

# International Society for Critical Health Psychology General Meeting

Wednesday 2 July 2025, 17:30-19:00

ISCHP 2025 Conference, University of Galway, Ireland

## Welcome and Previous Notes

1. Sarah welcomed us all to the General Meeting, acknowledged how it was positive to see many people stay for the meeting on the last day of a very busy and successful conference.

2. **Confirmation of the Action Notes of the previous ISCHP General Meeting.** The last action notes from the ISCHP General Meeting from the 2023 conference in Rancagua in Chile (as well as all archived previous meeting notes) are available at <https://ischp.net/past-conferences/>

## Reports

### a. Chair's Report (Sarah Riley)

Highlights for me in the last two years, since the previous chairs report are as follows:

Membership: continued to be over 1000 – and Galway is the biggest conference we have had yet or at least for many years – so sign of a thriving society and I'm delighted over this.

Last year I was able to celebrate the Chile conference, our second conference in the Global South, and our first in Latin America. This year, it's an equal pleasure to note the continued success of our conferences. And to congratulate the Irish conference committee who have done such a fabulous job. The commitment to making the conference accessible to students and those with lower institutional resources has been a particular element to the Galway conference that I would like to acknowledge that in this report. The conference is also done a fantastic job of merging the values of ISCHP with their own local and institutional values, which is what we ask conference organisers to do, and it has been an exceptional example of how to do that.

I also want to acknowledge the continued success of the blog. I note that much of this work is done by students, and how much we, as a society, appreciate student and early career researchers. We recognise the importance both of their contribution to the society, and the society's responsibility to support them as our future generations of critical health psychologists. I also want to acknowledge the work of Kerry Chamberlain who has been foundational member of ISCHP, and who, in retirement, continues to do much work behind the scenes, including supporting the blog work as well as the email list.

I am delighted that the podcast is back up again and full of energy and brilliant interviews. I want to congratulate the many people involved – including those doing a lot of the difficult behind-the-scenes work in terms of editing, and I think Jess Tappin and Siobhan Healy-Cullen need to be especially acknowledged here; Brett Scholtz for his leadership and interviewing – truly a voice for radio; and Ally Gibson who continues to shape the podcast in many important ways. Overall, the podcast is producing a real legacy for us, and a great learning resource.

In my own work for ISCHP, I made a commitment to developing a handbook for organisers of the society's conference, so we don't ask conference organisers to reinvent the wheel. It has had various iterations as I've sent it back for feedback to variety of people, and one of my jobs to do as I move into outgoing chair role is to finish that feedback and send the finalised version to the new chair.

I am also happy to report that during my time as chair we have developed, run, and reviewed an awards committee. In the review in 2025, we outlined the terms of reference for this committee and awarding process, so that that along with the Feminism and Psychology student presentation award, ISCHP now offers emerging, mid-career, lifetime, and impact with communities awards. Those receiving an award are given a certificate, which would allow them to put it on their CV/promotional applications if they wanted to. The awards allow us to celebrate some of the significant achievements of our members, and to be part of a community developing process as members are invited to do the nominations. Winners are put on the ISCHP website. No money or financial/tangible benefits are attached to these awards.

Intersecting with my work as Chair and my membership of the Massey University teaching team, I also announce the publication of a new, open access critical health psychology textbook that is open access, free to use and adapt for anyone with Internet access, and which I hope will be a significant teaching and learning resource for ISCHP . It can be accessed [here](https://oercollective.caul.edu.au/critical-health-psychology/): <https://oercollective.caul.edu.au/critical-health-psychology/>

Finally, I want to acknowledge the continued success of the email list, it's simple, easy to use and effective. I have had many comments from people about how much they enjoyed the supportive style and its usefulness in sharing ideas or hearing about interesting information. I have seen other organisations with similar lists completely implode as they try and deal with an increasingly divided political space, and it's been at my foreground of my thoughts that we need to keep the list as a space where people can talk about the things that they're passionate about, and that we can recognise the terrible actions that are recurring on a daily basis to so many people, but that we do that without imploding on each other. I've taken a lot of advice on how to manage this, and I've also thought carefully myself - I've taken a light touch but I've not taken this lightly. My approach has been that the most important thing we can do is find a way to be a community and not be broken, because if we fall into factions all we do is harm ourselves as well as failing to do anything useful for the people that we care about. So I have made it my principal to find a way for us to hold together as the foundation for whatever else we do. The decisions I've made, and the responses I've made on the list in relation to contemporary political issues have not always been easy decisions or sit comfortably with me, and are not ones that everyone was happy with, but we're all here today and able to have conversations that matter to us.

#### **b. Treasurer's Report (Tracy Morison)**

##### ***Conference finances:***

2025 conference had a total income of €56,125 (NZ\$99,990), and total expense of €54,884.64 (NZ\$ 97,700), leaving a surplus of €1,240.36 (NZ\$ 2,200.00).

