Dear Members of the ASSC,

Welcome to this month's ASSC newsletter.

This month's newsletter comes with a number of personnel changes at ASSC and Psyche. Among other changes, I have decided to step down from running the ASSC newsletter, and I am very glad to be able to announce that Lynn (Chienhui) Chiu has agreed to take on this role starting in September. I have very much enjoyed running the newsletter over the past year and a half, and I would like to thank the Board for having given me this wonderful opportunity, and all the members of the ASSC who have contributed to the newsletter and thereby helped to transform what started as a vague idea into a vibrant platform for communication. I am convinced that with the help of Lynn the newsletter will continue to thrive and develop.

This month's newsletter contains the following information:

- ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION:

  1. ASSC Personnel Changes
  2. Psyche: New Executive Editor Assistant
  3. ASSC-13 Second Call for Symposia
  4. Final Call for ASSC Committee Members
  5. ASSC Eprints Archive: The Five "Most Popular" Papers of July 2008

- NON-ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION:

  1. PostDoc Position in Neuroethics at the University of Bonn
  3. The Second Biennial William and Mary Colloquium in Philosophy: The Study of the Human Self

Enjoy the newsletter and the rest of summer!

Kristina

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
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All members of the ASSC are invited to submit items for inclusion in the newsletter that are of potential interest to the general membership to Lynn Chiu
(chiu.chienhui@gmail.com) by no later than the 10th of the month (subject: ASSC newsletter).

Items should be in the form of ONE paragraph of plain ASCII text no longer than 250 WORDS, and should be of general relevance to the MAINSTREAM ACADEMIC study of consciousness. Attachments will not be accepted. The submitting author must be a current member of the ASSC. Submissions that do not meet these requirements may be rejected without further correspondence.

ASCC EVENTS AND INFORMATION

1. ASSC PERSONNEL CHANGES
Corresponding author: David Rosenthal (davidrosenthal@nyu.edu)
Further information: http://www.assc.caltech.edu/board.htm

It is a pleasure to announce a few important personnel changes at ASSC. Olivia Carter, now in the Molecular Psychopharmacology lab of the Mental Health Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, has taken over as Executive Director of the ASSC. We are very grateful to Olivia for assuming this important position. Our warm gratitude also goes to Christof Koch, who as Executive Director ably and wisely kept us going this past year following Patrick Wilken's departure.

Karen Yan of the Department of Philosophy at The Johns Hopkins University, has now taken over as Secretary for the Executive Committee. We are very grateful to Karen, and also to Olivia Carter, who served as Secretary this past year.

Lynn Chiu of National Yang Ming University in Taiwan, has agreed to take over the important job of running the ASSC Newsletter, a position held for the past couple of years by Kristina Musholt of the Berlin School of Mind and Brain, currently also at MIT. We are very grateful to Lynn for taking on this important job, and to Kristina for having produced so many magnificent newsletters these last years.

Finally, Joel Parthemore of the Department of Informatics at the University of Sussex has agreed to take over as the new ASSC Webmaster from Farshad Moradi of the Department of Psychology at NYU and the Computation and Neural Systems Lab at Caltech. We thank Joel for taking on this demanding position, and are very grateful to Farshad, who has given many years of service to the ASSC and is responsible for setting up and maintaining the entire ASSC website and E-prints archive.

3. PSYCHE: NEW EXECUTIVE EDITOR ASSISTANT
Corresponding author: Gabriel Kreiman (Gabriel.Kreiman@childrens.harvard.edu)
Further information: http://journalpsyche.org
It is a great pleasure to announce that Stephanie Ortigue (http://www.psych.ucsb.edu/~ortigue/) from the Psychology Department at UCSB is joining the Psyche team as the new Executive Assistant Editor. Stephanie received her PhD in 2004 on hemispheric specialization and cognitive neuroscience from the University Hospital of Geneva, Switzerland. She is now head of the 4D Brain Electrodynamics Laboratory at UC Santa Barbara. Her research focuses on social cognitive neuroscience and the consciousness of self, notably the consciousness of the interactive self (i.e., the self when interacting with others; the social self in action) in healthy participants and neurological patients.

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3. ASSC-13 CALL FOR SYMPOSIA
Corresponding author: Michael Pauen (mail@assc13.com)
Further information: assc13.com/Symposia

The Program committee invites proposals for symposia on any topic relevant to the scientific study of consciousness. For details, see www.assc13.com/symposia. Symposia/talks should be spread over topics in consciousness studies, paying close attention to areas that may have been overlooked last year or in previous years. ASSC has a strong preference for symposia proposals to focus on specific questions rather than a set of loosely related talks. Accepted symposium speakers will be compensated for reasonable travel expenses (round-trip economy-class airfare and waived registration and banquet fees; speakers will be expected to cover their own accommodation costs). Send the proposal along with submission requirements listed on our website (www.assc13.com/symposia) to Michael Pauen (mail@assc13.com) by September 30th. Please note that the Program Committee will begin making decisions regarding the acceptance of symposia very shortly after the deadline date, so that late proposals will be at a serious disadvantage.

