

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

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005**

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**CONTENTS**

- I. Report of Activities**
- II. List of Officers**
- III. List of Members**
- IV. Financial Statement**
- V. Proposed Activities for 2006**

## I. REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

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

- PSA News, Vol. 11, No. 2 (June 1999), p. 17
- PSA News, Vol. 11, No. 4 (December 1999), p. 20
- PSA News, Vol. 12, No. 3 (October 2001), p. 13
- PSA News, Vol. 13, No. 3 (October 2002), p. 10
- PSA News, Vol. 13, No. 4 (January 2003), p. 13
- PSA News, Vol. 14, No. 2 (July 2003), p. 3
- PSA News, Vol. 15, No. 3 (September 2004), p. 11
- PSA News, Vol. 16, No. 2 (June 2005), p.8
- PSA News, Vol. 16, No. 3 (September 2005), p. 5
- PSA News, Vol. 16, No. 4 (January 2006), p. 7

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

In 2005, the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group undertook the following activities:

### 1. PSA 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou** organised three panels on “British Idealism” at the PSA 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, University of Leeds, 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April 2005. The speakers were:

- **Dr. Colin Tyler** on “Human Welfare and the Future of WTO: Rethinking the International Institutional Architecture”
- **Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou** on “Bosanquet and the Idea of the State: The Relation Between the State and the Individual”
- **Professor Paul Furlong** on “Authoritarian Conservatism After the War: Julius Evola and the Usefulness of Europe”
- **Dr. Bob Dyson** on “A.J.M. Milne: Rational Choice and a Life Fit for Humans”
- **Dr. Gulshan Khan** on “Habermas, Oakeshott, and Mouffe on Practical Rationality, Morality, and Politics”
- **Dr. Thom Brooks** on “An Idealist Theory of Punishment”
- **Dr. Tim Rosser** on “An Application of Collingwood’s Theory of the Concept to Some Intractable Problems in Environmental Ethics”
- **Professor James Connelly** on “Nature and Intelligent Exploitation: Environmental Themes in R. G. Collingwood”
- **Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson** on “Resolving Moral Conflict: British Idealism and Contemporary Liberal Approaches”

### 2. R. G. Collingwood Conference

**Professor David Boucher** and **Professor Wendy James** organised the R. G. Collingwood Conference at Monk Coniston, Conistonwater, in Cumbria, England, 6<sup>th</sup>-

9<sup>th</sup> July 2005. The Conference was generously supported by the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group, the R. G. Collingwood Society, and the Collingwood and British Idealism Centre of the University of Cardiff. The speakers were:

- **Markku Hyrkkänen** on “An Idea of Intellectual History: R. G. Collingwood’s Contribution to the Methodology and Theory of Intellectual History”
- **Robert R. Segal** on “Collingwood and Peter Winch: Empathy Versus Fieldwork”
- **Tim Rosser** on “Phenomenological Implications of Contemporary Readings of Collingwood’s Absolute Presuppositions”
- **Michael O’Neill** on “The Role of Resignation of the Will in Collingwood’s Moral Philosophy”
- **William Sweet** on “Politics and Aesthetic Consciousness”
- **Giuseppina D’Oro** on “Collingwood and Philosophical Analysis”
- **Fred Inglis** on “Writing Collingwood’s Biography”
- **Mathieu Marion** on “Collingwood as an Objective Idealist”
- **Chinatsu Kobayashi** on “Collingwood on Emotions: Between Emotivism and Moral Realism”
- **Stephen Leach** on “Davidson and Collingwood on the Problem of Causation”
- **Michael Beaney** on “Presuppositional Analysis and the Presuppositions of Analysis”
- **Guido Vanheeswijck** on “R. G. Collingwood’s Metaphysics as Conceptual Analysis: A Different Approach”
- **Stephen L. Keck** on “From the Stones of Venice to The Idea of History: John Ruskin and R. G. Collingwood’s Historical Thought”
- **James Patrick** on “Newman and Collingwood, Aristotle and Kant: The Empiricism of Late Victorian Idealism”
- **Richard Murphy** on “Collingwood and the Reform of Logic and Metaphysics”
- **Douglas Templeton** on “Some Notes on Collingwood’s *Philosophia Christiana*”
- **Ian Winchester** on “Collingwood on History and Physics”
- **Anna Castriota** on “The Logic of Question and Answer in R. G. Collingwood and Gadamer”
- **Margaret E. Berci** on “What Does it Mean to Question?”
- **Tim Lord** on “Anti-Realism in R. G. Collingwood’s Theory of Art as Imagination”

