

# Winter 2012

## APS Women & Psychology Newsletter Vol 24 Issue 1



Trying to learn with the  
*Drummers of Illawarra OWN (Older Women's Network)*  
APS Women & Psychology Conference  
*Valuing women and children in diverse life contexts*  
Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort  
2-4 December 2011 ☺

Women & Psychology  
Interest Group  
Australian Psychological Society  
Winter 2012

# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012

## CONTENTS

Potluck Dinner.....	3
Annual Conferences.....	4
Conference review.....	5
Award Winners.....	6
Guidelines update.....	7
Race & Gender article.....	7
Forum paper .....	8
Women in politics.....	9
Breastfeeding .....	10
Sexual violence prevent .....	11
Film Review .....	12

***Welcome to first edition this year  
of the APS Women & Psychology  
Interest Group Newsletter.***

### **STOP PRESS – from the convenor:**

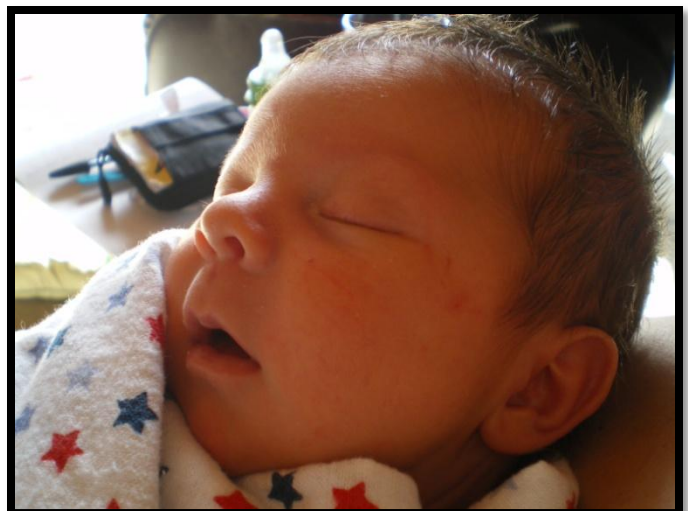
We welcomed *Augustine Estanislado Wicklein* into the world at 9.20am on 20th of July.

Mom and baby are doing well and resting. Dad is busy caring for them both and Axel, who is overjoyed to have a baby brother.

Augie was 4.12 kg and 50 cm long!

*Lots of joy on this end,  
Augustine, Axel, RaeLynn, & Peter*

***Baby Augie looking relaxed:***



# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012



## Annual Women & Psychology Conference

**Long Bay, Auckland, New Zealand**

**14-16 December 2012**

**Treat yourself to a long-weekend – Friday to Sunday**

**At Vaughan Park Retreat Centre on the beach**

just north of Auckland

**Look on venue website for more details:**

<http://vaughanpark.org.nz/>

**Join with our sisters across the ditch**

**Keynote speakers – not yet confirmed**

*Information on registration coming soon*

**Reminder:**

**APS Annual Conference**

**Psychology addressing the challenges of the modern age**

**27-30 September - Perth WA**

Register NOW to attend on APS website

**\*WA members** and others attending the conference – contact Heather  
– 0419 113 731 - if you'd like a women and psychology **breakfast** on Fri or Sat ☺

# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012



## CONFERENCE 2011 REVIEW

APS Women and Psychology Interest Group Conference 2011  
Valuing women and children in their diverse life contexts  
2 – 4 December, 2011, Wollongong NSW

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Dr Cordelia Fine** is an academic psychologist and writer. Described as “a brilliant feminist critic of the neurosciences”, the *Guardian* suggested that her recent book, *Delusions of gender: The real science behind sex differences*, “could have far-reaching consequences as significant as *The Female Eunuch*.”

**Dr. Katie Thomas.** Author of *Human life matters: The ecology of sustainable human living vs. the rule of the barbarians* (2010).

