

Australasian Personal Construct

Newsletter

No.65
2001

From: Personal Construct Interest Group and
Australasian Personal Construct Group
c/o Department of Psychology,
University of Wollongong,
Northfields Ave,
WOLLONGONG,
NSW, 2522



THE
AUSTRALIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY LTD

Correspondence to be sent to
Assoc. Prof. Beverly Walker
PHONE NO:- 0242 213653
FAX NO:- 0242 214163
EMAIL:- beverly_walker@uow.edu.au

- **PIECES AND BITS**

Hello all,

Well we are gearing up for the conference in a very short time. It is still not too late to register. Also there are some amendments to the workshop program, so I'll include the details as amended, later in the newsletter. It is a wonderful opportunity for us all, so I hope you do take advantage of it.

One of the things I forgot to mention last time was that Julie Ellis-Scheer has been awarded her Ph.D. from Latrobe University for her work on nurses attitudes to the elderly. Congratulations Dr Julie – very well deserved. Deborah Trunekovna will be awarded her clinical doctorate from the University of Wollongong during the conference, her thesis focusing on group work with adolescents.

Helen Ross has been appointed Professor of Rural Community Development at the University of Queensland, Gatton. It's a research intensive position, pretty similar to the environmental-social research s was doing at CRES in the research school at the ANU. Congratulations Helen.

The WA group have once again run a training course in Personal Construct Psychology. I understand it was most successful. I don't know anything more at present, but hopefully will find out all the gos during the conference.

- **MORE FROM DENNY HINKLE**

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A number of people mentioned very positively their response to the letters between Denny Hinkle and myself. The correspondence has continued. Below are some extracts.

"Dear Denny,

A couple of things that might interest you -

Our letters in the newsletter are being translated into Italian for the Italian constructivists (or it might be the Italian psychotherapy association).

There is a nice paper in the current journal of constructivist psychology supporting your method of laddering. It's by Bob Neimeyer and a couple of other people whom I assume are Bob's students. I think it will stir a revival in your work.

best wishes,

Beverly"

"Dear Beverly

... your mention of Neimeyer's research caused me to check out the web concerning research using my grids. I was astonished to see how many people have found my dissertation research useful. I had no idea! I haven't read my dissertation in 36 years! Gary dug through some old boxes of Kelly papers in the attic and found two copies signed by George! It was a moving experience to read it after all these decades! I certainly suggested a lot of good research ideas. I had not remembered that Kelly had asked me to write a brief autobiography of the research (Chapter VII). If you have not read that chapter, you will find it to be of interest regarding your question about what it was like to do that dissertation. It is a nice addition to what I wrote in the email you published. I read that chapter now with a much greater appreciation of my issues at that time. I was particularly moved by these sentences

(p.69): "What is gained if we regard the purpose of psychology as being the creation of Man rather than his reduction?" ... "Not to acknowledge the existence of another...is that not the ultimate hostility?" Check it out!...

Affectionately yours,

Denny"

Denny has donated the spare copy of his thesis, signed by Kelly, to the Personal Construct Resource Centre in Wollongong. We will discuss how it should be displayed in the near future.

**14th International Personal Construct Psychology Congress
Extended Program - DRAFT ONLY**

Monday 16th July

8.30 am - 9.30am

REGISTRATION

9.30am - 10.00am

OPENING ADDRESS

Beverly Walker

10.00am - 10.45am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The artistry of the psychotherapist: an experiential personal construct perspective. Larry Leitner

10.45am - 11.30am

PLENARY

Personal construct ideas in Australia from 1970: Small steps against the tyranny of distance. Linda Viney

11.30 am - 12.45pm

LUNCH

12.45pm - 3.00pm

STRAND 1 - EDUCATION

- Pre-service teacher's perception of successful language teachers.
P. Leung
- The impact of Learning Mandarin on the learners' mother tongue Cantonese: A personal construct process in psycholinguistics.
Ho Kwok-Cheung
- A constructivist approach to assessing student learning in science courses.
C. Kreber, N. Erfabi, H Castleden, J. Lim & T. Wright.
- Isn't beauty necessary: The importance of aesthetics in theoretical choice.
M Giliberto & M Ognibeni

