

THE BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON AGGRESSION

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The European Editor produced this issue

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Editorial

Welcome to the December edition of the *ISRA Bulletin*. It commences with details of the forthcoming world meeting in Minneapolis in July 2006. Mike Potegal has put together what looks like a stimulating conference, creating also a very impressive website.

Following the conference announcement are two papers that may be of interest. The first by Jayne L Taylor explores the relationship between violence and psychosis and in particular highlights the need to distinguish between psychotic symptoms if the link between mental illness and aggression can be properly understood. This is followed by a thought-provoking article by Menno Kruk highlighting the importance of going 'back to basics' with our own research when we can and working towards greater inclusion.

This is followed by a selection of book reviews. Reviews are an important element of the bulletin and it is particularly pleasing to see three books in this edition: 'Adolescents and Risk: Behaviors, functions and protective factors'; 'Ostracism, the power of silence' and 'The Human Potential for Peace: An Anthropological Challenge to Assumptions about War and Violence'. Concluding the book review section is an outline of recently published books by Willan. These are from a relatively new publishing house that is increasingly publishing books that may fall within the domains of interest of our members.

Information on two conferences follows, one an international conference [International Academy of Law and Mental Health] and the other a national conference in the UK [Division of Forensic Psychology conference]. Both conferences may be of interest to ISRA members, with each focusing on forensic applications of research. The ISRA society is well placed, I feel, to contribute to forensic issues. Indeed as a mentor of mine once said, '*Aggression by its very nature is a forensic concern*'. I have to say I agree and I think that the ISRA has a great deal to offer forensic societies, societies which may be risking developing their research base somewhat in a vacuum, failing to take advantage of the wider aggression field as much as they could or should be doing.

The bulletin concludes with a post of potential interest to an ISRA member, namely a position of Chief of the Prevention Development and Evaluation Branch, Division of Violence Prevention. It does look like a fascinating position and certainly one which I think an ISRA member could admirably fill.

As always, comments on the bulletin are most welcome, particularly those relating to how it can be developed in the future. Short articles, book reviews, conference reviews and accounts of ongoing research are warmly invited and can be sent to either myself or Eric Dubow, the North American Editor, who will be producing the next edition of the Bulletin.

A suggestion for a 'News of Members' page has also been made with a view that we would include here information relating to any awards achieved by ISRA members or details of changes in circumstances such as new professional addresses and/or appointments. This page will clearly be led by the membership but we felt it would be useful to consider the possibility of this as permanent feature of the Bulletin. ISRA remains a relatively small community and I am sure that we are keen to know how our friends and colleagues are doing. Bi-annual world meetings just seem to be a long time to wait! Thus myself and Eric would welcome any information that you feel may be a useful addition to this page.

Jane L. Ireland: European newsletter editor

The 2006 ISRA Conference in Minneapolis, MN, USA

The meeting website contains information and appropriate web links for meeting dates and places, abstract submission format and deadlines, housing registration and social events, plus all the information presented here and much, much more.

The meeting website URL: <http://www.israsociety.com/2006meeting>

Program Committee

Caroline Blanchard
Brad Bushman
Marina Butovskaya
Yvon Delville

Local Organizer

Mike Potegal

Meeting Coordinator

Kelli Clement

Jozsef Haller
Roger Johnson
Barbara Krahe
Menno Kruk
Simha Landau
Manuela Martinez
Steve Maxson
Mike Potegal

Meeting dates, site, host and organizers

The 17th biennial meeting of The International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA) will be held from Tuesday, July 25 through Saturday, July 29, 2006 at the Coffman Memorial Union on the East Campus of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis MN. The Medical School's Department of Pediatrics is the official host of the meeting. Mike Potegal is the local organizer and Kelli Clement is the meeting coordinator (Kelli is an experienced Minneapolis travel agent and entertainer. She and Mike have vowed to stay married despite working together on this meeting).

Meeting Schedule at a Glance

	Tues, 7/25	Wed, 7/26	Thurs, 7/27	Fri, 7/28	Sat, 7/29
8:00AM		8:00 greetings by UM officials			
		8:30 Plenary 1 <u>Laura Baker</u>	Plenary 2 <u>Mia Bloom</u>	Plenary 3 <u>Emil Cocarro</u>	Plenary 4 <u>Dean Pruitt</u>
9:00		Scientific sessions X 3	Scientific sessions X 3	Scientific sessions X 3	Scientific sessions X 3
10:00					
11:00					
12:00PM		Lunch: Coffman Union food concessions	Lunch: Coffman Union food concessions	12-2:30 <u>Grants Workshop</u> with representatives from NSF, NIMH, NICHD, HFG ***	Lunch off-site only
1:00		Scientific sessions X3	Scientific sessions X 3		Scientific sessions X 3
2:00	Registration at Radisson Hotel*				
3:00				Free Afternoon	
4:00		4:00-6:00 Poster sessions 1 & 2** & cash bar	Caroline Blanchard's presidential address		
5:00	5:00-7:00 Opening reception at Weisman Art Museum, music by The Usual Suspects jazz combo		Business Meeting		
6:00	Registration available at the reception*	<u>Cuisine affinity groups:</u> Guided dining experiences with local attendees to facilitate socialization		<u>Banquet XVII</u> Historic Wabasha St. Caves, St. Paul AWARDS & SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT	<u>Optional post-meeting events,</u> e.g. Mississippi paddleboat ride, St. Paul Saints baseball game, theater, music. To be arranged
7:00			7:30-9:00 <u>Adrian Raine</u> Public lecture including Q&A		
8:00					

*Subsequent registration at Coffman Union meeting site

**Two consecutive 1 hr sessions during which poster authors are required to be at poster

***National Science Foundation, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. Individual post-session appointments can be made with agency representatives.

Plenary Addresses

Laura Baker *Risk factors for antisocial behavior: Genes and environment*

Mia Bloom *Understanding motivations for suicide terrorism*

Adrian Raine *Lombroso's legacy: Violence, brain mechanisms, and moral responsibility* (Public lecture)

Emil Cocarro *Biology and treatment of impulsive aggressive behavior in humans*

Dean Pruitt *Intergroup escalation and its remedies*

Call for papers/Submission requirements

Symposia/workshops: The organizer/chair should submit a 150-300 word summary of the symposium/workshops's theme along with a 300 word abstract for each of the individual presentations, as indicated below. Following the summary, the organizer must add a statement that each presenter has agreed to participate in the symposium. If possible, time should be reserved at the end for all presenters to assemble for collective 'question and answers' with the audience.

Paper/poster abstracts: Abstracts are limited to 300 words. Include the names and institutional affiliations of all authors and the e-mail address, phone & fax number of the corresponding author. Indicate whether it is a paper or poster presentation. Also indicate whether the contact information should be included in the abstract on the website. Please submit your proposals by e-mail to: abstracts17@israsociety.com You will be notified by e-mail when your abstract has been reviewed and accepted.

REQUESTED ABSTRACT FORMAT

Aggression among sympatric subspecies of highland hoop snakes (*Natrix circumflexis* sp.)
B.S. Bubba, G. Oleboy, & M. Mythicus Collegiate College of the Upper Mississippi Delta,
USA

The extreme potency of hoop snake venom, and its unique mode of delivery, poses a problem for the non-lethal resolution of intraspecific conflict. ...+ ≤263 more words.....These results are inconclusive. On the other hand, more research money is needed.

Communicating author: B.S. Bubba Phone 555-5555 Fax 555-5556 e-mail:
bubba@collegiatecollege.edu

Please do/do not include communicating author contact information in the abstract posted on the meeting website (select one)

This is a paper/poster presentation (select one)

Special audio/visual equipment requirements:

The official deadlines for submission are:

Symposium submission deadline (If you can, get your paper/poster in, too) **Feb. 15, 2006**

Paper and poster submission deadline: **Mar. 15, 2006**

Final, "Hot Data" poster only submission deadline: **May 1, 2006**

The experiment finally worked!!! The last analysis turned it all around!!! Congratulations!!! Share your recent good news, in **POSTER FORMAT ONLY**.

Correcting and archiving abstracts

Abstracts will be displayed on this website after approval. **PLEASE NOTE:** Abstracts can be corrected/withdrawn by e-mail (abstracts17@israsociety.com) up to **May 1 2006**. Following the meeting, abstracts will be maintained on the israsociety website indefinitely. Because this is an archival record, authors will also be able to correct/withdraw an abstract on the website by e-mail up to 1 month after the meeting (i.e. Aug. 31, 2006). If an abstract is corrected on the website, a note will be added indicating that it is the abstract of record and is no longer identical to that printed in the program book.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT NOW!

If you got it, flaunt it. The sooner we receive abstracts, the sooner we can plan the scientific sessions.

Registration

Meeting Registration	Deadlines and Fees		
Registration Category	Early registration Deadline: 3/1/2006	Regular registration Deadline: 4/15/06	On-Site/late registration 7/25-29/2006
Members	\$190	\$205	\$220
Non-Members	\$205	\$220	\$235
Students	\$120	\$130	\$140
Optional events			
Banquet XVII Fri. evening, 7/28	\$80		
Grants Workshop, Fri 7/28, 12:00-2:30	No charge. However, please indicate on the registration form whether you plan to attend this workshop		
Post-meeting events Sat. evening, 7/29	Local outings may be arranged in advance by email request. Please see the Social Events for more information.		

