

'TAKING PSYCHOLOGY TO SOCIETY' FUNDING FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS 2006/7

The Publications and Communications Board invites applications

The Society, through the Publications and Communications Board (P&CB), aims to increase the number of public engagement events, both national and local, as part of a mid- to long-term strategy of 'Taking psychology to society'.

Subsystems and individual members have a key role in this venture, and the P&CB wishes to encourage Society subsystems and members to undertake events by making funds available up to a maximum of £3000 per event. *Individual members are encouraged to approach their subsystem prior to application, both to widen their proposed event and to strengthen their application by collaboration.*

Proposals must be focused on one or more of the following target audiences:

- the general public
- school students (Key Stage 3 and 4 and above)
- higher education (non-psychology) students
- other professions and other learned societies
- government and other appropriate policy makers
- service users, including employers

Proposals will be assessed in the light of the following headings:

- target audience and likely impact on the audience
- rationale for the event
- description of the event
- how the event will 'advance and diffuse a knowledge of the discipline' (Royal Charter objective)
- how the event will be evaluated and value for money

For an application form, contact Suzanne Jefford on suzanne.jefford@bps.org.uk or telephone 0116 252 9577.

The deadline for the receipt of applications is Friday 9 June 2006; decisions will be communicated within one month.

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Professional Practice Board invites nominations

Award – Life membership of the Society and commemorative certificate.

Eligibility – Current practitioners in any area of professional applied psychology who are making an unusually significant contribution to professional practice.

Nominations – nominations should include:

- a 1000-word narrative highlighting the candidate's achievements and grounds for proposing the candidate
- full CV
- names and addresses of three referees (including at least one work colleague of the candidate)
- any other relevant supporting documents

Nominations should be sent to the Chair of the Professional Practice Board at the Society's office to arrive no later than

Friday 1 September 2006.

Further details from Nigel Atter at the Society's Leicester office (e-mail: Nigel.Atter@bps.org.uk).

BOOK AWARD 2007

The Research Board invites nominations

Award – £500 annual award. The cheque and commemorative certificate will normally be presented at the Annual Conference at which the winner(s) will be invited to deliver a lecture.

Eligibility – Books published after 1 January 2004 that make a significant contribution to the advancement of psychology may be nominated, and the author or at least one co-author should be resident in the UK. Edited collections of papers are not eligible, nor are books published by the Society.

Nominations – Nominations should include:

- a letter giving the title of the book, name(s) of the author(s), publisher and date of publication
- a short statement (not more than one side of A4) explaining why the author(s) should receive the award
- copies of at least two **published** reviews of the book
- supporting statements by up to three additional referees with expertise in that field
- a copy of the book, whenever possible

Nominators may be individuals, authors, publishers or their agents.

Nominations should be sent to the Chair of the Research Board at the Society's office, to arrive no later than **Friday 29 September 2006.**

Further details from Lisa Morrison Coulthard at the Society's Leicester office (e-mail: Lisa.MorrisonCoulthard@bps.org.uk).

The marriage of science and practice in psychology remains the bedrock on which both the discipline and the profession are firmly founded. Nowhere was that more apparent than at the Annual Conference in Cardiff. The ornate splendour of the City Hall was an impressive setting, outshone only by the eye-catching range of speakers and poster displays.

Following her gracious welcome to the city, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff was still wandering round the displays half an hour after her official departure. She was intrigued and amazed by the range of topics covered that she had previously not associated with psychology. She asked a number of insightful questions and requested a copy of one particular poster that had attracted her attention. I think that counts as a success in 'Bringing psychology to society'.

I have always regarded the Society's Annual Conference as a bit of an Aladdin's Cave. It is tempting to choose sessions that accord with one's area of work or interest, but greater value often comes from a more serendipitous selection. Listening to presentations in areas I might consider peripheral to my interests broadens my perception. I absorb new ideas and concepts that expand my day-to-day thinking.

The conference is one of our major member services, and costs are held to a very low level compared with events of similar quality. I would like to see even more members taking advantage of this and hope you will join us in York next year. Well done to the Standing Conference Committee and the staff who ensured it ran so smoothly.

Another event was the seminar organised by the Professional Practice Board to discuss the 'Layard Proposals' (see 'Pressing for more psychological therapists' on p.266). Members will already be aware of the interest in the social and economic costs of psychological distress taken by Lord Layard, Emeritus Professor at the London School of Economics (as reported in *The Psychologist*, November 2005). His proposals envisage centres providing improved access to psychological therapies along the lines of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines. Although the initial Society involvement has been psychologists in the health and social care sectors, it was clear at the seminar that his concept of preparing people for work and returning them to employment cuts across many of the applied psychologies.

Lord Layard spoke along with Richard Taylor, a Director of the National Institute for Mental

Health in England (NIMHE). It was particularly encouraging to hear both pay tribute to the increasing recognition of the central role of psychology in social policy development. It is even included in the government manifesto.

The credibility of the discipline in making such impacts depends significantly on the high standards that are set for education and training at every level. It was therefore a matter of concern to hear of rumours that the advent of statutory regulation might lead to a relaxation in the standards for accreditation of undergraduate courses in psychology leading to the Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR). I have circulated an open letter to a number of bodies stating that this is totally without foundation.

We await the latest information on the government's intentions regarding the regulation of non-medical professions. The findings of the Foster Review are expected to become public around the time you will be reading this. However, it has been clear in all discussions that the accreditation focus of statutory regulation will be on the postgraduate training required to attain practitioner status and entry to a Register. Undergraduate course accreditation for GBR will remain firmly the province of the Society. There will be no relaxation of the standards required. In particular, educational institutions will continue to be encouraged to improve on the minimum acceptable staff to student ratio of 1:20.

Lastly, one advantage of writing this column is that I get to read some of the content of *The Psychologist* before it hits the presses. Like the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, I'm intrigued and amazed by the variety of the content and the high standard of the contributions. In this edition I was particularly taken by Willem Kuyken's article on autobiographical memory in depression. That memory is not simply some sort of biological DVD recorder is one of the insights that seems to me to separate the psychologist from the general public. Understanding that what we recall and how we recall it is intimately bound up with our emotions and mood states gives us a very different perspective on the role of memory in day-to-day living. In his article Kuyken demonstrates the implications for the treatment of problems such as depression and, once again, the essential link between theoretical science and practical application.

This is a marriage that will last.



Ray Miller

Contact Ray Miller via the Society's Leicester office, or e-mail: president@bps.org.uk.

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