

GLIP News

Gay and Lesbian Issues and Psychology An Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society

Editor's Note

Welcome to the last edition of GLIP News for 2003. And what an incredibly busy year GLIP has had. Our Convener Gordon Walker's report on page 2 wraps up the year that saw the National Committee expand with the addition of four new committee members, and GLIP's terms of reference, the Tip Sheet and the criteria to judge the GLIP Award were all reviewed. Myself and a small committee ran the first GLIP conference, and the Monograph on gay and lesbian psychology in Australian and New Zealand, mentioned April's edition, is being considered for publication.

In the last edition, Gordon Walker reviewed *The man who would be Queen: The science of gender-bending and transsexualism* that has caused some degree of controversy across the world. As a result of the feedback from non-GLIP members, the Editorial Policy has been revised to better emphasise that views expressed by individual contributors to GLIP News do not represent the views of the APS or GLIP. For a range of alternative reviews and some of the controversy surrounding Dr Bailey's research, members can go to the following websites of Professor Lynn Conway and Andrea James respectively:

<http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/TSLynnsReviewOfBaileysBook.html>

<http://www.tsroadmap.com/info/bailey-blanchard-lawernce.html>

A review of Bailey's book is contained in the newsletter of APA Division 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of

Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues) and is on page 6 of the following link:

<http://www.apa.org/divisions/div44/vol19nu2.pdf>

A review by Kristina-Maia DeMott offers a very different perspective. It can be accessed from the following; http://www.geocities.com/kristi_demott/lit-crit/Queen-pub.htm

For those really interested in the reading the book themselves and making up their own minds, it can be downloaded free of charge from:

<http://books.nap.edu/books/0309084180/html/>

We always appreciate feedback from members and non-members alike. GLIP News represents diverse views, opinions and alternative perspectives that help us reflect, learn and develop as professionals, as individuals and as a community. We need to be mindful of not violating, silencing or invalidating others that may not share our particular point of view on a specific issue whether as men or women; gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender; academic, student, policy developer or clinician. Otherwise we perpetuate practices that we seek to change.



Wishing you all get a well deserved break over the summer break and we look forward to delivery GLIP News in 2004.

Graeme Kane
National Secretary & Treasurer

GLIP Conference - Changing their minds: Celebrating our diversity

A brief account of the conference is contained in InPsych. A nice acknowledgment of the significance of sexuality issues and the work of GLIP by the APS for inclusion of it at very late notice. A more detailed account of the event, with photos, will be added to the GLIP's web site over the next couple of weeks.

Members should note that the video documentary - Changing our minds: The story of Dr Evelyn Hooker - will be available to members only. Please contact Alexandra Bignell of the APS on 03-8662 3300 or on A.Bignell@psychsociety.com.au to arrange. NOTE - we only have one copy to circulate.

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National Convener's Report - The year in review!



2003 seems to have been a good year for GLIP! We have maintained and developed our regular activities, plus developed a few new ones. In fact two pages are devoted to GLIP activities in this month's InPsych – an article on the winner of the GLIP award and one on our conference “Changing their minds: Celebrating our diversity”. That in itself is no small achievement for a small interest group.

The GLIP Award was judged under our revised criteria, which were approved by the APS Board of Director's earlier this year. The 2003 award was won by Bernadette Spencer of Macquarie University for her Master's Research Report. See InPsych (pp. 28-29) for further details.

On behalf of the GLIP Executive, I would like to sincerely thank our judges, Dr. Vivienne Cass and Dr. Daryl Higgins, who took time out of busy schedules to judge the entries. Thanks too to those who took the time and trouble to submit entries. The prize is a way of prompting and giving recognition to gay and lesbian psychology in Australia and this will only happen if students continue to put in entries. The call for entries for the 2004 prize will appear in the February edition of InPsych.

