

-----  
 From: **alicia h.** <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)>  
 Date: Sat, Nov 5, 2011 at 7:42 PM  
 To: Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>

well, yes. That is the answer. They get no attention. And since they are the center of the world, they need attention.

-----  
 From: **Melanie Byng** <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>  
 Date: Sat, Nov 5, 2011 at 8:15 PM  
 To: "alicia h." <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)>

you should be flattered ;)

Thing is, they want what you have. To be loved, for people to care what you do. Actually I don't think Steve is needy (he's much cleverer and more appealing) but she is a bottomless pit.

-----  
 From: **alicia h.** <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)>  
 Date: Sat, Nov 5, 2011 at 8:45 PM  
 To: Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>

thank you... yeah, well... She would like that, and I think she pretended she (or they) had it. They misinterpret everything of course, but support is a powerful drug... at least for someone like Angel. But Steve's busy supporting her, so he probably doesn't have the time to be needy ;-)

-----  
 From: **Melanie Byng** <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>  
 Date: Sat, Nov 5, 2011 at 10:04 PM  
 To: "alicia h." <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)>

he has to support her. Otherwise he could lose his children. If the diagnosis is accurate she might even have made threats to hurt them. Or herself. Or him.

-----  
 From: **alicia h.** <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)>  
 Date: Sat, Nov 5, 2011 at 10:55 PM  
 To: Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>

Sadly yes. Hopefully it's not as bad. But it wouldn't exactly surprise.

-----  
 From: **Melanie Byng** <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>



>>>>>> well, it's a useful place for people to see it collected all together.  
>>>>>> And you're so calm and cogent - so detached - it must have pissed them  
>>>>>> off SO MUCH.

>>>>>>  
>>>>>> On Sat, May 12, 2012 at 7:25 PM, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>> I think it was justified, but maybe not worth it ;-)

>>>>>>  
>>>>>> I hope that too. At this point, there's not anything else I can say  
>>>>>> anyway. Communicating with them is pointless.

>>>>>>  
>>>>>> On 12 May 2012 20:17, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>> but it is a good thing someone checks up on it, in case she has a new tactic.

>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> On Sat, May 12, 2012 at 7:16 PM, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>>> I don't think you should feel bad at all - your post was perfectly  
>>>>>>> calm and absolutely justified. I don't care if she writes rubbish  
>>>>>>> about me - no one is listening (everyone who needed to know has been  
>>>>>>> informed). I'd rather not do anything at all tho until after Joe's A  
>>>>>>> levels. If she's still ranting in 6 weeks time, then possibly. I  
>>>>>>> secretly hopes she gets into trouble elsewhere.

>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> On Sat, May 12, 2012 at 7:08 PM, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>>>> I need to stop looking too. I kind of feel bad I blogged about it and  
>>>>>>>> that since I did I have to keep informed about what they're screaming  
>>>>>>>> into the void. I really need to just get away from all of this.

>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>> On 12 May 2012 20:02, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>>>>> I'm actually having a lot of fun NOT looking at her tweets. Andy says  
>>>>>>>>> "let her scream into the void". Not that I'm not interested;)

>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>>> On Sat, May 12, 2012 at 7:01 PM, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>>>>>> they do seem to focus on the irrelevant.

>>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>>>>> On Sat, May 12, 2012 at 6:31 PM, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>>>>>>>> yes. I'm sure its them who are mistaking or distorting something and  
>>>>>>>>>>>> probably something wholly irrelevant. Shane has done nothing to  
>>>>>>>>>>>> deserve their wrath.

>>>>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>> On 12 May 2012 19:29, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>> he's always v nice to me. He doesn't comment on it - except to say  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>> they're 'consistent'.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> On Sat, May 12, 2012 at 6:20 PM, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> I don't know, didn't ask -- I think they were about how bad everone  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> is! The horrors they have endured. Et c. The usual stuff we know by  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> heart by now. Lol.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> On 12 May 2012 19:18, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> oh - HE deleted comments! Were they about you?

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> On Sat, May 12, 2012 at 6:02 PM, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> No, I think they're saying that we're RT:ing something he wrote in  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> which he said they'd emailed him. They think they emailed one time  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> less than he said. They think they didn't say anything nasty (but they

From: **Melanie Byng** <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>  
Date: Sun, May 13, 2012 at 1:03 PM  
To: Richy Thompson <[richy@humanism.org.uk](mailto:richy@humanism.org.uk)>

A2/2015/2839

Richy - just need to alert you to a couple in NZ who have been harassing me and my family since we had an encounter with them last summer. They have also attacked Alicia Hamberg (the Swedish blogger who writes about Steiner ed) and Andy Lewis. Amongst others.

