Word from the Head

This is the last Psycobabble for the year. Thanks to all for doing a great job this year, in teaching, research, admin and support. It is good to go into the break with some key positions filled: HoS, clinical and cognitive neuropsychology. We also have some new gear that was approved in the CAPEX round. There have been lots of highlights and some disappointments.

I hope you all have a good break during the summer and are refreshed for the new year. Thanks for all your support, wisdom, advice and good humour.

Prof. John McClure
Acting Head of School

News in the School

Te Rangi Hiroa Medal

Te Rangi Hiroa Medal – social sciences award for work in social history, cultural diversity, socioeconomics or medical anthropology: awarded by the Royal Society of New Zealand to Professor Colleen Ward from Victoria University of Wellington

Citation: To Colleen Ann Ward for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of the psychological study of immigration, acculturation, intercultural relations and cultural diversity.

Description of work: Professor Colleen Ward of the Department of Psychology at Victoria University of Wellington is internationally recognised as a leading authority on cultural diversity and how culture affects human behaviour and experience.

Professor Ward’s work with Muslim youth in New Zealand has made a significant contribution to the Alliance of Civilisations Research Network, the United Nations’ collective think tank for the promotion of understanding between Muslim and Western societies.

In 2005-7 Professor Ward was a James Cook Research Fellow in Social Sciences (Identity, Acculturation and Intercultural Relations).

From 2008-10 she led a project, Youth Voices, Youth Choices: Integration and Social Cohesion in Multicultural Aotearoa/New Zealand, which examined the experiences of Chinese, Pacific and Muslim youth.
Her book, The Psychology of Culture Shock, is acknowledged for its state-of-the-art synthesis of theory and research on intercultural contact. Her theory on acculturation and immigrant adaptation has been widely tested and formed the basis of the International Comparative Study of Ethno-cultural Youth, a 13-nation study published as Immigrant Youth in Cultural Transition.

In 2011 she received the Victoria University of Wellington Inaugural Public Contribution Award for the application of scholarly expertise to resolve the challenges facing multicultural communities.

Professor Ward maintains research collaborations with the NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils and has acted as consultant to government on issues around immigration and social cohesion. She is currently Director of the Centre for Applied Cross-cultural Research at Victoria University of Wellington, and immediate Past-President of the International Academy of Intercultural Research.

**Christmas-New Year Holiday**

In case you didn’t have time to read the email about Christmas-New Year holidays, the University will officially close for Christmas on Tuesday 20 December 2011 and re-open on Thursday 5 January 2012! That’s hopefully two weeks of sunshine!

Closedown dates over the period will be covered as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Taken As</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21 December</td>
<td>Annual leave – no form required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 22 December</td>
<td>Annual leave – no form required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 23 December</td>
<td>University holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 26 December</td>
<td>Boxing Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27 December</td>
<td>Public holiday (in lieu of Christmas Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28 December</td>
<td>University holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 29 December</td>
<td>University holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 30 December</td>
<td>University holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2 January</td>
<td>Public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3 January</td>
<td>Public holiday (in lieu of New Year’s Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 January</td>
<td>Annual leave – no form required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 January</td>
<td>University re-opens</td>
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</tbody>
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**Sabbatical News From Taciano and Family**

We are back in the South Hemisphere after a long time in the northern part visiting the USA and Europe. The stay in Europe was very productive and I gave short talks in a few universities including: a short lecture to cross-cultural students at Paris 8 (Prof Annamaria Lammel), a lecture to PhD students at ISCTE in Lisbon (Prof Paula Castro and Prof Maria Luiza Lima), and a lecture to environmental psychology students at Complutense University of Madrid (Prof Juan Ignacio Aragones).

I was also fortunate to meet Prof Jorge Vala who is a prominent social psychologist in Portugal. University salaries have been cut 10% in Portugal and around 8% in Spain due to the financial crisis in Europe, and it has obviously affected other sectors and countries. But I was pleased to see that people are still overall happy, and the research environment remains active.

We are now in my hometown in Brazil. We had the christening of Mila few weeks ago and are enjoying the time with my family. But I am still busy with work-related activities. I gave a methodology course to students from the research group of Prof Valdiney V.
Gouveia at University Federal of Paraiba, where I completed my Masters. I also gave a talk at the University of Brasilia, where I also met two research groups in social psychology (led by Prof Ronaldo Pilati and Prof Fabio Iglesias) and the main environmental psychology group in the country led by Prof Hartmut Gunther. This week I will visit another environmental psychology group led by Prof Jose Pinheiro at the Federal University in Natal. After so many months travelling, we are now looking forward to being back in our own place. But next year will be as busy as 2011 as we are expecting our second baby girl at the end of February!!!!

Bits n Bobs

- The winning combination of John McDowall and Kirsty Fraser has been recognized by VUWSA with an award for the best lecturer in the Science Faculty and best tutor. Well done.
- Welcome Dr. Rebecca Burson (pending tiny changes)
- Devon Polaschek and her lab have been at the Australian and New Zealand Association for Psychiatry Psychology and Law conference (in Wellington last week) and presented a host of papers (refer to publications section). Devon was also the keynote speaker at the Department of Psychology Psycolloquy conference with a talk entitled: Treating high risk psychopathic violent offenders: Can reality compete with the myths.

Publications


Dickson, S., & Polaschek, D. L. L. The role of reintegration planning in the parole experiences of a sample of high-risk violent offenders.

Polaschek, D. L. L., Bell, R., Casey, A., Dickson, S., & Yesberg, J. Looking forward to parole: A preliminary comparison of treated and untreated high risk prisoners immediately before release back into the community.

Yesberg, J. A., & Polaschek, D. L. L. Life after treatment in life-sentenced prisoners: What happens to treatment change after the programme is over?

