



Philosophy of Psychiatry

Newsletter 27

March 2006



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The picture of Wittgenstein comes from the archive of the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society, to whom we are grateful. But who are the other pictures of?

Welcome

Long gaps between newsletters are not a good thing if they signify somnolence. If anything, however, as we believe this newsletter shows, your committee have been too busy. And that's because the world of philosophy of psychiatry has itself become increasingly energetic. The journal *PPP* (see page 2) has become almost an institution and a focus for research and development in the field: it continues to flourish. We are pleased to be affiliated to it. In addition, it has been joined by a steadily increasing number of high quality books overtly concerned with issues in the philosophy of psychiatry. The Oxford series is featured in this newsletter. An exciting addition to it is the Textbook of Phi-

losophy and Psychiatry by Fulford and Thornton, of which more in the next newsletter! The international network is burgeoning and is generating meetings and conferences. Journal articles, with special issues or sections on philosophy of psychiatry or psychiatric ethics, have appeared in several mainstream psychiatry journals. We are pleased that members of the Philosophy Special Interest Group (SIG) and its committee have often been involved in these endeavours. Meanwhile, the Philosophy SIG has continued to support meetings and sessions through the College, either at regional meetings or at the annual meeting. The training course on values-based practice (reviewed

on page 3) in Edinburgh in June demonstrated the relevance of clear conceptual thought to practice at the coal face. As medical training generally becomes more focused on competencies, a challenge for us has been to consider how the array of materials and resources available from philosophy might feed into the process of psychiatry training. We are delighted to be able to support the group from Nottingham (see page 4) who are taking the first steps towards mapping the teaching in philosophy that already takes place in membership courses. Our wish would be to encourage any local initiatives and we hope you would not hesitate to attract our attention. We slumber not! (JCH)

International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry (INPP) (www.inpponline.org)

INPP provides a collaborative research and education forum to support organizations and individuals involved in conceptual and ethical work in psychiatry and related disciplines. The INPP aims: (1) To support educational, research, policy and service initiatives in mental health that are based on valuing individual and cultural differences and respecting diversity; (2) To contribute to such initiatives through rigorous philosophical and cross-disciplinary work on the concepts guiding mental health practice; (3) To facilitate collaborative learning through exchange of ideas, experience, knowledge and skills; (4) To work with national, local and subject-based organisations with appropriate aims, in developing and strengthening their unique identities.

For further information, or to post material on the website, contact Richard Gipps (r.gipps@inpponline.org)

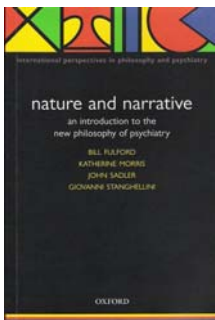
9th International Conference on Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology:

Philosophy, Psychiatry and the Neurosciences
June 28th - July 1st 2006 Leiden, the Netherlands

It's time to investigate the philosophical implications of the advances in the neurosciences for our professions and for our concepts of the human person. Organized by: Section for Philosophy and Psychiatry of the Dutch Association for Psychiatry Faculty of Philosophy, University of Leiden in collaboration with *The International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry* Announcement and call for abstracts (deadline extended to 1st April): www.ppp2006.nl

The most exciting development in the field of books since our last newsletter has been the appearance of the Oxford University Press series *International Perspectives in Philosophy and Psychiatry*. The Philosophy SIG is proud to be associated with the series through one of its editors, Bill Fulford. In addition, a number of the authors in the series are more or less connected with the SIG. One of the most recent volumes (*Dementia: Mind, Meaning, and the Person*) stemmed from the joint Philosophy SIG and Old Age Psychiatry Faculty meeting in Newcastle in 2002. We present here some brief reviews to whet appetites. For further details, see the website: <http://www.oup.co.uk/academic/medicine/psychiatry/ipp>

***Nature and narrative: an introduction to the new philosophy of psychiatry* edited by Fulford, Morris, Sadler & Stanghellini, Oxford University Press; xviii+286 pages. £**