They tweet under various avatars: @amazonnewsmedia @steinermentary @sjparis - it's best not to give them any attention or RT their work. I'm occasionally forced into warning others if they're being prolific (as they are today).

-----  
From: **Richy Thompson** <[richy@humanism.org.uk](mailto:richy@humanism.org.uk)>  
Date: Sun, May 13, 2012 at 2:13 PM  
To: Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>

Hi Melanie,

Thanks for the heads up. They've been tweeting at us for a while too - DC gave me a similar warning some time ago!

Best,

**Richy Thompson**

Campaigns Officer (Faith Schools and Education), British Humanist Association  
1 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6HD | 020 7462 4993

[www.humanism.org.uk](http://www.humanism.org.uk) | [facebook.com/humanism](https://www.facebook.com/humanism) | [twitter.com/BHAhumanists](https://twitter.com/BHAhumanists) | [humanismforschools.org.uk](http://humanismforschools.org.uk)

The BHA is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 285987) and depends on donations and legacies from its members and supporters to carry out its work. You can [join](#) or [donate](#) or [register for our free e-bulletin](#) online.

-----  
From: **Melanie Byng** <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>  
Date: Sun, May 13, 2012 at 3:34 PM  
To: Richy Thompson <[richy@humanism.org.uk](mailto:richy@humanism.org.uk)>

cheers! Good for DC.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **alicia h.** <[zzzoey@gmail.com](mailto:zzzoey@gmail.com)>  
 Date: Sat, Jun 9, 2012 at 5:42 PM  
 Subject: Re: Steve P on Steve S's blog  
 To: Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>  
 Cc: Diana Winters

he can have her.

I saw the article Pete posted, but didn't quite understand the full implications. Must look at it later. Much later...

On 9 June 2012 18:36, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:  
 > to lose the PLANS first amendment case I guess, by which she means Waldorf  
 > ceases to be religious because no one is listening to her.

>  
 > She's welcome to chat to Gove any time she wants, we are not stopping her.  
 > The man thinks he's invincible.

>  
 > On Sat, Jun 9, 2012 at 5:10 PM, alicia h. <[zzzoey@gmail.com](mailto:zzzoey@gmail.com)> wrote:

>>  
 >> Sorry, haven't had time for them in the last few days, but checked things  
 >> now.

>>  
 >> nothing seems to have happened on Steve's blog, thank Dog. They're  
 >> going on like before on twitter and it's certainly not only all day --  
 >> it's all night too, sometimes. She's up now, and it's 4am in NZ. But  
 >> they get very little out of it. She thinks PLANS deserved to lose  
 >> whatever it was (haven't had time to understand it fully) because of  
 >> how 'whistleblowers' are treated. Also, it's our fault that the  
 >> steiner free schools aren't stopped. Well, she's said that already,  
 >> but keeps repeating it. Everyone on twitter is involuntarily involved  
 >> in our bullying of them. And so forth.

>>  
 >>  
 >>  
 >> On 7 June 2012 16:34, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:

>> > I am happy to give her a hole in the head any time.

>> >  
 >> > Oh I see Pete giving an opener.. next thing Steve P can ask him why then

>> > do  
 >> > they not eject me from their cabal?

>> >  
 >> >

On 2 September 2012 23:30, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:

A2/2015/2839

Diana Winters, who's not on twitter/fb, might be willing to help too -- she knows the anthro lingo in English so it might be worth asking her to read through the final result.

That's a thought that occurred to me too, Melanie, that in this particular circumstance, they've been careful not to give him even clues -- they need him badly, and realize he might not like what he discovers if he were to get suspicious about anything.

But, obviously, if I am to warn him -- I don't exclude it, definitely not -- I must make sure I tread carefully.

On 3 Sep 2012 00:21, "Melanie Byng" <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:

Andy - yes, push on, as if in ignorance of any other translation. As always, ignoring them is best ;)

On Sun, Sep 2, 2012 at 11:17 PM, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:

I'm sure he has no idea, and if he's happy to appear on your blog it probably means they've been careful how much they say to him about everyone else.

On Sun, Sep 2, 2012 at 10:51 PM, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:

...whether he agrees with it while being fully aware of their awful behaviour is another matter. I suspect not.

On 2 Sep 2012 23:34, "Melanie Byng" <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:

oh bugger.

