

**Annual General Meeting Minutes of the Australian Psychological Society-
Psychology of Relationships Interest Group
November 15th 2018, 3.30pm AEST**

Present: Terence Bowles, Sue Chesterman, Sarah Day, Elizabeth Ferguson, Zoe Hazelwood, Daloung Mauryssa Inthasan, Gery Karantzas, Laura Knox, Ellie Mullins, Samuel Torrey Orton, Bengianni Pizzirani, Ross Wilkinson (Treasurer).

Apologies: Adam Gerace (Convenor), Daphne Goh (Secretary).

Confirmation of the Previous AGM minutes (18th Nov 2017): Not able to confirm as previous AGM minutes not present on hand.

Matters arising from the Previous AGM minutes: Cannot confirm at present.

Reports from Office Bearers and Conference Chairs

Convenor:

- Adam reports that he is stepping down from the Convenor role after two terms, and thanks the National Committee with particular thanks to Gery for hosting another successful PORIG conference and for all his hard work. Adam reports that he will continue as a committee member.
- Adam was recently asked to join APS advisory council as a representative of the Interest Groups (Ross won't go into the details at the AGM).
- Given APS re-structuring, PORIG is now positioned within one of the research-focused IG clusters as the best fit for current combinations done by the APS.
- Raises point of the IG – that IGs generally are not consulted on their areas of speciality, hence need to advocate more to the APS as a result.

Secretary:

- Nothing to report as not present.

Treasurer:

- Balance of finances as of 31st May 2018 approximated \$17,600 in budget. Did not receive funding allocation from APS as balance is too high.
- For this year, latest balance including income from events this year and taking out most expenses approximated \$26,000. Conference made about \$1,000 in profit.
- Income of \$2,300 from a workshop conducted by the APS Buddhism Interest Group that was misgiven to PORIG has since been rectified.
- Challenges re: expenditure of balance concern the APS wanting IGs to be self-sufficient, and therefore to charge more for conferences despite the reasonable fees that PORIG sets for conferences that allow PORIG to make slight profit or break even. PORIG's overall balance is also accumulating over the years.

- Hence an important consideration for the incoming committee – how to provide value for PORIG members given the current balance that we have. That is, how to spend money in manners that increase value for PORIG members.
- Strategies include (1) scholarships to research students to present at the conference (local or overseas students); (2) bringing in international keynotes (but need to ensure that the money is spent wisely); (3) free conference entry to people who have contributed one way or another to the PORIG conferences. Similarly, APS would charge a fee for putting even free webinars through their system.

2018 Conference Chair:

- Gery reported that conference numbered 50-70 delegates, approximated 25% of Interest Group members. Overall great turnout and quality of presentations despite quick turnover of two months only.
- Successful conference with approximate profit of \$1,000 given conference expenditure total between \$11,000 and \$12,000. Revenue for what was charged is good, with \$13,000 made.
- Conference venue generally okay despite some challenges regarding mismanagement around the event and morning tea breaks etc. Could not hold conference at Deakin Downtown due to double-booking of dates desired.
- Gery would like to especially thank his team for taking on the many tasks, and reported it fun to host the conference again this year.

2018 Conference Matters

Date and Venue:

- Choices of either Brisbane or Melbourne for 2019 PORIG Conference. Previously held at Brisbane 3 times, reasonably successful with similar number of delegates attending.
- Suggestion to use money to pay for a conference organiser (does not have to be APS only) rather than the conference chair managing all aspects of the organisation by themselves. Alternative suggestion by Terry would be to hire students or others known to the organisers who have the prerequisite skills to manage the event themselves, which is seconded by Zoe.
- Zoe reported previous experiences using conference organisers and finding this less cost-efficient and less reasonable because of the flat fee and fee per delegate, especially if delegate numbers are small. Conference organisation experience would also be great for a RA-type of person, or graduate assistant.
- Currently no strong views re: dates or venue for the 2019 conference, to be decided sooner than later by the new committee.

Action: New committee to discuss further regarding venue and dates of 2019 PORIG conference, and to discuss best way to allocate money moving forward.

IG Awards (Thesis and Research)

- No nominations for 2018 for either Thesis or Research Awards.
- To consider nominating individuals (including self-nomination) for 2019 by 31st Oct 2019.

AGM National Committee Elections

- Nominations made for key members of the PORIG committee, namely the role of Convenor, Secretary, and Treasurer. As only one nomination per role, no need for elections.
- Nominations (and confirmations) are:
 - Convenor: Bengianni Pizzirani
 - Secretary: Ellie Mullins
 - Treasurer: Renee O'Donnell
 - Official committee members: Terence Bowles, Adam Gerace, Zoe Hazelwood, and Ross Wilkinson
 - Other members include: Gery Karantzas, Rebecca McNair, and Rebecca Pinkus.
- Current membership of 227 members (with 24 student members).

Members Matters

Journal of Relationship Research:

- Terry reported that the journal is going really well with publications, wherein exceed publications or equivalent by about 10% every year. Also international interest in the journal is growing.
- Terry has requested to Cambridge Core to include in citation index but is on-going at this point.
- Regarding local authorships, Adam Gerace's paper is most cited with several others' benchmarking as well. Always welcome to submit for publication with an inclusive range of topics provided they are relationship-associated.
- Double-blind (or even triple-blind) review process, with good readership. Only one known case of plagiarism.
- Alternatively can contribute by joining the Editorial Board or participating as a peer reviewer (i.e., edit one or two papers per year) for one year. Both lists are available online.

Meeting Close 4.00pm AEST.