



Psychologists for Peace

Peace News - May 2014

Recognising women in the peace movement

The contribution that women make to vibrant and cohesive communities was the subject of much celebration on the occasion of this year's International Women's Day in March. The UN theme, "Inspiring change", is intended to promote advocacy for women's advancement everywhere in every way ([UN IWD website](#)). Despite the thread of liberation and anti-violence against women and the continuing struggle for liberation, in many places women and men attending IWD rallies are beaten and imprisoned and 2014 was no exception: in Turkey riot police arrested protestors claiming the government's policies cause "torment, rape, honor killings and poverty for women" ([News story here](#)).

Women's activism and peace activism are complementary. Women have been the backbone of the peace movement in Australia. Notable historical events include the Women's Peace Army (1915-1919) working to mobilise women who opposed all war regardless of political party membership and the 1983 Women's Peace Camp at Pine Gap with the arrest of 111 "Karen Silkwoods". The association is reinforced by organisations like the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Inspiring individuals include Jo Vallentine (peace and anti-nuclear activist and former WA senator), Donna Mulhearn (who courageously acted as a human shield in the Iraq war and now campaigns against war), and Helen Caldicott (physician and anti nuclear advocate well known internationally for over 30 years of significant contributions to peace).

THANK YOU

to the many thousands of Australian women quietly working towards peace and equality everywhere.

Best wishes,

Psychologists for Peace



Peace concert, Melbourne, August 2013

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1. PFP News

PFP Peace Research awards granted:

The Psychologists for Peace Interest Group Peace Project Award encourages a wider interest in research and practice related to peaceful means of resolving conflict, understanding and preventing aggressive behaviour and the fostering of harmonious relationships at global, inter-group and interpersonal levels.

The award is made annually to assist a student enrolled in an accredited fourth year psychology program or Masters by coursework psychology program in carrying out an empirical project on a peace related topic or disseminating its findings. Find out more here:

http://www.psychology.org.au/about/awards/peace_award/

2013 winner: Alissa Badcock.

Supervisor – Eleanor Wertheim. La Trobe University

“The Role of Rumination in the Relationship Between Mindfulness and Forgiveness: A Trait and State-Level Investigation.”

The present thesis theorised that mindfulness would be associated with forgiveness, and that rumination would play a mediating role in that relationship. Further, it was anticipated that trait rumination would moderate response to a brief mindfulness intervention, in that high trait ruminators would report increased forgiveness. The theorised relationship was investigated experimentally at the state level, by comparing the effect of a brief guided breath-focused mindfulness intervention with that of an active guided-imagery control group. At the trait level, it was assessed whether rumination mediated the relationship between mindfulness and forgiveness. This thesis contributes to the aim of the Award, as it scientifically investigates variables that may be associated with increased forgiveness. Fostering forgiveness for interpersonal transgressions is important because the resulting emotional, cognitive and motivational changes in the forgiver enable peaceful resolution of conflict about such transgressions. Forgiving a transgressor entails reducing revenge motivations, and thus prevents aggressive behaviour arising from a need to obtain retribution for an interpersonal transgression. Forgiveness also fosters the restoration of harmonious interpersonal relationships where re-establishment of a pre-existing relationship after a transgression is appropriate, and not harmful to a forgiver. Overall findings of the entire study, which included three experimental groups, will be disseminated upon completion of the project, by writing to participants detailing outcomes, and by publishing findings in a journal article.

2013 runner up:*

Jo Ramp. Supervisor: Mir Rabiul Islam. Charles Sturt University.

“Predictors and Correlates of Attitudes toward Asylum Seekers in Australia: What are the Roles of National Identity, Patriotism and Perceived Threat?”

Her research helps to understand both implicit and explicit aggressive behaviour towards asylum seekers in Australia. This research tried to identify the most appropriate way to support the Australian community to offer asylum seekers and refugees better psychological atmosphere to settle in, and to promote responsibility at a community level for increasing positive intercultural relationships.

* We had two runners up, but have not yet heard from the second candidate to give permission to reprint the abstract, so this will be forthcoming in future!



Psychologists for Peace have a Kiva lending group. Kiva helps people connect with others in the majority world to allow person to person small loans. These loans help people get small business off the ground, which is a great way to alleviate long term poverty.

PFP members have loaned **\$30,725** to over 1000 small business in the developing world since established.