On-line Registration

Pre-meeting, on-line registration is solely through the ISRA Registration-GMCVA Website. To register online go to the meeting website: <http://www.israsociety.com/2006meeting>

Note for students: Please use mail or fax option and send a photocopy of your student ID along with your registration form.

Mail/Fax Registration

Students and others wishing to register by FAX or regular mail, please click on the link provided in the meeting website to download a PDF version of the form.

<http://www.israsociety.com/2006meeting>

Complete the entire form and mail or fax along with payment to:

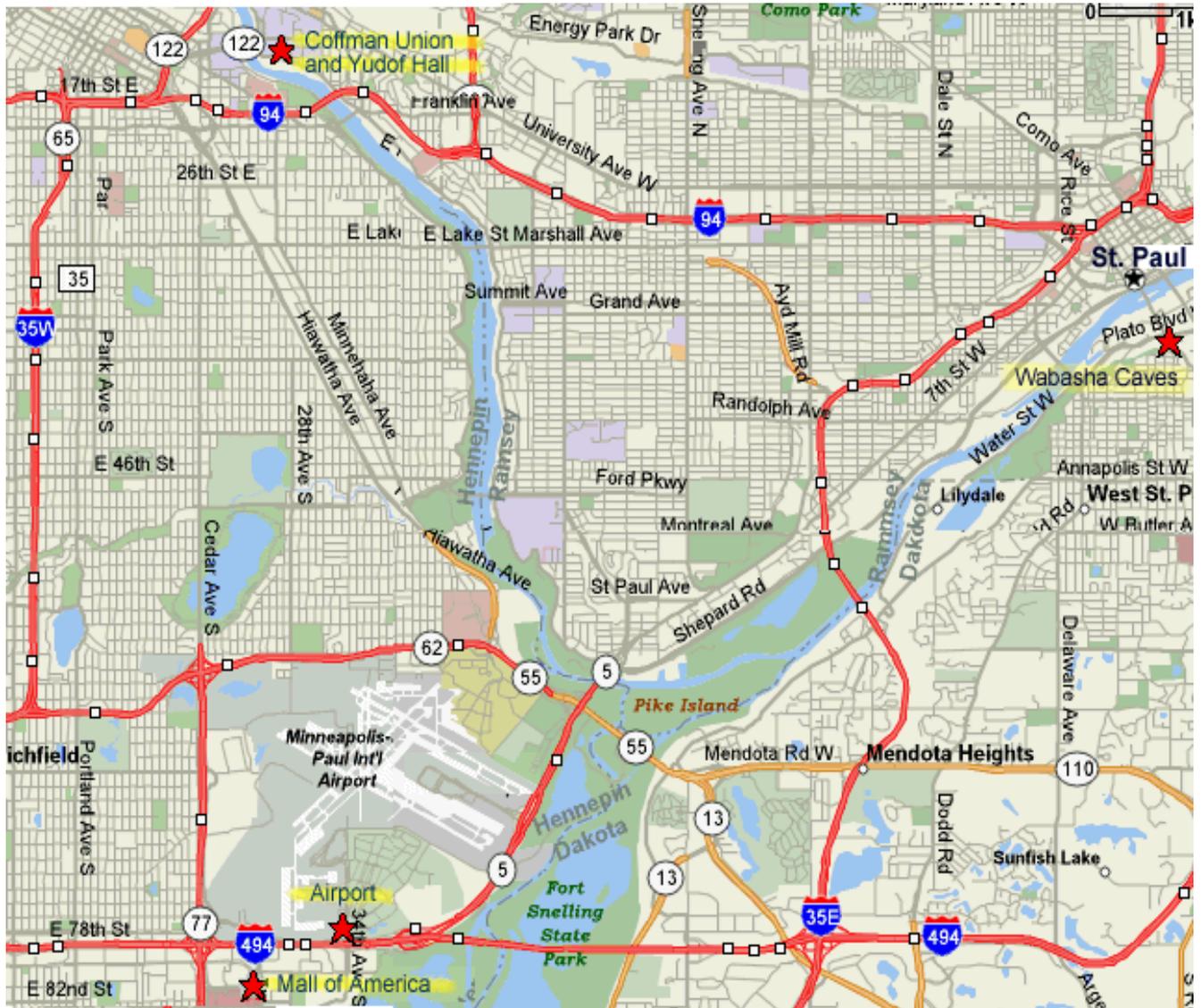
ISRA-MSM Registration
250 Marquette Avenue South Suite 1300
Minneapolis, MN 55401
USA

OR

Fax to: 612.335.5839

On-site/late registration

This will begin Tuesday, 7/25, at the Radisson Hotel and will continue in the evening at the Weisman Art Museum reception. Onsite registration on subsequent days will be at the Coffman Union. Registration materials will include ISRA meeting tote bag, program book (with abstracts), ID badges, and maps. Students registering on-site will be asked to show their student IDs. A map of locations is shown below and on the following page.



Cancellation

Should it become necessary to cancel your registration, please notify MSM Registration by writing (fax and email accepted) on or before May 31, 2006. Cancellations postmarked after May 31, 2006 cannot be refunded. Refunds will be sent within 30 days of the meeting.

Housing

This must be arranged separately. See below for details.

Housing Accommodations and Reservations

Housing accommodations for the meeting are available at 3 nearby hotels and a less expensive student residence facility (see the small scale map below for locations). Special reduced rates are available at the three hotels. However, the number of rooms available at these rates is limited, and they are only offered through the Housing Reservations-GMCVA website. You cannot obtain these rates by booking directly with the hotels or through other internet sites. For the Housing Reservations-GMCVA website see the conference website (under the link 'Hotels, Reservation, Transport').



Hotels

The Radisson University Hotel (formerly, the Radisson Hotel Metrodome, 615 Washington Ave, SE) is located on the University of Minnesota campus, just a 5 minute walk from the Coffman Union meeting site. All Radisson rooms are equipped with wireless internet access. Amenities include on-site restaurant and lounge, fitness room and complimentary access to U of M fitness and recreation facilities. There is shuttle service within 5 miles.

The Holiday Inn Metrodome (1500 Washington Ave S.) is located between the campus and the downtown business district, just a 5 minute walk across a Mississippi River bridge to the meeting site. All rooms offer high-speed internet access with wireless access in the lobby and lounge area. Amenities include on-site restaurant and lounge, indoor pool and whirlpool. Shuttle service within 3 miles.

The Days Inn-University (2407 University Ave SE) is located on the eastern edge of campus, a 15 minute walk from the conference site. All rooms offer wireless internet access. Amenities include complimentary continental breakfast. No on-site restaurant or lounge, but several in immediate vicinity. Shuttle within 2 miles (includes meeting site).

Student residence hall (dormitory rooms)

Rooms are available at the new Mark G. Yudof Hall, on campus, just steps away from the Coffman Union. These small, single rooms offer semi-private bath (shared with another, same-sex ISRA meeting attendee only), kitchenette, linens and access to the computer lab. Meal plans are available at the campus dining hall.

PLEASE NOTE: Residence hall rooms (but not hotels) require payment in advance. For the Housing Reservations-GMCVA website, rates and details, please go the meeting website:

<http://www.israsociety.com/2006meeting>

Scientific Program

As is typical for an ISRA meeting, a broad range of biological, psychological and social topics and issues related to aggression will be presented. Because issues of aggression cross academic discipline boundaries, we are making an effort to reach out across disciplines while maintaining the scientific integrity of the presentations. Please note that as presentations are added to the schedule, the details of the scientific program may change. We strongly suggest checking this website periodically for updates and changes.

Presentation modes: Papers and posters

There will be both paper (e.g., Powerpoint) and poster presentations. We will also accept proposals for symposia/workshops, etc consisting of several paper presentations organized around some topic of interest. The paper presentations will be about 20 minutes with 5 minutes for questions. LCD (Powerpoint) projectors will be available in every room. Projectors for overheads (transparencies) and flip charts (large paper pad easels) can be ordered in advance.

Poster area dimensions are 3 ft wide X 3.5 ft tall (0.9 m X 1.05 m). Posters will be up for a designated morning or afternoon. Within that time, each poster will be assigned to a designated 1 hour session during which authors are asked to be present at their poster. Poster sessions 1 and 2 are scheduled from 4-6 PM on Wed., 7/26; a cash bar in the poster room will facilitate scientific exchange. Poster session 3 remains to be scheduled.

Symposia scheduled to date

The Comparative Genetics of Aggression: Focus on MAO and Serotonin

Wed (7/26) morning (to follow Laura Baker's plenary address).

Organizer: Steve Maxson

Jean Shih	MAO Variants and aggression in mice
Andrew Holmes	5HT Variant and aggression in mice
Dee Higley	MAOA Variants and aggression in monkeys
Elizabeth Prom	MAOA Variants and aggression in humans

Anger expression, behavior and physiology: Recent research, current findings and new models

Wed (7/26) afternoon

Organizer & discussant: Mike Potegal

Gerhard Stemmler	A streetcar named anger: Antecedents, mechanisms, goals
Julie Hubbard	Anger and aggression in children
Eddie Harmon-Jones	Varieties of anger and their relationships to asymmetrical frontal cortical activity
Ray Novaco	Anger dysregulation and its treatment

Special Features of the Meeting

Daily coffee break

Complimentary coffee and refreshments will be available between the plenary address and scientific sessions each morning.

