RECOGNITION

Tim Wilson's book *Strangers to Ourselves* is endorsed in the Selected Readings section of Malcolm Gladwell's webpage. Gladwell writes:

"In *Blink*, I probably owe a bigger intellectual debt to Tim Wilson (and his longtime collaborator, Jonathan Schooler) than anyone else, and *Strangers to Ourselves* is probably the most influential book I've ever read. It also inspired two, separate New Yorker articles of mine: "Getting Over It" and "Personality Plus." In fact, I once gave a talk at the University of Virginia--where Wilson teaches. He was sitting in the front row, and I had the distinctly uncomfortable feeling, half way through, that I was simply giving the audience a kind of popularized version of Wilson's own work. Imagine giving a talk on physics, in 1910, and saying "you know, there's this thing called relativity," and then spotting Einstein in the front row. In any case, "Strangers to Ourselves," is a beautifully written book. In it, Wilson asks the question: what, at the end of the day, can we really know about ourselves? His answer: not much. Or, at least, not nearly as much as we think we can know. But it's a tribute to Wilson, that in giving that answer he is never disheartening or depressing."

http://www.gladwell.com/blink/blink_reading.html

PUBLICATIONS

- Elise Clerkin got two publications accepted with several of her UVA colleagues:


- Jon Haidt:


- Melvin Wilson:

• Tim Wilson:

discounting: Present selfishness or future anhedonia? Journal of Experimental Social Psychology,
44, 1533-1537.

MEDIA MENTION

The October issue of Arts & Sciences Magazine has an article on Mavis Hetherington's distinguished career as a
developmental psychologist and her contributions to the department. Mavis Hetherington was a department
http://aands.virginia.edu/x14171.xml

GRAD STUDENT PROFILES

We asked a random group of grad students their favorite psychology tradebooks.

Megan Cody: One of the books that first made me want to be a clinical psychologist was I Never
Promised You a Rose Garden, by Joanne Greenberg (under the pen name of "Hannah Green"). It's an
autobiographical novel depicting the author's experience with schizophrenia and is fascinating and
beautifully written. I'm currently reading A History of Psychiatry: From the Era of the Asylum to the Age
of Prozac, by Edward Shorter. It's very interesting but is a bit polemical in that it seems like he has an
axe to grind against feminists and social justice reformers (anyone he considers a "revisionist" regarding
the history of psychiatry).

Jesse Graham: I guess I would be beaten up and called a teacher's pet if I mentioned Tim Wilson or Jon
Haidt's books, so I'll just recommend a book I'm reading now, Proust was a Neuroscientist by Jonah
Lehrer. It's not really specific to psychology (and has almost nothing to do with neuroscience), but it's a
really well-written book about various intersections of the humanities and the sciences, with the thesis
that time after time art has beaten science to the punch. Whitman figured out Descartes' error way
before Damasio, George Eliot's writing about freedom modeled gene expression and neural plasticity,
Escoffier intuited the "amae" sense of taste before Japanese scientists, Proust anticipated Kandel's
memory research, Cezanne embodied Gestalt psychology, and Stravinsky, Stein, and Woolf also did some
smart stuff (I haven't read those chapters yet). Better on the art side than the science side, but we all
need art more anyway, right?

Nell Manning: Before starting grad school I read a book called Emotional Vampires by Albert Bernstein
on living or working with people who have personality disorders, and I loved one line in it. It was
something like this: "In graduate school I learned one thing: people who drive themselves crazy are
neurotic, and people who drive other people crazy have personality disorders." I have found that useful
to remember on more than one occasion.
Carolyn Palmquist: My favorite popular psychology book is *This is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession* by Daniel Levitin. It includes a really interesting mix of music and neurology, not to mention some stories from Levitin's career as a music producer!

Liz Tenney: Rather than play favorites, I'll take the easy answer and tell you what I'm currently enjoying. It's a book by Sam Gosling called *Snoop: What Your Stuff Says About You*. It's a great pop psychology book about personality.

DEPARTMENT in NUMBERS

In 2008, the number of Bachelors degrees awarded in Psychology was 350. Of these, 269 (77%) went to women. Psychology had the second-highest number of graduates after Economics, which awarded 383 Bachelors degrees. Psychology is followed by Commerce (323 degrees) and History (275 degrees).

--Source: Institutional Assessment & Studies at the University of Virginia website, http://www.web.virginia.edu/IAAS/index.shtm

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Last week we had two questions:
"On a weekday, what is the average number of hours that you spend in front of the computer?"

"On a weekday, what is the average number of hours that you spend in front of the computer doing work?"

We are still collecting answers to these questions. If you haven't answered last week, here is the link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=FPIZz_2be70PBg6K9_2fjeFIFQ_3d_3d

EVENTS of the WEEK

Monday, September 29, 2008

- Developmental Lunch: 12:00pm-1:15pm, GIL 225

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

- Joint Community and Social Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Brandon Garrett, UVA School of Law, *False Confessions*
Wednesday, October 1, 2008

- Sensory and Systems Neuroscience Lunch: 12:30pm-2pm, GIL B001
  Journal Club and Group Discussion, *Neural basis of the sensation and perception of pain*

Thursday, October 2, 2008

- Quantitative Area Lunch (DADA): 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Monica Erbacher, *Partial Credit Model Analysis of the PANAS Over 56 Days*

Friday, October 3, 2008

- Clinical Lunch: 12:00pm, GIL 225
  Brad Perry, M.A, *Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA)*
- Cognitive Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001