

Psychology of Relationships Interest Group October 2006 Newsletter

Conference news:

Preparations are well underway for the Interest Group's 6th Annual Conference, **11-12 November 2006**. Activities include keynote speakers, symposia, individual papers, posters, and professional roundtables. Interest Group prizes for a student thesis and for a significant research contribution will be awarded, and the AGM of the Interest Group will be held. The program and a copy of the registration form is attached to this newsletter. It is not too late to register!! For more details contact the Conference Chair, Professor Barry Fallon, at b.fallon@patrick.edu.au or telephone 03 9953 3108.

Family Relationship Centres - Up and Running *Gery Karantzas*

The opening of the first 15 Federally funded Family Relationship Centres (FRCs) has become the topic of considerable debate in recent months. As part of the Federal Governments overhaul of the Family Law System, the Attorney-General announced in 2003 that 65 Federally funded FRCs would be opened over a four-year period around Australia targeting strategic metropolitan and rural areas. The FRCs are and will be run by various counselling groups all of whom were successful applicants of the competitive tendering process.

The first 15 Centres were opened on July 3, 2006, however, the Shadow-Attorney General highlighted that the Centres had struggled to meet this deadline, with FRC CEOs admitting the establishment had been rushed. Only three weeks prior to the opening of the FRCs, only two service providers had signed contracts. The speed with which service providers have been forced to sign agreements and establish their services questions the preparedness of this first group of FRCs accommodating the needs of families requiring assistance.

The government reforms now require all couples with parenting disputes to engage in three hours of compulsory and free family dispute resolution with trained counsellors and mediators prior to entering the court-room. Given that 50,000 Australian couples are divorced currently each year (excluding de facto separation), concern exists regarding how Centres will service such a large number of people and provide quality counselling. The load on these Centres is compounded by the requirement that FRCs also provide information on pre-

marital education, the sustaining of healthy relationships and handling relationship difficulties.

The initial hurried role of out of these Centres seems to only validate the issues raised by some social commentators suggesting the aim of the Federal Government was not to necessarily save marriages, but to limit the time taken to resolve family conflict, thereby reducing the legal costs bored by the Government over lengthy and drawn-out family disputes. In contrast, counselling groups have applauded the decision to open the FRCs and see it as a great opportunity for family counselling and mediation specialists to help strengthen family relationships and provide expertise that will see shared parenting responsibilities benefit all parties, especially children.

Regardless of the issues that have been put forward to this date, it is clear that FRCs (at least for the short term) are here to stay, with the intent that they will significantly improve the experiences of families facing issues of separation. This then raises the question of “how should psychologists be integrated as part of the FRCs?” Should they also be employed by these Centres along with counsellors to be on the “front line” of family dispute, or should linkages be developed between FRCs and psychologists, where families dealing with complex issues can be referred to family and relationship specialists for more intensive therapy.

The successful development of a formal referral system is likely to be an important component of how difficult cases are handled in this new system of family law. Family Services Australia suggests that the developing such systems will be crucial to the Centres’ success, but few details are know at this stage about how the referral systems of the FRCs would be managed. If psychologists are to be involved either directly or indirectly with FRCs, “how should psychologists actively promote their services in a bid to create formalised links with these Centres?”

There are no clear answers at this point to many of the questions raised, though evaluations of the FRCs and their involvement of adjunct service providers across a series of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) established by the Federal Government are likely to provide some data regarding their capacity to service families experiencing conflict. Until that time, it is important and timely that psychologists become involved and aware of the key issues and debates surrounding the running of these Centres and psychologists “duty of care” to continue to meet the needs of the most important stakeholders of all in this debate – the families.

Report on IARR Conference – Crete, July 2006

As predicted, this was a hugely successful and enjoyable conference. There were more registrants than ever before and the standard of symposia and papers was very high. The conference opened in the ruins of a Venetian castle on a cliff top overlooking the sea and finished with an Awards dinner and dance at a traditional Cretan farm. The weather was perfect and the food was

wonderful – not much more to report, really! There were several Australian relationship scholars well-represented and the range of topics covered was enormous, including attachment, health issues, emotions, violence, love, deception, evolutionary psychology, social support, relationship dissolution, stalking, friendship, sex, loneliness – and so many more.

The exciting news is that next year's IARR "Mini-conference" will be held in conjunction with our own annual Melbourne conference. More details on this will follow soon.

