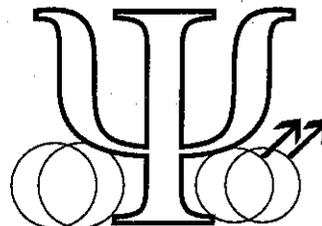


# NEWS- LETTER



Association of  
Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual  
Psychologies (ALGBP Europe)

Nr. 7 (1), 1998

## NewsNewsNews

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### Oh So Thin! A New Concept of the ALGBP Newsletter

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Now that you have waited for quite a long time for the next issue of the Newsletter, you are holding it in your hands, and it is... *thin*. It is the first *Newsletter of the Association of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Psychologies (ALGBP) Europe*, and it is the first one that is sent out to more than a hundred people in Great Britain.

There are several very good reasons for the new format. During the last Steering Group meeting in 1997, Helmuth Bühler announced that he wishes to leave the Editorial Board. We took this as a suitable moment to reconsider the Newsletter concept and the problems we see with it. In addition to missing manpower (there is enough womanpower here, however!), it has become increasingly difficult to get external contributions for the Newsletter, and the Editors would like to become more professional and to reduce weekend work.

During that steering group meeting, we changed the Newsletter concept in several important ways. What we now have is an improved concept. The current volume will contain only news concerning ALGBP Europe, as well as other announcements and lists of new publications. Each issue will be reduced to 6 pages at the most; that makes the mailing much cheaper. Once a year, we will additionally publish a yearbook with the working title "Annual review of lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues in European psychology." It will comprise conference talks as well as other relevant current research, that is, the part of the Newsletter that used to be called "Feature Articles." The book will presumably be published by "Edition gay studies im Profil Verlag" in Munich, Germany, and sent to all ALGBP Europe members for

free. Among the advantages of this new conception are:

- Easy accessibility of the articles for everybody;
- a great reduction of weekend work for the Editors;
- no need for the authors to shorten talks as much; and
- the publications can be put in the CVs of authors as well as editors.

That way, we hope to attract high-quality publications more easily; furthermore, the Newsletter Editors do not have to serve as the book editors (so the work load can better be distributed); and annually, all ALGBP Europe members get a book for free containing important new research in the field. We sincerely hope that you are as fond of this concept as we are.

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### Welcome STEAM!

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The psychologist members of STEAM (Finland) have collectively become members of ALGBP Europe: We warmly welcome you! It is hard to believe, but they have also paid their 1998 fees in 1997 already! We are deeply impressed and very glad to establish regular contact and strong ties with this very active group this way.

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### The Ireland Experience

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In the last Newsletter, as you might remember, we announced that we were invited to speak on the 28th Annual Conference of the Psychological Society of Ireland, Ennis, Ireland, Nov. 13th to 16th, 1997. I went there and presented a paper entitled *Fighting psychologists' negative attitudes and prejudices towards lesbians and gay men*, co-authored by Birgit Eschmann. My feelings with regard to the talk are mixed. I feel honored to have been invited, and I think Teresa Burke did a great job organising this symposium—*Homophobia: A problem for psychologists?*—in response to ALGP Europe's not having been mentioned as a participating organisation on the European Congress of Psychology in Dublin.

The symposium drew a large audience, around 50 people (attendance of the conference was only around 60 or 70 people per day).

I found it very hard to evaluate the audience's reactions, however. Until the last of the four talks was over, there were hardly any questions or comments, and it was less than obvious whether the audience approved of the general idea behind the research presented and the content of the talks, or not. I have never before felt so awkward as a speaker, and I felt very much like being *the lesbian*. In Germany, as in many other countries, a symposium of that kind is yet to be organised on such an official, general conference. In Ireland, the first step was undertaken, and we hope to see more along these lines in the future. By the way: On the WWW page of the VI European Congress of Psychology in Rome (<http://www.psy.it>), many "Invited Associations" are listed. ALGBP Europe is not among them, though we early asked the organisers to be mentioned. We are currently working on this affair...

### Money Matters: Thank you!

Please do not stop reading and skip this paragraph. We understand it if you are tired about our whining about not receiving due payments. As usually, we indulged in this whining on our last Steering Group meeting in 1997. However, we also thought about ways to change the situation. Consequently, we personally contacted all the national associations and told them that we expect their payments by the end of the year. Otherwise, we would understand that they are not interested enough in ALGBP Europe's existence to pay their share, and we would discontinue our work.

This helped. Except for the Netherlands (from whom only the 1997 payments were missing), all countries have paid their fees by now, and on the first Steering Group meeting in 1998, which took place in Trier in January, the poorer of the Steering Group members were refunded for their national travel expenses in 1996 and 1997. Thank you all very much for your willing co-operation and for acknowledging our efforts!