*PLUS a wide range of papers and discussions on women and violence, bullying, sexuality, trust, cultural identity, distress and much more.*

*Entertainment by Older Women Network - singing and drumming (front cover).*

*RaeLynn before  
the new baby!*



# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012

## AWARD WINNERS



*Catherine pictured in photos from Mothers Living Well project in Bayswater*

*Tamara May (centre) receiving the plaque for the award from Carmen O'Brien & Heather Gridley at the 2011 Conference*



## The Elaine Dignan Award for 2011 was awarded jointly to:

**Catherine D'Arcy** for the Mothers Living Well project The goal of the Mothers Living Well (MLW) Project was to enhance the physical and mental health of mothers and their families in Bayswater by increasing social inclusion, community connection and rates of active transport. The aims were to: increase the uptake of active transport (walking and cycling) by mothers and their children to promote physical health; and increase opportunities for the social connection of mothers and their children to promote mental wellbeing. The selection panel commented that: *This is a wonderful example of the valuable work that can be done in the area of community psychology. It is clear that this project has tapped into the interests and psyche of many women and that it has been developed with skill and enthusiasm.*

**Tamara May, with Prof Nicole Reinhart and Prof Kim Cornish**, for their research on autism in girls with the study prompting a symposium on girls with neuro-developmental disorders at the APS conference in Canberra last year. The panel commented that: *This research tackles the sadly neglected area of the impact of autism on girls. The condition has such pervasive effects on the girls and their families that a greater understanding of the special needs of girls with ASD can add importantly to treatment options and the understanding of support needs.*

# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012

## APS Ethical Guidelines Updated

### Women & violence issues

The APS Board has recently approved revised version of the *Guidelines for psychological practice with women and girls*. [View Ethical Guidelines - practice with women:](http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/EG-Women.pdf)

Women & Psychology's Sally Northfield drafted the initial revisions to the 2003 Guidelines. Heather Gridley is on the APS Ethical Guidelines committee which oversaw the extensive consultation and re-drafting. Raelynn Wicklein collated and submitted feedback from members, which resulted in the inclusion of final draft changes, such as:

4.1 – caused to women and girls ... **physical and sexual violence and psychological/emotional abuse ...**

4.3 – Psychologists **do not attribute blame** to victims of sexual harassment, sexual or physical abuse, and other forms of violence.

### Race, Class & Gender – whose evidence? by Michelle Fine

An excellent article  
by Michelle Fine  
in a recent edition of  
*Feminism & Psychology*



Fine, M. (2012). Troubling calls for evidence: A critical race, class and gender analysis of whose evidence counts. *Feminism & Psychology, 22*, 3-19.

#### Abstract

Writing in the spirit of feminist psychologists who have historically refused to narrow the gaze of our craft, I want to cast a critical eye on popular calls for 'evidence-based practice' and more specifically research epistemologies funded to produce such evidence. Surrounded by sprawling debris reflecting the gendered, raced, classed and sexualized collateral damage of economic and political crisis, I find it most peculiar that psychologists have eagerly answered calls for 'evidence' – without a pause for asking: Why now? Whose evidence counts? What kinds of evidence are being privileged? What are we not seeing? As psychologists seek to produce 'evidence' of program effectiveness in contexts of huge inequality gaps in which state supports are being cut, funding streams, publication mandates, Impact Factors and high tier journals actively encourage researchers to narrow our focus on a discrete set of standardized indicators, drawn from random assignment of 'subjects' to 'conditions,' thereby whitening out the non-random cumulative landscape of injustice, resilience and resistance.

