

SP QUARTERLY

Spring 2008



Canadian Psychological Association Social & Personality Section

Dear Social and Personality
Section Members

It has been quite some time since we've updated you on Section news (Fall, 2007) and we have a number of exciting things to tell you. First, the Section is doing very well, both in terms of increases in membership and financial standing. This is all made possible by volunteers and an increasing commitment to Social and Personality Psychology in

Canada. Thank you to those who reviewed abstracts for this convention or the student awards (or both), secured funding for the preconference (Steven Smith and James Cameron of Saint Mary's University), were involved in the executive committee, and, last but not least, agreed to present at the preconference!

To sustain Section activities, volunteers are needed for the executive. Most of the positions

are slated for faculty members, but there are also ways in which students may become involved. Members are elected to each of these positions at the Section Business Meeting, which I encourage you to attend (see “Convention Highlights” for date and time). Some of the current executive members are willing to stay on for another year. The positions we really need to fill include:

- Chair Elect
- Student Representative
- Newsletter Coordinator
- Webmaster (could be a student)

All positions would begin on July 1, 2008 and end on July 1, 2009. A brief description of what is involved in the above positions is available below. If you want to get involved, feel free to contact the current members to ask about the positions you are particularly interested in; see <http://www.cpassp.ca> for executive members’ contact information. The deadline to indicate interest is the business meeting, but I would prefer knowing earlier, if possible. Having served as the Chair Elect and now Chair, I have found this to be a rewarding opportunity that has, amongst other things, allowed me to get to know many people in Social and Personality Psychology in Canada.

I also encourage you to consider possible suggestions for the 2009 (1) invited speaker, (2) invited symposia, and (3) Section fellow and bring your suggestions to the Section business meeting.

As well, please spread the word that we have two student awards, one for the best undergraduate submission (Kenneth Dion Award) and another for the best graduate submission (Brendan Gail Rule Award) to the conference. Applications for the awards are usually due at about the same time as conference submissions, but we may change the deadline permanently to late February or early March to coincide with notification of acceptance. See the Section website (<http://cpasp.ca>) for more information. This year’s Brendan Gail Rule Award winners are Johanna Peetz of Wilfrid Laurier University (first place, supervisor Anne Wilson) and Paula M. Brochu of The University of Western Ontario (second place, supervisor Victoria Esses). Congratulations Johanna and Paula! Please see the date and time of their talks in the “Convention Highlights” section and join us in celebrating their achievement at the business meeting as they receive their awards.

I hope to see you in Halifax in June!

Katherine Starzyk
Chair, Social and Personality

Description of Executive Positions

Chair Elect

The Chair Elect has a one year term, but typically becomes Chair in year two and Past Chair in year three. The Chair Elect is responsible for organizing the Social and Personality Preconference. The major tasks include selecting speakers, with an aim to balance Social and Personality talks, and finding a location and arranging catering for the preconference. Second, the major tasks of the Chair include lobbying for a Section invited speaker, invited symposia, and Section fellow, when appropriate. The Chair also acts as the Section program coordinator and attends a CPA business meeting the day prior to the Convention. Please see the Operations Manual for Chairs of CPA Sections at <http://www.cpa.ca/sections/> for complete details. Finally, the Past Chair provides mentorship to the Chair and Chair Elect.

Student Representative

The student representative is primarily responsible for organizing a student symposium. Please contact Carolyn Hoessler (hoes2833@wlu.ca) for more information.

Newsletter Coordinator, Faculty Position

The Newsletter Coordinator is responsible for updating Section members of Section activities, when appropriate, but there are three or four good times for a newsletter. The first is in July or August, to announce the new executive and an evaluation of the preconference. The second is in the fall, probably October, before the submission deadline, to advertise the preconference and student awards. The third is in the spring to provide members with an update on Section activities. Aubrey Litvack, a student affiliate, will help the newsletter coordinator to format the newsletter.

