

1. A WORD OR TWO

This will be coming out before the conference we are holding in Bendigo. Can I encourage those of you who are vaguely thinking about it, please contact Julie Ellis-Scheer. Later in this newsletter is a list of papers to be presented to titillate you. For those who haven't been before PCP conferences are most enjoyable, as two of our students found out when they went to the European conference (see later in newsletter).

I am going on leave until January and will be out of the country until the end of September.

DRUM-ROLL

Take a look at www.psyc.uow.edu.au/pcp/citedb

Yes, it's finally up and running again, the PCP reference database prepared by Gabriele Chiari. However we have added an improvement to allow for updating. Additional references can be added by you. These will go into a holding bay so we can check them for errors or relevance, then the database will be able to remain up to date.

-

-

2. ATTENDING THE EUROPEAN PCP CONFERENCE, MAY, 2000

Two of our postgraduate students attended the European conference this year and both have provided an account which, I hope, will encourage others who haven't been to PCP conferences before to consider doing so.

"The 30 hour trip was worth it! Participating in the EPCA conference held in Malta in April was an intense and inspiring experience. The organisers in particular, John

Fisher, Nelarine Cornelius and Pam Denicolo, did everything possible to make sure we were included as honorary Europeans for the duration. It was a privilege for us both to hear Fay Fransella's keynote address and to meet and listen to researchers whose work we had read and admired.

It is true though that we felt a lot better after we had presented our own papers on the second day. After that we were able to concentrate on the other papers being given without anxiety attacks.

The most important thing that participating in the conference did for me was to give me a sense of belonging to an international community of people thinking about the same issues. As a post-graduate student I find this enormously valuable. Meeting colleagues from across the world at the conference has given a reality to the possibility of exchanging views via the internet. This sense of community is also strengthened by access to Joern Scheer's internet sites and links. I now feel linked in, thank you to everyone involved."

- Heather Foster

"When I told friends and family that I was going to a PCP conference in Malta most replied "What a shame it is in Malta", I was not, therefore, expecting to enjoy the location. How wrong could I be. Malta was unexpectedly interesting and the Hotel Selmum Palace, the venue for the conference, was fairy tale picture perfect. With views of the Mediterranean competing for our attention, my only regret was that I had not arranged to stay on for a few days after the conference.

As for the conference, it too was superb. Fay Fransella's keynote paper on her personal perspectives, past, present and future, on the role of personal construct psychologists in the new millenium served also to remind us that personal construct theory gives, to the individual, hope, freedom and integrity. I can not begin to do justice to all the papers and workshops presented at the conference. They were as interesting as they were diverse.

Thank you to everyone who shared their ongoing work. My thanks also go to everyone for the encouragement and interest shown in my own study and a very special thanks to everyone involved in the organization of the event."

- **Lisbeth Lane.**
-

9TH AUSTRALASIAN PERSONAL CONSTRUCT PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

"Beyond the Y2K — Construing the Future"

Venue: All Seasons Motel, Bendigo - July 3-5th.

The 9th Australasian PCP Conference will be held in Bendigo from 3-5th July 2000.

The programme is now on the web at the following address -

<http://www.bendigo.latrobe.edu.au/health/hstud/pcp/Programme.html>

Further conference information can be found at -

<http://www.bendigo.latrobe.edu.au/health/hstud/pcp/Bendigo2000.html>

List of Papers

Why do Statistics with Repertory Grids?

- Construct Validity of Cognitive Complexity Scores derived by Repertory Grids: An exploratory analysis.
- Testing the Bipolarity of Constructs: A comparison of repertory grid technique and multiple sorting technique.
- Counselling People who have been Sexually Assaulted: a constructivist model of counsellors' responses to client disclosure.
- The Victorian Personal Construct Association: the history of its experience cycles — extensions, constrictions and productions — since 1984.
- Using a PCP Approach to Build and Establish the Stability of Concepts
- Construing Caring in a Critical Care Context.
- Meanings of Menopause: Changing Lives
- Construing Crime and Violence.
- Meanings of a Breast Cancer Diagnosis: the role of others in validating helpful constructions of the cancer experience.
- The Context of Work Situation upon Attitudes to Organisational Rewards
- Constructing a Model of Teamwork
- Coming to Insight
- Using Constructs for Self-appraisal: A Tool for Social Work Practitioners.

