

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH IDEALISM SPECIALIST GROUP OF THE
POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2001

by

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I. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

The PSA British Idealism Specialist Group was formally established on 2nd October 1999. Reports of the activities of the Specialist Group can be found at the following issues of the PSA News:

Vol. 11, No. 2, June 1999, p. 17

Vol. 11, No. 4, December 1999, p. 20

Vol. 12, No. 3, October 2001, p. 13

Website: <http://www.psa.ac.uk/spgrp/idealism/idealism.htm>

In 2001, the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group undertook the following activities:

1. PSA 51st Annual Conference

Professor David Boucher organised two panels on "Idealism and the Globalisation of the Moral Community" at the PSA 51st Annual Conference, University of Manchester, 10th-12th April 2001. The panels were chaired by Dr. Matt Matravers and Professor Gary Browning. The discussants were Mr. Peter P. Nicholson and Dr. James Connelly. The speakers were: Professor David Boucher on British Idealism and the Culture of Human Rights; Ms. Stamatoula Panagakou on The State, the Individual and the Best Life: A Reassessment of the Bosanquet / Hobhouse Controversy; Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson on T. H. Green and Contemporary Consequentialism; and Dr. Colin Tyler on T. H. Green's Theory of Democracy.

2. British Idealism Conference: 2001 Annual Conference of the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group

Professor David Boucher and the Collingwood and British Idealism Centre at the University of Cardiff organised the 2001 Annual Conference of the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group. The Conference was held at Gregynog, Newtown Powys, Wales, 17th-18th December 2001. The Conference attracted scholars from Canada, Sweden and the USA and it was attended by over 30 delegates. The Conference had one round table discussion, three panels and one symposium. The details are:

Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou organised a round table on Will Sweet's book *Idealism and Rights*. The discussants were: Professor Gary Browning, Dr. James Connelly, Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson and Dr. Colin Tyler. Professor William Sweet responded to their comments. A Symposium based on the round table discussion will be published by Collingwood and British Idealism Studies in 2002.

Dr. James Connelly organised a panel on the philosophy of R. G. Collingwood. The speakers were: Ms. Anna Castriota on R. G. Collingwood, G. Gentile and Fascist Ideology; Mr. Richard Murphy on Collingwood's Philosophy of Art; and Dr. Josie D'Oro on Collingwood on Philosophical Knowledge and the Enduring Nature of Philosophical Problems.

Dr. Colin Tyler organised a panel on British Idealism and the History of Ideas. The speakers were: Dr. Luke O'Sullivan on *Rediscovering Robert Flint: A Forgotten Victorian Minister and Philosopher?*; and Mr. Jan Olof Bengtsson on *Personal Idealism: Origins and Contexts*.

Professor David Boucher and Professor Bruce Haddock organised a panel on British Idealism and Human Rights. The speakers were: Professor David Boucher on *Idealism and the Transition from Natural Rights to Human Rights*; and Professor Rex Martin on *T. H. Green on Rights and Human Rights*.

A Symposium was organised to celebrate the new edition of Bernard Bosanquet's *The Philosophical Theory of the State* by Gerald F. Gaus and William Sweet. Professor Andrew Vincent and Professor Bob Kocis discussed the importance of *The Philosophical Theory of the State* and commented on the new edition of the book. Professor Gerald F. Gaus and Professor William Sweet discussed different aspects of the moral, social and political philosophy of Bernard Bosanquet.

II. FORTHCOMING EVENTS - ACTIVITIES TO BE FOUNDED

1. PSA 52rd Annual Conference: 5th-7th April 2002

Dr. Colin Tyler organises four panels on British Idealism at the PSA 52nd Annual Conference, University of Aberdeen, 5th-7th April 2002. The major success of the British Idealism Specialist Group is the invitation of Professor Gerald F. Gaus as a Distinguished Guest Speaker for the PSA 52nd Annual Conference. The details are:

Panel I: Dr. Colin Tyler on *Social Dynamics and the General Will*; and Professor Andrew Vincent on *Bosanquet and Social Aesthetics*. Chair: Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou.

Panel II: Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou on *Bosanquet and Greek Political Philosophy*; and Professor David Boucher on *Michael Oakeshott and the Idea of Law*. Chair: Professor Andrew Vincent.

Panel III: Dr. James Connelly on *Collingwood's Conception of Political Action*; Professor Gary Browning on *Collingwood, Hegel and the Idea of History*; and Dr. Josie D'Oro on *Collingwood's Conception of Civilisation*. Chair: Professor David Boucher.

Distinguished Guest Speaker Panel Session. Professor Gerald F. Gaus on *A Defense of the Rights Recognition Thesis*. Chair: Dr. Colin Tyler.

2. Workshop on "Philosophical Idealism and Political Philosophy": July 2002

Professor Andrew Vincent organises a Workshop on "Philosophical Idealism and Political Philosophy" at the 8th International Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas: European Culture in a Changing World: Between Nationalism and Globalism, University of Wales Aberystwyth, 22nd-27th July 2002.

Website: <http://www.aber.ac.uk/visitors/conferences/issei/517.html>

3. International Conference: T. H. Green and Contemporary Philosophy: 2nd-4th September 2002

Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson, Dr. Bill Mander and Dr. Colin Tyler organise the International Conference: T. H. Green and Contemporary Philosophy, Harris Manchester College, Oxford, 2nd-4th September 2002. Speakers include: Gerald Gaus, Peter P. Nicholson, Raymond Plant, John Skorupski, Leslie Armour, David Brink, Phil Ferreira, Maria Dimova-Cookson, Bill Mander, Stephen Priest, Avital Simhony, Timothy Sprigge, Colin Tyler, Andrew Vincent, Fred Wilson.

Websites: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Bentham-Project/Events-Seminars/Green-conference.htm>

<http://iago.stfx.ca/arpa/green-conference.htm>

4. International Conference on Anglo-American Idealism: 20th-25th August 2003

Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou, in co-operation with Professor Leonidas Bargeliotes, University of Athens, organises the International Conference on Anglo-American Idealism, at the Olympic Centre for Philosophy and Culture and the Municipality of Pyrgos in Greece, 20th-25th August 2003.

Conference Websites:

<http://www.stfx.ca/arpa/idealism2003.htm>

<http://www.psa.ac.uk/spgrp/idealism/conf2003.htm>

III. MEMBERSHIP LIST

The PSA British Idealism Specialist Group has 20 members. I enclose the membership list as a separate document.

IV. LIST OF OFFICERS

Convenors: Professor David Boucher (University of Cardiff); Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou (University of York); and Professor Andrew Vincent (University of Sheffield).

Secretary and Treasurer: Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson (University College, London).

V. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The membership fee is £2 for students and unemployed, £4 for junior lecturers and £6 for senior lecturers. The income of the Specialist Group for 2001 was: £500 (PSA Specialist Group Funding); £50 (membership fee); and £63.10 (balance put forward from 2000). In total: £613.10. We have spent: £500 for the Annual Conference in Gregynog and £110 for the poster of the T. H. Green and Contemporary Philosophy Conference. Total expenditure: £500 + £110 = £610. I enclose copies of the receipts. The credit in the account now is: £613.10-£610 = £ 3.10.