



**OPEN PSYCHOLOGY
RESEARCH CENTRE**

OPENING PSYCHOLOGY FOR CHANGING TIMES

**LAUNCHING THE OPEN PSYCHOLOGY
RESEARCH CENTRE**

28 June-6 July 2021

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OPEN PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE

WELCOME

OPENING PSYCHOLOGY FOR CHANGING TIMES

We are delighted to welcome you to the launch of the [Open Psychology Research Centre](#), a new research centre at the [School of Psychology and Counselling](#) at The [Open University](#), UK. This online event spans from June 28th until July 6th. We are mindful that everyone has had a lot of screen time in the last year; you are welcome to attend as much or as little as fits your schedule and preferences. We would love to see you for some or all of the time. The launch is organised into two main parts.

Part 1 - Research at The Open Psychology Research Centre (June 28th - July 2nd).

In this week, we will showcase online presentations from Psychologists based in The Open University's School of Psychology & Counselling. On Friday July 2nd, the schedule includes an event co-organised with the UK Chapter of the *Society for Psychotherapy Research*.

Part 2 - Openings between culture and social psychology, health and wellbeing and forensic cognition: Invited keynote talks from Professors Ann Phoenix, Helen Spandler and Laurence Alison

On July 6th the Centre will be formally opened by Professor Tim Blackman, Vice Chancellor of The Open University, and Professor Ian Fribbance, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University. We mark the event with invited keynote talks from Professor Ann Phoenix (University College, London), Professor Helen Spandler (University of Central Lancashire) and Professor Laurence Alison (University of Liverpool). Each keynote will be followed by commentaries and Q&A lead by members of the Open Psychology Research Centre's three research strands: [Culture and Social Psychology \(CuSP\)](#), [Forensic Cognition \(FCRG\)](#), and [Psychology of Health and Well-being \(PHeW\)](#).

[Registration](#) for this event is now open.

NOTE: You only need to register once, even if you would like to attend sessions on different days. Once registered you will receive links to the sessions nearer to the event to access all or any of the sessions you would like to attend.

ABOUT OPENING PSYCHOLOGY FOR CHANGING TIMES



Psychology is a fast-changing and exciting discipline. The discipline is not much more than a century and a half old, but people have always had an interest in understanding others and selves. As psychologists and their collaborators learn more about human experience, conduct, and culture and nature, this makes the scale of what we don't know even more apparent. One implication is that psychology must be *open*. The discipline is not something fixed once and for all but ever in the making. This call for openness is especially relevant during times of rapid social change where new challenges to living – and to living together in fair and productive ways – arise from many quarters. It is no exaggeration to say that many of today's big (sometimes geopolitical) challenges – of migration, of nationalism, of religion and philosophy, of health and disease, of desire and repulsion, of inclusion and exclusion, of crime and punishment - hang on a tension between openness and closure. And psychology is being called upon to play an ever-larger role in understanding and advising on these challenges.

Located within the [School of Psychology & Counselling](#) in the [Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences \(FASS\)](#) at The Open University, the [Open Psychology Research Centre](#) creates an environment supportive of psychological research with a distinctively *open* character. Building on a distinguish legacy of OU psychology and committed to questions of social justice, the Centre uses psychological knowledge to inform progressive social change. Open to multiple perspectives, the Centre will operate with a collaborative approach to knowledge production that does not disqualify common sense but works *with* it, taking seriously the many valid perspectives at play around life problems. The range of our combined methodological skills is broad, but we are always writing to, with and for the people that we research. Open to diverse routes to knowledge, the Centre will make a positive difference in everyday lives. Psychological research within the Centre is organised into three interconnected strands: [Culture and Social Psychology \(CuSP\)](#), [Forensic Cognition \(FCRG\)](#) and the [Psychology of Health and Wellbeing \(PHeW\)](#).

ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

[Professor Ann Phoenix](#)

Professor of Psychosocial Studies

**IOE - Social Research Institute
UCL Institute of Education, London**



Professor Ann Phoenix does psychosocial research into social identities and studies the ways in which psychological experiences and social processes are linked and intersectional. This includes work on racialised and gendered identities and experiences. She has published on a range of topics including mixed-parentage, masculinities, consumption, young people and their parents, the transition to motherhood, family lives and migration. She is a Fellow of the British Academy.