On Sun, Sep 2, 2012 at 10:31 PM, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:

He has a blog post where he links to their translations on their website which makes me assume he doesn't oppose it.

On 2 Sep 2012 23:28, "Melanie Byng" <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:

has he agreed to let them translate it, as far as you know? Or are they just doing so?

On Sun, Sep 2, 2012 at 10:24 PM, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:

Gregoire has been on my mind today, especially after Gregoire commented again -- I'm so not sure what to do. Whether to say something or not. But so far I've had no exchanges with him except in the blog comments.

Unless he's given A&S exclusive rights to it, I'm not sure why he wouldn't agree. On the other hand, he might decide that if A&S are idiots, everyone might be. He's going to be drawn into a drama that has more to do with pathology than with anthroposophy. Unavoidable, but very unfortunate.

On 2 Sep 2012 23:03, "Melanie Byng" <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:

Alicia - Andy needs Gregoire's permission to initiate a translation - I'm being a bit pushy due to the hideous A&S situation. I know Dan was keen too. I think others would help with the cost.

**Melanie Byng** <melanie.byng@gmail.com>  
To: Andy Lewis <andy@scali-lewis.net>

6 November 2012 10:10

he does realise she's quite capable of publishing anything he writes to her, or making a video about him and writing to others about how he let her down etc unless he does as she wants.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Melanie Byng** <melanie.byng@gmail.com>  
To: Andy Lewis <andy@scali-lewis.net>

6 November 2012 11:10

this is lovely too - Twitter / sjparis: All you people who block me ...

Twitter / sjparis: Some people who call themselves ...

Nazis and child molesters.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Melanie Byng** <melanie.byng@gmail.com>  
To: Andy Lewis <andy@scali-lewis.net>

6 November 2012 13:50

just a thought - Joe was at their place in France for about a week. Steve shut himself away on his computer (we assume) while Joe looked after the children - he certainly didn't speak any French to Joe or indeed any other language. (For us the point was how they behaved afterwards,) not that Joe's trip was a damp squib - it happens to teenagers all the time. But they may I've made accusations about Steve and what he was doing during that time - they may even imagine Joe saw something on Steve's computer or said that he did. There was nothing like that, Joe commented that he had to eat frozen pizza and there was little point him being there (except as free childcare). He certainly said nothing unkind about the children or anything alarming about the way they were treated. Their domestic lifestyle is not our concern. So if anyone asks, there's nothing of this kind being circulated among WC etc and I've not heard accusations from the Steiner school in Titirangi through any source, including from other parents.

If I had any serious concerns I would tell the police, I wouldn't gossip on email lists.

[Quoted text hidden]

that they're egocentric, lying hyenas tweeting from multiple accounts and it's been going on for very long. Oh well...

A2/2015/2839

On 6 November 2012 16:05, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:  
> exactly.

>  
> On 6 November 2012 15:59, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>> good. I believe they judge all of us by their own standards, so we must be  
>> spreading nasty rumours.

>>  
>> On Tue, Nov 6, 2012 at 2:54 PM, alicia h. <[zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>>

>>> haha!

>>>  
>>> And, yes, they were very interested, I think they wanted that story  
>>> together with the Sawfoot story, two juicy scandals. And their own, so  
>>> three.

>>>  
>>> I can certainly verify what you wrote to Andy -- I haven't heard  
>>> anything exciting about their homelife from you, except bad food, Joe  
>>> having to do stuff he wasn't there to do, generally not a good place  
>>> to be, the parents being uncooperative, uneducated children (but  
>>> nothing particularly wrong with them otherwise). Not pleasant, but  
>>> certainly no insinuations that they were criminal or whatever.

>>>  
>>>  
>>> On 6 November 2012 15:32, Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:  
>>> > yes and it wouldn't get her anywhere - she doesn't have a leg to stand  
>>> > on  
>>> > (joke).

>>> >  
>>> > I'd forgotten about them asking about the German guy - ironic now  
>>> > they're  
>>> > all prurient about Andy and Pete.