Michelle Fine, Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, [mfine@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mfine@gc.cuny.edu)

See: <http://fap.sagepub.com/content/22/1/3.abstract>

# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012

Victorian members celebrate together

## POTLUCK Dinner

Trang is opening her home again

6.30pm Friday 17 August

*Before **Trang** goes on **her***

### *APS Study Tour*

*discovering the rich history of Turkey*



*and relaxing in ancient Greece*



To join the Victorian Women & Psychology Potluck list for notification of details – email [raelynn.wicklein@gmail.com](mailto:raelynn.wicklein@gmail.com)

# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012

## 'The Shark Cage': A framework for understanding and working with re-victimisation

by Ursula Benstead

**NOTE: Plans in the pipeline for Ursula to run a WORKSHOP next year in Victoria and maybe elsewhere!**



The 'Shark Cage' metaphor offers a conceptual and practical tool for understanding and reducing re-victimisation in abused women within a counselling context. The Shark Cage is congruent with theoretical feminist and human rights frameworks, whilst offering accessible, concrete and hopeful strategies for change in women's lives. It reworks the often difficult-to-grasp idea of boundaries, and learning to recognise boundary violations, into concepts women can visualize and relate to. Women struggling to understand why abuse is so prevalent in their lives, and the counsellors struggling to help them, will find the Shark Cage a useful tool. Article excerpts\*\*:

*"People aren't born with Shark Cages. It is up to the people around us when we are young to help us build a Shark Cage. Our caregivers and everyone we come in contact with in childhood contribute to the type of Shark Cage we build . . . Once the bars are in place, sharks bang up against them and find it harder to get close enough to take a bite and hurt us . . .*

*Knowing how to respond to an attempted Shark Cage breach - This part of the process is basically assertiveness training. They still don't believe in their rights enough to defend them. I talk to women about 'faking it till you make it' . . .*

*Recognising sharks: evaluating current and potential new partners - Often women are in a relationship when they are wanting to do Shark Cage work. In many cases the work will bring the woman face-to-face with the uncomfortable fact that her current partner is a shark. As women speak up more, friction increases in the relationship and abusive behaviours may escalate . . . Once women have left an abusive relationship and have started major works on their Shark Cage, they will begin to think of possible future relationships . . .*

\*\* Full article at: <http://www.psychotherapy.com.au/SharkCage.pdf>

URSULA BENSTEAD, a psychologist with 15 years experience in the trauma field, works part-time with the Western Region Centre Against Sexual Assault and part-time in private practice as a counsellor, trainer and clinical supervisor. Comments, suggestions, creative variations or extensions on The Shark Cage are welcomed. Contact: [ursula@ursulabenstead.com.au](mailto:ursula@ursulabenstead.com.au) -[www.ursulabenstead.com.au](http://www.ursulabenstead.com.au) mobile:0408 861 260



# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012

Eva Cox comments politically and provocatively on -

**More women in cabinet, but social issues slip agenda**



... We saw having more women in top positions as good for individuals but as socially valuable only if their rise into positions of power was a means of making society fair in its distribution of power and resources. There is little public benefit in just having more women in power if their actions fail to ensure our social connections are seen as at least as important as our individual economic status. Women cannot do it on their own and five out of 22 cabinet ministers is still under 25%! ...

... My feminist push at present is to put the goal of making society fairer and more civil, and to change the emphasis on economic growth as the only good. Mending the social fabric is the task of good governments if we want to retain the trust and goodwill of the bulk of our citizenry. Expecting this of the few women in cabinet is too hard but please can they make a start? ...

*See more at:*

[www.crikey.com.au/2011/12/13/cox-more-women-in-cabinet-but-social-issues-slip-agenda/](http://www.crikey.com.au/2011/12/13/cox-more-women-in-cabinet-but-social-issues-slip-agenda/)

# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012

## Industrialising Breast Milk: digital wet-nurses, corporate 'pumping rooms' and pornography

by Assoc Prof Julie Stephens

Breast milk is increasingly becoming delinked from its historical associations with maternal care. While cultural meanings of breast milk (and the breast) have always been contradictory, there is a new impetus to define human milk as a commodity and breast feeding as a form of surplus production. What are some of the feminist debates about the commercial on-line sale of breast milk or corporate lactation policies around breast pumping? How has breast milk been sold as another fluid for use in internet pornography? This paper will discuss some of the implications of these cultural configurations around breast milk, by using a feminist ethic of care framework and the work of Arlie Hochschild on the ever more permeable wall between market and non-market life.

