

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

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2002** 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
- Vol. 13, No. 3 (October 2002), p. 10
- Vol. 13, No. 4 (January 2003), p. 13

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

In 2002, the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group undertook the following activities:

**1. PSA 52nd Annual Conference**

Colin Tyler organised four panels at the PSA 52nd Annual Conference, University of Aberdeen, 5th-7th April 2002. The speakers were: David Boucher on Michael Oakeshott and the Idea of Law; Gary Browning on Collingwood, Hegel and the Idea of History; James Connelly on Collingwood's Conception of Political Action; Stamatoula Panagakou on Bosanquet and Greek Political Philosophy; Colin Tyler on Social Dynamics and the General Will; and Andrew Vincent on Bosanquet and Social Aesthetics. The highlight of the British Idealism panels was the invitation of Professor Gerald F. Gaus (Tulane University, USA). Professor Gaus, who was the PSA Distinguished Guest Speaker, gave a talk on A Defence of the Rights Recognition Thesis.

**2. Eighth Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas**

Andrew Vincent organised a Workshop (No. 517) on Philosophical Idealism and Political Philosophy at the Eighth Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas, University of Wales, Aberystwith, 22nd-27th July 2002. The speakers were: David Boucher, Susan Daniel and Andrew Vincent.

**3. T. H. Green and Contemporary Philosophy Conference**

Maria Dimova-Cookson, Bill Mander and Colin Tyler organised the T. H. Green and Contemporary Philosophy Conference, Harris Manchester College, Oxford, 2nd-4th September 2002. The Conference was attended by over 40 delegates. The plenary speakers were: Leslie Armour on Green's Idealism and the Metaphysics of Ethics (discussant: Bill Mander); David Brink on Self-Realisation and the Common Good: Aristotelian Themes in T. H. Green; Gerald F.

Gaus on The Rights Recognition Thesis: A Radical Defence (discussant: Avital Simhony); Peter P. Nicholson on The Unity of Green's Philosophy (discussant Jan Olof Bengtsson); Avital Simhony on T. H. Green's Community of Rights: An Essay on the Complexity of Liberalism (discussant: Gerald F. Gaus); and John Skorupski on The Idealist Conception of a Person's Good (discussant: David Brink). Maria Dimova-Cookson, Bill Mander and Colin Tyler organised a round table on T. H. Green's Concept of the Eternal Consciousness. The other speakers were: Ben Wempe on Green and the Revolt Against Atomistic Individualism; Maurice Stanley on The Ideal of Personal Worth; Ted Vaggalis on T. H. Green's Theory of Punishment; James Allard on Logic as Metaphysics: T. H. Green and the Idealist Conception of Logic; Phil Ferreira on Green's Attack on Formal Logic; David Weinstein on New Liberal Perfectionist Consequentialism; Brian Butler on T. H. Green and a Pragmatic Conception of Human Rights; Timothy Sprigge on Professor Green and Mr. Grey; Tim Goulstone on T. H. Green and his Influence on Anglican Theology; Shigeru Yukiyasu on The Development of the Idea of Self-Realisation in Japan and T. H. Green: Personality and Good in Kitaro Nishida; Lucan Gregory on T. H. Green, Ronald Dworkin and Associative Obligations; Fred Wilson on T. H. Green and Downward Causation; Philip MacEwen on T. H. Green and Contemporary Hume Scholarship; Martin Kilanowski on Individual and Community in the Political Theory of T. H. Green and John Dewey; Denys Leighton on T. H. Green, Liberalism and the Idea of Character; Darin Nesbitt on T. H. Green on Property Rights; and Suzie Johnston on T. H. Green and the Novels of Mrs. Humphrey Ward and George Eliot.

## II. ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 1. PSA 53rd Annual Conference: April 2003

The British Idealism Specialist Group has planned the following three events at the PSA 53rd Annual Conference, University of Leicester, 15th-17th April 2003:

A. Colin Tyler organises a panel on the political philosophy of T. H. Green (participants: Colin Tyler, Maria Dimova-Cookson and Stamatoula Panagakou).

B. Stamatoula Panagakou organises a "Symposium on British Idealism and Political Theory" (participants: David Boucher, Gary Browning, Maria Dimova-Cookson, and Stamatoula Panagakou).

C. A wine reception will be given by the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group to mark the occasion of the "Symposium on British Idealism and Political Theory."

### 2. International Conference on Anglo-American Idealism: August 2003

This Conference, which will be at the Olympic Centre for Philosophy and Culture in Pyrgos of Elia (in Peloponnese), Greece, 20th-25th August 2003, is the major conference event of the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group for 2003.

