

Peace News November 2008

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1. From the National Convenor

Dear PFP Members,

It's an exciting time to be writing to you, one week after the news that Barack Obama is the new President-Elect of the United States. There is a tremendous sense of renewed hope and optimism around the world with this historic event, and we look forward to seeing some significant changes in how America deals with human rights, peace and conflict, and environmental issues, amongst other challenges!

Enjoy this newsletter.

Yours in peace,
Susie Burke

2. News from around the country from our AGM

New **QLD** convenor Winnifred Louis and Michelle Steffens developed a "peace podcast" file which they uploaded to the APS web site in time for the international day of peace, on 21st September. The podcast provides a terrific overview of peace psychology, and is available

online at

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

The Victorian **Enhancing Relationships in Schools project** is progressing well, with 10 primary schools from diverse populations actively engaged in the project. Five staff from each school attend four professional learning days, and all of the staff from all the schools attend an additional professional learning day. This phase of the ERIS project is an ARC Linkage project. We have partnered with the Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood. Their area of expertise is around cultural diversity and opposing racism. It is really enriching the work we do around conflict resolution and it is great to be working with schools as they begin to address these challenging areas.

Peace Project Award. Next year it is proposed that the timing of the award be changed to later in the year. This way, students can submit a summary of their findings, rather than just their proposal, and be judged on their completed research. Award winners can also more easily consider presenting their research at the APS conference later in the year, rather than having to wait for over a year as is the current practice. According to this new proposed timeline, students could apply for the award in December, after they've submitted their thesis. The applications are evaluated in January, and awarded late Jan/early Feb. Then, the winning student is ready to submit his/her research to be considered for the APS conference, perhaps as a part of a pfp peace symposium, later in February when conference submissions are due.

The WA group are beginning to work on their 2009 Peace Art Prize, and seek venues for their art exhibition.

Activities have been relatively quiet for the **SA** group, especially after the busyness of the biennial Children's Peace Lit Award last year. The **Tas** group of 12 members are also having a quiet year, while maintaining their links with local MAPW.

Psychologists for Peace were saddened to hear of the untimely death of former ACT convenor, Tania Lioulious earlier in 2008.

Government's attention to important social issues. It was acknowledged that the Rudd Government has made several important achievements in some of the social issues that PFP are interested in. The suggestion was made that PFP could write a letter of acknowledgment of this effort.

Susie and Tony met after the AGM to discuss ways in which the PFP website could host information about psychologists' work with **people in detention**. The APS Public Interest website has now been updated with more information on the 2007 APS Declaration on Torture

http://www.psychology.org.au/community/public_interest/#s9.

For more detailed information providing a context to the APS resolution, and a summary of the controversies elsewhere in the world surrounding torture and treatment of detainees, go to:

www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/resources/torture/.

Interest in New PFP Group in Illawarra

Barbara Giorgio, a psychologist who attended the meeting, expressed an interest in convening a branch of PFP in her area in NSW. If you're interested in being part of this, then please email Barbara on nirvan.psych@bigpond.com

3. Peace Psychology for a Peaceful World – Journal Article

Member Ann Sanson has drawn our attention to this excellent article in the Sept 2008 edition of the journal, *American Psychologist*.

Peace Psychology for a Peaceful World by Daniel J. Christie, Barbara S. Tint, Richard V. Wagner, Deborah DuNann Winter.

Abstract: Although the literature in peace psychology has been growing rapidly, many American psychologists are unaware of how conflict is resolved and peace is conceptualized and achieved. This article reviews the long history and broadening scope of peace psychology and introduces a model of peace that is useful for organizing the literature. The model suggests that peace can be facilitated at four different points of intervention. The authors discuss relationships between positive and negative peace, structural and direct violence, and peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding. They advance some challenges for peace psychologists and conclude that peace psychology is a crucial field for grappling with humanity's most pressing problems in the coming decades.

The article can be downloaded in full (for a small fee, which may well be covered by your institution/library if relevant) from

<http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/amp/63/6/540/>

4. Philip Zimbardo on the Psychology of Evil

The APS hosted a presentation by Dr Philip Zimbardo in early September. Dr Zimbardo, an Emeritus Professor from Stanford University, is an internationally recognised scholar, educator, researcher and media personality who is perhaps best known for his classic 1970s research, The Stanford Prison Experiment, where College students playing the role of prison guards in a simulated prison quickly became brutal towards inmates.

Professor Zimbardo's presentation was titled 'The Lucifer effect and the psychology of evil'. In this presentation, he described the Stanford Prison Experiment, and drew parallels with recent events such as the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuses in Iraq. Professor Zimbardo explains the psychology of how ordinary people can commit evil acts, not through some character flaw in their personality, but because of the particular context in which they live and work. This context might be the environment or situation that they are in, or the system that they are working under.