Webmaster (could be a student)

The Webmaster is responsible for developing web page versions of materials from the Chair and posting the pages on the Section website (<http://cpasp.ca>). The Webmaster also sets up a preconference registration page.

Convention Highlights

There were 147 Social and Personality submissions for this year's convention and, after feedback from three independent reviewers, 89% were accepted. There will be 102 poster presentations and 28 talks, many as part of symposia. This is impressive, but we should aim to have more oral presentations to decrease the disparity between oral and poster presentations. We have tried to schedule the talks together, as much as possible, and to not double-book them. Please make a special effort to attend the following events.

Thursday, June 12th:

- Social and Personality Poster Session (11:00 am – 12:55 pm)
- Section Business Meeting (5:00 – 5:55 pm)

Friday, June 13th:

- Dr. Steven Pinker's Honorary Presidential Address, "The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature" (9:00 – 9:55 am)
- Dr. Hazel Markus's The Family of Psychology Keynote Address, "The Culture Cycle: Our Cultures, Our Selves, Our Cultures..." (10:00 – 10:55 am)

- Ms. Johanna Peetz's Brendan Gail Rule Award Talk, "Feeling Close to Future Goals Makes Things Happen: Motivational and Behavioral Implications of Subjective Temporal Distance," as part of symposium entitled "Feeling Far or Feeling Close Matters: Current Directions in Research Examining Perceived Temporal Distance" (1:30 – 2:55 pm)

Saturday, June 14th:

- Dr. Carol Ryff's Science & Applications Keynote Address, "Understanding Human Well-Being: An Overview of Research and Practice" (9:00 – 9:55 am)
- Dr. Michael Ross's Invited Section Talk, "'The Evil that Men do Lives after Them': Responses to Historical Injustices" (10:00 – 10:55 am)
- Ms. Paula Brochu's Brendan Gail Rule Award Talk, "Understanding the Relations between Different Forms of Weight Prejudice: The Interplay of Implicit Evaluations, Nonprejudicial Goals, and Perceived Discrimination," as part of symposium entitled "Contemporary Issues in the Psychology of Prejudice" (11:00 – 12:25 pm)

The Evil that Men do Lives after Them: *Responses to Historical Injustices*

Around the world, groups are seeking government apologies and reparations for wrongs that they experienced in the distant past. Often those asking for redress were not affected directly by the original injustice, though they might continue to suffer from its ramifications. Canadian Groups that have recently demanded restitution for historical wrongs include African Canadians in Nova Scotia, First Nation communities, and people of Acadian, Chinese, and Italian heritage. Typically, current governments did not commit the original injustice, though arguably they inherit responsibility for it. In my talk, I consider social psychological antecedents and consequences of offers of government redress. I discuss why previously victimized groups are concerned about past injustices, why

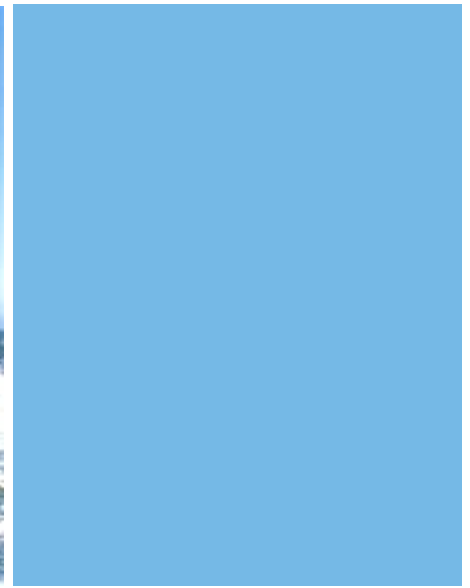


**Invited Section
Speaker:
Dr. Michael Ross,
University of
Waterloo**

**Date/time: Saturday, June
14th, 2008, from
10:00-10:55 am
Location: NOVA SCOTIA A,
(Marriott) Second Floor,
130 Theatre**

members of the nonvictimized majority might oppose redress, why governments often initially resist and then offer redress, as well as the forms and psychological consequences of redress. I report archival and controlled studies that speak to theoretical and empirical issues relevant to social psychologists concerned with group conflict and justice motivations, legal scholars concerned with resolving conflicts between nations and ethnic groups, and government decision makers grappling with whether and how to deal with historical injustices.

