

Annual General Meeting Minutes of the Australian Psychological Society-

Psychology of Relationships Interest Group

November 25th, 2016, 2.45pm AEST

Present: Terence Bowles, Adam Gerace (Convener; Newsletter editor), Daphne Goh (Secretary; Web editor), Zoe Hazelwood (Conference Chair), Jichun Hao, Cecily Jensen-Clayton, Yixin Jiang, Gery Karantzas, Rebecca McNair, Nick Morrey, Atholl Murray, Torrey Orton, Nickola Overall, Rebecca Pinkus.

Apologies: Bengianni Pizzirani, Ross Wilkinson (Treasurer, Scientific Chair).

Confirmation of the Previous AGM minutes (9th Oct 15): Accepted.

Matters arising from the Previous AGM minutes: No issues.

Reports from Office Bearers and Conference Chairs

Convener:

- Thanks to Ross and Zoe, our keynotes, and to the National/Conference Committee and delegates for their roles, presentations and attendance at the conference.
- Total events held this year include one webinar; the 15th APS-PORIG conference, 3 members' newsletters, and several email blasts.
- Challenges with recruitment for webinars, hence consideration to pay presenters for their time (suggested pay rate \$150/hour) out of PORIG budget. Webinar list created but little response to emails.

Action: Adam to confirm pay rate for webinars and provide report to National Committee for decision; others to let Adam know if interested or know of potential webinar presenters.

Newsletter/Web Editor:

- Next newsletter due early 2017 rather instead of end of 2016 given conference late this year and end-of-year break. Getting newsletter content often requires active solicitation of newsletter content and recruitment of members to write for newsletter; other times Convener and National Committee flag potential topics but do not get responses, hence strongly encourage members to contribute or to recommend others for content, and also students for content or for abstracts, articles that members would like to include even if published elsewhere (will include links to original sites etc.).
- Reminder to members to ensure subscription to email blasts as main means of communication with members, especially given APS privacy policies mean we do not have access to member email addresses unless they contact us.
- Intention to upload conference presentations, and to make certificates of attendance and conference evaluation available after the conference.

Secretary:

- 2 teleconferences held this year (9th March and 20th October), with email communication amongst National Committee and APS as required.
- Moving overseas but will continue in capacity until later date. If unable to continue in position, Adam to liaise with APS and find suitable replacement for role of Secretary and potentially Web Editor.

Treasurer (provided via email and read by Convener):

- At end of October, 2016: 217 members (21 of these student members).
- We have not received a funding allocation from APS this year as our balance has been too high. At the end of May (which is the EOFY for APS Groups) our balance was \$12,684.87.
- Income in recent period has been for Conference and 1 webinar.
- Income (as at end October): Conference: \$6950 (gross); webinar \$130.92 (net).
- Expenses (as at end of October): venue, catering, travel, accommodation, dinner \$2273.00 (not included in balance)
- Current balance: \$19493.07 as at end October.
- We won't know outcome of conference expenses for a few months, but we have slightly exceeded expected registrations (n=56). Based on our projected budget, we are on track to cover costs.

2016 Conference Chair:

- Thanks to keynotes, student volunteers, and conference delegates for making the conference a success.
- Will send an email around to PORIG presenters to ask for their conference presentations to upload onto the PORIG website. Presentations accessible to PORIG members only and conference delegates.

Action: Zoe to email presenters for inclusion of presentation slides.

2017 Conference Chair:

- 2017 conference to be held at Deakin University in Melbourne with Gery as Conference Chair. Location TBC in lieu of available space and cost. Approximate between 40-70 delegates and have approximate costs from hosting previous PORIG conferences.
- PORIG conferences serves as thread of continuity with conference held after the APS Annual Conference, looking to put something in for Congress in two years' time.
- Potential for PORIG Conference to travel to either Sydney or Adelaide in 2018.

Action: Gery to determine location or conference, aiming for Thurs, Fri late Nov 2017.

IG Awards (Thesis and Research)

- The winner of the 2016 Thesis Award was Dr Kelly Allen for her thesis *In Pursuit of Belonging: A socio-ecological perspective of school belonging in secondary school settings*.