GLIP Conference – 25 October, 2003

This was our very first conference and we can be justifiably proud that we pulled it off. We have Graeme Kane to thank for that. The conference was Graeme's idea. He went on to develop it, and assisted by Heather Gridley, formed a committee to plan and run it. He sought funds from the APS, who generously made money available to us so that we could afford to run such a conference. The organisers also received an extremely high level of support and assistance from Gary Khoo and Alexandra Bignell of the APS National Office. On behalf of the GLIP executive, I would like to express our appreciation for the way the APS supported us in this venture. I would also like to personally thank Graeme for all his work. While we don't have the resources to have a conference as an annual event, we are interested in running another one some time, perhaps in conjunction with another relevant event or occasion.

38th Annual Conference of the Australian Psychological Society, 2-5 October, 2003 Perth

The GLIP symposium (see page 3) has become a regular feature of the conference program, and provides an opportunity for those doing research on gay, lesbian and bisexual issues to present their findings to a wider audience. Given that it is now possible to have your paper published as well, this audience has now significantly increased. This year Damien Riggs took over organising and chairing the symposium, and I would like to thank Damien very much for doing this.

'Out in the Antipodes' – book on Australian and New Zealand perspectives on gay and lesbian psychology.

I'm very pleased to say that the content of the book has now been finalised and that Damian Riggs and I, as editors, are currently negotiating with publishers. We have a very interesting range of material to publish. Working with the various contributors has obviously occupied a considerable amount of our time this year. However, we feel that it will be well worth it when we have our very first publication on gay and lesbian psychology from this part of the world. More in our next edition!!

"Tip Sheet- Answers to your questions about Sexual Orientation & Homosexuality"

Further to the report in the last edition, the revisions to the Tip Sheet were completed and the new edition of the sheet was released in October in a new and attractive format. The sheet refers readers to our website for further information. It is important, therefore, that we have up-to-date resources on the site for ALL states and territories in Australia. If you are aware of resources that aren't on the site do tell us about them. Meanwhile please make use of the new Tip Sheet. Have some in your waiting room or in your place of employment. Send a copy to possible sources of referral.

Terms of Reference

Another achievement of 2003 was the proposed revision of the Interest Group's terms of reference. From time to time it is necessary to bring things such as terms of reference in line with current thinking and practice. With this goal in mind our terms of reference are now before the APS Board. See our website for updates.

Expansion of the GLIP Executive

We are very pleased to welcome new members to the GLIP Executive. The aim here is to have Committee Members from the various states and territories to assist with making links to local issues, and hopefully in time to form local State branches of GLIP. It was good to see a Brisbane group take off this year, and Ela Jodko continues to do an excellent job in setting up Sunday morning breakfasts for Melbourne members.

GLIP News and Email updates

A review of the year would not be complete without acknowledging the great work that Graeme Kane does in getting GLIP News to us 3 times a year. GLIP News gives us a sense of belonging to a GLB organisation. The more we can develop this publication the more we stand to gain from it. It is good to see Book Reviews increasing. **Remember that we give you a complimentary copy of any book that you review.**

Email updates have been further organised this year. Their aim is to make available to you information that you may find useful. Much of it doesn't have the general appeal of material that would be appropriate for GLIP News, but may have strong appeal to particular members. This material is selected by Graeme and I on the basis of what we think it might be of interest to you. We would welcome your feedback on how useful or otherwise it is to you.

In 2004...

The launch of our book will obviously be our big event in 2004 (hopefully at the Sydney Conference), but we aim to continue with the various other activities reported above, particularly our participation in the annual conference of the Society. We would like to be better organised to respond to various call from the Press, and are exploring ways of developing Press Releases. We had hoped to do something on this for National Psychology Week, but given that my call for assistance in the last edition of GLIP News did not bear fruit, we did not have the people on hand to do it (given the need to organise the conference and keep the book moving). This will be a new venture for 2004.

I hope that you can look back on 2003 with satisfaction too. Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2004.

Gordon Walker
National Convener

Report on the fifth Symposium - APS Conference, Perth, 2003

The Gay and Lesbian Issues and Psychology (GLIP) Interest Group recently hosted its Fifth Symposium at the 38th Annual Conference of the Australian Psychological Society (Perth, October 1-5, 2003). The theme was 'Challenging Heteronormative Practices: Developing Alternative Understandings of Gay and Lesbian Identities'. The intention of the symposium was to explore the limits that are placed upon people who identify as gay and lesbian when our experiences are located within traditional heterosexual binaries of gender and sexuality. In this way all of the papers presented a challenge to the normative practices that surround the concepts of identity, self and indeed what it means to be 'same-sex attracted'.