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4. FINAL CALL FOR ASSC COMMITTEE MEMBERS - SUBMISSIONS CLOSE TOMORROW
Corresponding author: Olivia Carter (ocarter@unimelb.edu.au)
Further information: http://www.assc.caltech.edu/board.htm

There are still a few positions available on the ASSC Committees. Involvement in the committees provides exciting opportunities for members of the ASSC to participate in the day to day running of the organization and is encouraged by the Board. For an overview of the various committees see: http://www.assc.caltech.edu/board.htm. Members' terms on the committees are staggered, with an equal number of new members being appointed each year after the conference. If you would like to join one of the committees please contact Olivia Carter. To help the Board make it's decision please send an email to ocarter@unimelb.edu.au with two short
paragraphs (each less than 200 words); the first detailing your background, the second indicating which committee you would like to join and what you think that committee should try to achieve. In addition please attach your CV as a pdf or word document (less than 3 pages).

Submissions close tomorrow (August 16th)!

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5. ASSC EPRINTS ARCHIVE: THE FIVE "MOST POPULAR" PAPERS OF JULY 2008
Corresponding author: Kristina Musholt (kmusholt@gmail.com)
Further information: http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu

The ASSC Eprints Committee is pleased to announce the five "most popular" papers July 2008. Overall we registered 37642 downloads this month. The five "most popular" papers are:

We thank all authors who have contributed to the archive so far and would like to encourage all members, and in particular all conference presenters who haven't done so yet to contribute to the archive's growing success by uploading their work to the website.

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NON-ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION
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1. POSTDOC POSITION IN NEUROETHICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BONN
Corresponding author: Kristina Musholt (kmusholt@gmail.com)
Further information: Contact Henrik Walter (henrik.walter@ukb.uni-bonn.de)
The Division of Medical Psychology at the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Bonn invites applications for a position as Post-Doc Researcher.

The research consortium NEUROSCAN (NeuroScienceAndNorms: Ethical and Legal Aspects of Norms in Neuroimaging) is a trinational project funded for three years by the BMBF (Germany, PI: Henrik Walter) and the respective national funding agencies (PI Canada: Timothy Caulfield) and (PI Finland: Tuija Takala). For a German Subproject (The Standardized Mind: Implications of Neuroimaging on a Theory of Human Reflective Action) we seek to appoint a Post-Doc Researcher for three years. You will be working primarily on neurophilosophical and neuroethical questions which might also include empirical work using fMRI. For information on our research visit our homepage http://www.meb.uni-bonn.de/psychiatrie/mp/.

You will have a PhD in Cognitive Science or Philosophy or a related discipline, or an equivalent level of relevant research experience. Ideally, you will have a background in both cognitive neuroscience/neuroimaging and philosophy. Experience with or strong interest in MRI research is required. You will work primarily in Germany but are expected to work for some months in Canada and Finland with the project partners. The successful candidate will be expected to start September 1st or later and the post is available for a fixed-term period until August 31st, 2011. Salary will be TVöD-E13.

The University of Bonn wishes to increase the proportion of woman in research and strongly encourages qualified female candidates to apply.

Priority will be given to physically disabled persons with equivalent qualifications.

Please send application including CV, publication list and three references to Prof. Dr. Dr. Henrik Walter as one PDF-file to henrik.walter@ukb.uni-bonn.de.

For an informal discussion about this post, potential applicants are invited to contact Henrik Walter, Professor of Medical Psychology, tel: +49-228-287-19124, e-mail: henrik.walter@ukb.uni-bonn.de

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2. NATURE REVIEWS NEUROSCIENCE PAPER ON MAGIC AND CONSCIOUSNESS

Corresponding author: Susana Martinez-Conde & Steve Macknik
(smart@neuralcorrelate.com)
Further information: http://smc_lab.neuralcorrelate.com

As a follow-up to our symposium on Magic and Consciousness, presented at the ASSC 2007 meeting in Las Vegas, and subsequently published in Nature in August 2007, we have now published a full-length review of the field in Nature Reviews Neuroscience. The paper was published as an advanced online publication in July, and co-authored by our magician colleagues. It is currently featured on Nature's main homepage (http://www.nature.com) and has been made freely available (for a month; no subscription required) at NRN's website:


The work was summarized on Tuesday in the New York Times, Science Times section:

If you are interested in NPR's, the Boston Globe's, or other coverage of this topic, please feel free to browse the press materials, posted on our websites:

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3. THE SECOND BIENNIAL WILLIAM AND MARY COLLOQUIUM IN PHILOSOPHY: THE STUDY OF THE HUMAN SELF - SEPTEMBER 25-26 IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA
Corresponding author: Paul Davies (psdavi@wm.edu)
Further information: http://humanself.wmblogs.net

The Study of the Human Self is a two-day, interdisciplinary conference dedicated to answering two questions:
- What kind of agent are we? If we presently do not know how to think of our capacities as agents, what, in light of the very latest scientific findings, is our best educated guess? What are we actually like as deliberators, choosers, and actors?
- What are the methods of inquiry most likely to help us discover the truth about our capacities as agents? Since some of our capacities as agents generate illusions of various sorts, and since inquiry is one way we exercise our capacities as agents, how can we study ourselves without succumbing to the illusions to which we are prone?

There will be no formal presentations of papers. Panelists (neuroscientists, psychologists, philosophers) will give 20 minute Power Point synopses of essays submitted prior to the conference. Sessions will consist mainly of discussion. Persons interested in attending the conference are encouraged to submit the registration form and fee (http://humanself.wmblogs.net/) as soon as possible since considerations of space limit the number of registered participants we can accept. Be sure to include your email address on the registration form so we can send you online access to the conference papers. This conference is the second in the William and Mary Biennial Colloquium in Philosophy series and is directed by Paul S. Davies. It will be held September 25-26, 2008 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

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