

## **Arthur Troop Scholarship – Deakin University, Australia, June 2015**

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### **Introduction**

I applied for and was successful in being funded by the International Police Association, Arthur Troop Scholarship to attend a Conference organised by International Investigative Interviewing Research Group (iIIRG). The International Investigative Interviewing Research Group (iIIRG) is a worldwide network of professionals, with over 500 members from more than 31 countries, bringing together academic researchers and practitioners in the area of investigative interviewing. iIIRG members work collaboratively with national and international bodies to improve investigative interviewing practice whilst ensuring that all improvements are underpinned by a robust evidence base. The iIIRG publish their own peer-reviewed academic journal, and each year holds their annual Conference and Masterclass at a different location around the world.

They also work in close collaboration with many other national and international Governmental bodies, institutions and other organisations, including the International Criminal Court, The Hague and the United Nations. The iIIRG is sponsored by Indico Systems Ltd, InterSol Global, Interview Management Systems and Forensic Interview Solutions Ltd.

The 2015 iIIRG conference was held at Deakin University Management Centre, Geelong (near Melbourne), Australia, from Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

The program offered delegates a diverse array of professional activities. Although the keynote presentations and Masterclass focused on child witnesses (the area of strength in this region), the presentations spanned multiple disciplines and justice systems, and included a larger cohort of legal professionals than ever before.

The Masterclass took place on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015. The Conference took place on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015. It was organised in collaboration with Deakin University and the Victoria Police, Australia. It was aimed at professionals (academic researchers, law enforcement agencies, Government and International bodies, Judges, lawyers and students) involved in the investigation of crime and misconduct, the interviewing of victims, witnesses and suspected offenders. It covered topics such as interview training and policy, interview decision-making processes, detecting deception, forensic linguistics and high interest detainees.

## Conference

The Conference opened for registration on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.30a.m. for registration. The welcome address was given by Professor Martine Powell (Deakin University) and Mark Barnett from the Victoria Police.

## Conference day one: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015

| Time      | Conference room 1   | Conference room 2   | Syndicate room 6  |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| 10.30a.m. | <p><b>Theme:</b> Interview practices across the globe</p> <p>Chair: Carlos Eduardo Peixoto.</p> | <p><b>Theme:</b> The broader impacts of investigative interviewer training.</p> <p>Chair: Meaghan Danby</p> | <p><b>Theme:</b> Comparing interview and investigations practices across different cohorts.</p> <p>Chair: Kimberlee Burrows</p> |

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| 11.00a.m. | <b>Georgina Heydon:</b><br>Police interviewing and customary law practise in Mozambique and Timor-Leste  | <b>Mairi Benson, Martine Powell:</b> The broader impact of new investigative interviewer training on the investigation  | <b>Cate Bailey, Martine Powell:</b><br>Indigenous cases of CSA through the police and court systems of two jurisdictions.  |
| 11.20a.m. | <b>Carlos Eduardo Peixoto, Raquel Fernandes, Telma Almeida, Julia Silva, Catarina Ribeiro, David La Rooy, Michael Lamb:</b><br>Children’s testimony evidence: Current practices in a Portuguese judicial setting | <b>Patrick Tidmarsh, Craig Gye:</b> The impact of changes to Victoria Police investigative and interviewing practice on brief authorisation and prosecution of child and adult sexual offence cases: Two cases. | <b>Barry Parsonson:</b><br>Issues associated with interviewing persons with neurodevelopment disorders and brain injury.   |
| 11.40a.m. | <b>Carolina Navarro, Decio Mettifogo, Andres Antivilo, Soledad Veliz, Francisco Garcia:</b><br>Adaptation process of an evidence based model of investigative interviewing: The Chilean case.                    | <b>Patrick Tidmarsh, Craig Gye:</b> Continues   | <b>Jane Mary Castlefanc – Allen, Lorraine Hope:</b><br>Evaluating amount, accuracy and reliability of information using the Visual Communication Desensitization (VCD) Interview |
| 2.00p.m.  | <b>Theme:</b> Coercion and confession.   | <b>Theme:</b> Challenges in interviewing  |  |

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|          | Chair: Becky Milne   | vulnerable persons.<br>Chair: Mark Kebbell   |  |
| 2.30p.m. | <b>Karl Roberts:</b><br>Developing an investigative interview strategy in a coercive investigatory environment.  | <b>Kristina Kepinska Jakobsen, Ase Langballe, Hon-Hakon Schults:</b><br>Police interviews of traumatized victims.  |  |
| 2.50p.m. | <b>Diane Sivasubramaniam, Jane Goodman-Delahunty:</b><br>Interrogators' evaluations of procedural justice: What drives support for coercive procedure? | <b>Mark Kebell, Nina Westera, Francesca Brown:</b> Interviewing in sex crime investigations: What are the challenges and what is needed to meet the challenge? |  |

