

POLITICS, POLICY, AND PRACTICE

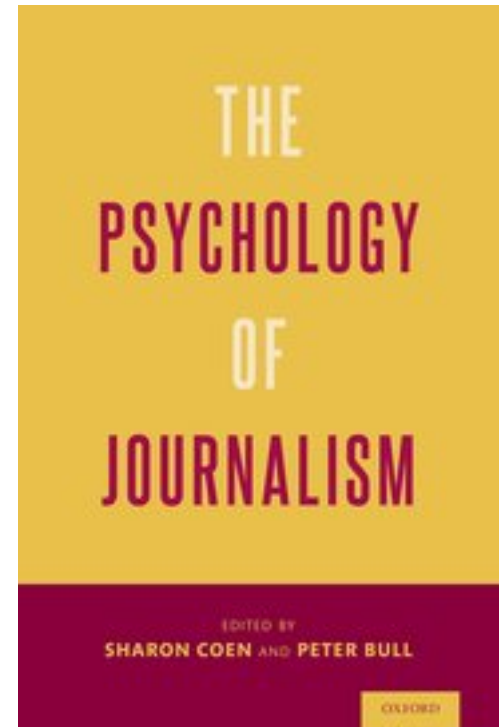
New book edited by Dr Sharon Coen and Professor Peter Bull

We are very excited to announce the publication of a new book, **The Psychology of Journalism**, edited by Dr Sharon Coen (Senior Lecturer in Media Psychology) and Honorary Professor Peter Bull (University of Salford and University of York). The book applies knowledge and methods from psychology to the field of journalism. It uses a range of case studies to demonstrate how journalism can be understood through psychological theory and covers diverse topics such as participatory citizenship, ideology and culture, and visual communication through body movement.

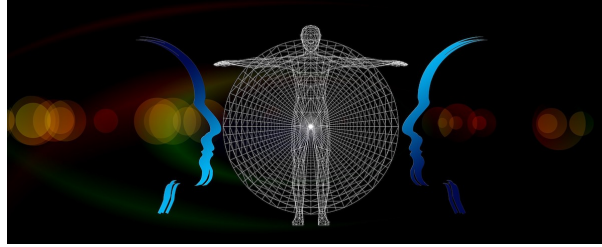
In addition to chapters from Sharon and Peter and several international contributors, the book also features work from Dr Catherine Thompson (lecturer in Cognitive Psychology) and one of our former team members Dr Joanne Meredith.

The work has already attracted positive reviews, for example "This book advances important new arguments about the power of emotion, subjectivity, identity, image and language in the production, consumption and impact of journalism, as well as providing a creative overview of a scattered literature. It will be a really key text for teaching, and a landmark title in the development of the field." (James Curran, Professor of Communications, Goldsmiths, University of London).

Get it now before the rush! – <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-psychology-of-journalism-9780190935856?cc=gb&lang=en&#>



Congratulations to Dr Stephanie Szeto who passed her PhD viva in March 2021. In her work, Stephanie developed a model of Facebook Identity Structure, exploring its motivational, cognitive, and behavioural dimensions. Stephanie was supervised by Dr Sharon Coen and Dr Peter Eachus.



MORE FROM THE POLITICS, POLICY, AND PRACTICE GROUP

Biannual Psychology of Democracy Conference

On 24th May 2021 the University hosted the 4th Psychology of Democracy Conference, organised by Dr Ashley Weinberg (Senior Lecturer in Psychology). The conference has been held at the University since its inception although this was the first time the event was held online and it certainly added to the international flavour, with speakers from Italy and India as well as the UK and delegates from a number of European and Asian countries.

The talks were powerful and very varied, including “Political Work and Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities” (Professor Jo Silvester from the University of Loughborough), “A cognitive theory of depression and political attitudes” (Dr Luca Bernardi from the University of Liverpool), and “The impact of the pandemic on mental health, democracy and inequalities in society” (Dr Amra Rao, Chartered Clinical Psychologist, Psychological Horizons).

The discussions exemplified the importance of learning from the tragic lessons of the pandemic, rather than risk slipping back to ‘how things used to be’. We look forward to welcoming delegates in two years’ time to assess the progress that has been made.