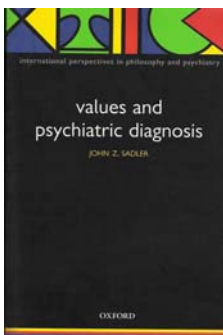


The opening chapter of this wildly eclectic but fascinating collection should be compulsory reading for all psychiatrists, whether or not sympathetic to its central thesis. The ability of science to consider causes and explanations and of the humanities to explore understanding and meanings, with psychiatry dependent on both, is tackled in some depth by the books

four editor before supporting evidence is provided in sixteen further chapters, arranged into seven sections. The material presented can be challenging but detailed prior knowledge of philosophy is not essential. History, ethics, psychology and science itself are dissected along with philosophy in a bid to put psychiatry on a more solid and balanced footing on which to enter the 21st century. The contention of a renaissance in the philosophy of psychiatry felt to me persuasive, and indeed necessary, as we grapple with the ever-increasing pace of change. (DFind)

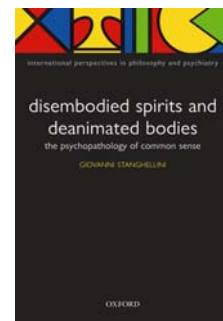
***Values and Psychiatric Diagnosis* by John Z Sadler, 2005. Oxford University Press; xvii+540 pages. £34.95**

This book stresses the ubiquity of values in psychiatric nosology. Just to focus on one chapter: the title “Technology” might not promise an exciting read. However, in it Sadler first identifies some interesting features of technology and then registers the importance of his topic for none less than Heidegger, who spoke of the “enframing quality” of technology. This quality is malign because it restricts how we think about things. Sadler goes on to argue that there is a danger, encouraged by the use of manuals, that diagnostic practice might become *just* a technological matter, which would undermine the “ethics of relationship” in favour of the “ethics of outcome”. Sadler is persuasive in encouraging the view that we also need poetic practice, which brings in values. At stake is how we should live and practice. So this is one chapter for the reading list! (JCH)



***Disembodied spirits and deanimated bodies: the psychopathology of common sense* by Giovanni Stanghellini, Oxford University Press; 225 pages. £29.95 p/b, £65 h/b.**

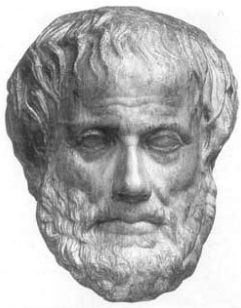
In this book, Stanghellini considers both schizophrenia and manic depression and in doing so he offers psychopathology as the ‘science of the meanings of abnormal human phenomena’. This process, through the particular analysis of these disorders as disorders of common sense, returns psychopathology to its rightful place as the science concerned with understanding our patients and their symptoms, rather than eliciting and charting them. Certainly, in psychiatry, there is a growing concern that the validity of our diagnostic categories has been at least partially sacrificed to improve their reliability. This has occasionally led to the unintended but unfortunate consequence that the symptoms that make up a given disorder can be viewed as discrete and atomistic, rather than as inter-related into a holistic whole. Phenomenology may help psychiatry to look beyond this current conception of symptoms as non-specific and isolated to more subtle and specific disorders of subjective experience. It is hard to think of any psychiatrist, patient, or carer who would not gain from reading this book. (MB)



Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology (PPP)

www.press.jhu.edu/journals/philosophy_psychiatry_and_psychology/

PPP focuses on the area of overlap between philosophy, psychiatry and abnormal psychology. It advances philosophical inquiry in psychiatry and abnormal psychology while making clinical material and theory more accessible to philosophers. Each issue features original and review articles and an "International News and Notes" section. The journal is affiliated with the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry (AAPP) and the Philosophy SIG of the Royal College. It is sponsored by the Royal Institute of Philosophy. The most recent issue (June 2005 Volume 12 Number 2) featured a paper by Thomas Fuchs on the body in melancholia and schizophrenia; and a paper by Mark Rego on the existential implications of antidepressant use. A review article by Cordelia Fine *et al* considered cognitive accounts of the Capgras delusion. There were a number of commentaries and responses to the papers, along with other articles and news. **Why not contribute or subscribe?** See the website for details.



