

# OUSGG – Sci Fi SSAGO



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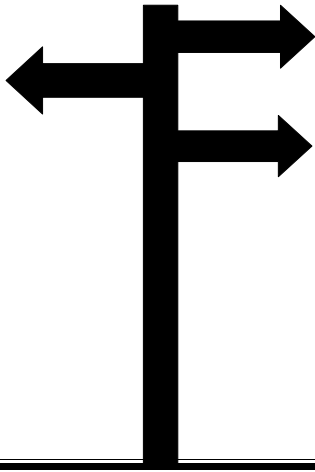
- Knocking off  
Finally
- SSAGO Rally  
In two parts!
- Social Psychology  
In OUSGG

# POST

# SCRIP

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## Knocking off [take 2]

It was pointed out last issue that there was in fact no knocking off inside the issue, despite the promises put forward on the cover page. I can confirm that this error has been corrected, although the size of the section regarding knocking off may be disappointing. Or that's what she said to me anyway.

Tim's story has sadly had to take a brief time-out, but will return next term, so stay tuned!

Attention should also be drawn to the back page – two events coming up that you might well be interested in. In both cases emailing Shell will get you more information on [michelle.barton@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michelle.barton@seh.ox.ac.uk).

For those of you who are now counting down the hours until the start of 9<sup>th</sup> week, I hope you have a good vacation and don't end up working too hard. For those of you not, I hope you have a good break from the pesky undergrads. See you next term!

Geoffrey Hall  
St John's College

## Who's who?

- PostScript Editor:** Geoffrey Hall  
**Chair:** Geoffrey Hall  
**Treasurer:** Michelle Barton  
**Secretary:** James Baker  
**SSAGO Rep:** Elizabeth Horne  
**Membership Secretary:** James Baker  
**Internet Officer:** Michael Howe  
**SAGLO:** Jack Sobey  
**Quartermaster:** Elizabeth Horne  
**N'n'N:** Jonathan Nash  
**Annual Dinner Organisers:** James Baker & Michelle Barton  
**Summer Trip:** James Baker  
**Senior Member:** Nicholas Harberd

Any correspondence or articles for submission should be e-mailed to [postscript@ousgg.org.uk](mailto:postscript@ousgg.org.uk) or may be sent to:

Geoffrey Hall  
St. John's College  
Oxford  
OX1 3JP

All items received will be presumed for publication unless otherwise notified. The editor reserves the right to modify contributions.

Contributions should be received by the Friday preceding the date of publication. Articles received after this time may be included or included in a later publication.

Views expressed in PostScript are those of their authors and do not necessarily represent those of OUSGG or associated bodies.

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# Chair's Report

This will be my last Chair's report as next term I hand over to what would from the outside appear to be Luke, but from the inside might [or might not] appear to be Lizzy.

I think the term has gone well – I hope you all enjoyed the various meetings and what not. Sadly, despite my best efforts no-one died [yet].

Today saw the Ultimate Frisbee session run by my friend Hayden from the Warwick Bears – we hooked up with some Oxford[y] players to have a game, and also allow us to have rests! Definitely not a sport for the lazy.

As you can read, the intrepid band of OUSGGers, their continuing mission to explore strange new places, to seek out new mascots and new groups, to boldly go where no Scout has gone before [sorry] enjoyed themselves for the most part at the sadly damp and cold SSAGO rally in Southampton. Next term we hope to take a large group over to there which cannot be named, so hopefully we can get a good turn out!



Geoffrey Hall  
Chair, Hillary 2010

## What's On?

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Week – Indoor Pioneering  
- 19:30, St John's College
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Week – Burn's night  
- 19:30, Museum Road, St John's College
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Week – Night Hike  
- 19:00, G&D's, St Aldate's
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Week – Cotswold Marathon  
- 17:00, Gloucester
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Week – Pub Quiz  
- 20:00, Royal Oak
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Week – Pancake night / Eri>|'s Birthday Bash  
- 19:30, Magdalen College
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Week – Wide Game  
- 19:00, Carfax Tower
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Week – Film night  
- 19:30, Magdalen College
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Week – Ultimate Frisbee  
- 13:00, Uni Parks
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Week – TGM and Food  
- 19:00, Graves Room, St John's College

# Social Psychology and OUSGG

Laura Bunce

Social psychology is all about how people and groups of people behave in relation to each other. Since OUSGG is a ready-made group, it's quite interesting to use them as an example (and PostScript was in desperate need of articles...).