### The Firstborn Shall be Called SOFIE

The incoming payments, along with the arrival of the new year, gave us such a boost of energy that we tried to set off a huge project related to ALGPB Europe. Since we have formed the Steering Group, we have been looking for ways of funding ALGBP Europe related activities. At the end of last year, Alberto Volpato, a gay man who works for the EU in Brussels and who became a Newsletter subscriber at Europride in Copenhagen, tipped us off that there might be a chance to get some fund-

ing—in case we met the deadline which was January 15. In the programme *Targeted Socio-Economic Research (TSER)*, the EU funds *Thematic Networks* in the areas of *Research into Social Exclusion and Social Integration* and *Research on Education and Training*, among others. A Thematic Network is a bunch of researchers and practitioners from several European countries working in an under-developed field. They can get funding to organise meetings, conferences, and information exchange. An international group of ALGBP-associated persons were willing to participate in the Thematic Network. Based on Alberto's and Luca Pietrantonì's preparatory work, Birgit Eschmann and I, with a little help from some friends, spent some days and nights writing the grant proposal.

### Socio-Cultural Factors in the Integration and Exclusion of Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals in Europe (SOFIE)

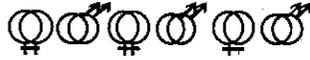
#### Members of Proposed Thematic Network:

- Melanie Caroline Steffens, University of Trier, Germany (representative of ALGBP Europe)
- Dr. Luca Pietrantonì, ARCIGAY Nazionale (cultural and commercial gay and lesbian association), Bologna, Italy (representative of ALGP Italy)
- Prof. Dr. Udo Rauchfleisch, University of Basel, Switzerland
- Dominic Davies, Nottingham Trent University, Great Britain (representative of ALGBP UK)
- Kari Huotari, Finnish HIV Foundation, Helsinki, Finland (along with Olli Stålström, ALGBP Europe's contact person of STEAM Finland)
- Dr. Günter Reisbeck, University of Munich, Germany (representative of VLSP [ALGP Germany])
- Dr. Bernd Simon, University of Münster, Germany
- Anne Swart, Therapeutische Hulpverlening voor Vrouwen, Arnhem, The Netherlands
- Dr. Geraldine Moane, University College Dublin, Ireland (founding member of the Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Health Care Professionals in Ireland)

Now we have to wait until May before we get feedback from the EU. Be the current SOFIE proposal successful or not, we think it was worth the effort. If it is successful, there will be money to invite speakers and practitioners who offer workshops to our national and international conferences, and there will be some money to pay a secretary for ALGBP Europe. Of course, the partners listed above will have money to cover network-related expenses. If it is not successful, we at least have a draft of a grant proposal in our hands that might be used for future applications. Anyway, we hope that our quot-

ing "The European Parliament strongly reiterated the need for action to eliminate sexual orientation-based discrimination..." in the proposal intimidates the homophobes among its evaluators. Still, there are many reasons why the Network might not be funded. Let's hope for the best, and keep your fingers crossed!

Melanie Steffens




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### APA Award

As the founder and former chair of ALGP Europe, I was honored with an award for "distinguished international contributions" during the 105<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the American Psychological Association in Chigago, in August 1997. Part of the text of the award reads as follows:

*Division 44 of the American Psychological Association (The Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues), recognizes Jan Schippers, Ph.D., for his pioneering work in organizing the Association of Lesbian and Gay Psychologists Europe, thereby bringing to international attention the central issues involved in the study of, and advocacy for, issues in lesbian and gay psychology (...).*

As I have stressed in my thank-you speech during the award ceremony, I would like to share the honor of this award with all of the ALGP Europe members who have devoted their time and energy to the association. I feel we can be proud of the recognition by Division 44 of the APA for all the work we have done (and continue to do) to make ALGP Europe a success. So, to all the members of the former Dutch Steering Group, the current German Steering Group, and of the different national boards and committees: Thank you! And to Division 44 and the former ALGP USA: Thank you for your support during all these years.

Jan Schippers




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### News from VLSP

In November 1997, the annual conference of VLSP (ALGP Germany) took place in Mannheim. 110 participants dealt with issues of identity for three days. Main lecturers were Henning Bech from Copenhagen ("Fin de siècle: The end of the homosexual era") and Sabine Hark from Berlin ("The paradox politics of authentic lesbian identities"). More than thirty workshops with a variety of

topics were held. Only some examples: Holocaust, heterosexism in psychology and psychotherapy, S/M, partner therapy for gay men, partner counseling for lesbian women, mulitsexuality, bisexuality, gay and HIV positive identities, psychological aspects in the antiretroviral combination drug therapy, lesbian detective stories, professional instruction for heterosexual psychotherapists... The documentation of the congress will be issued in the early summer. For reservation, please contact the VLSP.

The next congress will take place in Hamburg. The main topic will be *homosexuality and the work place*. Like the year before, we are applying for public funding of an organizer's position. The annual ALGBP Europe conference will be linked to the VLSP congress this year. More information will be provided in the next Newsletter.

