

# **Australasian Personal Construct**

## **Newsletter**

No.53

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From: Personal Construct Interest Group and Australasian  
Personal Construct Group  
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THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
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**THE EIGHTH AUSTRALASIAN  
PERSONAL CONSTRUCT PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE**

**"CONNECTING THE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL"**

**5 - 7 JULY 1998,**

**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GREG NEIMEYER**

**FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

PCP or Personal Construct Theory is concerned with how people construe and construct their world and has been widely used in counselling, health, organisational, managerial and marketing work.

Previous PCP conferences have combined theoretical and research based papers from a wide range of areas. This approach can provide new ideas to persons experienced with PCP, while providing an opportunity for people unfamiliar with PCP to examine the range of applicability of PCP.

Since the original work by George Kelly the theory of PCP has been elaborated upon and the relations between social constructivism and narrative approaches have been explored.

The conference is organised over three days. **Professor Greg Neimeyer** will be a keynote speaker and a symposium is planned on the theme of the conference, "Connecting the Personal and the Social".

Abstracts (appx 150 words) of proposed papers, presentations or workshops on the conference theme or other areas of PCP should be returned no later than February 27, 1998. Proposals should include contact information (e-mail if possible) as well as audio-visual or computer requirements. Proposals for pre-conference workshops are required by December 29 as additional venue bookings are required.

The conference will be held in at the Bardon Professional Centre, Brisbane from 5 to 7 July. Accommodation is available on site and the conference cost includes day-time meals and refreshments. The venue is easily accessible and located near the botanical gardens and a national park. A conference dinner and other social activities will be organised. Further information regarding cost, travel and accommodation will be available.

Abstracts, conference information or requests for registration should be sent to:

Dr Barbara Tooth  
42 View St  
Paddington, 4064  
Phone: 07 33673379  
Email: [btooth@bit.net.au](mailto:btooth@bit.net.au)

## **2. NEWS FROM THE EDITOR**

First of all I'd like to say 'Welcome' to new members of the personal construct interest group and how pleased we are that so many people have decided to renew their membership. At present there are 380 members, with a further 60 or so non-aps members of the Australasian Personal Construct group. What is interesting is that more than half of the APS members are students. Indeed, apparently we have more student members than any other interest group.

For those of you who feel they want to know more about PCP and have web access, can I suggest you take a look at the site set up by John Mayes and Valerie Stewart in New Zealand.

<http://www.EnquireWithin.co.nz>

This site relates to a personal construct computer program EnquireWithin which is described later in this newsletter. However it also has an excellent readable account of the theory and the first seven chapters of the Stewart and Stewart out-of-print classic book on applications of personal construct psychology using techniques like repertory grids and laddering.

Since I last wrote to you I have had the pleasure of visiting the Western Australian group where I did two workshops, one on research and the other more clinically oriented on dependency. I was glad to be able to match so many names to faces and would like to thank particularly Miriam Stein, Janet Bayliss, Tony Jonikis and Lyndell Steed for the work they put in making the visit possible and so enjoyable.

The national committee has 'met' recently and made a couple of decisions of interest. We were asked at the last international congress if we would be interested in hosting the 2001 congress, the one after Berlin. We have decided to say 'yes', will hold it probably in July at a venue to be decided. If anyone has any suggestions about venue please contact Richard Bell (Melbourne Uni), Barbara Tooth, Bill Warren (Newcastle Uni), Jacqui Costigan (Latrobe, Bundoora), Miriam Stein or myself. What we (I?) don't want is to have it somewhere far removed from whoever is responsible for its organisation, like the Townsville conference. Far, far too stressful.

Greg Neimeyer from University of Florida, Gainesville, has agreed to give the keynote address at the Brisbane conference next year. He will also be visiting New Zealand and Wollongong prior to the conference and will be running workshops at all three places. Ruth Anderson is handling the New Zealand part of the trip and would appreciate I suspect some indication from people about how this can be best arranged. Ruth is at Massey. Greg is both a counselor and clinical psychologist and has written extensively in the area as well as being a co-initiator with his brother Bob of the Journal of Constructivist Psychology and Advances in Personal Construct Psychology (see later in newsletter). Negotiations are underway with Michael Mahoney for 1999.



## **3. A NEW AND UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO PERSONAL CONSTRUCT AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY BY TOM RAVENETTE**

Tom Ravenette: Selected Papers. Personal Construct Psychology and the Practice of an Educational psychologist, EPCA Publications.

As many will be aware Tom has made an important contribution to both PCP as a theoretical tool and Educational Psychology as a whole. This book is the first comprehensive collection of his papers ever to be published and represents a unique insight into both the theory and application of PCP in a therapeutic context. This book is a

must for anybody who works within any counselling/therapy context, not just child psychology.