Grants Workshop: Fri (7/28) 12-2:30 PM

A new feature of the meeting will be a "Grants Workshop" to be held by representatives of National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. These representatives will review substantive rather than procedural issues, e.g., current areas of funding interest in their respective agencies, what counts as "translational research" in aggression, upcoming PA's and RFA's, what's hot and what's not. This workshop will include a period for audience Q & A. Written material from the Violence Prevention Branch of the Center for Disease Control may also be available.

PLEASE NOTE: Individual half-hour consultations with representatives following the workshop (2:30-5:00 PM) can be pre-arranged before the meeting or through sign-up sheets at the meeting. Interested parties should e-mail Mike Potegal (poteg001@umn.edu), indicating the agency representative(s) you would like to meet.

Presidential Address: Caroline Blanchard 3:30-4:30, Thurs, 7/27

Business meeting/awards: 4:30-6 PM Thurs, 7/27

Publisher's Table: Wed-Fri, 7/26-7/28

The University of Minnesota Bookstore will provide a cross-disciplinary display of recent books on anger and anger management, aggression, conflict and conflict resolution, violence and violence prevention, and associated topics. Some relevant books by ISRA plenary speakers, University of Minnesota faculty and other attendees will also be displayed. A bookstore representative will answer questions and handle sales at a convenient time slot and location each day, Wed through to Friday (e.g., at the Wed PM poster sessions; a schedule of slots and locations will be available at the meeting). At other times, the books will be available for examination at the publisher's table near the meeting rooms. At all times, books can be bought at a special ISRA meeting display in the bookstore itself in the lower level of the Coffman Union during the summer business hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Meeting discounts up to 20% may be offered, depending on the publisher.

Social Events

Reception

The opening reception, on Tuesday evening 7/25, will be held from 5-7 PM at the University of Minnesota's beautiful Weisman Art Museum. Enjoy the jazz tunes of John Jensen and The Usual Suspects and stroll among the art exhibits.

“Cuisine Affinity Groups” Meet new colleagues over dinner! Wed. 7/26

Minneapolis features restaurants of many different cuisines, e.g., Afghani, Argentine, Caribbean/Spanish, Chinese, Ethiopian, French, German, Greek, Indian, Italian, Iranian, Japanese, Mexican, Middle Eastern, Mongolian, Russian, Thai and Vietnamese, as well as seafood, steakhouses, vegetarian and good ol' American soul food and barbecue. On Wed. evening, 7/26, after the first full day of the meeting, we will facilitate social contact by organizing expeditions to these restaurants. Meet folks who share your taste in food (and who knows what else). Student guides will make suggestions, hand out maps, and call taxis. Local faculty and students will be asked to go along and act as guides on what's good and what's great on the menus. Check this site for rally points. (For a general review of Twin Cities restaurants, see www.twincitiesdiningguide.com or www.citypages.com/restaurants).

Laboratory Tours

The possibility of lab tours with local researchers is being explored.

Lunch Options

An extensive food court on ground level of the Coffman Memorial Union features bagel, pizza, sandwich, and hot food concessions. There is a upscale (and more expensive) menu at the Campus Club on the 4th floor of Coffman. The food court will be open 7 AM to 5 PM weekdays throughout the meeting. For lunch on Saturday, when the food court will not be open, a 5-10 minute walk east along Washington Ave will bring you to food choices including bagel and noodle shops, 3 pizzerias and 3 “submarine” sandwich shops as well as Chinese, Mexican, 2 Thai, 2 Vietnamese and 3 American restaurants.

Free afternoon: Fri 7/28

Check tourism and recreation section for suggested indoor and outdoor activities.

Banquet XVII - Historic Wabasha St. Caves, St. Paul, Fri 7/28

Explore the criminal mentality in a unique dining experience wholly befitting a professional meeting on aggression. Price includes bus transportation, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, buffet dinner and **SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT!**

See the Meeting Registration Table for prices and deadlines.

Post-Meeting Optional Events

We would gladly explore options for those who are remaining in Minneapolis through Saturday evening, 7/29, and would like to have an interesting and enjoyable experience in the company of other ISRA meeting-goers. Possible recreational activities/events on Saturday evening include a 3 hour ride and dinner aboard a Mississippi paddleboat, St. Paul Saints baseball game, comedy club, karaoke singing, and lawn bowling, as well as more traditional theater and musical venues (e.g., the new Guthrie Theater). Please indicate events of interest on the meeting registration form. We will review responses and explore the possibilities of helping organize groups and/or obtain tickets for a few events that are of sufficient general interest.

Airline/Airport Information

The major airlines servicing the Twin Cities are Northwest-KLM. Other airlines include American, Continental, Delta, United, Mesaba, Midwest Airlines and Sun Country. A 5-10% reduction in airfare for ISRA attendees is being arranged with Northwest that will be accessible through a Word File/Ticket Designator feature. Taxi fare from the airport to meeting hotels is about \$25

The Relationship Between Violence and Psychosis – Time for a Different Approach?

Dr Jayne L. Taylor

*Department of Psychology, University of Manchester and Edenfield Unit,
Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental NHS Trust, UK:*

[*Jayne.L.Taylor@man.ac.uk*](mailto:Jayne.L.Taylor@man.ac.uk)

A series of recent reviews have demonstrated a dramatic shift in research opinion within the past decade regarding the relationship between violence and psychosis (e.g. Walsh, Buchanan, and Fahy, 2002; Bjorkly, 2002a and 2002b; O’Kane and Bentall, 2000). Earlier research findings suggesting no link between psychosis and increased risk of violence have been replaced by a growing body of research which has concluded that people with specific diagnoses, particularly schizophrenia, and more recently, particular symptoms such as persecutory delusions, are at increased risk of committing violent acts towards others, as defined by the forceful infliction of physical injury (Blackburn, 1993). This paper seeks to review the status of this research in informing our understanding of the mechanisms underpinning violent acts in people with psychosis.

Methodological difficulties

The well-documented methodological difficulties inherent to research examining the link between psychosis and violence have resulted in prolonged debate regarding the strength of the relationship. A variety of research designs have been employed including studies focusing on the prevalence of schizophrenia in prison populations (Hodgins and Cote, 1993; Taylor and Gunn, 1984), the prevalence of violence in people with schizophrenia (Karson and Bigelow, 1987) and epidemiological studies examining the prevalence of both violence and schizophrenia in unselected community samples (Hodgins, Brennan, Mednick et al. 1996; Swanson, Holzer, Ganju, et al., 1990). Each of the strategies have inherent methodological weaknesses, often compounded by a series of design flaws including use of inappropriate control groups, inadequate control of confounding variables such as socio-economic status and wide variation in the definition and measurement of both violence and diagnosis. Although comparison and meta-analysis of the research base is therefore difficult, it has been argued that this provides stronger evidence of a relationship as positive findings appear to transcend both methodological differences and weaknesses (Link and Stueve, 1995). However, in a scholarly review of methodological weaknesses in this area, Arboleda-Florez, Holley and Chianti (1998) argue the converse, stating that this only leads to an increasingly distorted and inaccurate representation.

Alternative strategies of investigation

In view of the contentious debate over the relationship between violence and psychosis, several alternative strategies of investigation have been suggested. Arboleda- Florez et al.

(1998) argue that studies should include only those ‘at risk’ of violence, excluding individuals with a prior history of violence. For example, an increased disposition towards anger has been associated with a tendency towards violence (Selby, 1984). They also raise the important issue of ‘attributable risk’ compared with ‘relative risk’. Hitherto, the majority of research on the relationship between violence and psychosis has focused upon relative risk - the amount of risk posed by an individual compared to other people. Relative risk is a subtle statistical concept open to misinterpretation and misrepresentation, and findings indicating that those with psychosis have an increased risk of committing violent acts serve only to fuel media misrepresentations and contribute to the further stigmatisation of mental health difficulties.

As an alternative, Arboleda-Florez et al. (1998) and Walsh et al. (2002) advocate the use of population attributable risk, the amount of risk within a population attributable to one factor (e.g. mental health), arguing that this approach demonstrates how little violence within society is attributable to people with mental health difficulties. In support, Walsh et al. (2002) re-examined the violence rates of a Finnish cohort study (Tiihonen, Isohanni, Rasanen, et al. 1997) and found the population risk of violence attributable to people with schizophrenia was only four percent. Thus, even if we accept the argument of Link and Stueve (1995) and ignore methodological difficulties, research hitherto demonstrates that in fact only a small proportion of people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia commit what is a comparatively small amount of violence within society.

However, at a practical level, attributable risk is clinically meaningless. It is unable to help us identify or predict which individuals within this group are at risk of committing a violent act. To address this issue, we need to identify and understand the interplay of factors associated with violence in people with psychosis.