[Professor Helen Spandler](#)

Professor of Mental Health Studies

**School of Social Work, Care and Community
Faculty of Health and Wellbeing.
University of Central Lancashire, Preston**



[Helen Spandler](#) is Professor of Mental Health at the University of Central Lancashire and the Managing Editor of [Asylum, the radical mental health magazine](#). Prof Spandler has published widely in the field of critical mental health, Mad Studies, gender and sexuality. For example, the [history of lesbian and bisexual women's experience of the mental health system](#), and [including non-binary gendered people in sport](#). Helen currently holds a [Wellcome Trust Investigator Award](#) to explore the role of zines in contesting mental health knowledge and practice ([Crafting Contention](#)).

[Professor Laurence Alison](#)

Chair in Forensic and Investigative Psychology

**University of Liverpool, Institute of Life and Human Sciences,
Liverpool**



Professor Laurence Alison focuses on high profile critical and major incidents. He has published widely on critical incident decision making, interrogation of high value detainees and risk prioritisation of sexual/violent offenders. His work has been used by UK Police, Home Secretary, UK's Joint Forces Intelligence Group, FBI, DoD, CIA and others. He has been PI on high-profile grants from the Home Office, Department of Defence, European Commission and the FBI. He recently received an MBE for services to critical incident handling and to the NHS during COVID-19.

EVENT PROGRAMME

PART 1 SCHEDULE- RESEARCH AT THE OPEN PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE- MONDAY 28 JUNE - FRIDAY 2 JULY

Monday June 28	Title	Speaker
09:30-09:40	Welcome and introduction from the Co-Directors of the Centre	Chairs: Prof. Paul Stenner / Prof. Peter Hegarty
09:40-10:10	<i>'Re-Imagining Group Differences in Scientific Psychology'</i>	Prof. Peter Hegarty
10:10-10:20	Q&A	
10 MINUTE BREAK		
10:30-11:00	<i>'The Experience of Time in Pandemics and Beyond: Views from an Open Psychology'</i>	Prof. Paul Stenner
11:00-11:10	Q&A followed by online discussion	

Tuesday June 29	Title	Speaker
09:30-09:40	Welcome and introduction from the Co-Directors of the Centre	Chairs: Prof. Paul Stenner / Prof. Peter Hegarty
09:40-09:50	<i>'Critical and Discursive Psychological Approaches to Bullying'</i>	Dr Karen Hagan
09:50-10:00	<i>'Beyond Milgram: Towards a Theory of Implicit Violence'</i>	Dr David Kaposi
10 MINUTE BREAK		
10:10-10:40	<i>'A Positive Legacy? Creative Subjectivities in the Wake of the Pandemic'</i>	Prof. Stephanie Taylor
10:40-11:00	Q&A followed by online discussion	

Wednesday June 30	Title	Speaker
09:30-09:40	Welcome and introduction from the Co-Directors of the Centre	Chairs: Prof. Paul Stenner / Prof. Peter Hegarty
09:40-09:50	<i>'Informing Reform: Does the Not Proven Verdict Have a Place in a Modern Courtroom?'</i>	Dr Lee Curley
09:50-10:00	<i>'Client Perspectives on Preferences in Psychotherapy: A Consensual Qualitative Research study'</i>	Dr Gina Di Malta
10 MINUTE BREAK		
10:10-10:40	<i>'Captive Geographies: Places, Identities and the 'Time-Geography' of Sectarian Segregation in Belfast'</i>	Prof. John Dixon
10:40-11:00	Q&A followed by online discussion	

Thursday July 1	Title	Speaker
09:30-09:40	Welcome and introduction from the Co-Directors of the Centre	Chairs: Prof. Paul Stenner / Prof. Peter Hegarty
09:40-09:50	<i>'Past, Present and Future: How We Use History to Make Sense of Politics'</i>	Dr Sandra Obradovic
09:50-10:00	<i>'Can the Public Rule the World? From Personal Narratives to Transglobal Public Dialogue on Human Mobility'</i>	Dr Kesi Mahendran
10 MINUTE BREAK		
10:10-10:40	<i>'Contestation at the Borderlands Between Migration, Childhood and Care: An Exploration of Child Language Brokers and Lone Child Migrants'</i>	Prof. Sarah Crafter
10:40-11:00	Q&A followed by online discussion	