See part of this presentation at

http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/philip_zimbardo_on_the_psychology_of_evil.html

5. Pat Dodson wins 2008 Sydney Peace Prize

Mr Patrick Dodson has been awarded the 2008 Sydney Peace Prize for his 'courageous advocacy of the human rights of Indigenous people, for distinguished leadership of the reconciliation movement and for a lifetime of commitment to peace with justice, through dialogue and many other expressions on non violence'.

Commenting on news of this year's choice of the Sydney Peace Prize, the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, Phil Glendenning, says "This is a wonderful choice. Patrick is a great communicator, a significant leader, the nearest Australia has to a Nelson Mandela."

<http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/prize.shtml>

6. News from International Campaign To Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

Assoc Prof Tilman Ruff has been appointed NGO advisor to Gareth Evans as Co-chair of the International Commission for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. This appointment affirms the influence and respect that ICAN has gained, and is the first step in involving NGO voices in the Commission's work. Two further international NGO advisors are expected to be announced soon.

Model Nuclear Weapons Convention championed by UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon who outlined his five key steps to disarmament this week. The first was

"I urge all NPT parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon-states, to fulfil their obligation under the treaty to undertake negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament. They could pursue this goal by agreement on a framework of separate, mutually reinforcing instruments. Or they could consider negotiating a nuclear-weapons convention, backed by a strong system of verification, as has long been proposed [at the UN]... I have circulated to all UN member states a draft of such a convention, which offers a good point of departure."

This draft convention he refers to is *Securing our Survival* produced by ICAN in collaboration with disarmament experts and NGO's throughout the world.

<http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/10/24_ban_un_nuclear.php>.

Voting in the First Committee has commenced, with Australia following similar voting patterns as per last year. This is of concern.

- Australia is one of only 9 countries who do not support a resolution asking Israel to cede to the NPT (<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com08/res/L2.pdf>)
- Australia is in a minority of states not supporting resolutions for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com08/res/L>

19.pdf) and a Convention to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons (<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com08/res/L15.pdf>).

- Australia this year *joined* the building consensus to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons (with 133 other countries). (<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com08/res/L5.pdf>)
- For full listings of resolutions and voting: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com08/resolutions.html>

7. 2008 Peace Psychology Early Career Award - Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence (Division 48) - American Psychological Association

Purpose and Eligibility

The Early Career Award recognizes scholars in peace psychology who have made substantial contributions to the mission of the society, which is “the development of sustainable societies through the prevention of destructive conflict and violence, the amelioration of its consequences, the empowerment of individuals, and the building of cultures of peace and global community.” Nominees should have made their contributions within six years of receiving a graduate degree and need not be members of Division 48.

Award

The recipient will receive \$500 and recognition at the awards banquet at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association. Recipients are also invited to give an address at the convention.

Criteria for Selection

Scholarship (quantity and quality of publications) and activism (breadth and impact of teaching, training, fieldwork, policy work, etc.) are primary considerations. Generally, the scholar/activist model is most desirable but in exceptional cases, the recipient may emphasize scholarship or activism.

How to Apply

Self-nominations are welcome. In addition, senior scholars are encouraged to identify nominees who meet the criteria for the award. The nominee should arrange to have the following submitted electronically:

1. A cover letter outlining relevant accomplishments to date;
2. Selected copies of most significant and relevant publications or other evidence of scholarship;

3. A current curriculum vitae;
4. Two letters of support.

Members of the Early Career Award Review Committee are Dan Christie, Kathleen Kostelny, Susan Opotow, and Sylvia Susnjic.

All files should be sent Dan Christie, Chair of the Peace Psychology Early Career Award Committee, at <christie.1@osu.edu>.

Deadline

Applications must be received by **15 December 2008**.

8. Peace Education Introduced as Compulsory Subject in Kenyan Schools

Peace Education has been introduced as a compulsory subject in both primary and secondary schools in Kenya. The Ministry of Basic Education says the subject is a response to post-election violence witnessed early this year. Learners will go through a set of peace manuals prepared by the United Nations Children's Fund and curriculum developers at the Kenya Institute of Education.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/476122/-/tkwi6l/-/>

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/476096/-/tkwhkg/-/>

From the Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE)

9. UNESCO Prize for Peace Education 2008 awarded to the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (South Africa)

On 18 September 2008, the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, awarded the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education 2008 to the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation from South Africa. This Institute was established in 2000 to foster reconciliation in post Apartheid South Africa and to advocate peace through rigorous socio-political analysis.