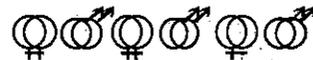
Ulli Biechele

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### Survey Among National Psychological Associations

By the first deadline, the rate of answering associations is very low. Out of 28 that have been addressed, only two responded: The Swiss Federation of Psychologists and the British Psychological Federation. Both answers sound friendly and rather in favour of gay affirmative psychology. Recently, the Steering Group has written to the other 26 associations once more, putting a new deadline on 1 April.

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### ALG(B)P Europe—Important Decisions

The representatives of the countries in which there are ALGP Europe members—that is, either chairs of national associations or, if there is no such association, single members—were asked to vote on several topics, especially concerning inclusion/exclusion. We received four replies in time (from Germany, Switzerland, the UK, and Denmark). Based on these votes, it was decided that

1. Bisexuals will be included in the European organisation.
2. From 1998 on, the association will be called Association of Lesbian, Gayn, and Bisexual Psychologies Europe (ALGBP Europe).
3. From 1998 on, ALGBP Europe membership will be restricted to (a) psychologists, psychology students (as it was in the past) and (b) members of affiliated national associations.

Ad 3.: That way, each national association defines their own profile, be it more or less inclusive. ALGBP Europe only decides on affiliating an association as it is. Individuals who fulfil the criteria to become national members can become individual ALGBP Europe members. (That way, a German psychiatrist cannot become a member, but a British can.)

We are convinced that these decisions will empower ALGBP Europe and contribute to a fruitful future.

Birgit Eschmann



### New Books

Alexander, C. J. (1997). *Growth and intimacy for gay men: A workbook*. New York, NY, USA: Harrington Park Press.

Biechele, U. (1996). *Schwule Männer aus der Unterschicht: Sexuelle Identität und HIV-Prävention*. Berlin, Germany: Deutsche AIDS Hilfe.  
—*Sexual identity and HIV-prevention by lower class gay men.*

Dannecker, M. (1997). *Vorwiegend homosexuell*. Berlin: MännerschwarmSkript.  
—*Collection of essays on theories of homosexuality and homosexual identity formation*

DeCrescenzo, Teresa (Ed.). (1997). *Gay and lesbian professionals in the closet: Who's in, who's out, and why*. New York, NY, US: Harrington Park Press.

Klein, S. J. (1997). *Heavenly hurts: Surviving AIDS-related deaths and losses*. Amityville, NY, USA: Baywood.

Knoll, C., Edinger, M., & Reisbeck, G. (1997). *Grenzgänger: Schwule und Lesben in der Arbeitswelt*. München, Germany: Profil.  
—*Gay men and lesbians at the work place.*

McDonald, H. B. (1993). *Understanding homosexuality: A guide for those who know, love, or counsel gay and lesbian individuals*. New York, NY, USA: Crossroad.

Rasi, R. A. (1995). *Out in the workplace: The pleasures and perils of coming out on the job*. Los Angeles, CA, USA: Alyson.

Schippers, J. (1997). *Liever mannen: theorie en praktijk van de homospecifieke hulpverlening*. Am sterdam, Netherlands: Schorer.  
—*Leather-men: Theories and practice of the gay-specific help organizations*

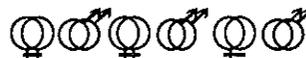
Shernoff, M. (Ed.) (1997). *Gay widowers: Life after the death of a partner*. New York, NY, USA: The

Harrington Park Press.

—*Personal stories of bereaved men, psychologists, counselors, and social workers on gay men's grief after losing one's partner.*

Wiessner, P. (Ed.) (1995). *Langzeitpositive: Aspekte des Longterm Survival*. Berlin, Germany: Deutsche AIDS Hilfe.

Wright, M. T. (1996). *Und wir überleben: Gibt es ein AIDS-Survivor-Syndrom unter schwulen Männern in Deutschland?* Berlin, Germany: Deutsche AIDS Hilfe.  
—*Does an AIDS-Survivor-Syndrom among gay men in Germany exist?*



### Summer Training for Gay and Lesbian Counsellors and Therapists

Dr. phil. Ernst Frei, Swiss psycho-analyst and sexologist, offers a training course for practicing gay and lesbian counsellors and therapists. The training will take place from August 28, 1998, 7 pm until August 30, 2 pm, in the gay-run "Waldschlößchen", Göttingen, Germany. The supervision will be focused on emotional reactions (counter-transference) of therapists, and homosexuality-related topics will be especially taken into account. The participants will decide if they also want encounter group and self-awareness elements or other topics to be included. The training will be run in German.

Please contact before May 31, 1998: Dr. Ernst Frei, Höhenweg 10, CH-8032 Zürich, Switzerland. Fax: +41-1-3919909. The fee including accomodation and meals will be SFR 360 (DEM 420).

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