Friday July 2	Title	Speaker
09:30-09:40	Welcome and introduction from the Co-Directors of the Centre	Chairs: Prof. Paul Stenner / Prof. Peter Hegarty
09:40-10:10	<i>'Stories of Sexual Citizenship: Conviction and Critique'</i>	Prof. Darren Langdridge
10:10-10:20	Q&A	
10 MINUTE BREAK		
10:30-11:00	<i>'Harmful Evidence and Evidencing Harm in the Criminal Justice System'</i>	Prof. Graham Pike
11:00-11:10	Q&A followed by online discussion	
11:10-12:10	<i>'Mobile Phone Use by Drivers: What We Know, and How to Share Such Inconvenient Truths'</i>	Dr Gemma Briggs
12:10-12:30	Q&A and Summary	Chairs: Prof. Paul Stenner / Prof. Peter Hegarty
LUNCH BREAK – 2h. 30min		
15:00-17:00	Symposium: <i>'Using Research to Impact Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice and Mental Health Policy'</i> 1. Introduction 2. <i>The NICE Stakeholder Campaign and How it Uses Research Evidence</i> Q&A 3. <i>Online Therapy – Addressing the Needs of Practitioners with Research-Informed CPD</i> Q&A 4. <i>Lessons Learned to Impact Counselling Practice and Mental Health Policy – A Panel Discussion</i>	Dr Andreas Vossler / Dr Naomi Moller jointly with Dr Felicitas Rost (<i>Society for Psychotherapy Research</i>), Dr Clare Symons (<i>British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy</i>), and Matthew Smith-Lilley (<i>British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy</i>)
17:00-17:10	Summary	Chairs: Dr Andreas Vossler

PART 2 SCHEDULE- THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH- TUESDAY 6 JULY

Tuesday July 6	Title	Speaker
09:30-10:00	Welcome and introduction from the Co-Directors of the Centre	Chairs: Prof. Paul Stenner / Prof. Peter Hegarty
10:00-10:20	Introduction from The Open University Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Dean of FASS	Prof. Tim Blackman / Prof. Ian Fribbance
10:20-11:10	Introduction from CuSP strand coordinator <i>'Energetic Openings: Intersectional Psychology and Social Justice Trajectories'</i>	Chair: Prof. Stephanie Taylor Prof. Ann Phoenix
5 MINUTE BREAK		
11:15-11:20	Discussion	Dr Johanna Motzkau
11:20-11:25	Discussion	Dr Jovan Byford
11:25-12:00	Q&A	
LUNCH BREAK – 1h		
13:00-13:50	Introduction from PHeW strand coordinator <i>'The Politics of Mental Health: Taking Experiential Knowledge Seriously'</i>	Chair: Dr David Kaposi Prof. Helen Spandler
13:50-13:55	Discussion	Dr Simon Clarke
13:55-14:00	Discussion	Dr Laura McGrath
14:00-14:35	Q&A	
15 MINUTE BREAK		
14:50-15:40	Introduction from FCRG strand coordinator <i>'Revenge vs Rapport in Securing Information from High Value Detainees'</i>	Chair: Dr Lara Frumkin Prof. Laurence Alison
15:40-15:45	Discussion	Dr Zoe Walkington
15:45-15:50	Discussion	Dr Jim Turner
15:50-16:25	Q&A	
16:25-16:40	Summary	Chairs: Prof. Paul Stenner / Prof. Peter Hegarty

PART 1 (28 JUNE - 2 JULY) - RESEARCH AT THE OPEN PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE

CO-CHAIRS OF THE OPEN PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE

[Professor Paul Stenner](#) - Professor of Social Psychology, School of Psychology & Counselling, FASS

[Professor Peter Hegarty](#) - Professor in Psychology, School of Psychology & Counselling, FASS

All speakers in Part 1 are from the Open Psychology Research Centre.

ABSTRACTS FOR FIFTEEN TALKS FROM MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELLING AT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Re-Imagining Group Differences in Scientific Psychology - [Professor Peter Hegarty](#)
peter.hegarty@open.ac.uk

Monday 28 June, 09:40-10:10

Abstract

Psychology in the modern world has aimed to be both a *science* of human behaviour and a *humanistic* project, that works through intervention to better people's lives, often by bringing self-awareness. These goals have often conflicted in the mis-recognition of social groups as "the other" to the human subject that psychology examines, and interventions to better the lives of groups so othered has often had harmful effects. Othering can take extreme forms, but in this talk I focus on a banal everyday way that psychological research continues to other when group differences are routinely described in the course of research. I describe twenty years of research that shows how more powerful groups get taken as the norm for human categories, leading lower power groups to be disproportionately psychologized and stereotyped. Grounding my argument in laypeople, news media reporting and scientific articles themselves, I will argue that psychologists needs to recognize and re-imagine what we do when we try to describe and explain the causes of psychological differences between groups.