STRAND 2 - INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

- Constructions of Palestine: What endures?
L Thompson
- My Story: Life as an adolescent in Western Kenya.
H Dayus
- Differentiation, Integration and Vocational Satisfaction for African-American Women.
T. Seidl, K. Gallman, & A Metzler
- Psychotherapy and assessment with diverse and marginalized clients: A personal construct perspective.
D. Oliver & M. Schlutsmeyer

STRAND 3 - CLINICAL

- Can personal construct group work be an effective intervention with troubled adolescents?
D. Truneckova & L. Viney
- Factors maintaining cannabis use in people with and without psychosis.
B. Green
- Construing Crisis: The journal of serial killer Frederick West
K. Moser
- Trauma Resolutions: A personal construct formulation of EMDR
J Cook

12.45pm - 3.00pm

In-house workshops

WORKSHOP 1

- Developmental crises in mid-life: a journey through liminality
M Stein

WORKSHOP 2

- The Home/School interface for behaviour: The views and constructs of Parents and Carers
Sue Roffey

3.00pm - 3.30pm

AFTERNOON TEA

3.30pm - 5.30pm

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES

5.30pm onwards

DRINKS & PLAYBACK THEATRE

Tuesday 17th July

9.00am - 9.45am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Applying personal construct models to work with people. Linda Viney

9.45am - 11.30am

SYMPOSIUM

- Working with Anger: A constructivist approach.
P Cummins, L Leitner and B Warren

11.30 am - 12.45pm

LUNCH

12.45pm - 3.00pm

STRAND 1 - INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

- Joint spatial representation of constructs & elements
P. Reddy & R. Bell
- Supporting mathematics learning through constructive conversation
C. Fenwick
- Painting by numbers
J. Watkinson

STRAND 2 - INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

- Toward a model of relational spirituality: Have we given up 'the enterprise'?
P. Whetham
- Construing in construction: Exploring deaf people's perceptions of light and colour in built environment
K. Bright, G Cook, A. Iantaffi, R Luck & I Sinka.
- Symbolic adoption and computer use: What are we doing when we use computers an extension of understanding provided by Personal Construct Psychology
J. Harper, N Crittenden, P Caputi & B Walker
- A Model of Managers' Decision making in the Workplace: A Personal Constructivist's View
B. Partridge, B Walker & P Caputi

STRAND 3 - CLINICAL

- Making sense of Dementia
S. Robbins
- Role relationships & restoration of coherence in stories of women diagnosed with breast cancer

- L. Lane & L. Viney*
- Empirical support for experiential personal construct therapy: a common factor analysis
C L Humphrey, R Dutile & L Leitner
- 3.00pm - 3.30pm
AFTERNOON TEA
- 3.30pm - 5.30pm
EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES
- 3.30pm -4.45pm
Business meetings for EPCA, NAPCN and APCN
- 5.30pm onwards
DRINKS
- 12.45pm - 2.45pm
In-house workshops
WORKSHOP 1
Tom Ravenette
- WORKSHOP 2**
- Exploring Professional Counsellors Construing of Self: professionalism, breakthroughs and burnout.
Dawn Abbott Wade

- N. Mackay*
- An hygenic process? Researcher and participants construing each others' worlds
A. Iantaffi

STRAND 2 - INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

- The Posture of Anticipation: George Kelly and F.M. Alexander
D. Mills
- A Personal Construct Theory view of professional identity
J. Ellis-Scheer
- Personal Action Construct Theory
T Gee

Wednesday 18th July

9.15am -12.15am

In house workshops**WORKSHOP 1***Bernie Whitaker***WORKSHOP 2**

- Using relationships in counselling young clients
D. Trunckova & B. Seaborn

WORKSHOP 3

- Constructs and the dynamics of speech and gesture in communication
Ted Hazelton

