

EDITORIAL

It is just over three and a half years since the formation of **PsySSA**, and the "formal" ending of *organisational* divisions amongst psychologists. It is also just over three years since the first democratic elections, and the "formal" ending of *political* divisions amongst the citizens of this country. The divisiveness of the apartheid past still lurks in all these new formations, regardless of the "good intentions" of creating democratic, non-racial, and non-sexist institutions. Social practices are historically enduring, and hence we should not be lulled into complacency by the political praise-singing that goes along with the formation of every "new thing" in the new South Africa. A new South Africa can only truly come into being by facing the past so that it can be transcended, rather than forgotten or repressed. As Edward Said reminds us, intellectuals are emigrants in their own countries. The position of the intellectual is one of exile, an insider view from "outside". Psychologists the world over, and especially in this country, have been reluctant intellectuals (of the discipline), and more comfortable in their roles as professionals.

Psychology, or any discipline for that matter, is not separate from the dynamic of social development and change, and yet at the same time is not simply an effect of social forces. The relative autonomy of disciplines privileges intellectual and theoretical work in the service of disciplinary rigour, and social critique. Psychology in South Africa needs to secure a balance between its concern for professional issues, while at the same time not losing the critical dimension of challenge and debate borne out of the many anti-apartheid psychology formations. This issue of **PINS** has two very different critical engagements with the discipline of psychology. Lachenicht argues for the usefulness of a theoretical model incorporating insights from cognitive psychology, artificial intelligence, and computer modelling. He suggests that a parallel distributed model is complex enough to explain the intricate network of relationships that make up psychology in both its disciplinary and professional dimensions. Lachenicht further proposes that a parallel distributed model might even encourage a cooperative engagement between the various interest groups and theoretical positions that make up contemporary South African psychology. This kind of optimism concerning the transformation of psychology is not really shared by Shefer, van Niekerk, Duncan, and de la Rey, in their discussion of publishing in South Africa. In their informative discussion of various publishing and writing initiatives, one of which has resulted in the recent (July 1997) edited text entitled **Contemporary issues in human development: A South African focus** (Thomson International Publishers), they indict the "white male voices" that dominate psychology. Shefer *et al* argue that the effect of these agents has been the "silencing" of other voices, namely, young, black, and women's voices, from being heard in psychology. They present a *political* challenge to the (conservative) establishment of psychology, and argue for the empowerment of subaltern voices, through the seizing of the institutions of intellectual power! In this instance, publishing.

There is much to argue with and debate in these two diverse articles on the discipline of psychology, and we encourage our readers to join in these discussions by sending in comments, short responses (briefings), and even full-length articles. In this regard, **PINS** would like to inform its readers, of a recent addition to the list of tasks of the editors. As a way of encouraging "new" authors in the sometimes daunting task of writing for publication in refereed journals, **PINS** has developed a system of "mentorship". What this means is that first time authors can submit their work to the **PINS** editorial, indicating that this is their first effort at publication. The submitted article will be anonymously refereed as usual, but a **PINS** editor will also take responsibility for assisting the author through numerous drafts or revisions, if necessary, until the article is suitable for publication. This system of "mentorship" differs from the usual practice where authors get copies of the referees' reports and are expected to make the appropriate corrections themselves. Prospective authors, new and old, can also contact the **PINS** editor about papers they intend submitting for help with how they might best structure or approach their work for ease of submission and final acceptance in **PINS**. We hope this user-friendly approach to writing and publication is taken advantage of by the "shy authors" out there, and also publicised by academics supervising postgraduate research. Writing and publishing in South African psychology needs all the help it can get!!

Identity raises many political and theoretical questions which require careful analytic and empirical analysis. In this issue we publish two articles that deal with identity. In the first article Catherine Campbell takes up Abrams and Hogg's (1988) concern that the social identity tradition lacks ecological validity. Her research with township youth addresses the ecological validity of SIT by analysing their (the youth's) "recipes for living" in terms of three main concerns: respectability, self-improvement, and personal / community empowerment. While Campbell's article deals with the substantive basis of identity, the second article by Amanda Kottler challenges the "politics of identity" of psychoanalytic trainings. Kottler's article points to the repressed fear of psychoanalytic institutions in facing the reality that people's identities are multiply constructed, and that the notion of a "normative" identity, and by implication a healthy identity (!), cannot theoretically be sustained. Kottler's argument, while discussing the conservative politics and practices of British and American (San Francisco) psychoanalytic trainings, raises questions about what professional psychology trainings in this country have to say, explicitly and implicitly, about the sexual orientation of prospective candidates. Are we as homophobic as our British and American counterparts, or is the "otherness" of homosexuality a particular phobia for psychoanalysis rather than psychology?! Again, **PINS** would welcome discussion and debate on this important issue, in the form of brief responses, short articles, or full-length articles (see also the article by Bob Young published in **PINS 21** - 1996).

The final article in this issue of **PINS** is a bibliographical essay on abortion by Disa Dollar. As with many areas of study the *experience* of those affected is often not considered, recorded, or researched. The rise of qualitative and feminist methodology is changing this somewhat, but still there are some surprising lacunae. Abortion is one such area where the experience of those who have had abortions has featured very seldom. Dollar surveys the international and local literature on a range of topics pertaining to abortion, and presents the few local studies that have included the *experience* of abortion.

PINS 22 concludes with a range of interesting book reviews by John Carson, Steve Collings, Kevin Durrheim, Melvyn Freeman, Gavin Ivey, and Kevin Kelly.

PINS Special Issues. As advertised awhile ago, **PINS** will be publishing a special issue on *HIV / AIDS* during 1998. This issue of **PINS** is being edited by Catherine Campbell and will be available in August 1998. In **PINS 23** (1997) we will be calling for papers, reports, briefings, and book reviews for a special number on the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)*. The issues raised by the TRC are going to be with us a long time, and it seems appropriate to devote a whole issue of **PINS** to this important institution and social process.

PINS 23 (1997) will include an article by Andy Dawes on the "Africanisation of psychology"; Pravani Naidoo on "the experience of single (divorced) mothers"; a debate following the review by Peter du Preez of the Levett *et al* edited text **Culture, Power and Difference: Discourse analysis in South Africa**; a biographical essay on Wulf Sachs, the "controversial" South African psychoanalyst who wrote **Black Hamlet** in 1937 (reprinted 1996, Witwatersrand University Press). This biographical essay is the first in a series that **PINS** hopes to publish. We would like to publish a biographical essay in each issue of **PINS**. There are many psychologists, and related social scientists, that have slipped out of our memories. The **PINS** editorial thinks that it is important that we recover this lost history, and hence would like to encourage articles of a biographical kind on people (dead or alive!) who have influenced psychological thinking in this country. **PINS** would be glad to hear from prospective authors on this "biographical series" so that we can plan our publishing schedule.

BACK ISSUES. We are able to supply the following back issues: **PINS 9** to **PINS 21**. **PINS 1** to **PINS 8**, and **PINS 14** are out of print. Contact the **PINS** office for details.

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