The Experience of Time in Pandemics and Beyond: Views from an Open Psychology - [Professor Paul Stenner](#)
paul.stenner@open.ac.uk

Monday 28 June, 10:30-11:00

Abstract

The experience of time is core to wellbeing. We can feel bright about the future, satisfied with the past, and serene in the present. Then things change and the present can feel overwhelming, the past a source of guilt, and the future hopeless. The experience of time is intimately connected with how change is handled, and psychologists have long been interested in how people cope with change, resist it, or take it on board. For many, the pandemic has introduced the paradoxical feeling of living through momentous change while

also experiencing a sense of paralysis. How might we make sense of this situation? This presentation will address the question of how the experience of time can be transformed during situations of significant psychosocial transformation. I will discuss some of the practical, real world implications opened up by a social psychological engagement with *liminal experiences*. During experiences of liminality time can behave strangely and we can lose our sense of where we are heading and where we come from. But at the same time, with care and thoughtful management, navigating liminal experience can enrich lives and open up new possibilities for living.

Critical and Discursive Psychological Approaches to Bullying - [Dr Karen](#)

[Hagan](#)

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Tuesday 29 June, 09:40-09:50

Abstract

Bullying is a broad concept describing a spectrum of abuses of power that function to harm individuals and groups. Much bullying is initiated, conducted and permitted through discourse, so psychological research is shifting to take greater account of the role of language. Wetherell's *Critical Discursive Psychology* integrates 'macro-level' social discourses and 'micro-level' interactions. Illustrating this approach with a number of examples (e.g. from the Openlearn Resource [Join the Resistance](#)), this talk will address the importance of how acts of bullying are understood and some implications for the design of interventions.

Beyond Milgram: Towards a Theory of Implicit Violence - [Dr David Kaposi](#)

David.Kaposi@open.ac.uk

Tuesday 29 June, 09:50-10:00

Abstract

Why did they do it?! Stanley Milgram infamous obedience experiments left us with a monstrous puzzle. Starting with Milgram himself, psychologists and social scientists have for 60 years engaged in a largely frustrating search to adequately understand the conduct of the experiment's obedient participants. *Why did ordinary citizens keep administering electric shocks against a victim's will and painful cries, on the simple say-so of a grey-coated experimenter?!* Reporting an empirical analysis of 140 experimental sessions, this presentation will review Milgram's standardised repertoire and reveal an unlikely candidate accounting for his successfully keeping participants obedient. The finding will then be expanded towards a theory of implicit violence – a framework to potentially help us understand not only Milgram's violence, but beyond.

A Positive Legacy? Creative Subjectivities in the Wake of the Pandemic -

[Professor Stephanie Taylor](#)

stephanie.taylor@open.ac.uk

Tuesday 29 June, 10:10-10:40

Abstract

The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted heavily on the creative industries, the global sector which encompasses the arts and a wide range of other occupations. After more than two

decades of policies in which creative workers have been celebrated as generators of wealth and drivers of change, there are now calls to assist them to ensure that the creative industries can survive. The previous celebration was shaped in part by psychological theories of creativity and creative process, and psychologists and policy makers together have drawn on the image of the artist as the ultimate creative figure. More critical accounts have noted the elite, gendered and racialised nature of the figure, and have linked its individual focus to the market-based system of neoliberalism. These multiple associations, both positive and negative, are part of contemporary discourses of creativity, studied by social and critical discursive psychologists with an interest in the creative worker as a contemporary social subject, and in the sense of self or subjectivity that is connected to creativity. Has the creative worker been wholly governed by dominant cultures (capitalist, neoliberal or postfeminist), misled to accept exploitation in the guise of creative opportunity? Alternatively, can the pursuit of a creative practice be understood as a genuine alternative to conventional work and employment, chosen freely and with awareness of its difficulties, offering potential for different working lives? This paper will address these questions and discuss the possible legacy of the creative industries after Covid 19.