The 2008 IARR conference will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, USA.

SASP Conference: In 2007 the conference is being co-hosted by the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, and Griffith University. The conference will be held from Thursday April 12 to Sunday April 15 in Brisbane, Australia. Details will follow.

Finally, we are, as always, on the lookout for news, gossip, book reviews or recommendation, teaching tips, research reports, announcements, etc. Please send or email any such items to Dr. Julie Fitness, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University. Email: jfitness@psy.mq.edu.au in time for the next newsletter (January 2007).

Relationships – Near & Far

The Sixth Annual Conference of the APS Psychology of Relationships
Interest Group.

Australian Catholic University
115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065.

**There is still time to register for the APS Interest group on the
Psychology of Relationships Conference in Melbourne on 11-12
November.**

At the Conference there will be:

- ***Keynote Addresses* – Garth Fletcher from Canterbury University in NZ and Julie Fitness from Macquarie University**
- ***A Professional Forum: The Role of Family Relationship Centres:***
How will they benefit Australian families in need and what role will specialist psychologists and counsellors undertake in these Centres. With invited speakers Arti Sharma (Centre for Independent Studies) & Mary Mertin-Ryan (National Director, Relationships Australia)
- ***A Professional Forum for Post Graduate Students* – getting published, networking, careers etc**
- **A symposium on Attachment**
- **Ten (10) individual papers sessions**
- **A great group of delegates with whom to share and network**

See the following pages for a draft of the conference program.

The Registration fee includes morning and afternoon refreshments and lunches.