- Making a Difference: Personal Construct Practice with Children and Adolescents.
- Computerised Content Analysis Scales: Their Use in Personal Construct Research.
- Nonvalidation vs. (In)validation: Implications for Theory and Practice.
- Technology Transference Operationalised by using Repertory Grids.
- A Study of Women's Perspectives on Mid-life and Psychotropic Medication Use.
- Cortical Association-Limbic Forebrain constructed in Imagery and Procedural Pain Management in Children.

4. SELECTED PAPERS FROM THE BERLIN CONFERENCE

Joern W. Scheer (ed.) (2000). The Person in Society - Challenges to a Constructivist Theory. Giessen: Psychosozial-Verlag.

Contents

PROLOGUE: CONSTRUCTIVE TRAVELLING

Travelling: 'We don't call it travelling; we call it living' - Beverly Walker

Snakes in Ireland (Europe's Matrix of Decision revisited) - Peter Cummins

Construing Berlin - Jörn W. Scheer

A CONSTRUCTIVIST THEORY

Allying constructivist perspectives to further the evolution of consciousness -Jerald R. Forster

Personal Construct Theory and the constructivist family: a friendship to cultivate, a marriage not to celebrate - Gabriele Chiari

Personal Construct Psychology, Neo-Structuralism and Hermeneutics - Bill Warren

Hermeneutics and constructivist psychotherapy: the psychotherapeutic process in a hermeneutic constructivist framework - Gabriele Chiari, Maria Laura Nuzzo

Going beyond the scientist metaphor: from validation to experience cycles - Beverly M. Walker, Lindsay G. Oades, Peter Caputi, Christopher D. Stevens, Nadia Crittenden

George Kelly and mathematics -Fay Fransella

GRIDS AND STATS — AND MORE

Why do statistics with Repertory Grids? -Richard Bell

Do we need grids and stats? — a contrary view -Tom Ravenette

A psychometric assessment of the bipolarity of constructs in Repertory Grid data

-Richard Bell

Laddering: theoretical and methodological contingencies — some order and a little chaos -Jacqui Costigan, Bernie Closs, Paula Eustace

Experience cycle methodology: A new method for Personal Construct Psychologists? -Lindsay G. Oades, Linda L. Viney

THE PERSON IN SOCIETY

The person in society: Construct Psychology and social action -Trevor Butt

Construing culture: 'Plain talk' -Devorah Kalekin-Fishman

Re-locating the use of Personal Construct Theory in the fields of business, management and the study of organisations - Nelarine Cornelius

Professional identity: making sense of Repertory Grids - Julie Ellis-Scheer

Teachers' professional identity: a study of cases from science education

- Mike Watts, Gill Nicholls

PhD projects as struggles in sociality - Phil Salmon

Users' quality perceptions in classroom design: a case study

- Helena Maria Galha

BODY AND SOUL

Looking through mirrors: self-reflections in our evaluations of others

- Jack Adams-Webber

Core constructs and Ordinary Mind Zen

- Spencer A. McWilliams

The multiple meanings of loss: grieving as a process of personal reconstruction

- Robert A. Neimeyer

Spirituality and self: a case for drugs education - Jane Mallick, Mike Watts

Emotions and personal constructs - Holger Kirsch, Jochen Jordan

Subjective experience of catatonia: construct-analytical findings by means of modified Landfield categories

- Heinz Böker, Cordula von Schmeling, Cynthia Lenz, Andrea Eppel, Matthias Meier, Georg Northoff

