

Papers on Social Representations - - Editorial May 2003

The social representations community met again last year at a lively 6th annual conference in Stirling, Scotland. The theme of the conference was “Thinking societies: Common sense and communication”. Under this banner, the conference was both a return to the “roots” of social representations research as defined by its classic themes, as well as a forum for discussing many exciting new developments. This editorial is written in the spirit of this creative tension between continuity and change, and between old and new.

A new editorial team

Papers on Social Representations is starting 2003 with a completely new, enlarged team of editors. They are: Agnes Allansdottir (Italy), Thémis Apostolidis (France), Angela Arruda (Brazil), Adrian Bangerter (Switzerland), Fabrice Buschini (Switzerland), Xenia Chryssochoou (United Kingdom), Juliet Foster (United Kingdom), Caroline Howarth (United Kingdom), Nikos Kalampalikis (France), Marianne Krause (Chile), Nicole Kronberger (Austria) and Tania Zittoun (United Kingdom). Alain Clémence and Wolfgang Wagner will continue to act as consulting editors to accompany the transition. A member of this team will act as action editor for each paper submitted to PSR, taking care of contacting reviewers, managing the review process, and informing authors and reviewers of the decision on the paper. The shared expertise of the editorial team covers all areas of social representations research and the main languages through which it is communicated. We thus hope to guarantee a fair and efficient review process. Speed and ease of diffusion is one of the main advantages of an online journal, and we intend to fully exploit this advantage to further scientific communication in our discipline. Contributors to the journal can expect to receive a decision on their submissions within 12 weeks. The Coordinating Editor for 2003, to whom manuscripts should be sent, is Adrian Bangerter. The Electronic Editor, in charge of the PSR website, is Nicole Kronberger.

Editorial policy: Continuity

The new editorial team will emphasize both continuity and change for 2003. There will be a number of small changes in editorial policy this year. First, we explicitly encourage Masters and PhD students to submit condensed versions of their theses and dissertations to PSR. We will also consider suggestions for invited papers from more established authors, and more actively solicit reactions and commentary, especially from areas outside of social

representations. These measures are designed to foster discussion and controversy, thereby continuing a long-standing PSR tradition. Another change is that, each year, we will acknowledge the reviewers who have contributed their expertise to the service of PSR.

Otherwise, we plan to continue the previous mission of PSR, which remains committed to the archiving and diffusion of research on social representations and related topics in social psychology, including for example shared knowledge, structural aspects, diffusion of ideas, normative thinking, narrative reasoning, ideology or identity processes. We further encourage submission of work from both mainstream and critical traditions with some bearing on social representations. In that perspective, we would like to see studies that relate social representations to neighboring fields such as cultural psychology, developmental psychology or psychology of learning and education. Our policy is designed to foster discussion and controversy, thereby continuing a long-standing PSR tradition. As before, we will consider manuscripts written in either French, English or Spanish.

Heartfelt thanks

We end this editorial by acknowledging the huge debt that PSR owes to the previous team of editors. It is because of their hard work and dedication that we are able to continue the task of running PSR. We also thank the people who have acted as reviewers for investing their valuable time in the very important task of evaluating manuscripts. But perhaps most of all, thanks are due to Alain Clémence and Wolfgang Wagner who in spite of their the responsibilities in running the journal in the last two years have made the efforts to ensure a smooth transition and continuity.

The Editors