You can register on-line at the following site

http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/porig/conference_2006/

Hoping to see you there, Barry Fallon
Chair, Conference Committee

| SATURDAY 11th November, 2005 | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 8.00-9.00 | Registration (Theatre Foyer) | | |
| 9.00-9.30 | Opening Ceremony (Christ Theatre) <i>Chair: T. Bowles</i> Professor Peter Wilson Pro-Chancellor (Research & International) ACU Thesis Award Presentation Winners: Zoe Pearce & Debra Campbell | | |
| 9.30-10.15 | Keynote Address (Christ Theatre) <i>Chair: T. Bowles</i> PROFESSOR GARTH FLETCHER Department of Psychology, Canterbury University, Christchurch, NZ. <i>The Intimate Relationship Mind.</i> | | |
| 10.15-10.45 | Morning Break (Theatre Foyer) | | |
| | Christ Theatre | | |
| | Mercy Theatre | | |
| 10.45-12.15 | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> PAPERS 1: PARENTING CHAIR: Barry Fallon <i>The Couple CARE for Parents Program: Enhancing couple relationships across the transition to parenthood.</i> PETCH, JF. (Griffith University) Jemima Biber J.Biber@griffith.edu.au <i>The association between parenting characteristics and adolescent identity and moral development.</i> SHLIMKEVYCH, V. & TERRETT, G. (Australian Catholic University) sveronika2002@yahoo.com.au <i>Cracking the code of healthy relationships: Parent Effectiveness Training (PET) as a valuable resource for communities.</i> WOOD, C. & DAVIDSON, JA. (University of Tasmania) Christine.Wood@utas.edu.au </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> SYMPOSIUM: ATTACHMENT Chair: Ross Wilkinson <i>Bridging the gap between attachment and developmental processes in understanding romantic relationships in young adulthood.</i> KARANTSAZ, GC. (Deakin University) gery.karantzas@deakin.edu.au <i>The impact of chronic illness on relationships in early adulthood: A comparison study between healthy and arthritic young adults.</i> COLE, SF., & KARANTZAS, G. (Deakin University) <i>Exploring differences in attachment, intimacy and coping across the formation and dissolution of romantic relationships.</i> GONCALVES, CV., & KARANTZAS, G. (Deakin University), <i>Attachment and intimacy as predictors of relationship satisfaction: The test of a mediation model of young adult romantic relationships.</i> MEDHURST, A. & KARANTZAS, GC. (Deakin University) <i>Relationship satisfaction in young adulthood: The role of attachment, the development of intimacy and coping strategies.</i> </td> </tr> </table> | PAPERS 1: PARENTING CHAIR: Barry Fallon <i>The Couple CARE for Parents Program: Enhancing couple relationships across the transition to parenthood.</i> PETCH, JF. (Griffith University) Jemima Biber J.Biber@griffith.edu.au <i>The association between parenting characteristics and adolescent identity and moral development.</i> SHLIMKEVYCH, V. & TERRETT, G. (Australian Catholic University) sveronika2002@yahoo.com.au <i>Cracking the code of healthy relationships: Parent Effectiveness Training (PET) as a valuable resource for communities.</i> WOOD, C. & DAVIDSON, JA. (University of Tasmania) Christine.Wood@utas.edu.au | SYMPOSIUM: ATTACHMENT Chair: Ross Wilkinson <i>Bridging the gap between attachment and developmental processes in understanding romantic relationships in young adulthood.</i> KARANTSAZ, GC. (Deakin University) gery.karantzas@deakin.edu.au <i>The impact of chronic illness on relationships in early adulthood: A comparison study between healthy and arthritic young adults.</i> COLE, SF., & KARANTZAS, G. (Deakin University) <i>Exploring differences in attachment, intimacy and coping across the formation and dissolution of romantic relationships.</i> GONCALVES, CV., & KARANTZAS, G. (Deakin University), <i>Attachment and intimacy as predictors of relationship satisfaction: The test of a mediation model of young adult romantic relationships.</i> MEDHURST, A. & KARANTZAS, GC. (Deakin University) <i>Relationship satisfaction in young adulthood: The role of attachment, the development of intimacy and coping strategies.</i> |
| PAPERS 1: PARENTING CHAIR: Barry Fallon <i>The Couple CARE for Parents Program: Enhancing couple relationships across the transition to parenthood.</i> PETCH, JF. (Griffith University) Jemima Biber J.Biber@griffith.edu.au <i>The association between parenting characteristics and adolescent identity and moral development.</i> SHLIMKEVYCH, V. & TERRETT, G. (Australian Catholic University) sveronika2002@yahoo.com.au <i>Cracking the code of healthy relationships: Parent Effectiveness Training (PET) as a valuable resource for communities.</i> WOOD, C. & DAVIDSON, JA. (University of Tasmania) Christine.Wood@utas.edu.au | SYMPOSIUM: ATTACHMENT Chair: Ross Wilkinson <i>Bridging the gap between attachment and developmental processes in understanding romantic relationships in young adulthood.</i> KARANTSAZ, GC. (Deakin University) gery.karantzas@deakin.edu.au <i>The impact of chronic illness on relationships in early adulthood: A comparison study between healthy and arthritic young adults.</i> COLE, SF., & KARANTZAS, G. (Deakin University) <i>Exploring differences in attachment, intimacy and coping across the formation and dissolution of romantic relationships.</i> GONCALVES, CV., & KARANTZAS, G. (Deakin University), <i>Attachment and intimacy as predictors of relationship satisfaction: The test of a mediation model of young adult romantic relationships.</i> MEDHURST, A. & KARANTZAS, GC. (Deakin University) <i>Relationship satisfaction in young adulthood: The role of attachment, the development of intimacy and coping strategies.</i> | | |