An important distinction in social psychology is between a person's ingroup and outgroup. An ingroup is a group that you view yourself as belonging to. I'll let you guess the definition of an outgroup. People have a tendency to act more positively towards members of the ingroup, even if they've never met them before. So if you pretend to fall over outside a football stadium, the people wearing the same strip as you are far more likely to go over and help you up (social psychologists are willing to do some strange things).

Obviously we all belong to lots of different ingroups; some combination of British person, student, middle class, Oxford student, Scout/Guide and OUSGG member is probably relevant for people who get PostScript. Your most relevant ingroup at any one time changes, and it's a well-known, and slightly unfortunate fact that people tend to emphasise differences. If you're talking to another person from Oxford, one of your first questions is likely to be "what college are you from?", but this might not seem as important when you're talking to someone from Cambridge. People generally like to be part of groups, and in university Scout and Guide groups like OUSGG these are marked out by hoodies and neckerchiefs.

A classic study about aggression between groups actually sounds oddly like a Scout camp. Back in the 50s and 60s, when you were allowed to experiment on children without so much paperwork, a group of researchers set up summer-camps and looked at how hostility developed. The camp was divided into two groups, which was already enough to produce conflict, initially without any competition. After a few days, they got the kids to play zero-sum games, where whatever one team won the other lost. At the end, members of each group had negative stereotypes about the outgroup and estimated their performance in games to be worse. It took a lot more effort to get rid of inter-group conflict than to set it up – something any Scout or Guide leader could probably have predicted! Apparently, the best technique is to introduce super-ordinate goals - a target that requires the co-operation of the two groups. Trying to talk it out or demonstrate that the other group were exactly the same had barely any effect. One of the super-ordinate goals that the researchers used was push-starting a 'broken down' bus all together. Sounds more and more like a Guide trip by the minute.

Speaking of the less fun aspects of camping, at the recent SSAGO rally I found myself thinking about cognitive dissonance theory. This essentially states that, if an action is associated with negative thoughts, and yet you're still doing it, you'll come up with another thought or emotion to irrationally try to justify it. So someone in a muddy field in February might (just for example) keep repeating to themselves that it's definitely a good idea...

Some studies of intra-group processes suggest that group discussions tend to result in

the group opinion becoming more polarised the longer they spend discussing it (so if members were somewhat anti- before, they become more anti- after sharing these views with each other). This could be because ideas are accidentally repeated, because we want to all conform to the group norm, or because we tend not to share information that others don't have. If nothing else, this sounds like an excellent reason for keeping AGM/TGM discussions to a bare minimum: clearly it's the only way to avoid extremism. Social pressure to conform is a strong influence inside groups. If you doubt this for such a lovely club as OUSGG, consider how it manages to get people to ever take up committee places!

Before I finish, I'd like to say to *certain* members of OUSGG (who shall remain nameless) that there are other aspects of psychology that are more like the 'hard sciences'. Oh and by the way, psychologists aren't always interpreting your every move... honest!

## QuoteScript

Geoff: "If they keep coming, I'll have one".

Jonathan: "Go on, knock someone off".

Luke: "I don't think anyone else was doing it, it was just him himself".

Jonathan: "The last 2 times it's been you knocking me off!".

Jonathan: "As long as they don't get put on the internet, you can take as many photos as you like".

Lizzy: "Shhh, everybody calm down and think about game theory or something".

Jude: "Draw the boobs then add the detail".

Luke: "I like the idea of people nibbling me".

Jude: "Strip flaming Sambucas".

Nick: "All conversations involving spit roasting Jude".

Lizzy: "You can load me up".

Lizzy: "I really want to have a velcroable crotch".

Lizzy: "Martin's office - I got naked there". [Supervisor]

Chris: “They [Durham] might bring Roger, the Bondage Sheep”.

Luke: “I've been banned from reproducing”.

Nick: “I was reading an article in Cosmo yesterday”.