##### ***ISCHP Bank account (NZD).***

The opening balance for the current period was of \$45,077.45, and with expenses only of \$8.00, the closing balance for this period was of \$46,069.00

#### **c. Communications Co-Ordinator's Report (Kerry Chamberlain)**

##### **The ISCHP Mailing List**

The ISCHP list ([ischp@lists.massey.ac.nz](mailto:ischp@lists.massey.ac.nz)) remains as our major communication network for the organisation, which keeps track of our membership, announces items of interest, and has occasional bursts of discussion on germane topics. This last is actually intended as its major function for the Society, and it has proved highly useful for this purpose on several occasions over the last two years.

**Post statistics:**

Between August 2023 and June 2025, the list carried 825 posts, an average of 37.5 per month, with a range of 11 to 62 per month. This is quite similar to the previous two year period, and postings have not increased. The majority of posts are announcements of jobs, conferences, workshops, seminars, calls for special issues of journals, calls for chapters in edited books, and various other matters, totalling around 65% of the posts. The remaining 35% are discussions and interactions between members. The list is unmoderated, with posts going automatically to all members, and replies directed to all, since this is intended as a discussion list. Posting from non-subscribers (and from subscribers using a different email address) are moderated and distributed or rejected according to content. We were virtually free of spam postings until late 2022, but these have increased since then, with several commercially-oriented posts being blocked (around 3-5 per month). These all require manual checking and blocking.

**Membership statistics:**

Membership of the list has grown steadily over the last two years and now exceeds 1150 members. All new memberships require moderator involvement to confirm their subscription. Members can depart without moderator involvement, but about half of departing members fail to follow the instructions correctly and require moderator involvement. Members are auto-reminded of their subscription to the list once a year, and this usually produces a small wave of resignations. Other small waves of resignations are caused by posting bursts (5-10 on the same day) and sometime by contentious debates on the list, which occur infrequently. As the list has a simple subscribe system, which only documents a member's email, it is not possible to determine country of membership (e.g., we have 280 current members with a Gmail address), but membership is spread widely across the world, with a concentration on the Anglophone world.

**The ISCHP Website**

The website continues to function well, and is regularly updated as required. It is the host for our blog. It is heavily used, with 12.7K views and 7K visitors between 1 January and 30 June this year. Most interest comes from our conference information and our blog posts.

**d. Blog Editors' Report (Franciska Neuhauser and Jessica Tappin)**

- Over the past two years: **26 posts** published (**20 original, 6 reposts**); subscribers **+132** (now **352** total); cadence averages just over **1 post/month** (higher during the year, lower around the conference period and Christmas).
- Typical reach: **~70 views in the first week**; most posts later peak at **250–300 views**, indicating continued discovery from the backlog.
- Established ISCHP researchers have supported students to write posts; appreciation noted and continued mentorship encouraged.
- The ISCHP mailing list and the blog subscriber list are **separate**; members are encouraged to subscribe to the blog (an additional **+13 subscribers** since the AGM).
- A **conference blog** is planned, to be written by **Siobhán** and the **blog editors**.

**e. Podcast Team Report (Siobhan Healy-Cullen and Jessica Tappin)**

- The official ISCHP podcast is **The Operative Word**. Members are encouraged to like, subscribe, and share.
- **Volume 1** (2018) was led by Brett, Britta, Ally, and Andrea. **Volume 2** is underway: since February, a teaser and four conversations with foundational/long-standing members have been released (Kerry Chamberlain, Gareth Treharne, Wendy Stainton-Rogers, and Ian Lubek). Upcoming interviews include Antonia Lyons, Chris Stephens, and Catriona MacLeod.

- Detailed analytics are available only for Spotify. Season to date: **169 plays, 36 consumption hours**, and **+22 Spotify followers**.
- Across other platforms, episodes average **~65 listens** (Wendy Stainton-Rogers' episode currently leads with **96**).
- Proposed theme for the next series: **"Unboxing Theory."** The team welcomes ideas and volunteers to get involved.

**f. Report from the ISCHP 2025 Local Conference Organising Committee (Chris Noone)**

- There were 233 abstract submissions.
- There were 258 participants - 200 in person and 58 online.
- 84 participants were students.
- There were 150 oral presentations (including the pecha kucha and 5-minute challenges), 8 symposia, 5 roundtables, 25 posters and 9 workshops.
- We obtained funding from the Health Research Board, Fáilte Ireland, and the University of Galway School of Psychology.
- There were participants from 31 different countries.
- We provided 32 full conference grants, which covered 4 nights of accommodation on campus and the conference registration. We also provided 14 grants that just covered in-person registration and 19 grants that just covered online registration.