>>> >  
>>> > Here's something I just sent Andy:

>>> >  
>>> > just a thought - Joe was at their place in France for about a week.  
>>> > Steve  
>>> > shut himself away on his computer (we assume) while Joe looked after the  
>>> > children - he certainly didn't speak any French to Joe or indeed any  
>>> > other  
>>> > language. For us the point was how they behaved afterwards, not that  
>>> > Joe's  
>>> > trip was a damp squib - it happens to teenagers all the time. But they  
>>> > may  
>>> > I've made accusations about Steve and what he was doing during that time  
>>> > -

>>> > they may even imagine Joe saw something on Steve's computer or said that  
>>> > he  
>>> > did. There was nothing like that, Joe commented that he had to eat  
>>> > frozen

>>> >>>>> it is like to feel normal etc. - this is just how my mother talks,  
 >>> >>>>> and  
 >>> >>>>> as  
 >>> >>>>> you know nothing is wrong with her. She recently had some other  
 >>> >>>>> surgery,  
 >>> >>>>> which, of course, did not work and she is in more pain than ever. Or  
 >>> >>>>> something like that.

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> Date: Mon, 28 Jan 2013 22:02:40 +0000

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> Subject: Re: comment from angel?

>>> >>>>> From: [melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)

>>> >>>>> To: [zzzooney@gmail.com](mailto:zzzooney@gmail.com)

>>> >>>>> CC:

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> oh and her 'disability' is annoying but not that bad - in fact she  
 >>> >>>>> told  
 >>> >>>>> me she had to ham it up to get her disability parking permit. We've  
 >>> >>>>> already  
 >>> >>>>> discussed this by email but at this altitude it needs to be said  
 >>> >>>>> again  
 >>> >>>>> \*rolls eyes\*

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> On Mon, Jan 28, 2013 at 10:00 PM, Melanie Byng

>>> >>>>> wrote:

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> Diana, you've said some very sensible things (as usual). Standing

>>> >>>>> back

>>> >>>>> and peering at this through my reading glasses I also think Angel

>>> >>>>> may

>>> >>>>> be

>>> >>>>> drunk.

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> On Mon, Jan 28, 2013 at 9:51 PM, Melanie Byng

>>> >>>>> wrote:

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> I hope she tells them to stop, she's done nothing to deserve it.

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> On Mon, Jan 28, 2013 at 9:47 PM, alicia h. wrote:

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> I thought that too!! It looked as though he actually conversed with

>>> >>>>> her, and that Angel did (via one or both of her accounts), but

>>> >>>>> really

>>> >>>>> there was no conversation!

>>> >>>>>

>>> >>>>> On 28 January 2013 22:45, Diana Winters

>>> >>>>> wrote:

>>> >>>>> > Yes - I had a lot of trouble following their conversations at

>>> >>>>> > first,

>>> >>>>> > because

>>> >>>>> > I kept thinking I was missing all the replies. One tweet from

happy to talk to anyone who wants anything checked about them.

I have no idea what they wish to achieve by speaking here. Then again, I have little idea what they wish to achieve by any of their actions - beyond some weird affirmation - or some long term goal of leveraging money out of people.

I just cant see how this talk is going to do anything. Are they really hoping to whip up some support here and get a 'gang' onto us? If so, they are even more stupid than i though.

a x

[Quoted text hidden]

**Melanie Byng** <melanie.byng@gmail.com>

6 July 2013 16:55

To: Andy Lewis <andy.scali.lewis@gmail.com>, alicia hamberg <zzzooney@gmail.com>

they want to win - to do so they think they can gain credibility using this org. Maybe they want to be the voice of anti-Steiner in the cult community.

There were no more messages from 'Elena', her husband, her cook or her lover.

x

[Quoted text hidden]

**Andy Lewis** <andy.scali.lewis@gmail.com>

6 July 2013 17:00

To: Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>

Cc: alicia hamberg <zzzooney@gmail.com>

They are not really going in with an anti-steiner pitch and i bet their talk contains no critique of Steiner beyond their child happened to bullied at a school that happened to be a steiner school. Although I am happy to be convinced that no bullying took place beyond the usual moderate rough and tumble of any playground.

They will focus on their ninja meja skills to out the likes of us. ANYone there will then google and see what a complete crock it all is.

[Quoted text hidden]

**Melanie Byng** <melanie.byng@gmail.com>

6 July 2013 17:05

To: Andy Lewis <andy.scali.lewis@gmail.com>

Cc: alicia hamberg <zzzooney@gmail.com>

most of the bullying was them, I bet.

It is the sheer bombast of the woman - the outer aggression hiding the inner emptiness. And the venom of her.. and she is slovenly too, says Joe.

[Quoted text hidden]

**alicia h.** <zzzooney@gmail.com>

6 July 2013 17:09

To: Andy Lewis <andy.scali.lewis@gmail.com>

Cc: Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>

I believe that's what they want -- support. Also, I think they're making long-term plans for getting money -- I don't think they've entirely abandoned the documentary project, although now it's going to be about the skeptic cult, I suppose. I'm guessing that participation at such a conference is thought to confer credibility. People will assume they're onto something if they were accepted as speakers at a conference.

