

Report of BPS Research Board, 20th May 2020, Virtual Meeting via Zoom

The passing of Professor Marcia Worrell was noted and the tremendous contribution she had made to health, social and feminist psychology.

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/professor-marcia-worrell>

DOIs and Member Network Periodicals

These are currently on hold due to the pandemic.

Memorandum of Co-operation with Understanding Animal Research

The proposal was agreed at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Update on BPS Response to Covid-19 Teaching Related Issues

A report was given by Claire Tilley, Head of Workforce Education, Training and Standards. The major concern was accredited status for students and trainees in relation to the practice element, and they had focused on this whilst working with Health Education England, and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). The outcome was to give institutions autonomy in terms of their placement provision. This had been very favourably received. Student enquiries had mainly centred on assessment procedures to which the BPS was replying that regulations relating to their specific universities would still apply. The BPS is now looking at the next academic year and support needed.

Board of Trustees

A report was given by Sarb Bajwa, CEO of the BPS. He reported:

- They were meeting regularly every month and attempting to assess the impact of COVID-19. Financially, they expected a drop income through loss of events, but the journals were doing well and membership was good with around 100 new members a week.
- They were working on strategy development.
- Many events including European Conferences had been postponed but there had been an increase in virtual activities and 35 webinars were planned.
- The Member Journey work continues, see below.

COVID-19 Co-ordinating Group

This newly formed group has been working hard to pull together areas in which the BPS can offer support and guidance. See: <https://www.bps.org.uk/coronavirus-resources/coordinating-group>

Key concerns centre on the effect of COVID-19 on the BAME community, PGRs and their ability to complete their research within a limited timeframe, opportunities for trainees who need to work in a professional setting, and the effect on women who already have been shown to be submitting fewer papers than men in the lockdown period. This has implications for promotion.

Priority Work Streams

Ref 2021 is still in a consultation period with regard to the timing. The academic community have a mixed view about whether to delay until March, July or November 2021.

Memory-based Evidence – the draft will be ready for independent review in the next couple of weeks.

Open Science:

UK Reproducibility Network. The two BPS Bursaries will be rolled over until next year. A symposium and joint webinar are planned.

APA-DGP-BPS Preregistration Task Force. This group is meeting monthly to finalise the pre-registration template. Another task force is needed to consider qualitative methods.

Open Data Sandpit. The Position Statement on Open Data is just going through the final tweaks. 'How to' guides are being developed for the academic community.

Internet Mediated Research Task and Finish Group. This group is still collecting feedback with an initial meeting planned for late June.

Grants Review. Consultation to follow.

Items for Discussion

Member Journey Initiative

Karen Beamish, Director of standards and Professional Development, gave a slide presentation to update the Board on this initiative: see, <https://www.bps.org.uk/member-journey-initiative>

Psychological Contributions to Fair Benefits System

Document to follow, not available yet.

Research Day 2020

This joint BPS/SHL (Senate House Library) event held annually has been rescheduled, provisionally for the 26th November 2020.

Reports from Standing Committees and Responsibility Holders

BPS Conferences 2020

The Chair of Conference Standing Committee gave an oral report. This year, the annual conference was a virtual event held on the same dates. A' level events are being planned and careers events which have been very successful. Virtual delivery actually reaches a lot more people.

Editorial Advisory Group (Journals) and Editorial Support Group (Books)

Introduction of the free format submission is working well. There has been an increase in registered reports. All journals achieved the 90 day maximum turnaround time for submissions.

History of Psychology Centre

Claire Jackson, Archive Manager, provided an update. Some activities currently on hold as the team are working from home. A COVID archive has been set up. It was suggested that a policy is needed for archiving and that there is a need for appropriate software.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Effects of COVID were discussed in this context.

Reports from Representatives to External Organisations

Reports were received from PsyPAG, EPS and AHPD.

The PsyPAG conference which is free will take place on the 31st July 2020: see,

<https://psypagconference.co.uk/> PsyPAG is hosting a support session via Zoom every Friday at 5pm which is working well.

The EPS is holding a virtual conference on the 2nd July 2020: see, <https://eps.ac.uk/future-meetings/>

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 23rd October 2020 at 11am.

Professor Jan Noyes, AHPD Representative, 20th May 2020