Factors associated with violence

The search for more refined predictors of violence within those with mental health difficulties has become an increasingly popular strategy of investigation. To date, this has generally focused upon factors that appear to increase the relative risk of violence, most notably substance abuse (Arsenault, Moffitt, Caspi, Taylor and Silva, 2000; Swanson, Borum, Swartz and Monahan 1996). This interest has also been reflected in the development of violence risk assessments which have evolved from purely subjective, clinical assessments through to actuarial approaches (e.g. VRAG; Harris, Rice and Quinsey, 1993) and structured clinical approaches (e.g. Historical Clinical Risk management guide [HCR-20]; Webster, Douglas, Eaves and Hart, 1997), with the latter aiming to assess both static and dynamic factors known to increase the risk of violence, e.g. previous violence employment problems, active symptoms of mental illness.

However, the heterogeneity within large diagnostic categories such as schizophrenia have led some to argue that the relationship between psychosis and violence can only be clarified by focusing upon specific symptoms (O’Kane and Bentall, 2000). Specific symptoms which have been associated with increased risk of physical violence towards others include command hallucinations in which the voice commands the individual to perform a violent act (Rogers, Gillis, Turner and Frise-Smith, 1990) and persecutory delusions (Cheung, Schweitzer, Crowley and Tuckwell, 1997), particularly when the violent act is perceived as a protection against a perceived threat (Staznickas, McNeil and Binder, 1993). In accordance with this, Link, Stueve and Phelan (1998) found that it was those symptoms which specifically related to the

individual feeling threatened or controlled by external forces (Threat/Control Override symptoms – TCO: Link, Stueve and Phelan, 1998), which were associated with increased risk of physical violence towards others. However, as a caveat, it is worth noting that Swanson, Estroff, Swartz, Borum, Lachicotte et al. (1997) found that although moderate levels of psychotic symptoms and agitation increased risk of physical violence, higher levels of active symptom severity conferred lower risk, implying that severe dysfunction impedes violence.

The symptom-based approach has undoubtedly led to advances in our understanding of the relationship between psychosis and violence (see Bjorkly, 2002a and 2002b for review). However, many of the studies are subject to the same methodological criticisms as those outlined previously above and, as with the use of attributable risk, still tell us little about why some people with delusional beliefs are vulnerable to committing violent acts or how we can identify these individuals.

The central problem with research to date has been the emphasis upon the statistical association between violence and psychosis. Arboleda-Florez et al. (1998) state that, in pursuing this line of research, we have been asking the wrong question. Recent research has also demonstrated that we have been guilty of over-simplification. For example, Link and Stueve (1998) argue for the importance of examining the timing and targets of violence, a point also offered by Estroff, Swanson, Lachiotte, et al. (1998) who seek to remind us that violence rarely resides solely within the individual but occurs as an interaction between the individual and social context.

Advancing our Understanding

In order to significantly advance our understanding of the relationship between psychosis and violence, it is necessary to identify the mechanisms and factors underlying violent behaviour in people with psychosis. Therefore, the question we should be asking is '*what factors differentiate those people with psychosis who have committed violent acts from those who have not*'.

In addressing this question, several issues need to be considered. Firstly, research should continue to focus on specific symptoms, with an exploration of differences in underlying mechanisms of behaviour according to symptom profile. Thus, factors associated with aggression in response to persecutory delusions may differ from those associated with passivity delusions. Second, violence encapsulates a range of multifaceted behaviours - the mechanisms and functions underlying the recidivistic offender with a history of minor assaults may differ widely from the offender who has committed one serious assault in response to command hallucinations. Future research needs to attend to differences in the presentation and range of violent behaviours. Third, it is possible that violent acts in psychosis are not a function of psychopathology but are related to a set of predisposing factors, such as difficulties in inhibitory control or exposure to a criminogenic environment, where the symptoms of psychosis merely act as triggers or exacerbating factors. In view of this, studies should control for both history of violence (a non-mentally ill non-violent offender comparison group) and history of psychosis (people with psychosis with no history of violence). Finally, although cross-sectional studies may elucidate potential proximal vulnerability factors, prospective, longitudinal studies are required to fully address the contribution of more distal vulnerability factors such as family environment, peer relationships, etc to the ontogeny of violence in later life.

The proposed strategy is not without challenge. Gradations in violence within the population in general pose difficulties in obtaining clearly defined groups, an issue further complicated by the lack of adequate measures of violence. This is also true of psychotic phenomena. Furthermore, it is likely that violence in psychosis is underscored by multiple factors operating synergistically. Notwithstanding these difficulties, recent research demonstrates that the study of psychological variables may prove a fruitful line of enquiry. Distorted or biased information processing has been repeatedly implicated (Arsenault et al., 2000; Beck, 1999), with Nestor (2002) arguing that a cognitive style characterised by excessive perceptions of threat may underlie violence in people with paranoid delusions. Recent empirical support for this theory was provided by McNiel, Eisner and Binder (2003) who found that an aggressive attributional style was associated with increased violence in psychiatric in-patients. Research on more distal factors has focused on the role of early experience, with particular emphasis on attachment (Raine, Brennan and Mednick, 1994; Raine, Brennan and Mednick, 1997). This has been linked to deficits in the ability to understand the mental states of others (Fonagy, 2003), which has also been found to be impaired in people with psychosis with a violent history (Murphy, 1998).

Conclusion

In considering the depth of research on psychological factors in psychosis and a comparable literature within the study of violence, the paucity of research in this area is surprising. However, the severe consequences of violent behaviour in albeit a small proportion of people with psychosis demonstrates the need for research to help identify not only those individuals who may be vulnerable to such behaviour but to also understand more about the social and environmental complexities of violence in this group. Such an approach would reduce the potential for people with mental illnesses being stereotyped and stigmatised on the basis of simplistic and methodologically flawed research designs. If our understanding of violence in psychosis is to advance, a change of research direction is imperative.

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A Distant Dutch Mirror on Aggression Research

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Cycling into History

Traveling between home and lab and back is a wonderful time-out from e-Mail and telephone. Cycling from my village on the verge of the tulip fields in Holland to the university of Leiden, I often make a small detour behind the ancient protestant church and an old 16th century manor house. The manor house is the birthplace of a Dutch polymath, Herman Boerhaave (1668-1738), professor at my Alma Mater: the Leiden University. Though Boerhaave died more than quarter of a millennium ago, his name is everywhere in Leiden. There is a statue in front of the academic hospital. An avenue, a restaurant, and a science museum flaunt his name. Refresher courses for medical specialists and general practitioners are called “Boerhaave Courses”. I still have a picture of Klaus Miczek in front of the Boerhaave House from the days that Klaus held Leiden’s prestigious “Boerhaave Chair” for visiting scientists.

A Distant Mirror

As far as I know Boerhaave never published anything on aggression. It was not a scientific topic those days. Yet Boerhaave had qualities that earned him a place in history, qualities that provide me with a distant mirror in aggression research. First of all, he was a man of his time, in the sense that he did not make the 20th century distinction between the so-called “exact” or “natural” sciences” and the “social sciences” or “humanoria”. Secondly he passionately encouraged exchange of new ideas between scientists of different origins and training. Thirdly, he insisted on direct observation in combination with strict logic as critical tests for current theories. In that aspect he was ahead of his time, marking a transition from classical erudition and scholarship to experimental observation. Lastly he trained many successful young followers.

From Bed-side Observations to Theory

Boerhaave believed in learning from observing the patient, and institutionalized “bed-side” teaching. That is common enough now, but not at a time when surgeons were often barbers. Doctors in academic medicine rarely observed a patient and relied on bookish knowledge. Medical doctors actually looked down on surgeons, though the latter - as a group - held a store of useful practical knowledge that the former lacked. Anthony van Leeuwenhoek, the discoverer of human blood cells and the spermatocyt, rightly complained about “learned doctors who talk about the human body like a blind man talks about colors”.

Informed by the “Bad Side”

Is there is an analogy with aggression research? Maybe. At a recent meeting in Warszawa an ISRA-member, who treats violent offenders for his job, told us that there is so little in our findings and theories that helps him in his work at the “bad-side” of society. That shocked me, and raises a series of serious questions. Do we neglect our “bed-side” or “bad-side” observing? And if that is true, e.g. because aggression is such a “low frequency” behavior, do we listen enough to persons who, by the nature of their profession, do encounter it more frequently? And if we did listen, would that not change our experiments and theories? Do we have sufficient contributions from workers from areas where aggression hurts society most, e.g. outside the western world?

ISRA has a committee to inform the United Nation on advances in aggression research. Many UN employees in the field doubtless have first-hand experience in areas of the world that are badly affected by violence. I suppose that it may be worthwhile to invite such persons and to listen carefully. That would increase our relevance to society, and possibly also the appreciation of our work in academia. We have very few of such members. There is something terribly seductive in constructing theories from questionnaires, or rodent experiments. However, that may also act as a shield for the harsher realities of the world, and diminish our impact.

Crashing Theories by Watching

I am as guilty as anybody, for I have my pet ideas on the causes of aggression. Derived from our work on rat brain and stress. Over the years, administration and teaching took their toll and most of our practical work is now done by students. My role is mainly restricted to create in theoretical “models” from their findings. However, real advances in our work were always inspired by an unexpected observation by someone looking directly at the animals. When that happened, one of our pet ideas often crashed. Konrad Lorenz once stated that crashing his own theories on aggression kept him young. Boerhaave once said something similar.