Join here: http://www.kiva.org/team/psychologists_for_peace

2. Recent Publications & Resources

New Peace Psychology Entry in Wikipedia. Includes some good peace psychology links and references. Written by social psychologist, Chris Cohrs http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_psychology

American Psychologist: Peace Psychology edition October 2013. Includes:



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- *Misinformation, Disinformation, and Violent Conflict: From Iraq and the "War on Terror" to Future Threats to Peace* Lewandowsky, S et al;
- *Contributions of Psychology to War and Peace*, Christie, D.J. & Montiel, C.J.;
- *Bringing Science to Bear — On Peace, Not War: Elaborating on Psychology's Potential to Promote Peace*, Leidner, B. et al;
- *Intergroup Contact as a Tool For Reducing, Resolving, and Preventing Intergroup Conflict: Evidence, Limitations, and Potential* Al Ramiah, A. & Hewstone, M.;
- *Destined to Die but Not to Wage War: How Existential Threat Can Contribute to Escalation or De-Escalation of Violent Intergroup Conflict* Jonas, E. & Fritzsche, I.;
- *Terrorism — A (Self) Love Story: Redirecting the Significance Quest Can End Violence* Kruglanski, A. et al;
- *Building a Peaceful Society: Origins, Prevention, and Reconciliation After Genocide and Other Group Violence* Staub, E.;
- *Contributions of Positive Psychology to Peace: Toward Global Well-Being and Resilience* Cohrs, J. et al;

<https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/special/4016810.aspx>

War or Peace? Psychology's Contribution. Lewandowsky, S. (2013) "Human beings have been fighting each other in organized warfare since time immemorial. The 20th Century has often been characterized as one of the bloodiest ever. Does this mean that war is inevitable? Will human beings continue to slaughter each other on a large scale?"

<http://www.shapingtomorrowworld.org/lewandowskyWorP.html>

Dan Gottlieb interviews some of the authors of the American Psychologists Peace Psychology special edition. "Dan Gottlieb hears from three authors who contributed to the journal: psychologists Ervin Staub and Arie Kruglanski and cognitive scientist Stephen Lewandowsky. They'll share their thoughts on building peaceful communities, de-radicalization, and how truth can be the first casualty of war" - See more at:

<http://why.org/cms/voicesinthefamily/peace-psychology-conversations/>

Attracted to Conflict: Dynamic Foundations of Destructive Social Relations (Peace Psychology Book Series).

Vallacher, R.R., Coleman, P. T., Nowak, A., Bui-Wrzosinska, L., Liebovitch, L., Kugler, K. and Bartoli, A. Springer-Verlag: Berlin, 2013. This book is "centered around the notion of "intractable conflict", referring to conflicts that are more persistent, destructive, and resilient to resolution than others. The authors argue that these conflicts are ruled by their own set of principles, which they try to identify and model. Two research traditions inform their approach: insights from experimental social psychology and the complexity sciences."

Reviewed here: <http://jasss.soc.surrey.ac.uk/17/1/reviews/7.html>

Peace and conflict as group norms. Louis, Winnifred R. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, Vol 20(2), May 2014, 180-186. PFP convener Dr Winnifred Louis writes about her interest in peace psychology and the importance of group norms in determining behaviour through over a decade of her own research in the field. <http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/pac/20/2/180/>

Personal Peacefulness: Expanding the Scope and Application of Peace Psychology. (Peace Psychology Book Series). Nelson, L.L., Puopolo, M.R. and Sims, G.K. Volume 20, 2014, 271-276. This book chapter “discusses the role of personal peacefulness in peace psychology and the relationship of peace psychology to the broad field of psychology. The authors suggest that peace psychology is both an application of psychology and an approach to the discipline of psychology.” http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4614-9366-2_11.

