

Letter from the Chair

Natalie Lancer

Since my term in office is coming to an end, this is my last letter as Chair of the Division of Coaching Psychology. I took over when we had just become a division, moving on from the 'Special Group'. Over the last two years, many of our members have gone on to achieve 'Chartership in Coaching Psychology'. Furthermore, as our field increases in maturity, new approaches to topics are emerging. These are reflected in the three streams of our 2024 Coaching Psychology Conference, *Coaching in Context: Psychology-informed Coaching in Practice*, namely: Inclusion in coaching: a focus on neurodiversity; Identity of a coaching psychologist: philosophies, approaches and tools; and *Frontiers of practice: Critical insights into novel practices in coaching*.

We are trying to give as much voice as possible to our practitioner members and we will be holding special sessions this year in which Division members will share a technique or framework in a short five-minute presentation. My own keynote for the conference is on 'Radically Re-inventing Coaching Psychology Supervision' and I implore us to consider what makes coaching psychology supervision different from coaching supervision. Are there different and radical ways to do coaching psychology supervision effectively? I think this is worthy of consideration as supervision often feels hierarchical and surprisingly alien from the coaching ethos.

What I love about coaching psychology is that, perhaps due to its infancy, we are

'allowed' to challenge and ask these questions as processes are not set in stone (I would argue that nothing is ever set in stone, but people do become entrenched in positions over time). There is a lot of latitude for coaching psychologists to challenge the status quo as the status quo is still forming. What else do you think needs radical re-invention in Coaching Psychology?

As our division becomes more established, and more people are able to call themselves Chartered Coaching Psychologists, we become better placed to constructively challenge from within, and in so doing, push forward the frontiers of coaching psychology as a discipline. Part of my fascination with coaching psychology is the kaleidoscope of different experiences and psychological knowledge that practitioners are able to draw on and I think we could do more to celebrate this. Many of our members are chartered in other psychological disciplines, and I am keen to promote bringing your whole self and expertise to the coaching psychologist role, rather than feeling constrained by artificial, socially-constructed boundaries. How would this change your coaching practice?

Do you have any thoughts on these issues to share with us? I look forward to reading your contributions or hearing them at the conference.

With my very best wishes,

Dr Natalie Lancer

Chair, Division of Coaching Psychology