8th International Network of Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology Conference, Yale 2005

With the passing of the storm of managed care in the mid 1990s, a vacuum was left at the core of community psychiatry. No longer guided by the once revolutionary vision of deinstitutionalization and the community mental health movement, which preceded the onslaught of privatization, community psychiatry became untethered and free to roam about, in search of a new theoretical foundation. Several competing alternatives have since emerged, each with their own agenda, constituency base, and implications for clinical practice and research.

This conference examined the philosophical underpinnings of these various approaches, explored the diverse perspectives of the stakeholder groups which are now at the table in determining the future of mental health policy (e.g., people in recovery/users, family members, legal/disability advocates, third party payers, governments, providers/operators), and reflected on the implications of the different paths that may be taken for clinical practice. An edited volume of the conference highlights is planned. (Professor Larry Davidson, Yale)

Phenomenology and Psychiatry for the 21st Century – Institute of Psychiatry, 5-6th September, 2005.

The aim of this conference was to take a fresh look at phenomenological psychiatry following the decade of the brain. The Maudsley approach has been to blend empirical research with the phenomenological tradition of classical European psychiatry. Over a decade of neuroscientific, genetic and epidemiological work has altered this relation and forced it to broaden. It has also had the unintended consequence of weakening psychiatry's roots in the phenomenological tradition. The conference wished to raise anew the question of phenomenology's relation to psychiatry. The conference combined historical, biological, philosophical, clinical, socio-cultural and psychotherapeutic perspectives on this question. Amongst others Nancy Andreasen, Robin Murray, Anthony David, Paul Mullen and Bill Fulford all gave their perspectives and there was a surprisingly strong and uniform endorsement of the view that phenomenology needs to be taken seriously once more in psychiatry and this must be a priority for psychiatry in the 21st century. (Gareth Owen)

Annual Meeting, Royal College of Psychiatrists, Edinburgh, 23rd June: Values-Based Practice: Case studies,

Dr. Subodh Dave, Professors Bill Fulford and Richard Williams led a full day workshop on Values-Based Practice (VBP) at the College meeting on 23rd June 2005. Despite it being a graveyard slot (last day- full day)- the workshop was very well attended with 30 participants and was oversubscribed. The event was completely interactive using buzz groups and brainstorming based around real-life clinical case studies (diagnostic assessment of psychosis in general adult psychiatry and policy development in CAMHS) to develop participants' awareness of VBP. Detailed handouts with references ensured knowledge delivery but the focus was on acquisition of practical skills to enable participants to use VBP and EBP (evidence based practice) complementarily in clinical decision making in their day to day clinical practice. The feedback for the workshop was extremely positive with requests for a similar event at the AGM in 2006! (SD)



FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Free in May 2006?

Royal Institute of Philosophy, University of Birmingham, UK *How does Empirical Evidence in Psychology and Psychiatry Impact on Common-Sense and Philosophical Accounts of the Mind?* May 13, 2006. Speakers include: Professor Martin Davies, Professor Susan, Dr Matthew Broome, Dr Rachel Cooper and Dr Iain Law. Conference organizer: Dr Lisa Bortolotti. For enquiries, email: l.bortolotti@bham.ac.uk.

Or, visit **Toronto: The Association for the Advancement of Philosophy & Psychiatry (AAPP)** is holding a conference (20-21 May) entitled: *Psychiatry and the Moral Emotions* See: www3.utsouthwestern.edu/aapp. Then, the new electronic *Journal of Ethics in Mental Health* will be holding its first Conference (26-27 May), with the theme: *Subtle, Perceived, Insidious: the guises of power*. See: www.JEMH.CA. In between is the conference of the American Psychiatric Association.

Royal College Meetings

Annual College Meeting, Glasgow, 2006 The Philosophy SIG has organized a session on Tuesday 11th July 2006, 14.00-15.30, entitled "**Mental Capacity and Best Interests - What's it all about?**". This will follow a session in the morning presented by Professors Tony Zigmond and Tony Holland intended to give a more factual account of the *Mental Capacity Act 2005*. Our session will explore practical and conceptual issues around capacity and best interests in more detail. Decisions in this area require value judgments, which cannot solely be based on cognitive factors. Inevitably, issues will arise concerning the connections between mental capacity legislation and mental health legislation.