Highlights of the R. G. Collingwood Conference:

- Discussion of Rex Martin’s contribution to the study of Collingwood’s An Essay on Metaphysics. The discussants were Michael Beaney and Guido Vanheeswijck. Rex Marin responded with a paper entitled “Reply to my Critics.”
- Sir Roger Bannister launched the publication of Collingwood’s The Philosophy of Enchantment: Studies in Folktale, Cultural Criticism, and Anthropology (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2005). David Boucher,

Wendy James, and Philip Smallwood (the editors) discussed themes from the book.

- Symposium on Gary Browning's Rethinking R. G. Collingwood: Philosophy, Politics, and the Unity of Theory and Practice (Palgrave, 2004). The participants were: Gary Browning, Bruce Haddock, and Andrew Vincent).
- Symposium to celebrate the new revised edition of Collingwood's An Essay on Philosophical Method (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005). The editors, James Connelly and Giuseppina D'Oro, discussed with Rex Martin the importance of the book.

### **3. Idealism Today Conference**

**Dr. Bill Mander** organised the Idealism Today Conference, Harris Manchester College, Oxford, 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> July 2005. The Conference was devoted to a reassessment of all aspects of philosophical Idealism and was one of the most successful international gatherings of young and established Idealist scholars. The speakers were:

- **Leslie Armour** on "The Case for an Idealist Ontology"
- **Tom Buford** on "What is Boston Personalistic Idealism?"
- **Nicholas Rescher** on "A Viable Idealism"
- **Timothy Sprigge** on "Absolute Idealism and the Pre-Established Harmony"
- **James W. Allard** on "Realism, Anti-Realism, and Absolute Idealism"
- **Randall Auxier** on "Howison's Limits on Evolution Revisited"
- **Pierfrancesco Basile** on "Panpsychism, Idealism, and the Value of Reality"
- **Jan Olof Bengtsson** on "Idealism and the Renewal of Humanistic Philosophy"
- **Thom Brooks** on "An Idealist Theory of Punishment"
- **Brian Butler** on "Idealism in American Law"
- **Maria Dimova-Cookson** on "The Three Freedoms"
- **Karim Dharamsi** on "Is Brandom an Idealist?"
- **Giuseppina D'Oro** on "Idealism and the Philosophy of Mind"
- **Phil Ferreira** on "Idealism and the A Priori"
- **Marcin Kilanowski** on "Idealism and Communicative Action"
- **Tim Lord** on "Anti-Realism in R. G. Collingwood's Theory of Art as Imagination"
- **Philip MacEwan** on "Edward Caird, William Wallace, and Contemporary Hegel Scholarship"
- **Domenico Mancuso** on "Reaching Out for the Past"
- **Bill Mander** on "From Consciousness to the Absolute"
- **Ajaya Naik** on "A Proof on One Substance Monism"
- **William Sweet** on "Ethics Under Idealism"
- **Maurice Stanley** on "Idealism and the Ethical and Religious Language-Games"

- **Elizabeth Trott** on “Democratic Paradoxes: T. H. Green on Democracy and Education”
- **Colin Tyler** on “Edward Caird on ‘Reform and Reformation’ and ‘Social Ethics’”
- **David Weinstein** on “Idealism and the Rejection of Utilitarianism”
- **Ben Wempe** on “Idealism and Positive Freedom”
- **Ian Winchester** on “Internal Versus External Relations in Contemporary Physics”