The Enduring Effects of War Education Project. In 2013, with the centenary of World War I just a year away, the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW) Peace Fund and Act for Peace commissioned the History Teachers Association of Victoria to create a comprehensive set of lesson plans for teachers and middle years’ students to enable them to investigate the consequences of war. The MAPW has produced a new flyer outlining briefly the lesson plans available as part of the Enduring Effects of War Education Project. The lesson plans are now available to teachers all over Australia. They were developed to fit with the new Australian History Curriculum. www.mapw.org.au/download/enduring-effects-of-war the link should be <http://www.mapw.org.au/news/enduring-effects-war-new-flyer-available>

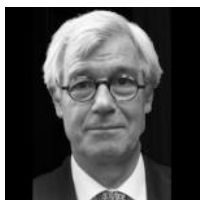


3. Calls for papers & Conferences



23-26 July 2014. ‘Education, War and Peace’, International Standing Conference for the History of Education 36, at the Institute of Education, University of London. <http://www.ische2014.org/>

4. In the news



Julian Burnside AO QC, 2014 Sydney Peace Prize Recipient. Australian barrister, human rights advocate and author, Julian Burnside AO QC, has been selected to receive the 2014 Sydney Peace Prize. The Prize will be awarded at the 2014 City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture to be given by Julian Burnside at Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday 5 November. <http://sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/peace-prize-recipients/2014-julian-burnside-ao-qc/>

The power of women as agents of peace. Rosalee Laws, Ambassador, Parliament of the World’s Religions <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/news/index.php/2014/02/the-power-of-women-as-agents-of-peace/>

Women’s brains may hold key to peace in Israel and Palestine. Cuen, L. (2013). New studies in brain science reveal how women’s leadership can push conflicts, whether personal or political, from violent to diplomatic resolution. http://www.yourmiddleeast.com/features/womens-brains-may-hold-key-to-peace-in-israel-and-palestine_18621

Social Psychologists Say War is Not Inevitable, Psychology Research Should Promote Peace and Nonviolence. “In a new review of how psychology research has illuminated the causes of war and violence, three political psychologists at the University of Massachusetts Amherst say this understanding can and should be used to promote peace and overturn the belief that violent conflict is inevitable.” <http://www.umass.edu/newsoffice/article/umass-amherst-social-psychologists-say-war>

Psychology Association's Torture Link Fails "Do-No-Harm" Ethics. Eidelson, R. & Bond, T. (2013). “After seven years, the American Psychological Association recently decided to close an ethics case against a Guantanamo psychologist

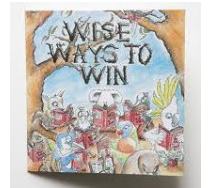
without taking disciplinary action. This is not merely an isolated story about a single individual's reprieve from accountability. Rather, the case of Dr. John Leso illuminates in full measure the APA's disturbing post-9/11 decision to embrace the burgeoning US "war on terror" national security agenda at the expense of our profession's do-no-harm ethical principles." <http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/22286-us-psychologys-misplaced-priorities-expediency-over-ethics>

Doctor's to rally against nuclear waste dump at Muckaty. The Northern Territory (NT) branch of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW) is calling on concerned medical professionals and the public to attend the public rally against the proposed radioactive waste dump at Muckaty, in Tennant Creek, Central Australia, on Sunday 25th May 2014. MAPW NT member, Dr Hilary Tyler said, "This rally is an opportunity for people to voice their strong opposition to the proposed Muckaty radioactive waste dump. MAPW will be at the rally because we believe there is no reason for this proposed dump to be built." Click [here](#) to read the statement in full.

5. PFP Merchandise

Psychologists for Peace have available a range of colourful and helpful posters for peace advocates and educators. They target a range of age groups.

We have the PFP prize winning children's book "Wise Ways to Win" and educational posters themed on issues including bullying, dealing with anger, how to say sorry after hurtful conflict, peaceful families and conflict resolution, all brightly illustrated and easy to understand.



<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/resources/educational/>

6. Events and activities



Petition: President and Members of the Senate in Parliament, Australia: Stop funding the \$4 billion F35 blackhole.

In 2003 Australia committed to buying 100 Lockheed Martin F-35 fighters. Since then the projected buying and maintenance costs have quadrupled- these planes will cost us over 24 billion dollars- and no-one knows when they will be ready. We call on the Australian parliament to pull out of this monstrosity of a project as Italy has and as Canada and the Netherlands are considering doing. <http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/president-and-members-of-the-senate-in-parliament-australia-stop-funding-the-4-bil-f35-blackhole>

7. Contact Us



PFP is an interest group of the Australian Psychological Society. Its members are psychologists, and others, who are concerned about the prevalence of war and conflict in our world and are interested in applying their professional skills to issues relating to promoting peace and preventing war. We are working to promote peace in the world and prevent conflict through psychological research, education and advocacy.

Find out more online <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/>
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