The symposium commenced with an acknowledgement of the Noongar people, upon whose land the conference was held. It was also recognised that as white academics and practitioners we come from many places throughout Australia, and that we live upon the lands of many First Nation peoples, including the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains, the peoples of the Kulin Nations, upon whose land Melbourne is located, and the Bindal and Wulgurakaba peoples of Northern Queensland.

The symposium was neatly divided into two sections – separated by a break for afternoon tea. The first section commenced with a paper by the well-known clinician, academic and author, Dr Vivienne Cass. Vivienne's paper on same-sex attracted identities set the scene for the entire symposium by drawing attention to the historical contingencies that shape understandings of the term 'identity'. Vivienne suggested that the concept continues to be of use as it is used in everyday talk, and thus is beneficial in both the clinical setting, as well as providing a means through which we may understand the ways in which the concept has been taken up. Following on from this paper, Dr Daryl Higgins presented data that examined the relationship between job satisfaction, work-place commitment and sexual orientation. Daryl's paper highlighted many of the issues that arise when researching the experiences of same-sex attracted individuals, and how such experiences contradict heteronormative assumptions. In particular, Daryl drew attention to the ways in which heterosexuality is most often an identity that is not spoken about – it is assumed as normative. The final paper in this section neatly brought together some of the key themes surrounding explorations of same-sex attracted identifications. Heidi Jansen presented some of her Honours data, which examined self-identified lesbians' 'coming out narratives'. Heidi explored narrative analysis as a means of extending stage models of same-sex identities, and drew upon Vivienne's work on 'indigenous psychologies' to explain some of the ways in which discourses of the closet continue to shape the experiences of same-sex attracted individuals.

After the tea break, our symposium continued the theme of 'identity', while also exploring some of the more negative ways in which the term is used to oppress and exclude same-sex attracted individuals. Jane Power presented her PhD work on same-sex attraction within the Catholic Church. Jane's work highlights the ongoing need for a radical rethinking of the limits that are imposed when heterosexuality is a) assumed as normative and b) reinforced as being the only acceptable (i.

e., non-pathological) form of sexuality. Jane also touched on the problematic area of conversion therapy, and its impact upon the lives of same-sex attracted individuals. This discussion neatly connected with the paper by Damien Riggs, which looked at the ways in which both discourses of sameness (homosexuality is a normal variant of sexuality) and difference (we are essentially different to heterosexual people) work to prop up the oppressive practices of conversion therapy. Damien explored the limits that arise from utilising the categories of gender and sexuality themselves, and the possibilities for developing alternate ways of understanding same-sex attraction.

As a whole, the symposium presented a broad range of research that was informative, interesting and accessible. Together the papers drew on an expansive array of approaches to the study of gay and lesbian psychology, which demonstrated the need for a continued focus on the very radical differences that shape same-sex attracted individuals' experiences. Rather than attempting to circumscribe research in the area by positing a very narrow set of theoretical and methodological models, the symposium illustrated the importance of diversity and eclecticism in order to challenge heteronormative practices.

In conclusion, the symposium appeared to be both well attended and well received, especially considering our late-Saturday-afternoon timeslot. The papers generated a lot of lively discussion, and all of the presenters engaged with questions that allowed them to extend upon their presentations. In addition to the GLIP drinks on Friday evening, which were (as always) a huge success, the symposium provided a very important venue for academics and practitioners to share ideas and network. We are already thinking about next years symposium to be held in Sydney, where we hope to launch the edited collection that has resulted from the work of GLIP members, entitled 'Out in the Antipodes: Australian and New Zealand Perspectives on Gay and Lesbian Psychology'.