WORKSHOP 4

- SHED TOOLS: Constructing alternatives to violence and abuse and making constructive life choices
Chris Laming

3.30pm - 5.30pm

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES with MUSICIANS

7.00 pm

CONGRESS DINNER*Food Rethought Restaurant***Thursday 19th July**

9.15 am -11.30am

STRAND 1 - CLINICAL/THEORY

- Psychotherapists' theoretical orientations as elaborative choices: A study of personal styles, epistemological preferences and construing
D. Winter, F. Tschudi & N. Gilbert
- Making meaning, making sense

STRAND 3 - INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

- The imprisoned body
M. Giliberto
- When the Unreal becomes real: A study of the benefits of group psychotherapy with survivors of breast cancer
L. Lane & L. Viney
- Telling the story: Finding the plot. An exploration of athletic injury and recovery
D. Savage.

11.30am - 12.45pm

LUNCH

12.45pm - 3.00pm

STRAND 1 - PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE

- Reconstructing after a change in health conditions
J. Scheer
- Menopause: The art of change
H. Foster & L. Viney
- Counselling after sexual assault: A personal construct model of the effect of counsellors' responses to client disclosure
C. Carter & L. Viney.
- The relationship between parental & adolescent perceptions of self where the adolescent is life limited
H. Dayus

STRAND 2 - HEALTH

- Time to talk: Evaluation of the effects of a personal construct intervention on the perceptions of staff in aged care.
G. Malins, L. Couchman, B. Grenyer & L. Viney
- Seeing Kelly as a Closet 'Postie': A Poststructuralist Slant on Personal Construct Theory
P. Eustace
- Constructing a theoretical model of effective teamwork in healthcare
S. Mickan
- The movement in personal change: The practice of dance therapy
S. Cipolletta

STRAND 3 - FORENSIC

- Adolescent male sex offenders: A repertory grid group process study
K. Sewell & K R Cruise
- The Personal Constructs of Serial Killer Frederick West
K. Moser
- Borderline personality disorder: An exploration of the dimensions of the disorder
B. Sauders & R. Cromwell
- Forensic nurses' suicidal assessment
J. Bowers & J. Costigan

3.30pm - 4.45pm

General Business Meeting

12.45pm - 2.45pm

In-house workshops**WORKSHOP 1***Tom Ravenette***WORKSHOP 2**

- The Posture of Anticipation: The Alexander Technique as a means of construing ourselves in movement
David Mills

3.00pm - 3.30pm

AFTERNOON TEA

3.30pm - 5.30pm

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES

5.30pm onwards

DRINKS & EXPERIENTIAL WORKSHOP SUMMARY*Chris Stevens***Friday 20 July**

9.15am - 11.30am

SYMPOSIUM

- Theory and PCT
T. Butt, B. Warren, C. Stevens, G. Chiari

12.45pm - 1.55pm

PLENARY**Players by Nature. Don Mixon**

2.00pm - 3.30pm

STRAND 1 - CLINICAL

- Trust and dependency in younger and older people
N. Rossotti, D. Winter and M. Watts
- In the beginning is relation
G. Chiari & M. L. Nuzzo

STRAND 2 - CLINICAL

- Construal disruption following trauma: Relations between domains of construct and trauma content
K. Sewell & I. Taber
- Loss or transformation: The role of therapist orientation in termination of therapy
S. Crespy & A. Metzler.

STRAND 3- ART

- Personal construct theory and poetry
R. Bell
- The art of writing
V. Burr
- Reconstructing personal experiences when writing memoirs
J. Forster & K. Forster.