There are 45 confirmed papers so far and the "Call for Papers" is not over yet. Speakers include:

Mark Bevir on From Idealism to Communitarianism: The Inheritance, Legacy and Personal Idealism of John Macmurray; Josie D'Oro on Collingwood and Ryle on the Concept of Mind; Timothy Sprigge on Absolute Idealism and the Problem of Evil; Richard Allen on Logic as Causation; Christopher Colgan on The Ideal of Charity in the Realist Age; Philip Smallwood on Collingwood's "New Leviathan" and the 20th century Literary Heroic; Robert Burns on F. H. Bradley's Presuppositions of Critical History; Jeannie Morefield on Inscrutable Liberals; Bill Mander on Life and Finite Individuality; William Sweet on J. A. Smith and the Influence of British Idealism in South-Africa; Andrew Vincent on the Role of Logic in Bosanquet's Philosophy; Gary Browning on Collingwood, Hegel and the Owl of Minerva; Raia Prokhovnik on Oakeshott's Artifice as Social Construction; Jan Olof Bengtsson on Idealism and Religion in Britain and America; James Connelly on Collingwood's Environmental Ethics; Leslie Armour on Rethinking the Absolute; Marie-Luise Raters on Andrew Bradley and the Aesthetics of Oxford Idealism; David Boucher on Collingwood, Idealism and the History of Ideas; Ian Winchester on The Notion of Work of Art in Collingwood's Aesthetics; Alastair Beattie on Bradley's Idealism and the Uncertainty Principle in Physics; Gianfranco Spavieri on British Idealism and the Theory of Quantum Mechanics; Philip Mac Ewen on Caird's Kant; Avital Simhony on Transforming the

Language of Liberalism: T. H. Green on Common Good and Social Interest; Elizabeth Trott on Is the Absolute Obsolete?; Efraim Podoksik on How British is Oakeshott's Idealism?; Rebecca Toueg on Conceptual Change in Collingwood and Lovejoy; Don MacNiven on Norman Kemp Smith and Epistemological Idealism; Maurice Stanley on Community and Terror; Phil Ferreira on Pain and the Absolute; James Patrick on Green, Smith and Collingwood on Teaching Philosophy; John Morrow on Bosanquet, Sorel and the Challenge of Democratic Politics; Derrick Darby on Green and Bosanquet on Rights, Slaves and Animals; Colin Tyler on Why Consider Institutions as Ethical Ideas; Pierfrancesco Basile on Experience, Process and Reality in Bradley and Whitehead; Cristiano Camporesi on Belief and Credibility; Timothy Lord on Collingwood's Critique of Oxbridge Metaethics; James Allard on The Idealistic Transformation of Logic, Anthony Graybosch on No Station and No Duties; Rex Martin on Higher and Lower Pleasures: Mill and Collingwood's Essay on Philosophical Method; Nathan Oaklander on McTaggart and the Experience of Time; Phil Ross on Liberalism, New Liberalism and New Hegelianism: Perspectives on the 21st Century; Thom Brooks on T. H. Green's Concept of Legal Right; Damian Ildigwe on Bradley, Modern Philosophy and Idealism; Sverre Wide on Collingwood and Hegel or Kant? Absolute Presuppositions and Limits of Reason; Stamatoula Panagakou on Bosanquet and Greek Political Thought; and Mostafa Faghfoury on Dignity of Man: Running Up Against the Limits of the Infinite.

Conference websites:

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

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

### 3. PSA 54th Annual Conference (2004)

The PSA British Idealism Specialist Group is planning to have 4 panels at the 2004 PSA Annual Conference. In this Conference, the British Idealism Specialist Group will celebrate its fifth anniversary and the Executive Committee of the Specialist Group will take extra care for preparation of panels and other events to mark this occasion.

4. Ninth Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas: August 2004  
A Workshop with several sessions is prepared by Stamatoula Panagakou. The 9th ISSEI Conference will be held at the University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain, 2nd-7th August 2004.

### 5. British Idealism Group Annual Conference: 2004

The Annual Conference of the British Idealism Specialist Group is usually held at the Conference Centre of the University of Wales which is in Gregynog, in Wales. Professor David Boucher and the Collingwood and British Idealism Centre are usually involved in the preparation of this event. More details will follow, when we get closer to the confirmation of the Annual Conference.

## III. MEMBERSHIP LIST

The PSA British Idealism Specialist Group has 20 members. We are currently involved in an intense recruitment activity. I enclose the membership list as a separate document.

## IV. LIST OF OFFICERS

Convenors

Professor David Boucher (University of Cardiff) and Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou (University of York)

Secretary and Treasurer

Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson (University College London)

## V. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The membership fee is £2 (students, unemployed and retired), £4 (junior lecturers) and £6 (senior staff). The income of the Specialist Group for 2002 was: £550 (PSA Specialist Group Funding) + £150 (extra PSA Specialist Group Funding) + £34 (membership fee) + £3.10 (balance put forward from 2001). Total income (for 2002): £550 + £150 + £34 + £3.10 =

£737.10. We have spent: £500 (for the International Conference on Anglo-American Idealism) + £9.50 (for communications). Total expenditure: £500 + £9.50 + £509.50. I enclose copies of the receipts and letters. The credit in the account now is: £737.10 - £509.50 = £227.60