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| | | ADNAMS, KA & KARANTZAS, GC. (Deakin University) |
| 12.15-1.00 | Lunch (Cafeteria) | |
| 1.00-2.30 | <p>PAPERS 2: CHILDEN & ADOLESCENTS CHAIR: Lisa Eisen</p> <p><i>Relocation and the impact on children's relationships.</i> SZARKI, L. (Family Court of Australia/Relationships Australia) Lilia.Szarski@familycourt.gov.au</p> <p><i>Gender differences in the intergenerational transmission of relational commitment.</i> TOTH, K. (University of Nevada, Reno) "Kati Toth" <toothk@unr.nevada.edu</p> <p><i>Ongoing friendship difficulties within a secondary school context: Underlying processes and circumstances.</i> WELCH, N. (Endeavour College) Neil.Welch@Flinders.edu.au</p> | <p>PAPERS 3: PERSONALITY & RELATIONSHIPS CHAIR: Neil Wel Zoe Pearce ch</p> <p><i>The influence of personality and anger on communication style.</i> BOWLES, T. (Australian Catholic University), FINCK, W. & NEWTON, N. (Monash University) t.bowles@patrick.acu.edu.au</p> <p><i>Relating in a world of dissociation: The issue of support.</i> CLAYTON, K. (Macquarie University) <Kymbra.Clayton@psy.mq.edu.au></p> <p><i>Walking a tightrope: The delicate relationship between researcher and vulnerable participants.</i> MORRIS, M. (Australian Catholic University) m.morris@patrick.acu.edu.au</p> |
| 2.30 - 4.00 | <p>PAPERS 4: GAY RELATIONSHIPS CHAIR: Neil Welch</p> <p><i>Domestic violence in same-sex relationships.</i> FRANKLAND, A. (Macquarie University) andrew.frankland@students.mq.edu.au</p> <p><i>A marriage like my parents? Influences on gay men relationships.</i> MODESTO, O. & BROWN, J. (Macquarie University) Oscar.Modesto@psy.mq.edu.au</p> <p><i>Same sex relationships: Using research to inform therapy.</i> BROWN, J. (Macquarie University) j.brown@psy.mq.edu.au</p> | <p>PAPERS 5: SEXUAL FUNCTIONING CHAIR: Barry Fallon</p> <p><i>Female sexual dysfunction: A theoretical consideration of sexual response and aetiological factors.</i> GILES, K., & McCABE, M. (Deakin University) KATIE GILES <kgil@deakin.edu.au></p> <p><i>Female sexual dysfunction: Effectiveness of psychological and medical treatments.</i> NAYLOR, LM., & McCABE, MP. (Deakin University) Lisa Marie Naylor <lmna@!deakin.edu.au></p> <p><i>The effectiveness of psychological interventions compare to oral drugs, local injection and vacuum device in the treatment of erectile dysfunction: systematic review and metanalysis.</i> MELNIK, T. SOARES, B.O. (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil) & NASELLO, A.G. (Santa Casa de Misericordia) tameln@terra.com.br</p> |
| 4.00 - 4.30 | Afternoon Tea (Theatre Foyer) | |
| 4.30 - 6.00 | <p>PROFESSIONAL FORUM</p> <p><i>The Role of Family Relationship Centres: How will they benefit Australian families in need and what role will specialist psychologists and counsellors undertake in these Centres.</i></p> | |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| | <p>Invited Speakers include: Arti Sharma (Centre for Independent Studies) & Mary Mertin-Ryan (National Director, Relationships Australia)</p> <p>CONVENOR: Gery Karantzas</p> |
| 6.00 – 7.00 | Complimentary Drinks (Theatre Foyer) |
| 7.00 | Dinner (Ticket Required) |

| | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| | SUNDAY 13th November, 2005 | |
| 9.00-9.30 | Tea (Christ Theatre) | |
| 9.30-10.15 | <p>Keynote Address (Christ Theatre) <i>Chair: T. Bowles</i> Julie Fitness Macquarie University</p> <p><i>Forgiven, not forgotten: Exploring the role of emotions in close relationship betrayal, punishment, and repair.</i></p> | |
| 10.15-11.45 | Morning Tea (Theatre Foyer) | |
| 10.45-12.15 | <p style="text-align: center;">PAPERS 6: INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS CHAIR: Barry Fallon</p> <p><i>Transnational love: Nomadic youth and their negotiation of intimate relationships.</i> McLEOD, D (York University, UK) Danae McLeod <dem500@york.ac.uk></p> <p><i>A hierarchy of relational standards: Their form and function.</i> WEST, A. & FALLON, B.J. (Australian Catholic University) a.west@patrick.acu.edu.au</p> <p><i>Differential levels of engagement with male and female friends and one's partner.</i> MOORE, KA. (Deakin University) & STOCKDALE, JE. (London School of Economics & Political Science) kate.moore@deakin.edu.au</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">POST-GRAD PROFESSIONAL FORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Getting published, ➤ networking, ➤ career planning, ➤ etc <p>A panel of Interest Group members will act as resources for this forum</p> |
| 12.15 - 1.00 | Lunch (Cafeteria) | |
| 1.00 -2.30 | <p style="text-align: center;">PAPERS 7: RELATIONSHIP QUALITY CHAIR: Neil Welch</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">PAPERS 8: ATTACHMENT CHAIR: Gery Karantzas</p> |

