SASP/ISPP pre-conference April 10th, 2013

Pacific International Hotel, 43 The Esplanade, Cairns
Organisers: Craig McGarty & Kate Reynolds

Political psychology is a vibrant world-wide discipline that links political science and social psychology. It is supported by a large international society with a well-supported international meeting. Although political psychology has been researched in Australia and New Zealand for many years it has not been formally organized.

On the 10th of April, 2013 the first conference on political psychology will take place in Cairns, Australia. The conference will serve as a one-day pre-conference for the annual meeting of the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists (SASP). The pre-conference will establish a formal basis for connection between Australian and New Zealand researchers and the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) which is a major partner in supporting the meeting. Other contributors are SASP, CSIRO's Division of Ecosystem Sciences, and Murdoch University.

The aims of the pre-conference are to promote political psychology research in Australia and New Zealand, facilitate communication and dissemination of scientific research on political psychology and the relationship between political and psychological phenomena and enhance the visibility of the activities of ISPP (e.g., membership, journal).

The pre-conference will showcase political psychology research in Australia and New Zealand and take a broad snapshot of current work in political psychology. The pre-conference will start at 9.00 and finish at 4.30 and will be fully catered for morning and afternoon tea and lunch.

There will be 7 speakers (30 minutes and 10 minutes questions) as well as discussion sessions focused on fostering and strengthening political psychology in Australia and New Zealand. The presentations capture the breadth and depth of political psychology including political leadership, political ideology, psychology and public policy, political activism and protest, social change dynamics, and development of political psychology in Australia.

Martha Augoustinos, University of Adelaide
"President Obama and leader group prototypicality: making race (ir)relevant"

Carmen Lawrence, University of Western Australia
"Social Psychology and Public Policy: Why the Gap?"

Craig McGarty, Murdoch University
 "Identifying with the people of the world or identifying with people who want to change the world? The Arab Spring, Kony2012, and global development activism"

Katherine J. Reynolds, Australian National University
"The complexity of the self-process and its impact on political psychology.

Iain Walker, CSIRO
"Notes for a political psychology of Australian social psychology: What do we want, when do we want it?"

James Walter, Monash University
"Australian Political Psychology: from Freudian origins to … ?"

Marc Wilson, Victoria University of Wellington
"Adopting an ideological stance is like exposing oneself – it's okay to have one, but you should keep it covered in public: Psychological foundations of conservatism"

Martha Augoustinos, University of Adelaide
martha.augoustinos@adelaide.edu.au

President Obama and leader group prototypicality: making race (ir)relevant
Augoustinos, M., Branscombe, N., & Sincovich, A.

Building on previous research analysing Obama's political discourse the present study aims to examine the effect of racial salience on Obama's perceived prototypicality as a 'true' American and effectiveness as a leader. US participants (N=256) were randomly assigned to one of two conditions in which racial salience was manipulated by the viewing of a set-piece political address delivered by Obama during the 2008 Presidential campaign. Participants who were exposed to a speech in which Obama made explicit references to his racial identity as a Black American (Obama's 'Race Speech'), perceived Obama to be less 'truly American', less prototypical of the American people (leader group prototypicality), and less stereotypical of a leader (leader stereotypicality) than those who viewed a speech in which Obama downplayed his racial identity. Racial identity salience however did not affect perceptions of Obama's leadership effectiveness or his endorsement as a leader. Consistent with the social identity theory of leadership, leader group prototypicality, leader stereotypicality and perceptions of Obama as a 'true' American were better predictors of his leadership effectiveness than modern racism and political conservatism (SDO).

Short Biography: Martha Augoustinos
Martha Augoustinos is Professor of Psychology and Co-Director of the Fay Gale Centre of Research on Gender at the University of Adelaide. Martha has published widely in the field of social psychology and discourse, in particular on the nature of racial discourse in Australia. She is co-author of Social Cognition: An Integrated Introduction (2nd ed, Sage, 2006) with Iain Walker and Ngaire Donaghue and co-editor with Kate Reynolds of Understanding Prejudice, Racism and Social Conflict (Sage, 2001).

