

Psychology of Relationships Interest Group September 2005 Newsletter

Conference news:

Preparations are well underway for the Interest Group's Conference, 12-13 November (2005) (a registration form is attached for anyone who hasn't yet got around to registering).

The conference will open on Saturday morning with a Keynote address by Professor Alan Hayes, the Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, entitled "Not such splendid isolation: Developmental implications of limited opportunities for intimacy", followed by two parallel paper sessions, one on gender stereotyping and one on attachment. Other sessions that day include papers on organizational relationships, desire and arousal, and communication, along with a Post-graduate Professional Forum on issues concerning getting published, networking, and career planning etc.

Following the AGM on Sunday morning, a keynote address entitled "The good, the bad, and the ugly" will be presented by Rosalie Pattenden, Clinical Practice Leader, Relationships Australia. This will be followed by a practice forum and several paper sessions on topics ranging from relationship violations and relationship processes to family and friends, and parenting. The conference will finish with farewell drinks and presentation of awards.

This is Australia's premier relationship conference and it just keeps getting better. Please contact Prof Barry Fallon if you have any queries about attendance and registration: b.fallon@acu.patrick.edu.au

The 2006 Biennial International Conference of the International Association for Relationships Research (IARR) will take place in Rethymnon, Crete, July 6-10, 2006.

The IARR Program Committee invites proposals for symposia, posters, roundtable, and interest groups on topics relating to interpersonal relationships. Detailed information about the conference and how to submit is available on the IARR Website: <http://www.iarrc2006.org/index.htm>.

Invited speakers include William Cupach (Illinois State University), Cigdem Kagitcibasi (Koç University), Mario Mikulincer (Bar-Ilan University), Terri Orbuch

(University of Michigan), Caryl Rusbult (Amsterdam University), Philip Shaver (University of California) and Theo van Tilburg (Amsterdam University).

Topics will include (but are not limited to) loneliness, marriage, conflict, divorce, family relationships, emotion, empathy, gender, communication, support, relationships and health, friendship, and many more.

This is always an outstanding conference, and it is a real bonus to have it in such a beautiful part of the world next year. If people have ideas about symposia, interest groups, round tables etc., they should start planning with one another now, ready to submit proposals by 1st December 2005. (The deadlines are always strict).

The **40th APS Annual Conference** is being held from 28 September to 2 October 2005, Crown Promenade Hotel, Melbourne.

Relationships Interest Group members are presenting two symposia at this conference, both chaired by Barry Fallon:

- 1) Research on intimate relationships – held on the 28th September, 8.30-10am, M9 Meeting room. Presenters are R. Harmer, V. Francis, and A. West.
 - 2) Attachment and parenting – held on the 28th September, 10.30 – 12, M9 meeting room. Presenters are T. Bowles, R. Wilkinson, and C. Wood.
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First meeting of the Australian Attachment Research Group (AARG)

On the 7th of June the School of Psychology at the Australian National University hosted the first meeting of the Australian Attachment Research Group.

This meeting was organised by Dr Ross Wilkinson to bring together the leading researchers from around Australia in the field of interpersonal relationships who use attachment theory as theoretical framework. The main aim of the meeting was to facilitate cooperation between researchers by establishing a research agenda and building a support network. In the meeting participants presented an overview of their main attachment research interests and their plans for future research in the area.

Major participants in the meeting were Judy Feeney and Candi Peterson (University of Queensland), Terry Bowles (Australian Catholic University) and Gery Karantzas (Deakin University). The meeting highlighted the range of areas in which Australian researchers are actively applying attachment theory as a conceptual framework to understanding relationships. Areas of research include new parenthood, romantic/marital relationships, adoptee relationships, adolescent relationships, friendships, communication styles, self-esteem, emotional intelligence, relationships in later life, and major life transitions.

A coherent theme that emerged from the meeting was the way in which attachment processes are viewed across the lifespan. The meeting was a great success and plans are under way for collaborative research and exploring further ways in which attachment theory can assist in our understanding of relationships throughout life.

For more information about the AARG meeting visit www.anu.edu.au/psychology (look for links under Discover Psychology) or contact Ross Wilkinson (Ross.Wilkinson@anu.edu.au)

New books:

Bill Dragon and Steve Duck have a new book out entitled: *Understanding Research in Personal Relationships: A text with readings* (SAGE, 2005).

This book is an introduction to the field and includes some classic readings used to illustrate methodology as well as theoretical issues, taking students through some key topics in relationship research, such as attraction, love, conflict, social networks, relationship maintenance, sexuality, loneliness, jealousy, cyber relationships and power. Each of these issues is given a historical, theoretical and methodological context before the students are led through ways to read articles about the topic.

Laura Stafford has a new book out entitled *Maintaining Long-Distance and Cross-Residential Relationships* (2005, Lawrence Erlbaum).

This cross disciplinary volume summarizes literature on multiple types of long-distance relationships, going beyond romantic relationships to include those that span residences and relational types, such as noncustodial parent-child and geographically separated adult children and parents. Suggestions for application as well as an "expanded vision" of relational maintenance are offered.

Personality in Intimate Relationships

By Luciano L'Abate

In this volume the author presents a new theory of personality within the relational context of the family and other networks of intimate relationships. Departing from established views of personality that foster either an individual conceptualization or a family functioning model, this theory seeks to integrate the two. It acknowledges the roles of caretakers, siblings, relatives, friends and partners as important aspects of development that interface with an individual's personality and contributes to overall development.

Bringing the theory into real life, the author offers verifiable models that can be empirically evaluated through self-report tests and specifically designed enrichment programs, self-help workbooks and therapeutic tasks for the clinical

setting.

ISBN 0-387-22605-2: 2005, 420 pp.

Visit www.springeronline.com to order.

Julia T. Wood and Steve Duck have published *Composing Relationships: Communication in Everyday Life* (Thomson Wadsworth, 2006 copyright date but already published).

The book is a student introduction to relationship concepts and yet departs from standard textbooks by focusing not on dramatic or unusual communication, but on the routine, day-in, day-out interactions that most decisively shape our identities and the quality and durability of our relationships. The book indicates that relationships grow primarily out of so-called small talk between friends and romantic partners, out of rituals in families, and out of commonplace practices in organizations.

The paperback version of *The Handbook of Sexuality in Close Relationships* (by John Harvey, Amy Wenzel, and Sue Sprecher) has been published by Lawrence Erlbaum. The direct link for more information is:

<https://www.erlbaum.com/shop/tek9.asp?pg=products&specific=0-8058-5668-4>

Call for news, gossip, book reviews or recommendations, teaching/research tips, announcements, etc....

Please send or email any such items to Julie Fitness, Psychology Dept., Macquarie University, Sydney 2109; email: jfitness@psy.mq.edu.au in time for the next newsletter (**December, 2005**).

Registration Form

**AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
INTEREST GROUP ON PSYCHOLOGY OF RELATIONSHIPS**

5th Annual Conference, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne. 12-13 November 2005.

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	\$	No.
Full -early member (before 8 August)	\$180.00	_____
Full - late member	\$230.00	_____
Full - early non-member (before 8 August)	\$205.00	_____
Full - late non-member	\$230.00	_____
Full- early student (before 8 August)	\$80.00	_____
Full – student	\$100.00	_____
Day (per day)	\$120.00	_____
Dinner	\$38.00	_____
Dinner - extra non Conference attendee	\$38.00	_____
Total		_____

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2. I authorize you to charge my Bankcard/Visa Card/Mastercharge (circle one)

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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.**

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.