**Minutes of EPSIG Executive Committee 7pm 20 September 2022**

**Via MS Teams**

1. Welcome and noting any apologies for absence (Paul St John-Smith, PSJS):

Apologies were received from Nikhil Chaudhary and Tom Carpenter.

Those present were: Paul St John-Smith (chair), Riadh Abed (Finance Officer), Annie Swanepoel (Newsletter Editor), David Geaney, Adam Hunt, Muzaffer Kaser (part of the meeting), Geoff Lawrenace-Smith (part of the meeting).

1. Chair’s report/remarks (PSJS): PSJS welcomed those present and noted that all updates were listed as agenda items.
2. Financial Report (Riadh Abed, RA): RA reported no change in the financial position from the previous meeting. We still have just over £12K in our reserves. Our expenditures for this financial year will include: Essay prizes, cost of catering for the Trainee Engagement Event on 27 Jan 2023 and the cost of holding our 5th International EP Symposium at the college on 10 March 2023. (see below for more details).
3. Update on the Charles Darwin essay prize (2022) for trainees and students (Annie Swanepoel, AS): AS proposed that the announcement for holding this year’s Darwin Essay Prize for CT and ST psychiatric trainees should go out as soon as possible. It was agreed that the panel of judges for this year (Muzaffer Kaser (MK), Adam Hunt and Derek Tracy) would discuss the arrangements for the Essay Prize entry for this year and inform AS so that we can disseminate the announcement as wide as possible. MK agreed to coordinate this and feedback as soon as practicable.
4. Report by newsletter editor (AS): As reported that the 29th newsletter was ready to go but she was awaiting the publication of the EP edited volume which is expected anytime now.
5. Progress Report on planned event: Improved Trainee Engagement in EPSIG activities (Tom Carpenter, TC): RA reported on behalf of TC the progress in the organisation of this meeting/workshop aimed at trainees interested in EP throughout the UK and Ireland. The organising group had held its second meeting and a draft program was agreed. This was discussed in outline at a further meeting of trainees organised by TC where around 8 trainees from around the UK attended and the draft program was favourably received. We are hoping between 15-20 trainees will be attending this workshop.
6. Progress Report on evolutionary educational podcast on RCPsych website (Geoff Lawrence-Smith, GLS): GLS reported that the EP educational podcast is ready and simply awaiting final approval by the college. He was hopeful that this should happen soon.
7. Progress Report on 5th EP International Symposium 10 March 2022 (RA) (see full program below): RA reported that the program for this major calender event for EPSIG has now been finalised. The date and time of the event (10 March 2023 at the college HQ in London) have now been posted on the college website and soon CALC will be advertising it. We need to all think of ways of promoting this meeting as it is essential that it not only breaks even but generates a surplus as this is the only source of income for EPSIG. The high quality of the speakers and the diverse range of topics should attract a wide audience.
8. Updates and Collaboration with EP section at WPA and Irish EPSIG (RA): Henry O’Connell, the chair of the Irish college EPSIG has been invited to speak at the Trainee Engagement event on 27 Jan and up to 3 trainees from Ireland have also been invited. Other opportunities for collaboration should continue to be explored. Also, there are always opportunities for collaboration with the EP section of the WPA especially that 2 of the section officers are also members of EPSIG.
9. Progress Report on Publication of the EP Edited volume (RA and PSJS): The electronic copy has already been released and the print copy should be available by the end of September.
10. Proposal for virtual drop-in sessions for EPSIG members (RA and PSJS): It was noted that the college provides the facility for SIGs to have 1-2 hour ‘drop-in’ sessions up to bi-monthly. This has recently been advertised by the Phiolosophy SIG who will be starting this in November. It wasn’t entirely clear how these would work, how useful or popular they would be for EPSIG. No decision was taken on this but it was agreed for this to be kept under review and to try to find out how they worked in other SIGs.
11. AOB including suggestions/ideas and date of next meeting (All): The date of the next meeting was set for 17 January 2023 at 7pm via Teams.

Draft program for EPSIG 5th International Symposium, 10 March 2023:

9:30-9:35 Paul St John-Smith (EPSIG Chair) Welcome and Introduction

9:35-9:45 Presentation by Darwin Essay Prize Winner Number 1

Chair: Prof George Ikkos

9:45-10:25  What can we learn from hunter-gatherers about child development?  Annie Swanwpoel and Nikhil Chaudhary

10:25-11:05 What is expected of human childhood? Insights from Evolutionary Anthropology. Willem Frankenhuis

11:05-11:25 Joint Q&A for the Session on ‘Evolution and Child Development’

11:25-11:40 Coffee Break

Chair: Gul Deniz Salali

11:40-12:20 Evolutionary Perspectives on paranoia and conspiracies. Nichola Raihani

12:20-12:30 Q&A

12:30-13:10 The evolution of suicide: The Pain and Brain theory and its implications. C.A. Soper

13:10-13:20 Q&A

13:20-14:10 Lunch

Chair: Reem Abed

14:10-14:20 Presentation by Darwin Essay Prize Number 2

14:20-15:00  Making sense of the ultimate and proximate causes of eating disorders. Agnes Ayton

15:00-15:10 Q&A

15:10-15:50 Evolutionary models of obsessions and compulsions. Muzaffer Kaser

15:50-16:00 Q&A

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

Chair: Riadh Abed

16:15-16:55 Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Emotions. Laith Al Shawaf

16:55-17:05 Q&A

17:05-17:30 General Discussion

17:30 Close