Carmen Lawrence, University of Western Australia
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Social Psychology and Public Policy: Why the Gap?
Lawrence, C.

Social psychology should be at the heart of good public policy – but often it is not. In fact many policy makers assume they know, because they are human and live in society, all that they need to know about human behaviour. Or they assume that economic theory will provide all the critical insights necessary to underpin effective policy.

Economics is the social science which dominates public policy debate and is usually the foundation for the design of policy initiatives and regulations that govern our society. Economic norms and language are adopted almost unthinkingly, with the result that useful ideas and insights from other social sciences are excluded; the result is policies that are extremely deficient, or even dangerous. We need to argue publicly that the effectiveness of legislation, sanctions, incentives and persuasive communication which form the traditional basis of public policy require a thoroughgoing understanding of the fundamentals of human social psychology – and psychology more generally.

Short Biography: Carmen Lawrence:
After training as a research psychologist at the University of Western Australia and lecturing in a number of Australian universities, Dr Lawrence entered politics in 1986, serving at both State and Federal levels for 21 years. She was at various times W.A Minister for Education and Aboriginal affairs and was the first woman Premier and Treasurer of a State government. She shifted to Federal politics in 1994 when she was elected as the Member for Fremantle and was appointed Minister for Health and Human Services and Minister assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women. She has held various portfolios in Opposition, including Indigenous Affairs, Environment, Industry and Innovation and was elected national President of the Labor Party in 2004. She retired from politics in 2007. She is now Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Change in the School of Psychology at the University of Western Australia and Chair of the Australian Heritage Council.

Craig McGarty, Murdoch University
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Identifying with the people of the world or identifying with people who want to change the world? The Arab Spring, Kony2012, and global development activism. McGarty, C.

For many years social psychology's default response to the problem of encouraging cooperation across group boundaries has been to emphasise superordinate group memberships. Thus a popular slogan of the environmental movement has been "Think global, act local". This idea has great intuitive and conceptual appeal but there are also problems. Superordinate, including global identities, are often vaguely defined in terms of the content usually associated with effective social groups such as norms and organization. The alternative we discuss here draws upon research on opinion-based group membership. Specifically, we show that: a) an analysis of online content suggests that popular revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt are better understood as rapidly growing national opposition movements than as transnational mobilisations; b) three surveys of the Kony2012 phenomenon that the growth of interest and incipient activism is better explained as stemming from an emerging anti-Kony social movement than from strengthening global identification and; c) even global development activism is better understood in opinion-based terms. These results do not call into doubt the conceptual integrity and subjective validity of global identity but suggest that concerted efforts for social change aimed at promoting human welfare are likely to be better promoted by other forms of identity.

Short Biography: Craig McGarty
Craig McGarty is Professor of Social and Political Psychology at Murdoch University. His current research interests include collective action and social change, group-based emotions and online forms of action.

Kate Reynolds
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The complexity of the self-process and its impact on political psychology.
Katherine J. Reynolds

Following social identity and self-categorization theories it is proposed that the human self is complex with an ability to self-categorize at different levels. As self-definitions or perceptions shift and change so to do cognitions, emotions and behaviour. At the group-level those that are defined as similar to 'self' – ingroup members – are argued to be important in clarifying the relevant social norms and influencing behaviour. A large body of research now has demonstrated that this ability to form a sense of "we" is critical in explaining empathy, helping, trust, cohesion, influence, and leadership. In this presentation the development and significance of these ideas for political psychology will be reviewed in areas of system justification and the dynamics of social change, social norms and public policy directed at shaping behaviour, and the relationship between personality and political ideology.

Short Biography: Kate Reynolds
Kate Reynolds is an Associate Professor in the Research School of Psychology, ANU. Her expertise is in investigating the role of the social self or social identity (sense of self as a group member – "we", "us") in shaping people's attitudes, affect and behaviour. The work has direct relevance to social and behavioural change including person plasticity, social influence processes, and adapting to change. A particular strength of this research is the inclusion of more naturalistic samples in schools, community groups, and organisational settings. The research is of interest to a range of policy makers.

