

Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research Contributions 2007

Rhiannon Turner

Dr Rhiannon Turner of the University of Leeds has been given the Society's Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research Contributions to Psychology for 2007. Dr Turner's work focused on a series of studies on cross-ethnic intergroup contact between young Asian and white people in the UK.

The two articles submitted in support of the nomination were 'Reducing prejudice via direct and extended cross-group friendship' in the *European Review of Social Psychology* and 'Reducing explicit and implicit outgroup prejudice via direct and extended contact: The mediating role of self disclosure and intergroup anxiety' in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Key amongst the findings of her work has been that contact between groups can affect implicit as well as explicit attitudes showing that contact's effects on attitudinal outcomes could not be explained in terms of socially desirable responding. Her work also found that positive affective mediators (self-disclosure, empathy and trust) as well as negative affective mediators (intergroup anxiety) account for the effects of contact on explicit (self-reported as opposed to implicit) attitudes, and that both direct and indirect cross-group friendships have wide-ranging and impressive effects in reducing prejudice. Her subsequent exploration of a new hypothesis concerning indirect or extended contact and its mediators has recently been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Dr Turner graduated from Cardiff University in 2000, progressing to the University of Kent for her MSc and then New College, University of Oxford for her D.Phil. in Social Psychology, which she completed in 2006.

Dr Turner said 'I am delighted and honoured to receive the Society's Doctoral Award. I would particularly like to thank Professor Miles Hewstone for his support and encouragement.'

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