**ISCHP Executive Committee**

Brett thanked the following ISCHP executive committee members whose terms came to an end this year:

Alexis Fabricius

Isidora Paiva Mack

Abigail Locke

Sohail Kashkari

Following the call on the ISCHP mailing list for nominations for the Executive Committee ahead of the conference, the following members were nominated and seconded, and are now new or continuing Executive Committee members:

Gareth Treharne

Myriam Pannard

Muhamad Alif Bin Ibrahim

Chloe Michoud

Kavier Mabire

Michelle LaFrance

Liz Peel

Aron Harold Pamoso

Several portfolio holders' terms also came to an end this year, and we thanked

Sarah Riley for her service as Chair

Bridgette Rickett as Vice Chair

Brett Scholz as Secretary

Tracy Morison as Treasurer

Gareth Treharne as Past Chair

Nicolas Schongut Grollmus as Past Conference Chair

We welcomed the new portfolio holders who had been nominated and seconded for these roles from 2025-2029

Bridgette Rickett as Chair;

Brett Scholz as Vice Chair;

Nicolas Schongut Grollmus as Secretary;

Sonja Ellis as Treasurer;

And Sarah Riley moves to the position of Past Chair; and Chris Noone moves to the position of Past Conference Chair.

### ISCHP 2027 Discussion

Brett announced that we would receive a bid to be presented before the close of the conference from Maria Horvath and Tamas Martos from the University of Szeged in Hungary to host ISCHP 2027.

### Other Business

1. Wendy Stainton Rogers proposed that we reconsider the name “Executive Committee” (EC), and suggested that something like “Practicalities Committee” would be more in line with ISCHP’s values around hierarchy and power.

**ACTION:** While discussion at the AGM was generally supportive, others at the conference later worried that – particularly for ECRs – having “Executive Committee” on the CV helps with justifying time spent on ISCHP tasks to universities, and might look more appealing in CVs, promotion applications, etc.

**WHO:** Executive committee will develop evaluate an alternative term that might accomplish both objectives.

2. There was a significant discussion about ISCHP and making a statement about the Gaza War. Some felt that the conference giving a standing ovation to the symposium given by Palestinian researchers earlier in the proceedings was disingenuous if we do not make a statement. Some reflected on this very issue coming up throughout ISCHP history, and our informal structure making it impossible to make such a statement. While the full discussion is not captured in these meeting notes, it was suggested that the wider ISCHP community would need to be engaged, and that a working group would be needed to work through how our social justice principles can be applied to this and other concerns. Another member noted that even if ISCHP couldn’t make a statement per se, that the Exec could at least consider whether the Exec could make a statement about accepting the BDS proposal.

**ACTION:** Establishment of a working group to outline a framework for social justice action on the behalf of ISCHP and to have discussion whether/how to accept the BDS proposal

**WHO:** EC

### Date of next meeting

The next General Meeting is scheduled to be held in July 2027 in Szeged at ISCHP 2027. However, Brett suggested that we may want to consider a new schedule / plan for the General Meetings to enable society-wide attendance even for those who cannot attend the conference on a given year.

**ACTION:** to discuss with the Exec whether we move our General Meetings to online meetings in the 'off' year (i.e., between conferences) as this may help with momentum, future conference planning, and attendance.

**WHO:** EC

### ISCHP Executive Committee Members following the 2023 General Meeting

(email: [ischp-exec@lists.massey.ac.nz](mailto:ischp-exec@lists.massey.ac.nz); only emails from list members' addresses will distribute)

Portfolio Holders		Email	Role
Bridgette	Rickett	<a href="mailto:b.rickett@shu.ac.uk">b.rickett@shu.ac.uk</a>	Chair
Brett	Scholz	<a href="mailto:brett.scholz@anu.edu.au">brett.scholz@anu.edu.au</a>	Vice-Chair
Nicolás	Schongut Grollmus	<a href="mailto:nschongut@udla.cl">nschongut@udla.cl</a>	Secretary
Sonja	Ellis	<a href="mailto:sonja.ellis@waikato.ac.nz">sonja.ellis@waikato.ac.nz</a>	Treasurer
Kerry	Chamberlain	<a href="mailto:k.chamberlain@massey.ac.nz">k.chamberlain@massey.ac.nz</a>	Communications Co-ordinator
Franciska	Neuhauser	<a href="mailto:franciska@franciska.org">franciska@franciska.org</a>	Blog Co-Editor
Jesicca	Tappin	<a href="mailto:jessica.tappin.1@uni.massey.ac.nz">jessica.tappin.1@uni.massey.ac.nz</a>	Blog Co-Editor
Tamás	Martos	<a href="mailto:tamas.martos@psy.u-szeged.hu">tamas.martos@psy.u-szeged.hu</a>	2025 Conference Co-Chair
Maria	Horvath	<a href="mailto:horvath.maria.dora@szte.hu">horvath.maria.dora@szte.hu</a>	2025 Conference Co-Chair
Previous Portfolio Holders			
Sarah	Riley	<a href="mailto:s.riley@massey.ac.nz">s.riley@massey.ac.nz</a>	Past Chair
Chris	Noone	<a href="mailto:chris.noone@universityofgalway.ie">chris.noone@universityofgalway.ie</a>	Past Conference Chair (2025)
Student Representatives			
Aron Harold	Pamoso	<a href="mailto:aron.pamoso@anu.edu.au">aron.pamoso@anu.edu.au</a>	Student Representative
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