Tom's approach has been imaginative, creative and challenging. He has expanded the boundaries of child psychology across the world.

## CONTENTS

### Part I

- 1 Overview: making a difference  
Gwyneth Daniel
- 2 An advocate for personal construct psychology. Tom Ravenette's contribution  
Gwyneth Daniel
- 3 On being a trainee educational psychologist  
Ingrid Lunt

### Part II

#### Tom Ravenette's Papers

- 4 Psychologists, teachers, children: how many ways to understand? (1972)
- 5 Personal construct theory: an approach to the psychological investigation of children and young people (1977)
- 6 The exploration of consciousness. Personal construct theory and change (1978)
- 7 To tell a story, to invent a character, to make a difference (1979)
- 8 Never, never, never give advice (1980)
- 9 The recycling of maladjustment (1984)
- 10 Personal construct psychology and practitioners who work with children (1985)
- 11 Open letter to Wisconsin school psychologists (1985)
- 12 Open letter to the psychologists in training at Southampton University (1985)
- 13 Personal Construct Psychology in the practice of an educational psychologist (1988)
- 14 Personal construct psychology and the assessment of young people: the one-off interview (1988)
- 15 Who are you? (1989)
- 16 Asking questions within a personal construct framework (1992)
- 17 Transcending the obvious and illuminating the ordinary (1993)
- 18 A drawing and its opposite (1980)

### Part III

#### Appendix: A T Ravenette's papers

Anna Harskamp Rob van Meeuwen

## ORDERING ARRANGEMENTS

ISBN 0-9530198-1-0

328 pages, softback

The volume is available at a discounted rate to paid-up members of:

EPCA (European Personal Construct Association) or  
BPS DECP (British Psychological Society Division of Educational and Child Psychology)

The book costs £15 (fifteen pounds sterling) reduced to £12 (twelve pounds sterling) for BPS DECP and EPCA members.

Please add the following per book to cover postage and packing (surface mail rates outside Europe):

UK £1.00 (one pound)

Europe £2.50 (two pounds fifty pence)

US £4.25 (four pounds twenty-five pence)

Australia £4.75 (four pounds seventy-five pence)

Cheques or money orders should be made out to EPCA Publications and sent to:-  
Mr John Fisher, 4 Marilyn Avenue, Lostock Hall, PRESTON, Lancs., PR5 5BL, United Kingdom. I am available on e-mail: J\_M\_Fisher@compuserve.com

#### **4. ADVANCES IN PERSONAL CONSTRUCT PSYCHOLOGY**

Advances in Personal Construct Psychology Volume 4 (1997)

Editors

Greg J. Neimeyer, University of Florida

Robert A. Neimeyer, University of Memphis

##### **I. Self and Social Context**

The Construction of Meaning and Action in Development and Psychotherapy: An Epigenetic Systems Perspective

Michael F. Mascolo, Laura Craig-Bray & Robert A. Neimeyer

Core Construing: Self Discovery or Self Invention?

Trevor W. Butt, Vivian Burr & Franz Epting

Shaking the Kaleidoscope: Dispersion of Dependency and its Relationships

Beverly M. Walker

##### **II. The World of Work**

Personal Constructs and Communication in Interpersonal and Organizational Contexts

Stephanie Coopman

Constructivist Career Counseling: Models and Methods

Mark Savikas

##### **III. Counseling and Psychotherapy**

Contemporary Expressions of Constructivist Psychotherapy

Greg J. Neimeyer & Lionel Rood

Post-traumatic Stress: Towards a Constructivist Model of Psychotherapy

Meaning in the Narrative in Psychotherapy  
Allison B. Peery

Readers interested in ordering the volume for their personal or institutional libraries are encouraged to contact the publisher, JAI Press, at Tel. 203-661-7602, Fax 203-661-0792 (US) or Tel. +44 181 943 9296, Fax +44 181 943 9317 (UK).



## **5. ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA DI PSICOLOGIA E PSICOTERAPIA COSTRUTTIVISTA**

We take advantage of the opportunity for presenting the newly founded "Associazione Italiana di Psicologia e Psicoterapia Costruttivista", AIPPC (Italian Association of Constructivist Psychology and Psychotherapy). The members of the board of directors are: Maria Laura Nuzzo (President), Gabriele Chiari (Secretary), Lorenzo Cionini (Treasurer), Maria Armezzani, Massimo Giliberto, Vincent Kenny, and Mara Ognibeni. The seat is in via Cavour 64, 50129 Firenze. Aim of the Association is to represent a transversal organization for psychologists and psychotherapists that make reference to a common constructivist metatheory though operating on the basis of different theoretical approaches (i.e., cognitive, phenomenological, psychoanalytic, systemic, and so on).

