

Australasian Personal Construct Newsletter

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The newsletter of the
Personal Construct Interest Group
and the
Australasian Personal Construct Group

C/o School of Psychology,
University of Wollongong,
Northfields Ave,
Wollongong, NSW 2522

Correspondence to the editor:
Assoc. Prof. Beverly Walker
Phone 0242 213653
Fax 0242 214163
Email bwalker@uow.edu.au

Inside....

Editorial	1
Australasian Conference for October	2
"Studies in Meaning 3"	2
Paper by Brian Gaines	4
Constructivist Workshops by Ecker, Bridges & R. Neimeyer	5



From the editorial couch....

Dear all,
There is some very sad news to report.

Peter Prisgrove, who has been doing the bulk of the work on the newsletter production over the past few years, passed away early this year. Peter's energy, thoughtfulness and common sense will be greatly missed by all. This is especially true for the Western Australian group for whom Peter has been a wonderful member. Some of the members of that group will write an appreciation of Peter for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Pat McGorry on being Australian of the Year. Pat has used PCP methods in his work with adolescents in crisis and presented a paper one year at one of our conferences.

As to other news, the ABC radio program, Life Matters, has compiled a presentation on PCP. They interviewed David Winter and Bill Warren. This is available as a podcast. The PCP program is to be broadcast next Saturday (10th) on ABC Radio National 1:05pm - repeated the following Monday (12th).

You can access it online too for transcripts - audio and other resources

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/allinthemind/stories/2010/2862572.htm>

Australasian Personal Construct Conference, University of Wollongong, October 1-3, 2010

It is proposed to hold our biennial conference at the University of Wollongong in October. Extensive details are not yet available. However it looks like:

Keynote Speaker: Professor Larry Leitner

Larry will hold a one-day workshop on Friday 1st October, with the conference itself starting on the 2nd and finishing after lunch on the 3rd. The workshop will have a clinical orientation. Larry, while working in the clinical department of the Miami University Psychology Dept, Oxford, Ohio, also has maintained a clinical practice. The workshop will be priced separately from the conference itself.

Abstracts within the broad range of PCP, its methodologies and constructivism generally are invited. **Date for submission will be the end of July.**

Further details will be available in the June newsletter which I would hope would be able to come out on time for a change.

Studies In Meaning 3: Constructivist Psychotherapy in the Real World

Jonathan D. Raskin & Sara K. Bridges

Constructivist psychotherapy remains somewhat unfamiliar to many clinicians, despite offering a variety of innovative and practical therapeutic approaches and techniques. In this volume, constructivist psychology is presented as it relates to everyday practice. The chapters provide many examples of what constructivist psychotherapy looks like in the real world, showing how one can make the transition from constructivist theory to constructivist practice with ease.

Constructivist therapy often gets labeled as too theoretical and lacking in clinical specificity. Yet here is a volume with chapters that succinctly and cogently explicate basic theoretical concepts and then demonstrate them with vivid case examples taken from applied experience in the field.

ISBN 0-944473-86-5 2008, 391 pages \$US40.00

Table of Contents

PART I: CONSTRUCTIVIST PSYCHOTHERAPY: AN INTRODUCTION

Constructivist Psychotherapy in the Real World - Sara K. Bridges and Jonathan D. Raskin

Epistemological Commitments Among Seasoned Psychotherapists: Some Practical Implications of Being a Constructivist - Greg J. Neimeyer, Jocelynn Lee, Gizem Aksoy-Toska, and Daniel Phillip

PART II: APPLYING CONSTRUCTIVIST THERAPY IN EVERYDAY PRACTICE

Coherence Therapy: Swift Change at the Roots of Symptom Production - Bruce Ecker and Laurel Hulley

Mind and Self in Context-Centered Psychotherapy - Jay S. Efran and José Soler-Baillo

Embodiment in Experiential Personal Construct Psychotherapy: Theoretical and Technical Concerns - Larry M. Leitner and April J. Faidley

PART III: CONSTRUCTIVIST THERAPY FOR SPECIFIC ISSUES

Meaning and Change with Domestic Abusers - James Horley and Amy Johnson

A Constructivist Approach to Child-Centered Play Therapy - Richard E. Watts and Yvonne Garza

Talking Back to Stuttering: Constructivist Contributions to Stuttering Treatment - Anthony DiLollo and Robert A. Neimeyer

Methods of Reconstruction with Adolescent Substance Abusers: Combining REBT and Constructivism - Robert Adelman

Constructivism Treatment of Divorce - Donald K. Granvold

PART IV: PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN CONSTRUCTIVIST THERAPY

Personal Construct Psychotherapy in a National Health Service Setting:
Does Survival Mean Selling Out - David A. Winter

Counseling Multiracial Clients in Context: A Constructivist Approach -
Ronnie Priest and Nancy Nishimura

When Constructs Collide: Constructivist Research on When and How to
Challenge Clients - Daniel C. Williams and Heidi M. Levitt

PART V: CONSTRUING CONSTRUCTIVIST THERAPY IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Everyday Constructivism - Michael F. Hoyt

Looking for the Context: Therapy as Social Critique - Mark Eliot Paris

MESSAGE FROM BRIAN GAINES.

I have just posted an article on "Visualizing logical aspects of conceptual structures" in HTML and PDF to <http://cpssc.ucalgary.ca/~gaines/reports> (last article at bottom of the "*Knowledge Representation and Acquisition*" section).

It is for a special issue on visual languages for logic rather than targeted on a PCP audience but, since it cites Kelly heavily and much of the material is PCP-based, so it may be of interest to those on this list.

The article analyses construct systems in terms of Euler diagrams, Venn diagrams, semantic networks, grids and conceptual spaces, and shows that the different representations are logically equivalent but provide complementary perspectives on the construct systems.

We have previously reported analyses of Kelly's (1955) model of "networks of constructs" based on his logical relations of ordination and opposition. What is new in this articles is a technique implementing Kelly's remarks that construct poles can also be treated as elements, construed by the construct system of which they are part. This self-construction enables semantic networks to be converted to grids, and back again, without having to introduce specific instances of 'elements.'

When principal component analysis is used to analyze the grid it generates an equivalent multi-dimensional space, illustrating Kelly's exposition of the

"geometry of psychological space," and connecting it to Gärdenfors' recent models of "conceptual space." This transformation is also reversible. One can tessellate the space with a multi-dimensional Euler diagram and recover the original semantic network.

Hopefully, the visual representations of these various transformations make the underlying psychological processes more comprehensible than any amount of text, logic and mathematics!

Comments and suggestions are welcome,
kindest regards, b.

CONSTRUCTIVIST WORKSHOPS FROM CPM TRAINING AND COUNSELING

Bruce Ecker & Sara Bridges

Profound change in psychotherapy: Using coherence therapy to reliably create deep breakthroughs.

Brisbane 20th May
Sydney 22nd May
Perth 24th May
Adelaide 26th May
Melbourne 29th May

Cost \$363

Professional Recognition Australian Assn of Social Workers.

Robert A Neimeyer

Grief, loss and the quest for meaning.

Adelaide 21 July
Melbourne 24 July
Perth 26th July
Brisbane 31 July
Sydney 2 August

Cost:\$297

Professional recognition: APS 6 points, Australian Assn of Social Workers, 2 pts per hour (though brochure says the latter expires in May 1010)..

More details www.cpm-services.org.