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| | <p><i>Organization of partner knowledge, perceptions of marital quality, and marital conflict.</i> CAMPBELL, L., BUTZER, B., & WONG, J. (University of Western Ontario) lcampb23@uwo.ca</p> <p><i>Conflict dimensions and conflict outcome satisfaction and their relationship to conflict resolution styles.</i> FALLON, BJ., & BOWLES, TV (Australian Catholic University). b.fallon@patrick.acu.edu.au</p> <p><i>Romantic Love and Links with Love Styles, Attachment Styles and Relationship Satisfaction in Brazilian Stable Couples</i> DEBORAH (University of Sao Paulo-Brazil) SPONSORED BY CAPES</p> | <p><i>Intimacy and attachment in adolescent relationships.</i> CLARK, D., & WILKINSON, RB. (The Australian National University) Ross.Wilkinson@anu.edu.au</p> <p><i>Adult attachment, self regulation and conflict resolution styles in close interpersonal relationships.</i> DANIEL, C., & PEARCE, ZJ. (Queensland University of Technology) c2.daniel@student.qut.edu.au</p> <p><i>Self-regulation in couple relationships: The influence of attachment insecurity and attributions for negative partner behaviour.</i> PEARCE, Z.(Queensland University of Technology) z.pearce@qut.edu</p> |
| 2.30 – 3.300 | <p style="text-align: center;">PAPERS 9: ADOPTEES CHAIR: Ross Wilkinson</p> <p><i>Adoptees' relationship experiences post-reunion: Exploring the effects of interactions with biological relatives.</i> FOULSTONE, AR., FEENEY, JA (University of Queensland) & PASSMORE, NL. (University of Southern Queensland) a.foulstone@uq.edu.au</p> <p><i>Openness and secrecy in adoptive families and possible effects on the interpersonal relationships of adult adoptees.</i> PASSMOORE, NL. (University of Southern Queensland) FOULSTONE, AR. & FEENEY, JA.(University of Queensland) nolapass@usq.edu.au</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">PAPERS 10: ATTACHMENT & COMMUNICATION CHAIR: Gery Karantzas</p> <p><i>Working at intimate relationships: Links between attachment, self-regulation, communication, and relationship satisfaction.</i> HOWELLS, A. & MCGILLIVRAY, J. (Deakin University) akhowell@deakin.edu.au</p> <p><i>The impact of communication, intimacy, and expectations on satisfaction in traditional vs. computer-originated relationships.</i> BROWNE, P. & PEARCE, Z. (Queensland University of Technology) pa.browne@student.qut.edu.au</p> |
| 3.30 - 3.45 | <p>Afternoon Tea (Theatre Foyer)</p> | |
| 3.45 onwards | <p>(Christ Theatre) Annual General Meeting Farewell Drinks</p> | |

Registration Form

AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY INTEREST GROUP ON PSYCHOLOGY OF RELATIONSHIPS

6th Annual Conference, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne. 11-12 November 2006.

Please print out and complete the following sections before remitting:

Family Name _____ Given Name _____

Title _____ Affiliation _____

Email address _____

Telephone (including country and area codes) _____

Fax (including country and area codes) _____

Your Registration Fee Includes the following:

All sessions and Key Note Addresses, Abstracts and Satchel, Morning and Afternoon Teas, Lunches,
Drinks and GST

| Type | \$ | n | Amount |
|---|----------|-------|--------|
| Full -early member (before 7 August) | \$180.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Full - late member | \$230.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Full - early non-member (before 7 August) | \$205.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Full - late non-member | \$230.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Full- early student (before 7 August) | \$80.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Full – student | \$100.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Day (per day) | \$120.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Dinner | \$45.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Dinner - extra non Conference attendee | \$45.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Total | | | |

Tax Invoice ABN: 23 000 543 788

This form is a tax invoice once filled in and lodged. Please keep a copy for your records. Please note: All prices listed include GST.

Please circle method of payment which is being used

1. I enclose a cheque made payable to Australian Psychological Society
2. I authorize you to charge my Visa/Mastercard/APS Amex/Amex (circle one)

Card number _____ Expiry Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Address of Cardholder _____

Amount to Charge AUD\$ _____

Signature of Cardholder _____

Mail form and cheque to Prof Barry Fallon, School of Psychology, ACU, 115 Victoria parade, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065 Australia OR For Credit card payment, fax complete registration form to Prof Barry J Fallon, ACU Fax # 61 3 9953 3205 or mail completed form to Prof Barry Fallon at the above address.