

...with David Lane

Director of the Professional Development Foundation and joint winner of the Society's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Professional Psychology

One way coaching psychology can help the nation through economic crisis

Coaching psychologists are working with leaders across a range of industries who are faced with critical decisions about the sustainability of the response they make to the current crisis. The solutions of the past, based in predictable linear responses, do not fit more emergent or chaotic situations. Helping leaders to work within these more complex frameworks is one way to make a difference.

One inspiration

Gladys Alwood, the missionary. As a young child I corresponded with her. That she took the trouble to write to a child across the world seemed important, as did her encouragement to always go beyond disappointments.

One moment that changed the course of your career

A conversation with ILEA Educational Psychology

Service in 1974 which led (unintended) to establishing an Education Guidance Centre in Islington. ILEA were abuzz with innovative people and ideas at that time, and Islington seemed to be a natural home for maverick psychologists pushing the boundaries of practice.

One book that changed my practice

Beyond Counselling and Therapy by Carkhuff and Berenson (1969). It showed me that it was possible to draw upon a range of traditions in working with clients and pointed the way to my own development of approaches to individualised case formulation.

One regret

Not making a real impact on the sustainability debate. I first started publishing material on this in the early 1970s but then moved my attention to other areas. I returned to it in the 1990s (commissioning *Global Warming and the Built*

Environment, published by Spon in 1994) but I wish I had more consistently addressed this question.

One thing that you would change about psychology

A frustration in the way 'Regimes of Truth', in Foucault's term, are allowed to dominate

debate for too long – new ideas are rejected too soon or marginalised. For example, when we started to use behavioural and cognitive behavioural ideas in education in the early 1970s, the reaction from some within the field was vitriolic.

One great thing that psychology has achieved

The continuing struggle to be scientist-practitioners. The discipline's commitment to this frame is a defining feature for me – it is far from easy but does mark psychology out as

offering a special contribution to the human sciences.

One cultural recommendation

All psychologists should read Kafka's *The Trial*.

One thing that 'organised psychology' could do better

I think the BPS is getting better but in the past we have been very resistant to new areas of psychology being professionalised. We marginalised sports psychology for many years, kept counselling psychology at bay for too long, and coaching psychology is struggling to find its place. We need to get better at welcoming new practice and encouraging its growth.



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resource

'*The Modern Scientist Practitioner* – a guide to practice in psychology I wrote with Sarah Corrie (Routledge, 2006). It encapsulates what I think it means to be a psychologist struggling to serve clients and science through science.'

coming soon

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