition to the same deals. These results have been presented at White House briefings and to leaders on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

So that describes some of the research I will be working on in the next few years.

However, it is what I don’t know about the future that most interests me. I look forward to collaborating with students and faculty at The New School to think of new interesting questions and, hopefully, discover some surprising answers.

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year practicum, as well as externs who are further along in their training. A diverse set of experiences is available at the center, including working as therapists in the Brief Psychotherapy Project, leading groups on the inpatient unit, assessing patients, and treating both long- and short-term cases in the advanced externship. In addition to her role as a New School faculty member, Megan also has a cross appointment in the psychiatric department at Beth Israel, which contributes to making the center a fully integrated training experience.

Topics in Diversity

“Living on borders and in margins, keeping intact one’s shifting and multiple identity and integrity, is like trying to swim in a new element, an ‘alien’ element.” —Gloria Anzaldua

IN 2005, THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU revealed that more than five million people identified themselves as belonging to two or more races. This data speaks to the growing importance of investigating multiple or mixed identities and a need for psychological research to move beyond dualistic thinking with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. Indeed, few people are adequately represented by any one proverbial box. We must adjust our theorizing to adapt to the changing demographics of our culture and the ever-growing numbers of dual or multiple identities.

In addition to straddling or combining more than one racial or ethnic identity, many view themselves as outside of the stringent boundaries of hetero- and homosexuality (bisexual, pansexual, queers, etc). Likewise, there are many who feel they don't fit within the dichotomies of male or female (androgynous, transsexuals, transgenders, genderqueers, intersexed, etc). Even expressions of masculinity and femininity in the general public are blended, with individuals expressing mixed manifestations of gender. Although researchers have succeeded in

some efforts to collect more diverse information about identity, I still find myself having to choose between Asian and Caucasian on surveys, often without a category for other, mixed, or multiracial.

As a person who is both mixed-race and genderqueer, I find that the focus of my thoughts, conversations, research, and writing often returns to the topics of mixed identities and identity development. Unfortunately, as these themes represent a relatively new direction for the psychological community as a whole, they are often missing from popular discourse. I recently had the opportunity to attend the Association of Women in Psychology's annual conference in San Francisco with support from the New School for Social Research student research and travel fund. The theme of the conference, *Waves of Change: Beyond Dualities*, presented a unique forum for the exploration and discussion of the complexities of identity and the possibilities for psychological research and clinical work as we move toward a more inclusive approach to race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

The qualitative and quantitative data presented at the conference lend dimension to my perspective and add to previous research in the area of mixed and multiple identities. Included among the many topics were: resilience of transgender individuals, gender identity resources for college campuses, intersections between sexism and sexual prejudice, self-objectification in lesbians, and subtle sexism experienced by women of color. This fall, I hope to present my own research at the Asian American Psychology Association's annual convention. Through an interactive session, I intend to gather suggestions from psychologists and community organizers about how best to educate future clinicians and researchers about the importance of including options for multiple or mixed identities on their demographic forms. The experiences of individuals of dual or multiple identities must be recognized and accounted for within psychological research. Our whole is unique—and different from the sum of our so-called parts.

—Catherine Bitney

Department of Psychology
65 Fifth Avenue, room 330, New York, NY 10003

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Department of Psychology
Joan Miller, *Chair*
212.229.5727
gfpsych@newschool.edu

Highlight on *Student Research Experiences*

By Defne Aruoba

NEW SCHOOL CONNECTIONS CAN take you to unlikely places. When Nicholas Humphrey, former professor in the psychology department, heard the astonishing news of a family of quadruped humans living Turkey, he made three phone calls: first to the Turkish scientist who had discovered the family to ask permission to visit, next to a producer at the BBC to arrange for a film crew to document the story, and third to me, to ask for my help as translator and go-between.

A month later, in June 2005, I found myself in a remote village of Southern Turkey, playing a key role in researching this extraordinary family in which five children have never stood upright and continue as adults

to walk like infants on hands and feet. The NOVA film version, *The Family That Walks on All Fours*, was broadcast last November on PBS and received worldwide acclaim. I was asked to write about my experience with the family for the NOVA website, www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/allfours/. NOVA invited me to promote the documentary and I was interviewed by Matt Lauer on the *Today Show*.

While I work to finish my PhD, I have remained close to the family. I created a website allfoursfamily.org, and joined a foundation in Turkey, TESYEV, to provide medical and practical help to this and other families with genetic illnesses who have been misunderstood or misrepresented by the society in which they live.