## Trip report - Southampton SSAGO Rally

Laura Bunce

The spring rally had a sci-fi theme, and in the spirit of not putting too much effort into costume, it was decided that OUSGG would interpret the theme rather liberally. Ironing 6 ‘science fictions’ onto the backs of coloured t-shirts counts, right? After a slight failure with the first slogan ‘the moon is made of green cheese’, and some trouble with understanding Internet instructions for tying friendship knots in neckerchiefs, we were under way in a matter of mere hours.

The trip to the campsite should theoretically have been a short one, and we agreed that eating before we arrived was a good idea given Lizzy’s past experience with food on the first night of rallies. After a brief detour for one car the wrong way up the motorway, when the sat nav decided to send us back to Didcot, we arrived at Pizza Hut. Leaving was also slightly problematic, when we found the same car had been closed in to the car park on all sides by bollards. Luckily, another group of trapped youths took the direct approach and helpfully knocked one down.

Arriving at the campsite full of tales of daring-do, some of us pitched tents while others stood well back from an explosive pop-up one. On both Friday and Saturday night there was a campfire, which involved lots of convivial/drunken conversation along with a few mystifying chants that most other groups seemed to understand and enjoy.

On the Saturday morning, Luke, Shell, James, Jude and I all navigated ‘moon buggies’, **tried** to launch ‘spaceships’ and made a well-endowed robot out of bit of junk, while Lizzie attended a fascinating SSAGO reps meeting. In the afternoon, we walked to a station and went on a pub crawl in Portsmouth. One of us managed to forget our ID but it’s definitely not necessary to name them here. In the evening everyone attending the rally went to a barn dance, which is always a lot of fun even if you are feeling cynical before it starts. We also showed off our highly considered costumes in a very odd parade involving lots of people shuffling about on their knees as something from Star wars (I think). The SSAGO TGM was on Sunday morning. ‘Nuff said bout that.

Over the weekend, we got various comments along the lines of ‘I’ve never seen Oxford at a rally before’(in a welcoming way). Hopefully, OUSGG will become more visible in the future, and I would highly recommend that people go to SSAGO rallies, particularly the Cambridge one, **{I don’t know when it is exactly}** where we definitely need to show our faces!

# Sci Fi Rally

James Baker

In case you hadn't heard, OUSGG has decided it's about time to make a return to those strange events known as "SSAGO Rallies". Yes, you read right, OUSGG actually went to a rally, and here's what happened...

In all the chaos - and there was a lot of chaos - someone forgot to book the sun.

The morning activities involved Junk Modelling. Meet our erotic junk robot Alberta.

The afternoon involved a pub "crawl", although pub drift would have been a better description.

Barn dancing was the plan for the evening. A quick lie down was needed first though.



Tautologist!

# Coming up

## Easter Activity

**When?** Friday 9th April - Tuesday 13th April (weekend after Easter and the middle weekend of the school holidays)

**Where?** Nine Ashes campsite, Bodmin, Cornwall (<http://cornwallscouts.net/NineAshes.aspx>)

**How?** The nearest train station is Bodmin Parkway, which is on the main train line, so from Oxford its just one change at Reading.

**Who?** CUSAGG will be joining us this year for their Trip Over Easter.

**Cost?** £10 per night

If you want to come along send an email to [michelle.barton@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michelle.barton@seh.ox.ac.uk) and let me know when and how you're arriving, lifts can possibly be arranged!

## The OUSGG 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 (Friday 1<sup>st</sup> week)

Christ Church College

Pre-dinner drinks: 7.30pm

Dinner: 8pm

### MENU

BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP  
WITH SEARED SCALLOP AND CAJUN SPICED PUMPKIN SEEDS  
*V = (BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP  
WITH SEARED TOFU AND CAJUN SPICED PUMPKIN SEEDS)*

~

CHAR-GRILLED CHICKEN SUPREME  
WITH TOMATO RISOTTO AND PARMESAN CRISPS  
*V = (CHARGRILLED ASPARAGUS AND VEGETABLES WITH HUMAS, PESTO, TOMATO RISOTTO AND  
PARMASAN CRISPS)*

~

LEMON TART WITH RASPBERRY SMOOTHIE AND PINK GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGE SORBET

~

COFFEE AND MINTS

Tickets: £35 (non-drinking), £41 (drinking)

Punt and picnic: £6