Read more at:

<http://www.maximsnews.com/news20080921unescoaward10809211601.htm>

From the Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE)

10. International Network for Peace (INP) website

The INP was born out of a conference convened by September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows in Sept. 2006. It is a network of organisations of people who have all been victims of terrorism of one sort or another and who have chosen to work for nonviolent solutions to conflicts within their own countries and across national boundaries.

<http://www.internationalnetworkforpeace.org>

From the Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE)

11. Online Encyclopedia of Peace Education

The online Encyclopedia of Peace Education provides a comprehensive overview of scholarly developments in the field to date as well as new insights from across the globe from various actors involved in advancing peace education. This online resource serves as a living reference guide that traces the history and emergence of the field, highlights foundational concepts, contextualises peace education practice across international and disciplinary borders, and suggests new directions for peace educators. From core conceptual perspectives to the moral and spiritual foundations of the field to the role of the United Nations, the Encyclopedia grounds peace education in a solid theoretical and practical framework through the writings of some of the field's most renowned scholars and its emerging voices.

Access this Teachers' College, Columbia University, Encyclopedia at

<http://www.tc.edu/centers/epe/>

12. Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict now available online

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/referenceworks/9780123739858?utm_source=ECUJustpeace

13. Book Reviews

Yearning to Breathe Free - Seeking Asylum in Australia
Edited by Dean Lusher & Nick Haslam
Reviewed by Dr Bob Rich (<http://mudsmith.net/>)

The Federation Press, Sydney, 2007
ISBN 978 186287 656 9

I would expect a book with this title, compiled and produced by an organisation called Researchers for Asylum Seekers, to be passionate and biased. The passion is there, but the bias is not. The 26 essays by 37 contributors form a document that is fair, even-handed and informative.

I am a refugee myself, although from a time when Australia actively sought migrants. I've been involved in working for asylum seekers for years. All the same, I learned many interesting facts from reading Yearning to Breathe Free. As just one example, today's response to asylum seekers is the child of the Labor Party, not of the Liberals. John Howard merely used a tool developed for him by Bob Hawke. When the boat people started to arrive from Vietnam, Labor was scared they would all turn out to be staunch right wingers; future Liberal voters. Misleading terms like 'queue jumpers' and mandatory detention were the result. In recent years, Howard simply used the same strategies, and the same turns of phrase, to oppress and vilify a different group of people desperate to escape oppression and violence.

I was impressed by the list of contributors. Some names were new to me, but most Australians will know Malcolm Fraser, Carmen Lawrence, Lindsay Tanner and Lyn Allison; Phillip Adams, Sir Gustav Nossal and Arnold Zable. Anyone involved with human rights issues will have been inspired by Julian Burnside, QC, another contributor.

Any collection of contributions from a wide range of authors can be expected to vary in both style and quality. All I can say is that someone has performed a wonderful bit of editing, because the writing is uniformly of very high quality, clear and understandable. Style varies from dry academic to poetry in prose, but all of it is informative and inspiring.

The level of difficulty of this book is such that any senior high school student should be able to understand it. And I have no doubt that all high school students, and their parents, should be set Yearning to Breathe Free as compulsory reading.

The Rugmaker of Mazar-E-Sharif
by Najaf Mazari and Robert Hillman
Reviewed by Dr Bob Rich (<http://mudsmith.net/>)

Insight Publications
ISBN 978-1-921088-55-1

This book will make you laugh, time and again -- and yet it is about the horrors of war, living in Australia's concentration camp for asylum seekers at Woomera, the dangerous trip in a leaky tub from Indonesia. It gives a vivid account of the incredible culture differences migrants, and particularly refugees, experience, and gives an inside view of life in what is an exotic culture to us.

As I read the book, Najaf became my friend. He came through as a humble, thoroughly decent person. Reading his story will provide a cure for anyone who holds a prejudice against Muslims. As he says, put 2 Muslims into a room together, and you have 10 views on anything.

Robert Hillman has done a magnificent job, by being invisible. Najaf is obviously intelligent and capable, but only had a few years of schooling, in his native language. Despite English classes in Australia, I am sure his own writing would be less than readable. And yet, the book feels like he was talking to me. This is the best possible outcome for a scribe.

In its own way, this story is as uplifting and inspiring as Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*, or Anne Frank's diary. It shows the human spirit at its best, without ever preaching. It recounts torture from the Taliban, terrible grief from the loss of loved relatives to war, the degradation the Australian asylum-seeker system imposes on people, and yet it is never depressing, and as I said at the start, is full of gentle humour.

I think it is destined to be one of those classics that will stay in print for many years. You've got to read it.