CLOSE

PARTNER'S PROGRAM**MONDAY 3.30 - 5.30PM Participation \$22 per head**

- Yoga.
- Drums & Dance
- Belly Dancing
- Singing
- Drama

MONDAY 5.30 – 7PM Participation \$22 per head

- Drinks, nibbles & Playback Theatre****
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TUESDAY 3.30 – 5.30PM Participation \$22 per head

- Yoga.
- Drums & Dance
- Belly Dancing
- Drama

TUESDAY 5.30 – 7PM Participation \$22 per head

- Wine Tasting Australian Wines

WEDNESDAY CONGRESS DINNER \$66 at Food Rethought Restaurant**THURSDAY 5.30 – 7PM Participation \$22 per head**

- Drinks & 'Body of Knowledge' Workshop

****** HIGHLY RECOMMENDED - ED.**

**Please pay in cash at reception prior to
Monday 3.00pm or Tuesday 3.00pm.**

**LONDON'S SCIENCE MUSEUM EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE THE
BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S CENTENARY.**

Fay Fransella wrote in Meeting Point (Dec 2000), the newsletter of the Personal Construct Centre in the UK, that she had been approached by Geoff Bunn with the idea that the Science Museum have a "corner" devoted to personal construct psychology in its exhibition to celebrate the British Psychological Society's centenary..

"I said I would let people know what had happened regarding that Science Museum exhibition (to celebrate the British Psychological Society's centenary). The dead-line for contributions was very short, so there was little time to ask people if they had anything they think could be a useful exhibition item. In the end, I checked out with Geoff the sorts of items he had in mind, and put the following small package together:

1. From my 1972 book *Personal Change and Reconstruction: Research on a Treatment of Stuttering* he liked a) an original bi-polar implications grid

completed by a client in 1965; b) the main-frame computer print-out of that grid and c) the printing block of the major results from that research accompanied by a photocopy from the page in the book.

2. A photograph of George Kelly
3. Materials used in research to assess whether those diagnosed as suffering from receptive dysphasia were actually able to understand what was said to them. The items used as elements in a repertory grid all varied in how they feel to a person e.g. some fur, sandpaper, stone. The constructs were, for example, *soft*, *heavy*.
4. Photographs of passengers used as elements in the Centre's 1983 - 1985 research for British Airways with constructs elicited from a sample of Passenger Contact Staff, mainly Cabin Crew. The results of that and other research were used to inform BA's Putting People First retraining programme.
5. A second study for BA was in 1984 conducted with Support Staff. That group mainly consisted of engineers, but also included Information Technology, and Catering. The item for the exhibition was a booklet used for individual grids. Elements were the work context such as "British Airways", "my management", "the passengers" and the constructs had been elicited from samples representing each of the personnel groups. In all, eight hundred and fifty-seven grids were completed.
6. The first issue of the Centre's first newsletter - CONSTRUCTS.
7. Photograph of some people at the First International Congress on Personal Construct Psychology in 1977 at Christ Church College, Oxford. That includes George Kelly's widow, Gladys.
8. Examples of the sketches and verbal descriptions taken from the MSc dissertation of Rosemary Ballie-Grohman in 1975 entitled "The use of a modified form of repertory grid technique to investigate the extent to which profoundly deaf school leavers tend to use stereotypes".
9. Sketches of stereotyped men and women ranging from extreme anorexia to extreme obesity. These have been used in a series of research projects to find out how men and women perceive their body image.
10. Photograph taken at the launch of the Centre for Personal Construct Psychology in London in 1980.
11. A selection of cartoons drawn by George Kelly taken from the manuscript of his unpublished book (1932) entitled *Understandable Psychology*.

There is an inevitable emphasis on research work in these, mainly using forms of repertory grid. That is because no one asked could think of anything else that could be used as an item in an exhibition. But whatever may be thought about the items, what is expected to happen will definitely highlight personal construct psychology within the context of psychology.

When I took these items up to London to hand them over to Geoff Bunn at the Science Museum, he took me up to see the place where the exhibition was to be held. A door opened into a longish oblong space. There were three glassed-in compartments on the left - like those one looks into as one walks past. These are to represent "Telling Stories", "Making Tools", and "Solving Puzzles" and on the right there were three glass-topped cabinets that one looks down into. I asked the obvious question: "where do you see personal

construct psychology fitting in?" He pointed to one of the desk-topped cabinets and said "there". His opinion was that personal construct psychology was an over-arching and important psychology that should have a space if its own. On the wall there will be a large placard saying who George Kelly was and what PCP is about. How that will actually turn out in reality, I have no idea. But if it is anything like Geoff was talking about, it will give great prominence to PCP within psychology.