Informing Reform: Does the Not Proven Verdict Have a Place in a Modern Courtroom? - [Dr Lee Curley](#)

lee.curley@open.ac.uk

Wednesday 30 June, 09:40-09:50

Abstract

Sir Walter Scott declared the not proven verdict the bastard verdict due to its lack of legitimacy in the courtroom. The not proven verdict, like the not guilty verdict, is an acquittal verdict. In recent years, the legal utility of the Scottish three-verdict system (guilty, not guilty and not proven) has been debated, with some citing the not proven verdict as a positive as it directs jurors to their true role (i.e., to focus on the proof from the prosecution rather than on the factual guilt of the accused), whereas others highlight that the not proven verdict may play a role in the low conviction rates in rape trials in Scotland when compared to England and Wales. The current research aimed to explore the place the not proven verdict has in a modern courtroom. First, a juror decision making study found that the availability of the not proven verdict significantly decreased the amount of guilty and not guilty verdicts given. Second, a survey targeted at the attitudes of Scottish legal professionals towards the not proven verdict highlighted that the majority of them supported reform towards a binary verdict system of proven and not proven. Taken together, these two studies suggest that a change towards a proven and not proven system may direct jurors towards their true role and increase convictions relative to the current three-verdict system. An increase in guilty verdicts may bring conviction rates in Scotland in crime types such as rape to a similar level as in England and Wales.

Client Perspectives on Preferences in Psychotherapy: A Consensual Qualitative Research study - [Dr Gina Di Malta](#)

gina.dimalta@open.ac.uk

Wednesday 30 June, 09:50-10:00

Abstract

In recent years, the international psychotherapy field has seen an increasing recognition of the role that client preferences play in the psychotherapy decision-making process. Research shows that preference accommodation is associated with reduced

dropout and improved outcome. Yet, processes by which this happens—and how preference accommodation can be best applied in clinical practice—have not been established. The aim of this research is to conduct the first in-depth, qualitative investigation into client experiences of, and perspectives on, preferences in therapy. Specifically, we wanted to examine (a) what clients want from therapy; (b) whether they feel that these preferences have been elicited, discussed, and accommodated in their therapy; (c) whether this matters to them; (d) what they experience as facilitating, or impeding, in this work; and (e) the impact that this has on them.

Consensual qualitative research (CQR) is a well-established and rigorous inductive psychotherapy method, in which researchers work collaboratively to achieve consensus in data analysis. Thus, results emerge from the data without researchers imposing pre-conceived theories on those data. We interviewed 13 clients who participated in a programme of pluralistic therapy. Data were analysed by an international team using CQR. Through this research, we want to develop guidelines for working with client preferences to support counselling and psychologist practitioners.

Captive Geographies: Places, Identities and the ‘Time-Geography’ of Sectarian Segregation in Belfast - [Professor John Dixon](#)

john.dixon@open.ac.uk

Wednesday 30 June, 10:10-10:40

Abstract

Desegregation is a process through which members of formerly separated groups are brought together, often through the removal of institutional barriers to interaction. Two recurring arguments have been presented in favour of desegregation. The first holds that it promotes intergroup harmony and the reduction of prejudice; the second that it promotes social justice and equality. However, although most commentators now agree on the potential benefits of desegregation, evidence suggests that systems of segregation often prove highly persistent and adaptable, being driven not only by evolving institutional and structural processes, but also by so-called informal ‘preference schemes’ (Goldberg, 1996). Exploring this theme, my paper discusses the role of everyday mobility practices and choices in sustaining ‘activity space’ segregation in the historically divided city of Belfast over 20 years after the end of ‘The Troubles’. More specifically, it explores the role of place identity dynamics in shaping ongoing patterns of sectarian segregation in five communities in North Belfast, as expressed through everyday movements, trajectories, and use of public spaces. To do so, I draw on data collected as part of the Belfast Mobility Project, which has combined large scale GPS tracking data and GIS analytics with walking interviews with local residents. In conclusion, I highlight how attempts to accomplish desegregation in divided cities must transform not only relations between different communities, but also relations between those communities the spaces and places in which they are embedded.

Past, Present and Future: How We Use History to Make Sense of Politics - [Dr Sandra Obradovic](#)

sandra.obradovic@open.ac.uk

Thursday 1 July, 09:40-09:50

Abstract

References to history seem to become more and more commonplace within political rhetoric. Golden eras, better days and the romanticization of history sits uncomfortably with the rising criticism of how historical figures, statues, streetnames and commemorations paint a

particular version of history that disregards the negative acts and events of 'our' country. Both of these trends point to a broader phenomenon, that how we think about history, and how we use history in the present, is an active process that is equally informed by selective remembering *and* forgetting. Drawing on data from Serbia, the UK and the US, I will discuss the different ways in which history is actively and strategically used by both politicians and citizens to make sense of politics in the present, in an effort to either support change or maintain a threatened status quo. Ultimately, I will argue for how the politicization of history offers one avenue through which we can examine how group identities, boundaries and their relationships become manifest.