Her poster is available for perusal in the hall as she unfortunately could not attend the conference.

- The Research Award winner was Associate Professor Gery Karantzas for his sustained contribution to relationship science through his work on formation and maintenance of couple and family relationships, particularly utilising attachment theory.
- Nominations now closed for 2017 awards with award winners to be announced in early 2017 following the election of an awards committee. 2018 awards nominations will open then and that closes in Oct 2017.
- Proposal at 2013 PORIG Conference to rename our thesis award in honour of Professor Barry Fallon still ongoing with APS, documentation has been sent, but not made it through to the board yet. Suggestions that Convener contact APS to advise of name change.
- Previous APS communication with Adam regarding changes to Thesis Award prize currently on hold- current monetary prize of \$300 remains the same vs. proposed change of the monetary prize and PORIG-sponsored 1-year APS membership as agreed to by National Committee.
- Discussed potential for review and change of IG awards criteria to promote greater participation in PORIG (i.e., invitation to present at annual conferences, join PORIG) in addition to rewarding achievements.

Action: Adam to contact APS regarding name change of Thesis Award.

Special Matters and AGM National Committee Elections

- AGM National Committee elections held every two years with several members in acting positions due to paperwork not being lodged by deadlines etc. As such varying re-election timeframes – this year role of Convenor up for election whilst Ross happy to remain in acting role of Treasurer. Other committee members with early 2018 re-election timeframes include Daphne (Secretary) and Atholl and Yixin (National Committee).
- National Committee (2016 – 2018)
 - Convenor: Adam Gerace (Re-elected)
 - Secretary: Yun Lin Goh
 - Treasurer: Ross Wilkinson
 - Committee Members: Atholl Murray; Gery Karantzas; Rebecca Pinkus; Yixin Jiang; (newly elected) Rebecca McNair; Benjianni Pizzirani, and Zoe Hazelwood
- Members are invited to attend teleconference meetings if interested in joining the national committee to see what PORIG involves and can speak to Adam post-AGM.

Members Matters

Group identity:

- Currently at ~220 members from 252 members over last year as reflected in spreadsheet; the diversity of membership has changed from predominantly academic to more clinical practice, i.e., over 100 of 220 are practitioners with 30 mental health support and GP services, 16 in higher education; 47 not indicating workplace setting, and a few members from police and government.
- Therefore need to determine if “business as usual” or to tap into new membership activities, or become the “go-to” forum for relationship research and related news; to sponsor or co-host events with other organizations, i.e., APS, IARR, or even to become involve in writing policy and APS reforms like other IGs.

- Suggestions include a '3-year' plan and vision for PORIG as a group that is more responsive to external environment and has capacity to remain relevant and adapt accordingly, and/or interested in commenting or advising on government and APS policy; and to elicit member feedback and perspective of worthwhile ventures and activities moving forward through newsletter/member survey.

Action: Adam to work with National Committee and other interested members on 3-year plan and related activities for presentation to PORIG members.

Increase PORIG participation and utility:

- Need for more student and practitioner members on National Committee as reflective of changing member demographics, committee membership largely academic with difficulties in recruiting new members.
- Increase practitioner participation and collaboration between practitioners and academics by providing networking opportunities, peer supervision, case presentations, public lectures, discussion forums, meet-up groups with relationship research and practice as focus. Can provide sponsorship through POIRG.
- Enhancing PORIG through media presence and creation of membership list that public can access for media/radio contact in accordance with practitioners' specialities. Need for PORIG to be more proactive in approaching organisations for relationship expertise and/or to ask APS how PORIG can facilitate the dissemination of relationship research.
- Alternatively, PORIG to host events get public talking about relationship research and current events, i.e., same-sex plebiscite or getting people to run workshops. To consider hosting community events or utilizing virtual space (i.e., Twitter) to provide coverage and research on topical issues re: relationships, and generating progressive movement and change.
- If PORIG wants to advise or assist in implementing policy changes, would approach Aaron Frost.

Action: Bec McNair to run a practitioner meeting in Melbourne; Zoe to explore talking to board members of how PORIG can assist or host events.

Meeting Close 3.45pm AEST.