Michael Ross is Professor and Chair of Psychology at the University of Waterloo. He conducts research on a variety of topics in social psychology, including autobiographical memory, interpersonal conflict, and culture. His current work on the psychology of apologies serves to combine this seemingly disparate set of interests. He is a fellow of the Canadian and American Psychological Associations, the American Psychological Society, and the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998 and the American Psychology Foundation Award from the American Psychological Association in 1999. See the details of his talk and his biography



Section Pre-conference 2008

The speaker lineup for this year's preconference, located at St. Mary's University, is once again stellar. The schedule includes both some new and well-established scholars from across the country. The lineup includes: Stacey Mackinnon (University of Prince Edward Island), Ian McGregor (York University), Ian Newby-Clark (University of Guelph), Wei Qi Elaine Perunovic (University of New Brunswick), Jeff Schimel (University of Alberta), and Leanne Son-Hing (University of Guelph). There will be talks throughout the day, a delicious lunch and lunch hour "Swap and Talk" poster session, and discussion of next year's event. While 92% of last year's attendees indicated that the Section should charge a small fee for attending, we chose not to because the St. Mary's University President's Office provided generous funding. We hope that you can make it to the preconference! Please encourage students and faculty at your institution to attend and remember to register by the deadline: Friday, May 16th.

Section Membership and Finances

Section membership has increased dramatically over the past year. From July 1, 2007, to May 2, 2008, our membership numbers have increased from 206 to 277. That is a 35% increase! Welcome everyone! Of our members, approximately half (126 or 45%) are student affiliates. This suggests that the Section will continue to grow.

We will provide a financial report at the section business meeting, but want to inform you now that our financial standing is also relatively robust. We have \$5,000 plus in the bank, an increase of approximately \$1,500 since November, 2007, and we do not expect there to be many expenditures this year. We may also obtain further funds from members who have recently joined, but whose dues have not yet been deposited by CPA in the Section account, and next year's membership dues. We will describe our expected revenue and expenditures for the upcoming year at the section business meeting.

Section Website

The Section is continuing to maintain a website at <http://www.cpassp.ca>. Since its inception (November, 2007), the website has received approximately 289 visitors and 2106 hits a month! One major advantage of keeping the Section website on a server independent of CPA is that it affords us more control. It has, for example, enabled us to have a preconference registration page, which we're told greatly facilitates registration. The cost of maintaining the site is low (between \$6-8/month depending on the duration of the contract). One disadvantage is that maintaining the site as it exists requires a moderate amount of knowledge about website design and hosting. As well, it requires visitors to navigate away from the CPA website. It can, however, be accessed directly from the CPA sections page (<http://www.cpa.ca/sections/>) and is easily located via search engines. Unfortunately, the Section website is still only in English and will continue to be so unless someone can commit to providing translations. Please check the website for important information, such as descriptions of the Section's student awards. It is clear that the student awards need to be better publicized.



Section Listserv

The section maintains a listserv, monitored by Dr. John Ellard. The purpose of this listserv is to facilitate communication amongst members of the Social and Personality Section. The listserv address is cpasp-l@mailman.ucalgary.ca. Please advertise this listserv to your colleagues. Information on how to subscribe to the listserv or search the listserv archives is available at www.cpassp.ca.

Section Executive

We are always in need of new people to serve on the executive. If you would like to become more involved in the social-personality section, please let the area chair, Katherine Starzyk (Starzyk@cc.umanitoba.ca) know.

The following individuals have graciously agreed to hold positions on this year's Executive.

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(Katherine Starzyk)

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