Can the Public Rule the World? From Personal Narratives to Transglobal Public Dialogue on Human Mobility - [Dr Kesi Mahendran](#)

kesi.mahendran@open.ac.uk

Thursday 1 July, 09:50-10:00

Abstract

A central tenet of political psychology is that soliciting personal biographical narratives enables access to political narratives as the basis of larger collective change. In this regard political psychology, irrespective of method, locates itself within an emancipatory and transformatory paradigm. Here micro-narratives are interplayed with macro-political narratives within the stories that are told, not least the story psychology tells about itself. This talk foregrounds the importance of micro/macro interplay by introducing the work of new Public Dialogue Psychology Collaboratory (PDPC). Within PDPC citizens, rather than provide biographical accounts, are brought into direct dialogue with political narratives on sovereignty, freedom of movement, European/global citizenship and multilateralism. They are invited to rule the world and make decisions about its future.

During the post-pandemic period, freedom of movement is likely to become totemic of both securitized re-bordering processes and citizen's sense of recovery. The post-pandemic period is likely to intensify polarisation between protectionist nationalist and transglobal narratives. This talk which explores how citizens choose to rule the world celebrates the launch of the Open Psychology Research Centre. It explores psychological developments in transglobal consciousness which we propose can be understood as a growing sense of pandemicsity.

Contestation at the Borderlands Between Migration, Childhood and Care: An Exploration of Child Language Brokers and Lone Child Migrants - [Professor Sarah Crafter](#)

sarah.crafter@open.ac.uk

Thursday 1 July, 10:10-10:40

Abstract

Child language brokers and lone child migrants as 'brokers of care' has been an underexplored arena within the literature. Attention to the interactional-relational aspects of children's care work and everyday practices, show how they facilitate both immediate and long-term settlement for families, peers and communities following migration. As such, their care-giving practices are an important resource. However, through a critical-theoretical lens of migration, childhood and care, this is a contested arena. In complex material, symbolic and political spheres of experience, such as the hostile immigration environment, 'children as caregivers' can be treated with suspicion or hostility. This presentation draws on data from three research projects (Children Language Brokering in Schools, Language Brokering

and Belonging and Children Caring on the Move) to examine how 'children as caregivers' is contested in the borderlands between migration, childhood and care.

Stories of Sexual Citizenship: Conviction and Critique - [Professor Darren Langdridge](#)

darren.langdridge@open.ac.uk

Friday 2 July, 09:40-10:10

Abstract

It is commonly assumed that state recognition and social acceptance of diverse sexualities has dramatically improved in recent years. In this talk, I delve further into this claim with respect to a diverse array of sexual practices and identities, mostly within a UK context. I argue that, while there has undoubtedly been considerable progress with respect to greater state and societal recognition, for some at least, this enlightenment story of progress does not represent the full picture when it comes to contemporary sexual life. Boundaries of sexual citizenship are policed in ever more inventive ways, with a variety of actors playing a role in determining how the lines of acceptability and permissibility are now being drawn. The 'enemies' of a progressive sexual citizenship are not simply the same 'old guard' conservatives who want a strongly proscribed limit to what is and what is not acceptable or permissible when it comes to sex. Contemporary battles concerning sexual citizenship also involve structural opposition, along with stories told by a wide variety of allies and community members. I argue – following Ricoeur - that our best hope for the future is to avoid the polarized 'either-or' politics that is in the ascendency and instead work dialectically to embrace conviction and critique. This is a serious challenge and will require a transformative politics of justice, generosity, and forgiveness, where we approach the Other in a spirit of (linguistic) hospitality.

Harmful Evidence and Evidencing Harm in the Criminal Justice System -

[Professor Graham Pike](#)

graham.pike@open.ac.uk

Friday 2 July, 10:30-11:00

Abstract

A great deal of psychological research has been conducted on eyewitness evidence and the harms that can result from its use within the criminal justice system. In the present paper I explore the technology and procedures that are being used to replace or support more traditional eyewitness evidence, including citizen forensic Apps, web-sleuthing, super recognisers, CCTV footage and pupillometry, and explore whether these are genuine solutions or are simply producing new versions of old problems. I also look at why law enforcement agencies have not listened more to psychologists about the dangers of eyewitness evidence and what might be done to rectify this problem.