Direct observation has scientific as well as practical rewards, e.g. at the time of the European ISRA meeting in Zeist, there were many theories on football hooliganism: it was seen as “tribalism” or “irrational crowd psychology”. Violent supporters were supposed to “imitate violence by the players on the field”. Very little of that held any water when one Otto Adang started direct observations on such riots. The “tribal” crowd proved hardly “irrational”, and controversial arbiter decisions predicted supporter violence much better than violence on the field. It lasted some time before the many findings of that study where accepted by police and football authorities, but when they finally where, they made an important contribution to successful crowd management in the Netherlands during the European Football Championships.

Informing the Public

Many ISRA members will have experienced a similar resistance of authorities or the general public to findings in aggression research. Every living person has his own ideas on the causes of aggression. Or on the causes of health and disease, for that matter. Boerhaave certainly would have understood. We are not discovering novel sub-atomic particles or mapping unknown genes or continents. If we do our work properly, we are often challenging persistent preconceptions, and bringing “bad news”. That taxes our ability to explain.

ISRA has limited means to support its mission to inform the general public. But then, who else has the know-how? We do have excellent teachers among our membership. In Boerhaave's time public lectures for the citizens of Leiden were common. People were fascinated by medicine at that time and Boerhaave was an excellent teacher. Nowadays people are equally fascinated by aggression. Therefore, it seems worthwhile to start a tradition of giving seminars to interested local students and present a public lecture on aggression research at the time of our general meetings. Mike Potegal, the organizer of our next meeting in Minneapolis, is actively trying to implement those ideas. However, it is a good idea to think a little ahead on topics, and on expanding such schemes for future meetings.

Bringing Disciplines Together

According to a contemporary, Samuel Johnson⁽¹⁾, Boerhaave was able to evoke new ideas by organizing discussions between scientists from different countries and different training in his "salon" at the "Rapenburg", the central canal in Leiden. One was the Swedish genius Carolus Linnaeus, who published his "Systema Natura" in Leiden⁽²⁾. Linnaeus classified the living nature in a logical system and laid the foundation for modern biology and genetics. Another was the German David Gaubius, who was a founder of clinical chemistry and an early advocate of psychosomatic medicine⁽³⁾.

One Subject, One Science

Boerhaave considered science, medicine and humanoria as one. Since the end of the 17th century science has ramified into many different disciplines. However, as regards aggression research, I side with Boerhaave. I was raised in a family with a social scientist, several natural scientists, a linguist and an artist. To me the barriers that separate disciplines are mostly artificial, semantic, cultural boundary markers. Sometimes they look like turf-fights, forced upon us by competition for resources. Years ago I followed a course on the long term development of the iconography of violence in different cultures. It was collectively organized by our history, language, arts and social science departments. I learned a lot about human aggression, and gained a long perspective on "media violence"⁽⁴⁾. Understanding aggression needs interdisciplinary exchange. Is there a better platform for that mission than ISRA?

Current Conceptual Convergence

In my view we live in a time of conceptual convergence between the so-called "social" sciences and the "exact" sciences. Extremist notions such as aggression equals "acetylcholine", "androgens", "dopamine", or "serotonin" or any other signaling molecule, have faded as our understanding of brain complexity and behavioral complexity increased. The human genome appears rather similar to other animal genomes. However, molecular biologists now insist that genes are not destiny, that genes are regulated, often by the environment during critical stages in the development of an individual. Neuroscientists have learned to be suspicious about claims on simple relations between a single gene and a particular behavior. Social scientists are more than ever willing to admit that, yes indeed, genetics and brain organization do have a role in explaining behavior. If we forget for a short while differences in technology and approach, there is much understanding on aggression that we can share and enjoy. There is also much that we

still have to learn. Part of the fun of the interdisciplinary ISRA meetings is that one can open up one's mind to the interesting findings of a scientist on the other side of the hedge.

Interdisciplinary Teaching

Like Boerhaave, the founders of ISRA were all excellent teachers, with a broad interdisciplinary vision on aggression research. Over the next decade most of that generation will have faded into the background. It is up to the next generation to keep up the interdisciplinary tradition of our founders. There are several things we can do as an individual, and things we can do as an organization.

Fostering Interdisciplinary Awareness

As an organization we can try to encourage symposia on subjects that transgress borders. We can invite, encourage and award contributions that explicitly try to explain novel developments to all other disciplines present. We could organize short didactical symposia on such topics in future meetings. I believe that we should have more prizes, awards and other enticements to join ISRA for investigators that are inclined to take an interdisciplinary view on aggression research, not just for members. Individual members should make participants from other emerging disciplines feel welcome at our meetings. I remember how that made me join ISRA. We should also seriously consider Roger Johnson's suggestion to start a membership committee to coordinate such activities, and may be a committee to raise funds for such special activities.

As individuals we should also consider to go to "the other" session, rather than to the session in our own discipline. I often do that, to gain a better perspective on my own work. What goes on in my own field, I can hear in other meetings. For the remoter fields I need ISRA meetings⁽⁵⁾. If we take the idea of interdisciplinary exchange serious, it has consequences for our own contributions to meetings. We need to be aware of the fact that a large part of the audience is not a specialist in our particular field. If we take that into account, we can prevent the all-too-common and frustrating experience that the social scientists walk out when the natural scientists speak and vice versa. The recent aggression meeting in Warszawa clearly showed that a multidisciplinary meeting for a heterogeneous audience can be extremely stimulating.

The Seal of Truth?

Boerhaave's personal motto roughly translates as "simplicity is the seal of truth". That doesn't seem to apply to aggression research. One would rather say that "complexity is the fate of aggression research". But the word "simplicity" isn't what it look likes here. The idea was rather that, if some principle holds in one field, then it should help explaining or supporting observations or theories in other fields. Something we would probably call cross-disciplinary validation now. In that sense "simplex sigillum veri" can still stand as an ideal for aggression research.

Cycling back into the Present

Today Boerhaave's birth place is proudly maintained by our local community. It is our only claim to scientific fame. It has been nicely restored in its original condition, with a classical medicinal garden in front, surrounded by stately old oaks, beeches and horse chestnuts. When I cycle home, usually late in the evening, along the cast-iron fences and lanterns that throw a their romantic light on the front of my idol's birthplace, I often regret that I spent another day in my office, rather than doing the things I love to do. Things like: talking to my students, teaching, experimenting, watching my animals, or listening to my colleagues in psychology, psychiatry or criminology. Things that would improve my research. And I vow again to try harder next day.

I hope that the reader will look at these reflections in a Dutch Mirror in the constructive sense they are intended, and I look forward to meet you in Minneapolis in July 2006.

Notes

- 1 <http://www.samueljohnson.com/boerhaave.html>
- 2 <http://www.orchidoptions.com/linnaeus.html>
- 3 <http://www.ipt-site.nl/ach-1.html>
- 4 That course was a one-time affair. But to get an idea, visit the Pinacoteca Nazionale in Siena, Italy. That museum has a marvelous collection of altar pieces from the 12th century till the late 17th century. Probably unintentionally, it is also a exhibition of the development of the iconography of human violence. From the symbolic to the explicit. I assume that altar pieces were among the most influential media in their time. Like TV now, people saw these images at least twice daily. Exhibited in the church, they certainly carried a moral message for society.
- 5 Specialists within aggression research may need to convene and discuss specific approaches, technologies and designs pertinent to a specific field. It may be a good idea to use the off-years, when there is no international general biennial meeting, to convene such specialist meetings. ISRA has given up European and North-American meetings in the off-years. But the option for specialized meetings, as suggested in the last business meeting is still open. Such meetings could also be used to reach out to areas and scientists that have no affiliation with ISRA yet.



**Herman Boerhaave
(1668-1738)**



**Herman
Boerhaave's house**

Book Reviews

Book reviews are an important element of the ISRA bulletin and we are particularly keen to see books produced and reviewed by our members. Presented in this section are two reviews of recent texts. Please continue to send Eric or me information on books you author or books that you come across about which you want to inform your colleagues.

BOOK REVIEW

Adolescents and Risk: Behaviors, functions and protective factors by Silvia Bonino, Elena Cattelino, Silvia Ciairano. Published by Springer-Verlag, Berlin New York 2005. ISBN 88-470-0290-7

Silvia Bonino, Elena Cattelino and Silvia Ciairano, Department of Psychology, University of Torino, Italy, have just published, with Springer-Verlag, *Adolescents and Risk. Behaviors, Functions and Protective Factors*. The book is based on the results of a wide research project on health and psychosocial adolescents risk behavior. As reported on the foreword of the book by Richard Jessor, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA: "...the volume is remarkably informative and useful for both scientist and practitioner alike. The data are based on large samples of youth, the analytical methodology is sound, and the presentation of findings is very accessible, relying throughout on graphic representation rather than statistical tables. The chapters deal with each of the key types of risk behavior that are of concern at this developmental stage - drug and alcohol use, delinquency, early sexual experience, risky driving, and unhealthy eating behavior. They show the linkages among them, elaborate the functions served by the various types of risk behavior or the meanings they may have for the adolescent, and examine how they vary with age, gender, and other demographic characteristics." (pp. V-VI)