Dr Clare Edge invited to review events at the ‘SICK festival’

The ‘SICK festival’ “faces up to the complexities of mental and physical health” (<https://sickfestival.com/about/>) with an international arts programme exploring a range of issues. In Spring 2021 Manchester hosted ‘Mindscapes’, a series of online events and a physical exhibition called ‘Manchester Mood Drawings’ across the Manchester Metrolink network (<https://sickfestival.com/commission/mindscapes/>).

The Psychologist, the official monthly publication of the British Psychological Society, invited Clare to review Mindscapes in two parts. The first part, published in May 2021 can be found here - <https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/sick-festival-part-one>, and featured a contribution from Clare’s undergraduate dissertation student, Chloe Davenport, who is about to complete her BSc (Hons) Psychology and Counselling degree.

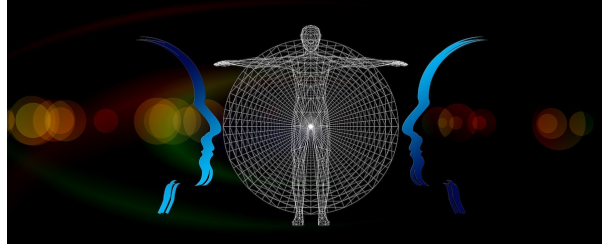
Part 2 of Clare’s review has a focus on welfare and has been published in the summer edition of the Psychologist that can be found here - <https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-34/summer-edition/building-back-better-together>

For further information about this newsletter, or about the Psychology Research group please contact

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MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Student success!

Two postgraduate students from the MSc Applied Psychology (Therapies) programme have had the high quality of their dissertation research recognised externally. Aisha Imran, supervised by Dr Ashley Weinberg, presented her findings, *The use and effectiveness of culturally appropriate tele-mental health care*, at the 3rd UK Annual Political Psychology Conference in January, while Ashley Grant, supervised by Dr Simon Cassidy, had a paper accepted for presentation at the Society for Affective Science 8th Annual Conference in April, *Cognitive flexibility in emotion regulation and acceptance and commitment therapy*. This is fantastic news demonstrating how our students, in collaboration with our staff, have added impact to their postgraduate research. Well done to all involved.

Publication successes from the Psychology team

Despite the pressures of Covid-19 and online teaching, our team has still been busy publishing their research. Below are just a few examples from the past year:

Al-Abbadey, M., Fong, M. M., Wilde, L. J., Ingham, R., & **Ghio, D.** (2021). Mobile health apps: An exploration of user-generated reviews in Google Play Store on a physical activity application. *Digital Health*, 7, 20552076211014988.

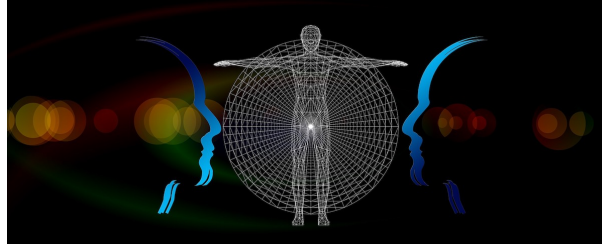
Bidgood, A., Pine, J., Rowland, C., Sala, G., Freudenthal, D., & Ambridge, B. (2021). Verb argument structure overgeneralisations for the English intransitive and transitive constructions: Grammaticality judgments and production priming. *Language and Cognition*. doi: 10.1017/langcog.2021.8.

Chaplin, E., McCarthy, J., **Allely, C. S.**, Forrester, A., Underwood, L., Hayward, H., ... & Murphy, D. (2021). Self-harm and mental health characteristics of prisoners with elevated rates of autistic traits. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 114, 103987.

Ghio, D., Greenwell, K., Muller, I., Roberts, A., McNiven, A., & Santer, M. (2021). Psychosocial needs of adolescents and young adults with eczema: a secondary analysis of qualitative data to inform a behaviour change intervention. *British Journal of Health Psychology*, 26(1), 214-231.

Lomas, M. J., Ayodeji, E., & Brown, P. (2021). Experiences of place attachment and mental wellbeing in the context of urban regeneration. *Health and Place*, 70. doi: 10.1016/j.healthplace.2021.102604.

Thompson, C., Pasquini, A., & Hills, P. J. (2021). Carry-over of attentional settings between distinct tasks: A transient effect independent of top-down contextual biases. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 90, 1-11. doi: 10.1016/j.concog.2021.103104.



COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Exciting PhD funding from the Dogs Trust!

Dr Amy Bidgood (Psychology) and Professor Rob Young (School of Science, Engineering and Environment) have been awarded a grant to fund a PhD student (Anna Baatz) for the next three years. The project will investigate how the Dogs Trust's 'Be Dog Smart' education programme affects the behaviour of primary school children around their own dogs at home, and the impact of this on the dogs themselves. Anna will be using questionnaires and observational methods to measure behaviour before and after the children have taken part in the programme, and then longitudinally over the course of two years. Excitingly, saliva samples will also be taken from the dogs to measure telomere attrition (an indicator of canine welfare). If Be Dog Smart is effective in changing a child's behaviour to be more sensitive to their dog's needs, then canine welfare should improve (telomere attrition should be reversed), and risks of aggression towards the child (e.g. dog bites) should be reduced.

Welcome to new PhD student Anna Baatz, supervised by Dr Amy Bidgood and Professor Rob Young

News from the Nutrition, Psychopharmacology & Brain Development Unit...

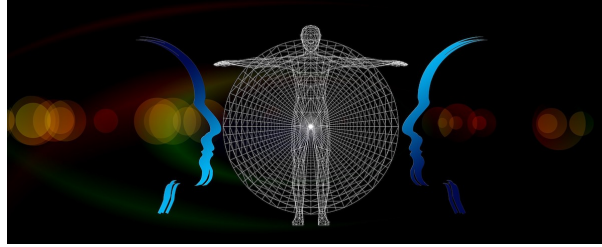


Dr Dani Ghio is co-applicant on a recently funded project from NIHR Research for Patient Benefit. Dani will be working with the Principle Investigator, Dr Steve Preece, on the project titled BEhaviour change to reduce Pain in Knee Osteoarthritis (BEPKO-2): A feasibility study.

Dani also has a GAP intern, Francesca Higgins (a psychology graduate) working with her on a systematic review: *Thematic synthesis of qualitative research into experiences of primary school children managing long term conditions: systematic review*. The link to the published protocol can be found here:

https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?ID=CRD42021238771

We also welcome Renad Albasri who just completed a BSc (Hons) Prosthetics and Orthotics degree. Renad is a Versus Arthritis Intern and will be working with Dani Ghio on workshops to identify *Symptom and side effects research priorities of children with juvenile arthritis and their parents*.



VISUAL COGNITION

New Graduate Research Bursary from the EPS

Dr Catherine Thompson has been awarded funding from the **Experimental Psychology Society** for a ten-week project over the summer. The funding will pay for recent graduate student, David Beevers, to work as a Research Assistant on a project that he has designed with Catherine, *Exploring the impact of spatial frequency on attention restoration*.

David hopes to pursue a postgraduate research degree and the New Graduate Research Bursary will provide him with valuable experience. Not only this, but he has contributed significantly to the Visual Cognition research group over the last two years, working as our Research Ambassador, helping with our website, and supporting different projects (most notably our Salford Community Excellence Learning and Teaching Scholarship). It is fantastic that he can continue to work with us on this EPS project.

More funding success

We are very excited to announce the start of a new project funded by the **Fire Service Research and Training Trust (FSRTT)**. Dr Catherine Thompson will be working with colleagues from Sports Rehabilitation, Martyn Matthews and Dr Steve Pearson, on a one-year project designed to study the effect of extreme temperatures on the decision-making of fire fighters. Catherine is leading the project and will be recruiting a Research Assistant very soon!

Conference prize

PhD student, Carrie White, won best poster at the SPARC conference with her work, titled “Barriers and facilitators to creativity for neurodivergent and neurotypical individuals within creative workplaces”.

Carrie’s PhD is an iCase studentship funded by the BBC and she is supervised by Dr Adam Galpin, Dr Ben Short, and Dr Sara Vestegren.

PhD Success!

Congratulations to Dr Robert Bendall who passed his PhD viva in April. Rob had already published seven papers from his PhD (!) and it was great to see him complete this final stage.



On Wednesday 21st July from 4-5pm the Visual Cognition research group will be hosting an online workshop. The event will consist of a series of short presentations outlining the work of the group and the cutting-edge methods that we use. The workshop is open to anyone and you can sign up using this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/162519198297>