## Conference Day Two: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015

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| 9.00a.m.  | <b>Keynote address: Maria Paz Rutte and Alejandro Espinoza (Fundacion Amparo y Justicia, Chile): Carolina Navarro (Universidad de Chile).</b> Implementing an investigative interview in Chile: Towards a cultural Change<br>Chair: Martine Powell |   |
| 10.00a.m. | <b>Theme:</b> Considering the pre-substantive phase of the interview process.<br>Chair: Mairi Benson   | <b>Theme:</b> The presence of interpreters in investigative interviews.<br>Chair; Laura Oxburgh |
| 10.45a.m. | <b>Meaghan Danby, Stefanie Sharman, Sonja Brubacher,</b> Martine Powell: Does practicing 'ground rules' help children's  | <b>Shellee Wakefield, Mark Kebbell, Nina Westeras; Police interviews with</b>                   |

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|                  | retention of the rules?  | <b>suspects:</b> What happens when a language interpreter is added to the mix?  |
| 11.05a.m.        | <b>David La Rooy, Becky Earhart, Sonja Brubacher, Michael Lamb:</b> The "Don't know" ground rule in investigative interviews.                | <b>Miranda Lai:</b> Police cognitive Interviews mediated by interpreters: An exercise in diminishment?                                    |
| 11.25a.m.        | <b>Gemma Hamilton, Sonja Brubacher, Martine Powell:</b> The effects of practice narratives in interviews with Australian Aboriginal children | <b>Jane Goodman – Delahunty, Sandra Hale, Natalie Martschuk:</b> Interviews with interpreters: Measuring accuracy and rapport maintenance |
| 12.15 – 1.15p.m. | Poster presentations   |   |
| 12.15pm – 1.15pm | iIIRG Annual General Meeting   |   |

## Conference Day Three: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015

|          | <b><u>Conference Room 1</u></b><br><b>Theme:</b> Interview methods<br><br>Chair: Ray Bull  | <b><u>Conference Room 2</u></b><br><b>Theme:</b> The impact of training on interview practice<br>Chair: Gemma Hamilton   | <b><u>Syndicate Room 6</u></b><br><b>Theme:</b> Factors impacting disclosures in child victims.<br>Chair: Mairi Benson              |
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| 9.00a.m. | <b>Jane Goodman-Delahunty, Alexandra Lonergan, Bararra Masser, Blake McKimmie, Faye Nitschke, Regina Schuller:</b><br>Disambiguating consent cues in acquaintance rape | <b>Belinda Cowley, Patrick Tidmarsh:</b><br>The impact of 'Whole Story' investigations and interviews on police prosecutions of sexual offending in the lower courts; relevance, 'case concept' and a 'reasonable prospect of conviction'. | <b>Hanna-Mari Lahtinen, Julia Korkman, Aarno Laitila, Aino Jussola:</b><br>Factors associated with disclosure of child sexual abuse |
| 9.20a.m. | <b>Francesco Pompedda, Angelo Zappala, Pekka Santtila:</b> Interviews  | <b>Patrick Tidmarsh, Anthony Breen:</b> The impact of 'Whole Story' training on the  | <b>Jacinthe Dion, Mireille Cyr:</b> Impact of children's cognitive abilities on their disclosure of being                           |

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|           | in alleged child sexual abuse cases: Serious gaming paired with feedback: Advances in algorithms and understanding of processes involved.                      | interview practice of investigators from Victoria Police Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigations Team: Analysis of two studies                               | sexually abused during investigative interviews.  |
| 9.40a.m.  | <b>Harriet Stacey:</b> What's missing? Differing perspectives regarding investigative interviews with children and respondents in non-criminal jurisdictions.  | <b>Sonja Brubacher, Martine Powell, Helen Skouteris, Belinda Guadagno:</b> The effectiveness of an online interviewing simulation for training mandated reporters. | <b>Corry Azzopardi, Sheri Madigan, Meredith Kirkland-Burke:</b> Sexual abuse disclosure among children referred for extended forensic evaluation. |
|           | <b>Theme:</b> Interview methods (continues)<br>Chair: Cameron Gardner  |  | <b>Theme:</b> Interview strategy and evaluation   |
| 10.20a.m. | <b>William Webster, Gavin Oxburgh, Vicki Bruce, Coral Dando:</b> Interviewing officer's perceptions of rape myths and their impact on the interviewing process |  | <b>Patrick Munoz Garcia Huerta Castro:</b> Valuation of the child testimony in judicial processes   |

## Conclusion

This Conference brought together professionals working in the area of Investigative Interviewing. They presented the most up to date information on the topic and answered questions that delegates had. It was very detailed and covered a wide spectrum of topics. The subject matter that was provided is the most up to date having regard to the research that has been undertaken in the area.

It was also of relevance to me as a trainer and a lawyer. I will be able to incorporate relevant sections of it in courses that I will be delivering and especially in circumstances where I have been provided with information from those persons who are at the cutting edge of this topic.

On a personal level, I would like to most sincerely thank IPA for selecting me to undergo this conference. From a personal and professional level it greatly enhanced my understanding of the topic and provided me with a level of relevant information that will be of benefit to those members of the police force who are involved in investigations.

Michael Daly

Section Ireland