Specifically, chapter 5 is dedicated to antisocial behavior. It takes into consideration the multiple forms of antisocial behavior: physical aggression, theft and vandalism, lies and disobedience. The functions of these types of behavior are discussed in relation with the developmental tasks of this period of life and the meanings they may have for the adolescents. These forms or behavior are studied in relation with the different contexts of life of the adolescents: family, school, peers and free time. These findings shed light upon the main protective factors: "... the major contribution of the volume clearly lies in its demonstration of the influential role the theoretical risk factors and protective factors play in adolescent risk behavior involvement. In this regard, the research findings not only strengthen the theory, but they serve as an important guide to the design of intervention efforts to prevent or reduce adolescent involvement in risk behavior. One comes away from reading this book with a sense of optimism about the usefulness of the knowledge it provides. The emphasis of the authors on the need to strengthen protective factors that can promote positive youth development, and on the need to provide opportunities for behavior that can serve the same purposes that risk behavior does but without compromising health and development, is salutary." (p. VI)

Ostracism, the power of silence by Kipling D. Williams . Published by The Guilford Press, N.Y. 2002. ISBN: 1572308311

Ostracism doesn't seem to be related to aggression. That, however, may be misguided. Once, the primatologist Jan van Hooff explained to me that aggression could not be understood unless it was studied in the proper social context. That didn't seem to touch directly on my own research on brain mechanisms at that time, but somehow the notion stuck. Van Hooff's point was addressing both human and animal studies. Since then, the conceptual gap between animal and human studies has narrowed. Van Hooff's pupils expanded his theme by studying aggression in the context of kinship relations, the social organization, the need for reconciliation, and interpersonal history (See e.g.^{1,2,3}). Such concepts are nothing new to social scientists. However, being trained as an orthodox ethologist these books profoundly changed my views on aggression. Another early eye-opener on human aggression was Stanley Milgram's "Obedience to Authority", that showed how much hierarchy and social structure affects our propensity to harm other people⁴.

Kipling Williams' book⁵ struck me like Milgram's⁴, Frans de Waal's^{1,2} or Carel van Schaik's books³ did . It opened yet another, though related perspective on human aggression. Yet it is an entirely different book. Here we find not just the precise methodology of the experiments of Milgram, nor the systematic natural, but often also anecdotal observations of van Hooff's pupils. Williams relates research covering a complete trajectory from personal observation, case histories, narrative, epidemiology, role play, laboratory experiments, experimentation with confederates, computer guided experiments, to internet based "cyber" experimentation. It is also an illustrative, engaged, personal story of an inspired social scientist. One of the stories in the book relates an event where the author sits on a beach while close by, men are playing a game of Frisbee. The Frisbee lands at the author's feet, who throws it back. For a while he is included in the game. Then, all of a sudden, the men ignore him. The excluded author feels hurt. Ostracism! From that beginning a powerful paradigm is developed "the ball throwing game". The clue is that at a certain moment two instructed confederates, stop throwing a ball to an experimental subject. And a significant line of research develops.

Anthropologists, primatologists and sociologists will agree that one single human, or even a single couple would find it very hard to survive when left alone, either in prehistoric, or in modern times. We survive as a social, cooperating species. People, therefore, express a strong need to belong, to families, to peer groups, to tribes, societies, religions and even nations. The genius of the line of research reported in this book is that it does not so much study belonging, but rather its reverse. It studies the mechanisms and effects purposeful exclusion, - or ostracism - of individuals from social or personal relationships. It does so in many different experimental and natural settings. Yet the book dramatically illustrates both the paramount need of human beings to belong as well as the hazards of ostracism.

Williams makes it very clear that, ostracism, excluding people from a group, a game, a type of job, or a relationship, is a way to exercise power, and a way to get the upper hand in a conflict. It also an aggressive act, and is perceived as such by the victim (target). Williams shows that just ignoring social signals, not answering questions, avoiding eye contact, in short: giving someone "the silent treatment" is relatively common in married couples, but also in organizations. He also explains that it is easy to get caught in the habit of ostracism. Both actor (source) and recipient (target) of ostracism may find it very hard to stop it. Another chapter explains the harmful effects of ostracism on self-esteem, anxiety, mood and stress. Interestingly,

ostracism does work, even when it is just an agreed-upon role play, where both target and source know that it is temporary, and not serious. It also works when the source is a computer-simulated group of confederates and that ostracizes the target. The book presents a clear theoretical model of the process of ostracism, a model that will be useful to generate new questions.

Williams starts his book by suggesting that ostracism is ubiquitous and powerful, and having read this book, I tend to agree and see it everywhere. While writing an early version of this review, young men were setting thousands of cars alight in all corners of France. Among their grievances: we feel excluded from society. I see a target in the well-educated young terrorist who feels excluded from a society that is not able to accept him as an individual. And subsequently becoming vulnerable to a group or an ideology that makes him feel to belong, provides a sense of self-esteem or purpose and a way to vent his anger, however misguided or violent.

It is easy to see that the operationalization of ostracism presented in William's book lends itself to ramifications into other disciplines. One can envision computer simulated, or real ostracism where one studies the onset and termination of the stress response and other endocrine or physiological parameters. The paradigm has recently been used to study brain activity in ostracism. People report that ostracism is a painful experience, it hurts. True enough f-MRI studies show that ostracism activates the very same areas in the brain that mediate the painful sensations of real, physical pain⁶.

The style of the book is often engaging, though at times a reader not trained in the social sciences may long for an extra graph or scheme of a procedure. However, this is an inspiring and inspired book. It is recommended reading for everyone interested in the wider context and causes of human conflict and aggression. That is how this book has earned its place on my shelf of most favorite books.

Reviewed by Menno R. Kruk, PhD

Notes:

- 1 Frans B.M. de Waal (1982). *Chimpanzee Politics*. Jonathan Cape Ltd. London
- 2 Frans B.M. de Waal (2001). *The ape and the Sushi master*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge
- 3 Carel P. van Schaik (2004). *Among Orangutans: red apes and the rise of human culture*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge
- 4 Stanley Milgram (1974). *Obedience to Authority, an experimental view*, Harper & Row, N.Y
- 5 Kipling D. Williams (2000). *Ostracism, the power of silence*. The Guilford Press, N.Y.
- 6 Eisenberger NI, Lieberman MD, Williams KD. (2003) *Does rejection hurt? An fMRI study of social exclusion*. Science, 302(5643):290-2.

The Human Potential for Peace: An Anthropological Challenge to Assumptions about War and Violence by Douglas P Fry. Published by New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. ISBN 978-0-19-518177-7 (hbk), 978-0-19-518178-4 (pbk)

This is an important book, and a serious one, although it is enlivened with a number of anecdotes and personal reminiscences. It also contains critical comments on a number of apparently well-established findings, including two very substantial ones. It deserves to be widely read and debated.

The central thrust of Fry's book is an attack on what he calls the Pervasive Intergroup Hostility Model (PIMH). This viewpoint is that warfare, at least in the form of inter-group male aggression, has a long evolutionary history, that it has been selected for and is part of our nature; and hence that warfare is a ubiquitous feature of human societies and if not inevitable, at least will be very difficult to prevent. The opening scenes of Stanley Kubrick's film '2001: A Space Odyssey' depict the ape-like ancestors of humans engaging in group aggression, more viciously as one group discovers the potential of weapons. There is a long tradition of such views, and there are certainly a number of recent exponents of this, including for example Wrangham and Peterson's (1996) book 'Demonic Males: Apes and the Origin of Human Violence', often cited by Fry.

To my mind, Fry does a very effective demolition job on the PIMH. He does not so much attack the primate evidence (though this is considered), but rather draws on his strengths as an anthropologist with detailed accounts of the extent of warfare, intergroup hostility and violence in many traditional (and a few more modern) societies. His main point is that a good proportion of societies do not engage in much warfare or intergroup violence. This is particularly so in the case of simple (nomadic) hunter-gatherer societies. The classic accounts of hunter-gatherers such as the bush people of the Kalahari, or the Xingu Indians of Brazil, emphasise their generally peaceful nature. Indeed, the low population density, mobility, and lack of large-scale material resources of nomadic hunter-gatherers makes warfare seem a rather uneconomic and irrational option for them.

The importance of nomadic hunter-gatherers is of course that they are seen as our best candidates for the social organisation of early humans for a long period of what is called the environment of evolutionary adaptedness or EEA; the kind of environment that characterised 95% or more of our evolutionary history and which (from a evolutionary psychology viewpoint) should form the basis for understanding and explaining 'human nature'. The unwarlike nature of nomadic hunter-gatherers is therefore a powerful attack on the PIMH. The main reservations to Fry's argument here would be firstly the limitations of the EEA approach (it is a dynamic concept, not a static one; and selection effects could still operate even in the few thousand years since most of us stopped being hunter-gatherers); and the extent to which we can generalise from what we actually know of the nature of present-day nomadic hunter-gatherers (who are generally remnant populations) to the hypothesised earlier situation where we were all hunter-gatherers. Nevertheless the sources of data that Fry reviews does suggest that warfare was not something there is much if any evidence for, until the rise of agriculture and city states around 5-10,000 years ago.

Warfare is clearly more common in societies with greater population density and more hierarchical social organisation. Indeed, Fry argues that we even need to distinguish simple nomadic hunter-gatherers from complex hunter-gatherers or sedentary foragers, among whom warfare is more common. He also agrees that there can be violence among nomadic hunter-

gatherers, but that these are generally individual disputes (for example due to jealousy and adultery) and that there are mechanisms, such as constraining actions by other group members, to limit the impact of these. Although work by Carol and Melvin Ember had previously suggested that warfare was common in traditional societies, Fry critiques the interpretation of this data, arguing that it fails to distinguish the two levels of hunter-gatherer organisation, as well as failing to distinguish warfare and small-scale feuds.