Damien Riggs
Committee Member

Call for Papers!!
39th Annual Conference of the APS
29 September - 3 October 2004 Sydney

The call for submissions is now out and will close 1st March 2004. Damien Riggs has kindly agreed to organise next year's symposium. If you are interested in being involved in the symposium, please contact Damien Riggs to discuss at damien.riggs@adelaide.edu.au

Position Statement of the American Psychiatric Association on Reparative Therapy

American Psychiatric Association (2000), Commission on Psychotherapy by Psychiatrists (COPP): Position statement on therapies focused on attempts to change sexual orientation (Reparative or conversion therapies). *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 157, 1719-1721. Or download same from: <http://www.psych.org/archives/200001.pdf>

Books for Review

- * Feminism & Psychology, Volume 13, Number 3, 2003. Special Issue on Feminist Fieldwork and Political Change.
- * Bisexual Women in the Twenty-first Century. D. Atkins (Editor).
- * Counseling Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Substance Abusers. D. G. Finnegan and E. B. McNally (Editors).
- * Women with Visible and Invisible Disabilities: Multiple Intersections, Multiple Therapies. M. E. Banks and E. Kaschak (Editors).
- * The Mental Health Professions and Homosexuality: International Perspectives. V. Lingiard and J. Drescher (Editors)

If you are interested in obtaining a copy and prepared to write GLIP News a review, contact Graeme Kane on graeme.kane@iechs.org.au

From the American Academy of Pediatrics - Technical Report: Coparent or Second-Parent Adoption by Same-Sex Parents

Pediatrics, Volume 109, Number 2, February 2002, pp 341-344

Ellen C. Perrin, MD, and the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health

ABSTRACT. A growing body of scientific literature demonstrates that children who grow up with 1 or 2 gay and/or lesbian parents fare as well in emotional, cognitive, social, and sexual functioning as do children whose parents are heterosexual. Children's optimal development seems to be influenced more by the nature of the relationships and interactions within the family unit than by the particular structural form it takes.

<http://www.aap.org/policy/020008t.html>

Melbourne - Networking

Melbourne GLIP Breakfasts are held approximately every 6th Sunday at 10am, at a cafe/restaurant around the city. Breakfasts are informal with an emphasis on peer support, GLBTI issues and private practice. If you would like more information, venue details or to RSVP, please contact Ela Jodko - GLIP Committee Member (Victoria): elaexplore@iprimus.com.au or 03-9539 1557.

★★★
 ★ [DOES THE APS HAVE YOUR CURRENT](#) ★
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 ★ DON'T MISS OUT ON UPDATES, NETWORKING ACTIVITIES AND THE SAMPLE JOURNALS AND BOOKS. ★
 ★★★

Editorial Policy

Aims and Objectives

The Newsletter of the APS Gay and Lesbian Issues and Psychology Interest Group is produced by the National Executive, in collaboration with State Branch Committees. Its target audience is GLIP Interest Group members. It serves as a means of communication among Interest Group members. The Newsletter also promotes the work of Interest Group members, acts as a forum for discussion and keeps members aware of forthcoming events and professional development activities.

Contents

The contents will vary from issue to issue, but will attempt to include an editorial comment, a National Convener's report, State Branch reports, national news, promotion of training and professional development activities, brief notices and, assorted reviews and news from members. The views expressed by contributors to GLIP News are not necessarily those of the Australian Psychological Society Ltd or GLIP. Please note: final content is at the discretion of the editor.

Solicited articles

The Editor may approach suitable authors to write on relevant issues.

Unsolicited articles

The editor encourages GLIP members to contribute unsolicited articles to the Newsletter. Publication of unsolicited articles cannot be guaranteed. The Editor in consultation with regional representatives has the final decision for inclusion of material and the form that it takes. Unsolicited articles should not exceed 500 words, except with prior arrangement.

Advertising

Placement of an advertisement in the Newsletter is not necessarily an endorsement of the advertiser by GLIP. Approval of advertisements rests with the Editor who may consult with the National Executive. Advertising is at present free of charge, which may be reviewed at a later date.

Submission of material

Material should be submitted to the Editor by the relevant deadline. Submissions are to be in electronic format only via email to graeme.kane@iechs.org.au. Documents are to be in Microsoft Word, or text only format.