#### **4. Workshop on the Moral, Social and Political Philosophy of the British Idealists**

**Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou** organised a Workshop on “British Idealism: Moral, Social, and Political Philosophy” in the Workshops in Political Theory: Second Annual Conference, Manchester Metropolitan University, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> September 2005. The speakers were:

- **Professor James Connelly** on “Environmental Rights, Reason, and Morality”
- **Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou** on “Religion and Ethics in Bosanquet’s Philosophy”
- **Professor Andrew Vincent** on “German Philosophy and Public Policy”

#### **5. British Idealism Symposium**

**Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou** organised the British Idealism Symposium, York, 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December 2005. The speakers were:

- **Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson** on “Republican Freedom Against the Background of the Positive-Negative Freedom Dichotomy”
- **Professor James Connelly** on “Character, Duty, and Historical Consciousness”
- **Dr. Matt Beech** on “British Idealist Influence on Christian Socialism”
- **Mr. Steve Buckel** on “Coming In from the Outside: Reflections on Idealism”
- **Dr. Tim Rosser** on “Ontic and Ontological Readings of R. G. Collingwood”
- **Dr. John Gibbins** on “John Grote and Cambridge Idealism”

**Dr. Tim Rosser** and **Professor James Connelly** discussed with the audience some recent monographs on the philosophy of R. G. Collingwood: Rethinking R. G. Collingwood, by G. Browning (Palgrave, 2004); How Good An Historian Shall I Be?, by M. Hughes-Warrington (Imprint Academic, 2003); Action as History, by S. Helgeby (Imprint Academic, 2004); Metaphysics, Method and Politics, by J. Connelly (Imprint Academic, 2003); and Collingwood and the Metaphysics of Experience, by G. D’Oro (Routledge, 2002).

## II. LIST OF OFFICERS

- **Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou (University of York, UK)**  
Convenor
- **Professor David Boucher (Cardiff University, UK)**  
Convenor
- **Professor Andrew Vincent (University of Sheffield, UK)**  
Convenor
- **Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson (Durham University, UK)**  
Secretary and Treasurer

## III. LIST OF MEMBERS

The PSA British Idealism Specialist Group has 26 members. I enclose the membership list as a separate document.

## IV. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The membership fee is £2 (students, unemployed, retired), £4 (junior lecturers), and £6 (senior staff). Income of the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group for 2005:

<b>£900:</b>	PSA Specialist Group Funding
<b>£711.76:</b>	Balance put forward from 2004
<b>£26:</b>	Membership fee
<b>£0.60:</b>	Miscellaneous deposit

**Total income for 2005: £1638.36**

**We have spent:**

<b>*£700:</b>	British Idealism Symposium
<b>*£280:</b>	Hardship Fund

**Total expenditure for 2005: £980**

**The credit in the account now is: £1638.36 - £980 = £658.36**

## V. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2006

The PSA British Idealism Specialist Group has planned the following activities for 2006:

### 1. 56<sup>th</sup> Political Studies Association Annual Conference

**Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson** and **Professor Andrew Vincent** organise two panels at the forthcoming Annual PSA Conference in Reading (April 2006).

### 2. Alan Milne Memorial Conference

**Dr. Bob Dyson** and **Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou** organise the Alan Milne Memorial Conference at the University of Durham, 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

### 3. Manchester Political Theory Workshops

**Professor James Connelly** will organise a Workshop on the political philosophy of the British Idealists, and **Professor David Boucher** will organise a Workshop on the human rights culture which will include themes from British Idealism too.

### 4. Annual British Idealism Conference

**Professor David Boucher** will organise the Annual Conference of the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group in Gregynog, the Conference Centre of the University of Wales. The event is planned for December 2006.

### 5. Multiculturalism and Moral Conflict

**Dr. Maria Dimova-Cookson** and **Dr. Peter Stirk** will organise a Conference entitled "Multiculturalism and Moral Conflict" at the University of Durham – a joint Conference of the Centre for the History of Political Thought (Department of Government and International Affairs, Durham University) and of the PSA British Idealism Specialist Group. The Conference is planned for 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007.