- GABRIELE CHIARI



## **6. CONFERENCES**

### **4TH EPCA (European Personal Construct Association) CONFERENCE**

Dates: 6-9th April, 1998  
venue: Chester, England

The conference will have papers on PCO theory and practice throughout with parallel sessions on themed days covering Organisation/Business, Sports and Counselling/Therapy applications of PCP. For more information contact either:

David Savage, Chester College of Higher Education, cheyney Rd, chester, CH1 4BJ, UK  
or  
John Fisher, 4 Marilyn Ave, Lostock Hall, Preston, PR5 5BL, UK,  
email John\_M\_Fisher@compuserve.com

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### **The 1998 Biennial Conference of the North American Personal Construct Network (NAPCN98)**

**Constructivism in Psychology and the Human Sciences: Theory, Application, and Future**



July 9-11, 1998 (with pre-conference workshops on July 8)

on the campus of the University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

## PRESENTATION SUBMISSIONS

Submissions related to constructivist concepts and application throughout psychology and the human sciences are welcomed. Presentations of any format will be considered (e.g., paper, poster, symposium, video demo, computer demo, or workshop). Sessions lengths will vary according to the mixture of accepted presentations; submissions should be oriented toward 30, 60, or 90 minute sessions.

All proposal submissions must be in English. Proposals are due no later than March 15, 1998.

Submissions should conform to the following guidelines:

- 1) Names and affiliations of all authors
- 2) Full address (including mail address, e-mail address, telephonenumber, and fax numbers) of corresponding author
- 3) Presentation format (paper, poster, symposium, video demo, computerdemo, or workshop)
- 4) Presentation length (30, 60, or 90 minutes)
- 5) Equipment required (overhead projector, slide projector, TVCR, etc.)
- 6) Title of proposed presentation
- 7) Abstract (50 words or less)
- 8) Proposal text (2000 words or less)

Three submission options are available:

(A) Web site submission: Persons with access to the world wide web may wish to submit proposal via a form that can be found at <http://psyc.unt.edu/napcn/>.

(B) E-mail submission: Proposals can be e-mailed directly to the conference host and organizer, Kenneth Sewell. The e-mail address is [sewellk@unt.edu](mailto:sewellk@unt.edu).

(C) Regular mail submission: Proposals can be mailed directly to Kenneth Sewell at the following address:

Kenneth Sewell, Ph.D.  
University of North Texas  
Department of Psychology  
P.O. Box 311280  
Denton, TX 76203-1280  
USA

Persons choosing regular mail submission are asked to include a printed copy of the proposal information, as well as a 3.5\* (PC or Macintosh) disk containing a text (ASCII) file of the proposal.

**PROPOSALS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 1998.**

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

\*Constructivism in Psychology and the Human Sciences: Theory, Application, and Future\* will continue the traditions of the previous NAPCN conferences to further explore and elaborate constructivism, personal construct psychology, and related ideas. Theorists and practitioners identifying with constructivist compatible perspectives such as narrative discourse, postmodernity, personal construct psychology, social constructionism, self-organization, and other frameworks based on the idea that realities are constructed rather than discovered, are encouraged to join this gathering. This goal will permit discourse among people who want greater possibilities for constructive change.

Hosted by the University of North Texas (UNT) Department of Psychology in cooperation with UNT Women's Studies, the format for this gathering will be designed to facilitate the exploration of theory, research, and professional practice framed by constructivist perspectives. As in previous NAPCN conferences, the format will include plenary sessions, paper sessions, symposia, workshops, and other formal means of sharing ideas. There will frequently be multiple concurrent sessions. Continuing education credits will be available for the conference program itself (UNT-

sanctioned CE credits) as well as for pre conference workshops (APA and NBCC credits). Opportunities for informal social gatherings will abound, along with refreshment breaks, special social events, and a somewhat un-traditional gala banquet.

This exciting conference and the accompanying pre-conference workshops will take place in the University Union Building on the attractive campus of the University of North Texas. UNT is easily accessible to travellers, about 25 miles north of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and 35 miles north of Dallas Love Field. Conference participants can lodge very inexpensively on-campus, or in nearby hotels.