Mobile Phone Use by Drivers: What We Know, and How to Share Such Inconvenient Truths - [Dr Gemma Briggs](#)

gemma.briggs@open.ac.uk

Friday 2 July, 12:45-14:45

Abstract

Phone use by drivers continues to be a significant global road safety issue, despite decades of research which compellingly demonstrates how and why this behaviour impacts on driving performance. Despite many drivers acknowledging and agreeing with legislation banning hand-held use, increasing numbers of drivers admit to phone use behind the wheel. While this alone presents a significant issue to address, a further, more wide-reaching, issue is that legal, hands-free, phone use offers no safety benefit over hand-held use. This presentation shares research findings which highlight the cognitive roots to distraction imposed by phone use. This work explains both how and why phone conversations can increase crash risk and reduce hazard detection ability. This talk will also offer a demonstration of the multiple ways in which this research has been used to contribute to policy, practice and education by showcasing a range of impact related activities and outputs.

Using Research to Impact Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice and Mental Health Policy - [Dr Andreas Vossler](#) and [Dr Naomi Moller](#) jointly with [Dr Felicitas Rost](#) (Society for Psychotherapy Research), [Dr Clare Symons](#) (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy), and [Matthew Smith-Lilley](#) (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy)

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Friday 2 July, 15:00-17:00



How can research knowledge and expertise be used to address ‘real world’ issues and impact on counselling and psychotherapy practice? What are the conditions needed to achieve research impact that can make a difference in mental health policy? What lessons can be learned from existing research initiatives and campaigns?

This online event, jointly organised by the OU's *Psychology of Health and Wellbeing (PHeW) research group* and the *Society of Psychotherapy Research (SPR, UK Chapter)*, will address these and related questions by showcasing two recent research initiatives aimed at impacting counselling and psychotherapy policy and/or practice in the UK:

Firstly, the stakeholder campaign (lead by SPR and supported by 40 leading mental health organisations and individuals, including PHeW members) is calling on the *National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE)* to conduct a “full and proper revision” of its 2009 guidelines on the Recognition and Management of Depression in Adults. The campaign strongly argues that the methodology NICE is employing (to select, group and analyse supporting evidence to develop the guidelines) is seriously flawed, and if not changed, would result in treatment recommendation to be misleading and impede the care of millions of people in the UK suffering from depression. To date the campaign has led to an unprecedented three revisions of the draft as well as two stakeholder meetings with NICE. Stakeholders will receive the revised draft guidelines to review in November 2021, with the final publication of the guidelines planned for May 2022.

Secondly, reacting to shift to online provision and the need to promote effective and ethical online therapy practice during the pandemic, PHeW members have partnered with the *British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)* to both rapidly developed a successful basic CPD course (*‘How to do online therapy: A coronavirus primer’*), as well as conducting research on the experience of practitioners shifting their client work online. This research has informed the co-production of an advanced CPD course in online therapy addressing the needs of practitioners and improving online therapy practice.

The event will include short presentations from PHeW members and representatives from SPR and BACP and conclude with a panel discussion on the possibilities and challenges of research projects and campaigns aiming to impact counselling and psychotherapy policy and practice.

Contributors:

Dr Felicitas Rost	Research Lead at the Tavistock and Portman Clinic and past president of the <i>Society for Psychotherapy Research</i> UK chapter. Leading role leading of the NICE stakeholder campaign
Dr Clare Symons	Head of Research at <i>British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy</i>
Dr Naomi Moller	OU/PHeW and current president of the <i>Society for Psychotherapy Research</i> UK chapter.
Dr Andreas Vossler	OU/PHeW and member of the Local Council of the <i>Society for Psychotherapy Research</i> UK chapter.

PART 2 (6 JULY) - OPENINGS BETWEEN CULTURE AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND FORENSIC COGNITION: INVITED KEYNOTES FROM PROFESSORS ANN PHOENIX, HELEN SPANDLER AND LAURENCE ALISON

CO-CHAIRS OF THE OPEN PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE

[Professor Paul Stenner](#) - Professor of Social Psychology, School of Psychology & Counselling, FASS

[Professor Peter Hegarty](#) - Professor in Psychology, School of Psychology & Counselling, FASS