The Exhibition is due to start in January 2001."

-Fay Fransella

CHALLENGING THE BOUNDARIES: PCP PERSPECTIVES FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM:

Papers from the 5th European Personal Construct Association Conference – Malta
2000

(AVAILABLE FROM EPCA -EUROPEAN PERSONAL CONSTRUCT ASSN)

Introduction to PCP

John Fisher and David Savage

Perspectives: Past, Present And Future

Fay Fransella

Visual Art: - A Catalyst For Communication With People Who Have Learning Disabilities?

Elvira Apraiz And Pam Denicolo

The Social Context of Therapy

Trevor Butt

Difference, Inclusion and Exclusion among 'Emotional Labourers': a search for meanings

Nelarine Cornelius

Seeking Personal and Collective Meanings for Health and Happiness at Work

Nelarine Cornelius

Sharing Reflections on the Experience of Doctoral Assessment

P. M. Denicolo, M. L Fuller, C. J. Boulter

Personal Construct Psychology Medical Diagnosis And Other Assessments Friends Or Enemies

John Edmondson

Meanings of Menopause: Development of a PCP Model

Heather Foster and Linda Viney

Self-Reference in the Identification of Personal Values: is there a Functional Limit
Constraining a Hierarchy of Constructs?

Devi Jankowicz

The meanings of a breast cancer diagnosis: A model of women's construing

Lisbeth G. Lane and Linda L. Viney

Metaphor: A paradigm for constructive and critical research into "Career"

Philip Mignot

The Principles for Financial Reporting in the UK and Personal Construction

Derek Purdy

Athletic Injury Telling the Story: Finding the Plot

David J. Savage.

The self identity plot (SIP) and the family system plot (FSP) as diagnostic tools for
the examination of relationships and self-regulation

Frank Schoeneich, Otto B. Walter, Cora Weber, Pia Thier & Burghard F. Klapp

The stability of results in self identity plots: An empirical study with 311
psychosomatic in-patients

Frank Schoeneich, Alrun Seidler, Pia Thier, Cora Weber, Otto B. Walter, and
Burghard F. Klapp

Therapy-evaluation with role repertory grid and Giessen-test: Changes in construing
self and ideal self of 22 female patients with anorexia nervosa

Frank Schoeneich, Michaela Hiller, Anita Peglow, Sabine Kossow, Simone Stettner,
Pia Thier, Cora Weber, Otto B. Walter and Burghard F. Klapp

An Organisation in Transition: Constructing New Realities

Charles Smith

Toward a comparable inter-element distance measure
in repertory grids

Otto B. Walter, Frank Schoeneich & Burghard F. Klapp

Towards an Evidence base for Personal Construct Psychotherapy

Sue Watson and David Winter

Which constructs do the patients use? A categorial system for the analysis of Body
Grids

Cora Weber, Ekkehard Bronner, Frank Schoeneich, Otto Walter,
Burghard F. Klapp

Construing the Unthinkable

David Winter and Claire Gould

Prison and drug addiction: a constructivist analysis

Massimo Giliberto

NAPCN RE-CONFIGURING

Jon Raskin writes to the PCP Network list:

Hello everyone! As president of the North American Personal Construct Network (NAPCN), I am pleased to announce that NAPCN, in conjunction with Division 32 (Humanistic Psychology) of the American Psychological Association (APA), has established a new interest section in Division 32: the Constructivist Psychology Section (CPS). The establishment of CPS will allow NAPCN members to meet annually at APA Conventions, in addition to the biennial conference. NAPCN, under the auspices of CPS, is already hard at work putting together a hospitality suite and brief program for this August's APA convention in San Francisco. Plus, joining Division 32 and CPS entitles NAPCN members to a 15% discount on 2002 NAPCN dues! Click here for more info on this exciting development:

http://www.newpaltz.edu/~raskinj/NAPCN_32_CPS.html

Regards, Jon (20 February, 2001)