This is mild stuff however compared to two more substantial critiques in the book, of work by Derek Freeman, and Napoleon Chagnon, respectively. There clearly have been previous critiques of their work (which Fry cites), probably more familiar to anthropologists than to those, like myself, in neighbouring disciplines such as psychology.

The critique of Freeman relates to Freeman's own celebrated critique of the work of Margaret Mead, notably of her early (1928) book 'Coming of Age in Samoa'. I had previously seen Freeman's work mainly as an attack on Mead's conclusions about Samoan sexuality, but Fry points out that Freeman also aimed to discredit Mead's description of Samoa as unaggressive and one of the 'most peaceful peoples in the world'. In riposte, Fry argues that Mead did not strongly emphasise this, and that Freeman has used quotes very selectively. Fry himself quotes Mead's writings to show that she did recognise and describe some violence in Samoan society. The trouble with this argument is that Mead is inconsistent – for example although she described promiscuity and free love amongst young Samoans, her own data showed that 50% of brides were virgins at marriage. My own feeling at the end of this section of the book was that it appeared that Freeman had been somewhat selective in his polemic, but that much of the critique of Mead's work probably remained intact (this was after all her first major field work and a pioneering study in anthropology).

Fry's second major critique is a substantial one. Napoleon Chagnon is well known for his detailed studies of the Yanomamo Indians in Brazil. One widely cited study, published in the journal *Science* in 1988, showed that those males who had killed another in warfare (called 'unokais') had more wives and more children than those who had not. This seems to show a strong reproductive advantage to male participation in warfare, and hence something that selection could act on (thus supporting a PIMH model). Fry suggests three other important factors to take into account: age (clearly older males are more likely to have killed someone, and more likely to have wives and children); headman status (headmen have more wives, irrespective of warfare); and dead men (a unokai is more likely to die early, but would then not have entered into Chagnon's calculations, thus artificially inflating the apparent reproductive success of unokais).

Chagnon did indeed take some account of the first two points, in relation to earlier criticisms, but they may not be fully adequate. For example, he divided unokais and non-unokais into four age classes, to take account of age; but this is not sufficient as there will still be disparity of ages within the age classes. His data would clearly benefit from a more sophisticated statistical technique such as multiple regression. Using the published data sources, Fry argues that the three factors above, in combination, probably remove 95% if not all of the unokai reproductive advantage. This is buttressed by extensive calculations in the notes at the end of the book (of 50 pages of notes, fully one-third is taken up with notes and calculations on the Yanomamo chapter). Having read this, I did conclude that unless Chagnon or his colleagues come back with more sophisticated analyses than carried out so far, the postulated causal link from being a unokai to having more wives and children is effectively demolished.

The arguments reviewed above form the middle sections of this book, which I found the most compelling. Fry naturally enough also reviews his own anthropological work in Mexico,

where he compared the rather violent villagers of San Andres with the more peaceful villagers of la Paz, to show how cultural factors (and probably underlying economic conditions) can greatly shape aggressive and violent behaviour.

Fry also reviews means of conflict resolution in traditional societies, and points out the variety of ways in which conflicts can be solved in non-violent ways. Here he is strong on the anthropological literature, though less strong on the psychological and criminological literature (for example restorative justice approaches are not mentioned, despite their partial origins in Maori family conferencing). Some assertions can be uncritical. For example on p.79 he quotes about a Norwegian rural community that 'there are no open conflicts or fights, only smouldering resentments which never get resolved but never get out of hand and thereby make coexistence impossible'. This 'cooperative denial' is cited as part of a 'formula for peace'. From a psychological perspective this sounds very unadaptive, and one heretically thinks that a bit of more open conflict expression could actually be helpful. As another example, on pp.28-29 we are given a case study of conflict resolution among the Comanche. A man who discovered his wife committing adultery 'pulled out his knife and cut her hair off close to the scalp, then cut her skirt short. In this bedraggled state he drove her through the camp with his whip'. This, and a subsequent financial settlement with her male lover, is cited as a grievance 'settled via negotiation instead of through physical means'. The male lover may have seen it this way, but I doubt if the wife did!

This book has great strengths, including breadth of scholarship in different areas, as well as critical depth in tackling some common assumptions and cited conclusions. But no book is perfect. The two previous examples are minor quibbles, but more substantively, at the start of the book, in the opening chapters, I felt some uncertainty as to whether we were going to be looking at 'warfare', or at 'violence' more generally. (Both are in the subtitle of the book). The substantive subject matter of the book includes 'conflicts' (which as Fry rightly points out, are ubiquitous but need not become violent), 'violence', 'fights', 'feuds', and 'warfare'. It would have been helpful to have explicit definitions of these at the start (we do not really get definitions of warfare until chapter 7). Early chapter material on non-violent conflict resolution suggests a focus on violence. But the central parts of the book mount the powerful attack on the PIMH, which is relevant to warfare. Clearly violence (including personal attacks and small-scale feuds) are much more extensive than warfare.

Indeed Fry seems to basically have two arguments: (1) that we have a facultative adaptation to be violent, i.e. that it can be adaptive in certain circumstances - although many societies find ways of reducing it or minimising its effects; and (2) that warfare, as a group (male) activity, is not something in any sense selected for and a phenomenon that only emerges historically at a certain level of social organisation. These two arguments do come together in chapters 17 and 18, but could have been more powerfully and clearly separated at the start of the book. There is also a third argument emerging in the final chapter and considered more briefly: (3) that warfare is an outdated institution that is too dangerous and costly to continue. This is clearly so. As a species, the global challenges of population, resources, and climate change clearly need a coordinated global response; warfare has become a profoundly unadaptive behaviour pattern, and another world-scale war would probably signal our demise as a civilised species on the planet. Fry's book will be important in helping to set the agenda for this discussion and for the necessary shift in our perspective on ourselves and our future.

Professor Peter K Smith, December 2005

New titles from Willan Publishing

The Violent Workplace

P.A.J. Waddington (University of Reading), **Doug Badger** (University of Reading) and **Ray Bull** (University of Leicester)

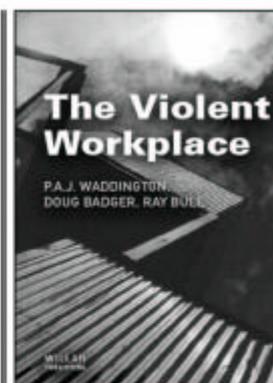
In recent years the workplace has emerged as a recognised site of violence, threat and menace, and it has become a topic of intense academic and political debate.

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Contents: 1 Discovering workplace violence 2 Researching workplace violence 3 Violent actions 4 Violent people 5 Violent contexts 6 The moral dimension of workplace violence 7 Taming the violent workplace Index



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£25.00

Workplace Violence: issues, trends, strategies

Edited by **Vaughan Bowie** (University of Western Sydney),

Bonnie Fisher (University of Cincinnati) and **Cary Cooper** (University of Lancaster)

This book examines some of the key issues around violence at work which have emerged in the new millennium, including the events of September 11 and other terrorist related incidents. It builds upon the expanded typology of workplace violence in *Violence at Work* (Willan, 2001), and identifies four types of workplace violence: intrusive, external violence including terrorism; consumer/client related violence; staff related violence; and organisational violence.

Contents: Introduction 1 Workplace Violence: new issues, trends, and strategies **V Bowie**, **B S Fisher** and **C Cooper** Section 1 *National and International Trends and Responses to Workplace Violence* 2 A cross-national comparison of workplace violence and response strategies **V Di Martino** 3 Organizational factors and psychological aggression: results from a national survey of US companies **P L Grubb**, **R K Roberts**, **N G Swanson**, **J L Burnfield**, and **J H Childress** 4 Reforming abusive organisations **C Raynor** Section 2 *Identifying and responding to at risk groups* 5 Staff violence against those in their care **C Hockley** 6 Domestic violence and the workplace: do we know too much of nothing? **B S Fisher** and **C Peek-Asa** 7 Caring for those who care – aid worker safety and security as a source of stress and distress: a case for psychological support? **R Thomas** 8 Not off the hook: relationships between aid organisation culture and climate and the experience of workers in volatile environments **B Wigley** Section 3 *Terrorism: a new type of workplace violence* 9 Organizational violence: a trigger for reactive terrorism **V Bowie** 10 Preparing, training, and supporting human service workers to respond to terrorist events **D F Wee** and **D Myers** 11 Workplace preparedness and resiliency: an integrated response to terrorism **N T Vineburgh**, **R J Ursano**, and **C S Fullerton** Section 4 *Bullys at work* 12 Workplace bullying: individual pathology or organisational culture **S Einarsen**, **H Hoel**, **D Zapf** and **C L Cooper** 13 Cyber-harassment in the workplace **M T Whitty** and **A N Carr** 14 Where to from here? countering workplace violence in the new millennium, **V Bowie**, **B S Fisher**, and **C Cooper** Index



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Forthcoming conferences

Below are some details on forthcoming conferences that may be of interest to the ISRA membership. Both included coverage of material relevant to aggression researchers.