She currently serves as a member of the ISPP Governing Council and Co-Editor *Political Psychology*. She was Associate Editor *Personality and Social Psychology* (2010-2012) and is a member of a number of other Editorial boards.

Iain Walker, CSIRO
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Notes for a political psychology of Australian social psychology: What do we want, when do we want it?
Walker, I,

By the criterion of Marx's Thesis 11, social psychology is (mostly) pointless. This is despite the overt desires of most social psychologists to change the world, despite the desperate need of the world to be changed, and despite what appears to be an increasing recognition among policy makers and other influential scientists that social psychology must have a role in changing the world. In this paper, I briefly canvass some of the issues confronting the doing of social psychology outside the academy, in an environment that is explicitly at the nexus between science and action, is multi/inter/trans/disciplinary, and is overtly in the service of the public good. I suggest that contemporary social psychology is (mostly) useful, in an abstract, theoretical sort of way, but also is (mostly) limited in a practical, immediate sort of way. I conclude by suggesting some possible ways in which we can strive to embody Thesis 11.

Short Biography: Iain Walker
Iain Walker is a Scottish-born Wadjela living and working on Noongar land in the People's Republic of Fremantle on the Left Coast of Australia. He is a senior social scientist with the CSIRO's Division of Ecosystem Sciences, where he leads a band of merry men and women working on social science issues in sustainability. He is co-author of *Social Cognition: An Integrated Introduction* (a 3rd edition of which will be released in 2013), and co-editor of *Social Representations and Identity: Content, Process, and Power*, and of *Relative Deprivation Theory: Specification, Development, and Integration*.

James Walter, Monash University
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Australian Political Psychology: from Freudian origins to … ?
Walter, J.

This paper discusses the influence of the psychoanalytically oriented 'Melbourne School' (an element within the then eclectic University of Melbourne Politics Department) on post-war political psychology in Australia[1]; reviews the ways in which (scholarly) generational change has induced the small networks of practitioners to adopt different theoretical frameworks; and looks at the contemporary significance of social psychology in the understanding of politics. What can we learn from this sketch about the further promotion of political psychology and its multiple potentially productive applications in a context where politics itself is in question, and public confidence in political institutions and practices is at record lows?

Short Biography: James Walter
James Walter is Professor of Politics at Monash University. He is a product of the 'Melbourne School' and – a manifestation of its eclectic nature – has held chairs in Australian Studies (Griffith University) and in History (University of London) before returning to Politics with his appointment at Monash in 2002. He has published widely on biography/psychobiography; political leadership; history of ideas; the policy/social science interface and political institutions.

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[1] See James Walter and Paul 't Hart (2009) 'Political Psychology' in R.A.W. Rhodes (ed.) *The Australian Study of Politics.* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 356-65.

Marc Wilson, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ
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Adopting an ideological stance is like exposing oneself – it's okay to have one, but you should keep it covered in public: Psychological foundations of conservatism*
Wilson, M.S.

In this paper, I shall discuss a range of psychological factors associated with political ideology. I shall present a bunch of studies involving tens of thousands of participants in which ideology has been variously 'measured' as left/right and liberal/conservative self-identification, responses to multi-item 'conservatism' scales, and political votership. I shall argue that social values may play a foundational role, and see how well John Duckitt's Dual-Process Motivational Model of Intergroup Attitudes (or, as I think of it, a "grand theory of everything") might be used to understand ideology.

*Paraphrasing A.K. Grant (1971, p.125)

Short Biography:

Marc Wilson is Head of School and Associate Professor of Psychology at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (not the "Victoria University" in Melbourne). He completed his PhD in 1999, investigating voting behaviour in the 1996 NZ election – the first under a proportional representation electoral system. As well as working on topics such as adolescent self-injury, why people eat the things that they do, and conspiracy belief, he has published numerous empirical studies of political behaviour and thanks Sidanius and Altemeyer for gifting him Social Dominance Orientation and Right-Wing Authoritarianism.