Proposed joint meeting with the Spirituality SIG. We have started the initial stages of planning a meeting around the themes of body and spirit. Anyone wishing to become involved in this meet-



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To join the Philosophy SIG: go to website (see below). For innovative ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact the Chair, Dr Julian C Hughes: j.c.hughes@ncl.ac.uk or any member of the Committee.

View our website:

<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/>

THE COMMITTEE

(Psychiatrists unless indicated)

- Dr Gwen Adshead
- Dr Ralf-Peter Behrendt
- Dr Matthew Broome
- Dr Neel Burton
- Dr Man Chung (Psychology)
- Dr Subodh Dave
- Dr David Findlay
- Dr David Foreman
- Professor Bill Fulford (Philosophy & Psychiatry) (Secretary)
- Dr Andy Hamilton (Philosophy)
- Dr Julian C Hughes (Chair & Newsletter)
- Dr Hugh Jones (Treasurer)
- Dr Stephen J Louw (Geriatric Medicine)
- Professor Eric Matthews (Philosophy)
- Dr Neil Nixon

chiatry. We do this by supporting and organizing meetings, by encouraging publication, by enabling the exchange of ideas and by facilitating communication. We are always grateful for any suggestions about how better to meet these aims. Please feel free to contact the Chair, Dr Julian Hughes: j.c.hughes@ncl.ac.uk

LOCAL GROUPS

Maudsley Philosophy Group at the Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8AF

Contact: Dr Matthew Broome
m.broome@iop.kcl.ac.uk

The group has been in existence since August 2002 and grew out of a conference that the Institute of Psychiatry hosted in June 2002. We are a group of psychiatrists, psychologists, and neuroscientists and meet typically on the last Wednesday of the month at 6pm at the Institute of Psychiatry. The group has a mixed format of both inviting external speakers to give papers plus also encouraging members to convene sessions around specific topics which they introduce with readings. The group has provided a focus for increasing activity in philosophy at the Institute of Psychiatry, including further conferences ('Phenomenology and Psychiatry for the 21st century': Sept '05), journal special issues on philosophy and psychiatry, teaching (MRCPsych and MSc level at the IoP and King's), as well as original philosophical research of our own. We would welcome new members from outside both the IoP or South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, as well as those visiting London for a short time.

HUMAN Group, Nottingham

Contact: Dr. Neil Nixon
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HUMAN is a group interested in the humanities and philosophy relating to mental health. It was conceived in the summer of 2004 as part of a drive in Nottingham to form research links between University, NHS and patient groups. Following the inaugural talk

Your suggestions are welcome

The aims of the Philosophy SIG have remained to foster education, training and research in the philosophy of psy-

LOCAL GROUPS (continued)

given by Professor Bill Fulford, regular meetings and presentations have been held on the University of Nottingham campus. The aim is provide an intellectual focus for people from disparate areas of life who have an interest in aspects of humanities or philosophy and mental health. Meetings are chaired in a relaxed manner allowing challenge to thoughts and interests. Those attending recent meetings include Professors of psychiatry and neuroscience, patients, nurses, social workers, philosophers, students and doctors. Members of the group regularly present at international meetings in this area. The group is open to anyone with an interest.

Scottish Section

Contact: Dr David Findlay
david.findlay@tpet.scot.nhs.uk

Meetings between the Scottish Philosophy SIG and the Scots Philosophical Club go back at least to the early 90s with a minimum of one gathering annually. The annual residential meeting of the RCPsych Philosophy SIG was held in Clydebank in 1999 but of late the scope of activity in Scotland has been more modest.

September 2005 saw colleagues from an encouragingly broad range of disciplines gather at Murray Royal Hospital in Perth. Susan Stuart (philosopher, Glasgow) presented a fascinating discourse on "automating psychiatry" with accounts of diverse "bots", situated or embodied agents, bidirectional communication systems and "machine consciousness". Charles Pickles (clinical psychologist, Fife) expounded on the mereological fallacy in neuroscience in his exploration of why brains don't think.

The Glasgow-Fife axis reasserted itself with two psychiatrists (Iain Smith and Allan Beveridge) looking at impressions of R.D. Laing from his own early writings and from an interview with Anthony Clare. "Volunteers" have been identified for 2006 and longer term topics for consideration may well reflect Scotland's earlier introduction of Incapacity legislation as well as aspects of our new Mental Health Act.