The Body and Self Experience Grid in Clinical Concentrative Movement Therapy (KBT) - Karin Schreiber-Willnow

Body construct systems of patients with haematological malignancies

- Cora Weber, Ekkehard Bronner, Pia Thier, Dorothea Kingreen, Burghard F. Klapp

Assessment of conflicts in smokers willing to quit - Rolf Deubner

Deliberate and undeliberated self harm: Theoretical basis and evaluation of a Personal Construct Psychotherapy intervention

- David Winter, Suchitra Bhandari, Christopher Metcalfe, Tony Riley, Lester Sireling, Sue Watson, Gemma Lutwyche

PSYCHOTHERAPY: CHANGE AND TRANSITIONS

Personal Construct Psychology, constructivism, and psychotherapy research

- Luis Botella

Can Personal Construct Therapy succeed in competition with other therapies?

- David Winter

The poetry of our lives: symbolism in Experiential Personal Construct Psychotherapy - April J. Faidley, Larry M. Leitner

Detection and analysis of implicative dilemmas: implications for the therapeutic process - Guillem Feixas, Luis Angel Saúl, Vicente Sánchez

Time and transitions: the experience of time in the psychotherapeutic relationship

- Gabriele Chiari, Maria Laura Nuzzo

The construction of "emotions", or the therapist's transitions: a relationship between personal and professional constructs - Massimo Giliberto, Mara Ognibeni

Therapist's transitions and the risk of suicide - Pasquale Brogna, Tiziana D'Andrea

Creating the Future? - John M. Fisher

EPILOGUE: PCP AFTER Y2K

Personal Construct Psychology by the year 2045 - Fay Fransella

APPENDIX

A short introduction to Personal Construct Psychology - Jörn W. Scheer

Cost:-

Australians may send cheques to Julie Ellis-Scheer (Latrobe University, Bendigo, Bendigo 3550) of \$A32, or \$40 for the double pack with the EPCA conference book published in 1994.

For others the cost is DM40 or EUR/\$US20 or 13 pounds for PC network members. Official retail price is DM89. The only accepted payment is by MasterCard or Visa or by cash or eurocheque.

5. PCP WEBSITES

Dear All,

I'd like to call your attention to a number of PCP Web Sites I have established during the last few years which not all of you might be aware of. Those of you who are running PCP web sites themselves are invited to set a link to the following sites.

The most comprehensive one and a good launch-pad into the cyberworld of PCP is the bi-lingual (German-English) site at Giessen University: <http://www.pcp-net.de> (or: <http://www.med.uni-giessen.de/psychol/pcpmain.htm>) It has all sorts of information,

including introductory texts, email addresses, links to all the other PCP sites, PCP conferences past and present, different sources of information on PCP such as lists of references, etc.

Of special interest might be:

the list of PCP-related web sites (with links to 3 regional networks, 17 research groups, 5 newsletters, 6 conference web sites, and 43 personal Home Pages):

<http://www.med.uni-giessen.de/psychol/pcp/homepages.htm>,

the list of computer programmes for Repertory Grid analysis:
<http://www.med.uni-giessen.de/psychol/compprog.htm>

,

and the list with links to more than 60 PCP-related on-line papers (hints about links to papers welcome!):

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

Then there is the "Internet-ional PCP Newsletter" (which you are invited to use for distributing information yourselves!) at:

<http://welcome.to/pcp-news> (without 'htm' at the end!),

and the newsletter of the German PCP group:

<http://www.med.uni-giessen.de/psychol/pcp/aktuell.html>

And finally: PCP has names and faces, too; so have a look at the PCP Gallery (aka Picturesque Constructs Page or Personal Collection of Portraits) at:

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

Any suggestions, contributions or feedback would be most welcome!

Joern Scheer

-- Prof. Dr. Joern W. Scheer - Dept. of Medical Psychology Friedrichstr. 36 - D-35392 Giessen - Germany