International Academy of Law and Mental Health [IALMH]: 30th International Congress June 2007, University of Padua, Italy.

Website: www.ialmh.org Email: admin@ialmh.org

Abstracts will be shortly received for this Congress and presented here is a working list of members of the International Scientific Committee as well as individuals who have taken on the responsibility of organizing individual sessions. Presented here is a **selection** of independent sessions and sessions being compiled by the Scientific Committee that may be of potential interest to ISRA members. In addition to these are a range of further sessions that will be of interest.

The congress is keen to hear about intentions for abstract submissions and/or interest in developing an actual session. The IALMH coordinates the submission of abstracts, but interested parties are invited to contact members of the Scientific Committee or organizers of the individual sessions, according to the topics listed on the ensuing pages.

Individual Sessions of interest to ISRA under construction

Name	Affiliation	Email	Sessions(s)
Judith Becker	University of Arizona	jvbecker@email.arizona.edu	Sexual Recidivism across the Lifespan and Legal Implications
Wim Janssen	Kenniscentrum GGNet, Warnsveld, The Netherlands	Wim.janssen@ggnet.nl	The Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Psychiatric Settings
Luca Malatesti	University of Hull	l.malatesti@hull.ac.uk	Psychopathy: Types of Explanations and Ascriptions of Moral Responsibility
Thomas Noll	Zurich Justice Department	Thomas.noll@ji.zh.ch	Risk Assessment of Violent Offenders
Maureen O'Connor	John Jay College of Criminal Justice	mocconnor@jjay.cuny.edu	Stalking and Sexual Harassment
Anita Raj		anitaraj@bu.edu	Gender-Based Violence

Sessions of potential interest being organized by the Scientific Committee

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Sessions
Eric Blaauw	Erasmus University	ericblaauw@hotmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Breaking the Link Between Addiction and Crime •Stalking •Person Oriented Approaches in Dealing With High Prevalence Criminals
Duncan Chappell	New South Wales Mental Health Review Tribunal	chappell@bigpond.net.au	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious Crime and the Mentally Ill: Contemporary Law and Practice in the Asia Pacific Region • The Role of Victims in Decision Making about the Care, Treatment and Release of Mentally Ill Crime Acquittes
John Douard	Rutgers University	douard@rci.rutgers.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Predicting Dangerousness: Science and Pseudoscience in the Courtroom •Moral Panic and The legal Construction of the Sex Offender •Disgust, Shame and the Law
Frank Haessler	University of Rostock	frank.haessler@med.uni-rostock.de	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Standards of care for the treatment of juvenile offenders •Drug abuse and crime in adolescents • Aspects of differentiating between types of infanticide
Christian Huchzermeier	University of Kiel	c.huchzermeier@zip-kiel.de	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Psychopathy as Defined by Hare and “The Antisocial Family”: Current Concepts and Future Directions •Group Therapies in Violent and Sexual Offenders
Riittakertu Kaltiala-Heino	Tampere University Hospital, Pitkaniemi, Finland	riittakerttu.kaltiala-heino@uta.fi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing use of Coercion in psychiatric treatment •Violence risk in children and adolescents
Jane L. Ireland	University of Central Lancashire UK	JLIreland1@uclan.ac.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence and stalking • Violence in prisons • Forensic mental health
Edward Kane	Imperial College London	eddie.kane2@btinternet.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dangerous People with Severe Personality Disorders •New community services for people with a diagnosis of personality disorder

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Sessions
John LaFond	University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law	lafondj@umkc.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Offending, Law and Mental Health
Vincenzo Mastronardi	University of Rome/ La Sapienza	iissrcm@uniroma1.it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Serial Killers and the Penal Responsibility •Murder within the Family •Psychobiography of some Killer Mothers •Psychiatric Judicial Hospitals and Services of Mental Health •Violence •Criminalistic and Forensic - Investigative Evaluations •Crime Scenes and Profiling
Chrisitan Mormont	Université de Liège	c.mormont@ulg.ac.be	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sexual Deviances •Treatment of Sexual Offenders •Victimisation and Victimology
Brian McKenna	University of Auckland	b.mckenna@auckland.ac.nz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing and mental health law • Nursing and forensic mental health
J Paul McCutcheon	University of Limerick	paul.mccutcheon@ul.ie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotions and the Criminal Law •Human Rights and Reforming Insanity Law •Issues in Elder Law
George Palermo	Center for Forensic Psychiatry and Risk Assessment, Milwaukee	palermogb@juno.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Domestic Violence •Topics in Clinical Criminology •Criminal Profiling
Rosemary Purcell	Deakin University	rpurcell@unimelb.edu.au	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims of Stalking • Social, Cultural and Psychological Constructions of Stalking • Stalking and its Association with Other Forms of Violence

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Sessions
Marco Strano	International Crime Analysis Association, Rome, Italy	bruozzone@icaa-italia.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Child Abuse and Paedophilia •Criminal Profiling •Sects and New Religious Movements: Brainwashing and Crime
Jose Taborda	University of Rio Grande del Sol	jose@taborda.med.br	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Forensic Systems in Brazil •Homicide in the Brazilian Context
Jeff Victoroff	University of Southern California	victorof@usc.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Nature of Human Aggression •The Way in Which Social Contracts --Including Laws--Have Evolved to Capitalize on the Positive Aspects of Aggression and Contain the Negative Aspects •New Evidence from Social Neuroscience
Thomas Wenzel	IRCT, Copenhagen, Denmark	drthomaswenzel@web.de	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Treatment of Victims of Persecution-Update on Strategies • Diagnostic Approaches and Understanding of Complex Sequels in the Evaluation of Torture and Social Violence • The War on Terror- A War on Human Rights? •Recent Developments in the Epidemiology of Violence •The Istanbul Protocol –updates on the implementation of a UN standard in the documentation of Torture •International Approaches in the Support of Justice for Victims of Torture •Asylum Law and Mental Health •The Development of Victims Rights •Mass Atrocities, Legal Approaches and Rehabilitation •Transcultural Approaches to Trauma •Forensic Medical Approaches to Trauma •Patients Rights and Mental Health

**British Psychological Society's Division of Forensic Psychology Annual
conference 20th – 22nd June 2006, University of Central Lancashire,
Preston, UK.**

The 2006 conference aims to reflect the eclectic nature of the Division of Forensic Psychology and embrace the many areas of research and practice of interest to the Division.

Hosted by the Faculty of Science, Department of Psychology at the University of Central Lancashire, the conference will cover themes including sex offenders, expert witnesses, suggestibility, forensic mental health, domestic and sibling violence, applied police research including the management and detection of drug assisted sexual assault, and inter group aggression.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Conference information and registration forms are now available and can be downloaded from the following conference website:

www.uclan.ac.uk/other/hs/academic-conf.htm

CALL FOR PAPERS

The call for papers has now been issued with a deadline for submission of the 31st January 2006. Submission forms can also be downloaded from the above website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the conference and/or request for booking or submission forms can be obtained by contacting:

Suella Harriman, Conference Officer, Conference and Events Management Office, University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1772 892654 Fax: +44 (0) 1772 892977. Email: DFPConference2006@uclan.ac.uk

Advertised Position of Interest



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Desired Background and Experience:

- 1) An earned doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, DrPH, ScD, MD);
- 2) An established track record of population-based or social and behavioral-oriented research in violence prevention or a closely related area;
- 3) Experience in conducting research on the efficacy, effectiveness, and/or cost effectiveness of preventive intervention;
- 4) Demonstrated leadership in developing and administering prevention research programs;
- 5) Ability to manage a program and supervise a professional staff; and
- 6) Ability to communicate orally and in writing.

CDC Contact:

Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vita to

Pamela Chin
Deputy Director
Division of Violence Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway, N.E., Mailstop K68, Atlanta, GA 30341
Voice: (770) 488-4362; Fax: (770) 488-4221
email: PMCI@CDC.GOV; Web: www.cdc.gov/injury

Notices for members

Reviewers Needed for PsycCRITIQUES

Dr. Danny Wedding has asked ISRA members to sign up as reviewers for the journal *PsycCRITIQUES: Contemporary Psychology—APA Review of Books*. This online journal replaces the former paper journal, *Contemporary Psychology*, which published about 300 reviews each year. The new electronic format permits APA to publish almost 1,000 reviews each year with hyperlinks from the review's references to full text articles and web sites.

Many of the books reviewed in the journal deal with aggression, violence and trauma, and Dr. Wedding, the journal editor, is eager to have our members reviewing books in these areas.

Anyone willing to serve as an occasional reviewer should sign up at www.jbo.com/cpreview/. You can list your areas of interest and expertise at this site, and the PsycCRITIQUES staff will work hard to match your interests with incoming books.

If you are too busy to review when a request is made, simply decline the opportunity.

More information about the journal is available at <http://www.apa.org/psycritiques/> and <http://www.apa.org/monitor/jan04/wedding.html>.

ISRA Website

The ISRA would like to draw the attention of the membership to the official ISRA website (www.israsociety.com). Suggestions for what should be included on the website are particularly welcome. All information concerning the website, including requests for information to be added, should be sent directly to Roger Johnson, Ramapo College, Mahwah, N.J. USA, 07430: rjohnson@ramapo.edu