

Association for Psychosocial Studies Biennial Conference

Bournemouth University, 5th- 7th April 2018.

CALL FOR PAPERS

‘Psychosocial Reflections on a Half Century of Cultural Revolution’

Fifty years after the hippie counterculture of 1967 (‘the summer of love’) and the political turbulence of 1968 (‘May 68’), this conference will stage a psychosocial examination of the ways in which today’s world is shaped by the forces symbolised by those two moments. It will explore the continuing influence of the deep social, cultural and political changes in the West, which crystallised in the events of these two years. The cultural forces and the political movements of that time aimed to change the world, and did so, though not in the ways that many of their participants expected. Their complex, multivalent legacy of ‘liberation’ is still developing and profoundly shapes the globalising world today, in the contests between what is called neo-liberalism, resurgent fundamentalisms, environmentalism, individualism, nationalisms, and the proliferation of identity politics.

A counter-cultural and identity-based ethos now dominates much of consumer culture, and is reflected in the recent development of some populist and protest politics. A libertarian critique of politics, once at the far margins, now informs popular attitudes towards many aspects of democratic governance; revolutionary critiques have become mainstream clichés. Hedonic themes suffuse everyday life, while self-reflection and emotional literacy have also become prominent values, linked to more positive orientations towards human diversity and the international community.

We invite psychosocial analyses of the development and legacy today of the ‘revolutions’ of the sixties, either through explorations of contemporary issues in politics, culture and artistic expression, or through historical studies. All proposals for papers must indicate how they address both psychological and social dimensions of their topic.

Topics could include:

- What happened to hate in the Summer of Love?
- Lennon vs Lenin: did 1967 and 1968 announce two divergent trends in contemporary culture - and what has happened since to the psychosocial forces they expressed?
- What are the meanings of ‘liberation’ today?
- New inequalities in post-industrial societies • The Six Day War, intifadas, and intractability • The planetary environment: fantasies and politics • Trajectories of feminism • The changing nature of ageing
- ‘The personal is political’ and other rhetoric in historical context

- Free minds and free markets
- The ethics of freedom: for example, where now for freedom of speech?
- From the Manson Family to the Islamic State • Pop music’s global conquest and musical hybridity • Changes in artistic practice, creativity and commodification • The transformation of media • The digitisation of everything • Higher education: democratisation and marketisation • The potential and limitations of theories of narcissism as a major tool for understanding late modern/post-modern cultures • New narcissisms in the twenty-first century • Therapeutic culture and its critics • Where are

they now? Biographical narratives of the revolutionaries • States of mind in pivotal moments: San Francisco 67, Paris 68, and since • The sense of entitlement: narcissism or social justice?
• The decline of deference and its consequences • The hatred of government and authority • The sexualisation of culture • Controlled decontrolling or repressive desublimation? Elias and Marcuse on cultural liberalisation • Our bodies ourselves: shifting patterns and perceptions of embodiment.

Send your abstract of 250-300 words to: APS2018@bournemouth.ac.uk
Deadline: 31 May 2017.

Decisions on acceptance will be taken by early July 2017.