ABSTRACTS

Energetic Openings: Intersectional Psychology and Social Justice Trajectories - [Professor Ann Phoenix](#) (University College London (UCL), London)

a.phoenix@ucl.ac.uk

Tuesday 6 July, 10:20-11:10

Abstract

Despite the strangeness of the times, this seems a highly auspicious time for the inauguration of the Open Psychology Research Centre. It points to a post-pandemic hopefulness where lives will be less cloistered and the potential for global interconnections is strong. Equally, the unexpected conjunctions of COVID-19, Black Lives Matter, Reclaim These Streets and climate change activism, make a 'return to normal' untenable. At the same time, psychologists have shown that dealing well with the pandemic requires a coordinated social response that, for example, nurtures feelings of belonging, rather than treating inequalities as produced by individual choices

This talk argues that intersectionally-informed perspectives can help to place psychology on sustainable social justice trajectories, rather than focusing on short-term responses. Intersectionality starts from the recognition that experiences of injustice are complex because each person has a class, gender, and racialised position, for example, and these 'intersect'. Psychologists studying social identities have long recognised this in showing how identities and social actions are interlinked.

In the talk, I draw on examples of psychological research to suggest that the goal of social justice requires new ways of seeing that are necessarily interdisciplinary. We cannot, for example, understand contemporary events and their effects without revitalising a historical focus that informs our current, and future trajectories. Equally, we need new ways of imagining what we can collectively become. Those new understandings have been fuelled by the energy of public protests. Developing these new understandings will require time and energy and entail the opening up of psychology within and outside the academy.

Discussants:

[Dr Johanna Motzkau](#) (johanna.motzkau@open.ac.uk) and [Dr Jovan Byford](#) (jovan.byford@open.ac.uk)

Tuesday 6 July, 11:15-11:25

The Politics of Mental Health: Taking Experiential Knowledge Seriously -
[Professor Helen Spandler](#) (University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), Preston)
HSpandler@uclan.ac.uk

Tuesday 6 July, 13:00-13:50

Abstract

Current mental health discourse often refers to the value of 'lived experience' and 'experts by experience'. But what does it really mean to take experience seriously? This talk will highlight the value of experiential knowledge generated through a range of sources: including psychiatric survivor testimony, radical mental health zines and activism. I suggest that seriously attending to this knowledge can be unsettling, contradictory, yet ultimately rewarding.

Discussants:

[Dr Simon Clarke](#) (simon.clarke@open.ac.uk) and [Dr Laura McGrath](#)
(laura.mcgrath@open.ac.uk)

Tuesday 6 July, 13:50-14:00

Revenge vs Rapport in Securing Information from High Value Detainees -
[Professor Laurence Alison](#) (University of Liverpool, Liverpool)
L.J.Alison@liverpool.ac.uk

Tuesday 6 July, 14:50-15:40

Abstract

Psychologists have not historically covered themselves in glory when it comes to their contribution to advising on how best to secure information from suspects, terrorists and high value targets. In this talk I will expose the ugly side of our profession's abuse of power - from Dr Ewan Cameron's social isolation studies, to Mitchell and Jessen's 'enhanced interrogation tactics'. I will then progress to the argument that not only were these abuses immoral they were also ineffective and that, instead, an understanding of compassion, empathy and respecting an individual's right to autonomy, whilst not the magic key to information, are far more reliable and effective methods.

Discussants:

[Dr Zoe Walkington](#) (zoe.walkington@open.ac.uk) and [Dr Jim Turner](#)
(jim.turner@open.ac.uk)

Tuesday 6 July, 15:40-15:50

EVENT ORGANISERS

This event has been organised by the [Open Psychology Research Centre](#). The Centre is Co-Directed by Prof. Peter Hegarty and Prof. Paul Stenner. Dr Ekaterina Kandelaki is the Centre Manager and Mrs Sue Cocklin- the administrator. In addition to those named above, we would like to thank the following members of the Centre Management Board for their contributions: Dr Eleni Andreouli, Dr Gemma Briggs, Dr Jovan Byford, Dr Simon Clarke, Prof. John Dixon, Dr Lara Frumkin, Dr David Kaposi, Prof. Darren Langdrige, Dr Lisa Lazard, Dr Ailsa Strathie and Prof. Stephanie Taylor, as well as many other Open University colleagues for their contributions, including, in particular, Alison Kirkbright, Paula Battle, Ning Lee, Sam Toolan and Sam Hazell.

REGISTRATION

Registration for this event is now open.

NOTE: You only need to register once, even if you would like to attend sessions on different days. Once registered you will receive links to the sessions nearer to the event to access all or any of the sessions.

Further information and updates can be found on Open Psychology Research Centre website: <https://www.open.ac.uk/centres/psychology/>

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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