**Bio:** Associate Professor Julie Stephens teaches sociology and politics at Victoria University and is the author of *Confronting Postmaternal Thinking: Feminism, Memory and Care* (Columbia University Press: 2011)

See short article on this by Julie Stephens in *Overland Journal* Summer 2010 on internet at - <http://overland.org.au/previous-issues/issue-201/feature-julie-stephens/>



# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012

## Preventing Sexual Violence

**Prof Bob Pease** spoke recently at a Violence and *Discrimination Against Women Research Network* colloquium, based on his work on: ***Engaging men in men's violence prevention.***



Bob Pease raises some questions and to encourage debate about the impact on gender equality of increasing men's involvement in campaigns to end men's violence against women. He considers the potential costs and benefits of working with men in projects to end men's violence, with particular attention to the limitations of strength-based and male-positive approaches to engaging men and the need to formulate principles to lessen the dangers of men's involvement. His principles for men's involvement in men's violence prevention include:

- Ensure that men's violence prevention is linked to the promotion of gender equality
- Ensure that a feminist analysis remains as the central underpinning of violence prevention
- Refocus primary prevention of men's violence to system interventions
- Reprioritise work with men away from perpetrator programs to working with non-violent men whose silence perpetuates men's violence.
- Increase men's involvement in family work
- Make links to social justice movements
- Locate men in their specific contexts
- Interrogate masculinity
- Ensure that men's violence prevention work is accountable to women
- Evaluate men's involvement in violence prevention projects against these criteria

See more at: [www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/Issues%20Paper\\_17.pdf](http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/Issues%20Paper_17.pdf)

## Michael Flood offers an interesting critique of Bob's article.

Michael Flood tries to offer, briefly, a way to work with men's interests and benefits, suggesting:

- Acknowledge *costs and benefits* of both involvement in violence prevention work and of a world free of violence against women.
- Appeal to, and intensify, men's reconstructed or anti-patriarchal interests.
- Investigate and intensify men's anti-patriarchal attitudes, behaviours, identities, and relations.
- Explore why some men do *not* use or support violence.
- Develop critical pedagogies and use innovative and engaging techniques to foster men's support for and commitment to gender equality.
- Be prepared for, and respond to, men's resistance.
- Provide small steps for well-meaning men to become involved and take action.
- Get men to take specific actions.
- Engage well-meaning men. who sit in a middle ground between violent and profeminist men (Crooks *et al.* 2007: 224).
- Provide positive reinforcement for engagement in violence prevention.
- Force men to change, by changing social contexts and structures.
- Mobilising men's reconstructed sense of self-interest is the only basis for change

See more at:

<http://www.xyonline.net/sites/default/files/Flood,%20Response%20to%20Pease%20Nov%202008%20PUB.pdf>

# APS Women & Psychology

Newsletter - Vol 24 Issue 1 - Winter 2012



## MISS REPRESENTATION

– FILM REVIEW

*Miss Representation*, a documentary made in USA, has been recommended as being a powerful and relevant film for psychologists.

The film has been a featured documentary film selection on Oprah Winfrey's Network (OWN). The theme is how the media undercuts women's power across a wide range of areas, notably women in politics and in the media but also in girls. It combines staggering statistics and personal stories, including that of the film maker. Much of it is known to psychologists, but it's consolidated and examples given – from extraordinarily articulate girls talking about pressures on them to the most accomplished women in our society, attesting to examples of their own sexist treatment – will stay with you long after the film ends. There's a quick but excellent statement of the substantive contributions made from women's perspective on key policy issues, such as the new focus on women as key to community-based international development.

For an extended critical review and trailer see:

<http://www.feminisms.org/3922/miss-representation-a-critical-review/>

Newsletter prepared by APS Women & Psychology Interest Group by Dr Julie Morsillo and Heather Gridley For any typos or mis-information to be corrected let Julie know at: [j.morsillo@psychology.org.au](mailto:j.morsillo@psychology.org.au).