Scheduled keynote speakers for the conference include:

Maureen O'Hara, Ph.D., feminist theorist and author of *\*Constructing Emancipatory Realities\**  
Topic: Constructivism in Feminist Psychotherapies

Michael J. Mahoney, Ph.D., author of *\*Human Change Processes\**  
Topic: Constructivism Throughout Human Science: Psychotherapy, Chaos, and Other Frontiers

Rue L. Cromwell, Ph.D., *\*author/editor of Schizophrenia: Origins, Processes, Treatment, and Outcome\**  
Topic: A Tale of Two Stimuli: An Integrated Constructivist Theory of Psychopathology

Pre-conference workshops (July 8) will include:

*\*Constructivist Psychotherapy\** by Michael J. Mahoney, Ph.D.  
and

*\*Meaning Reconstruction and the Experience of Loss\** by Robert A. Neimeyer, Ph.D.

For further information about the conference, registration, workshops, keynote speakers, conference venue, lodging, travel, et cetera, visit the conference web page at <http://psyc.unt.edu/napcn/>. *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*

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## **The VI International Congress on Constructivism in Psychotherapy**

The VI International Congress on Constructivism in Psychotherapy will be held in Siena, Italy, in the heart of the beautiful Tuscany region, from September 2 through 5th, 1998.

In keeping with previous congresses in the US, Portugal, Spain, and Argentina, the meeting will offer a range of professional and scientific exchanges in the form of workshops, symposia, lectures, and poster sessions. Simultaneous translation into English, Italian, and Spanish will make the presentations accessible to attendees of many nationalities.

Individuals interested in more information are encouraged to contact Vittorio Guidano, Mario Reda, or Giampiero Arcero at the Istituto de Psicologia Cognitiva Post Razionalista, Via Marcantonio Colonna 60, Rome, Italy (Fax ++39 6 3222743).

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## **Postmodernism in Practice**

25th February to 1st March, 1998

Art Gallery of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide

The Discursive Construction of Knowledge group at Adelaide University invite you to their third biennial international conference 'Postmodernism in Practice'. The conference will overlap with the Adelaide Festival of Arts and festival Fringe Attractions. Tickets at concession rates will be available for conference participants and the conference will include interaction with the authors and/or directors of festival productions.

The conference will be opened by Robyn Archer, Artistic Director, Adelaide Festival of Arts, who will deliver the initial keynote address. Other keynote speakers confirmed thus far are: Maritza Montero, John Shotter, Simon During, Tod Sloan, Valerie Walkerdine, Margaret Wetherell, Anne Cranny-Francis and Paul duGay. We hope to confirm the attendance of Tom Andersen.

The broad theme of the conference is

1. the contribution of postmodern/poststructuralist thinking to socio-cultural understanding, awareness and transformation
2. how it informs knowledge/knowledge practices in a variety of fields/disciplines and is productive of new socio-cultural forms.

The conference is multi-disciplinary and there is a strong emphasis on dialogue, interchange via symposia, forums and discussion groups rather than only one-way or top-down presentations.

## **7. FORTHCOMING JOURNAL OF CONSTRUCTIVIST PSYCHOLOGY**

Volume 11

Number 2

1998

### Articles

Is Constructivist Psychotherapy Epistemologically Flawed?

Jay S. Efran & Kerry P. Heffner

Sociality, Role, and Embodiment

Trevor Butt

Truth, Lies, and Wondering

Richard E. Webb & Katherine Restuccia

### Professional Practice

Standardized Patients: A Fixed-Role Therapy Experience in Normal Individuals

Christel A. Woodward

### Methods

Using the Repertory Grid Technique for Item Generation in a Survey of Knowledge Use

Janet R. Hutchinson

### Book Reviews

Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly? [Review of George Kelly by Fransella]

Tom Ravenette

A Mosaic of Meaning [Review of Constructing Realities by Rosen & Kuehlwein]

Sophie Freud

## **8. RECENT WEBSITES**

**ENQUIRE WITHIN COMPUTER PROGRAM.**

'We have just opened up a Web site at <http://www.EnquireWithin.co.nz> and this contains quite a bit about the program. I will be developing the site progressively so that those who are interested may find it useful to visit it from time to time.

I suppose that the greatest differences from other programs are that Enquire Within offers:

- using the Microsoft Windows graphical users' interface which increases user friendliness dramatically,
- that it is designed for interactive development of constructs through a number of different processes,
- that it is not just an analysis process but a construct elicitation process as well,
- and that it has really comprehensive help and tutorial material, specific to various user areas, built in.

We have built an application which can be used effectively by someone unfamiliar with the theoretical background.

Regards

John Mayes'

**GERMAN PCP HOME PAGE**

At the University of Giessen, Dept of Medical Psychology

<http://www.med.uni-giessen.de/psychol/pcpmain.htm>