[Quoted text hidden]

**Appendix 19 - 1st Defendant's Response**

1. The Posterous Post (9-Nov-2012)

**<http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris>**

2. The Facebook pages linking to the post (9-Nov-2012)

**<https://www.facebook.com/quackometer/posts/560145464000770>**

**<https://www.facebook.com/quackometer/posts/475324705845047>**

## 3. people disseminating it (9-Nov-2012)

a) Twitter name: LeCanardNoir (aka 1st Defendant)

<https://twitter.com/lecanardnoir/status/266916556397748225>

“Some annoying issues on the interweb. <http://qako.me/SI8XZa>”

b) Twitter name: Zzzooey (aka Alicia Hamberg)

<https://twitter.com/zzzoey/status/266918173813641216>

“I agree with every word about this tiring nuisance. RT [@lecanardnoir](#):

Some annoying issues on the interweb. <http://qako.me/SI8XZa>”

c) Twitter name: JoBrodie

<https://twitter.com/JoBrodie/status/266919137090084864>

“Annoyiing indeed, but satisfying response no doubt RT [@lecanardnoir](#):

Some annoying issues on the interweb. <http://qako.me/SI8XZa>”

d) Twitter name: ThetisMercurio (aka 2nd Defendant)

<https://twitter.com/ThetisMercurio/status/266923407004819456>

“Some annoying issues on the interweb. <http://qako.me/SI8XZa>”

e) Twitter name: ChrisTheNeck

<https://twitter.com/christheneck/status/266929542898274304>

“The last line's the best > RT [@lecanardnoir](#): Some annoying issues on the interweb. <http://qako.me/SI8XZa>”

f) Twitter name: Brum\_Skeptics

[https://twitter.com/Brum\\_Skeptics/status/266929544978640897](https://twitter.com/Brum_Skeptics/status/266929544978640897)

“The last line's the best > RT [@lecanardnoir](#): Some annoying issues on the interweb. <http://qako.me/SI8XZa>”

- a) Twitter name: Skepticat\_UK (aka Maria MacLachlan)  
[https://twitter.com/Skepticat\\_UK/status/266940504212660225](https://twitter.com/Skepticat_UK/status/266940504212660225)  
“Lying, bullying, threatening...how do Angel Garden aka  
[@Amazonnewsmedia](#) and [@sjparis](#) sleep at night?  
[http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris ...](http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris...)”
- b) Twitter name: ThetisMercurio (aka 2nd Defendant)  
<https://twitter.com/ThetisMercurio/status/266964299723972608>  
“Lying, bullying, threatening...how do Angel Garden aka  
[@Amazonnewsmedia](#) and [@sjparis](#) sleep at night?  
[http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris ...](http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris...)”
- c) Twitter name: Zeno001 (aka Alan Henness)  
<https://twitter.com/zeno001/status/266940901773950977>  
“Lying, bullying, threatening...how do Angel Garden aka  
[@Amazonnewsmedia](#) and [@sjparis](#) sleep at night?  
[http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris ...](http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris...)”
- d) Twitter name: \_JosephineJones  
[https://twitter.com/\\_JosephineJones/status/266975128414461952](https://twitter.com/_JosephineJones/status/266975128414461952)  
“Lying, bullying, threatening...how do Angel Garden aka  
[@Amazonnewsmedia](#) and [@sjparis](#) sleep at night?[http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris ...](http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris...)”
- e) Twitter name: \_JosephineJones  
[https://twitter.com/\\_JosephineJones/status/266969163111743489](https://twitter.com/_JosephineJones/status/266969163111743489)  
“Some annoying issues on the interweb. <http://qako.me/SI8XZa>”

a) Twitter name: SLSingh (aka Simon Singh)

<https://twitter.com/SLSingh/status/267052850297831425>

“It's not everyday you get to refer to Arkell v Pressdram (1971) <http://bit.ly/WMPcq7>”

b) Twitter name: annanev

<https://twitter.com/annanev/status/267059395156914176>

“It's not everyday you get to refer to Arkell v Pressdram (1971) <http://bit.ly/WMPcq7>”

c) Twitter name: JohnnieMoore

<https://twitter.com/johnniemoore/status/267159660920983554>

“It's not everyday you get to refer to Arkell v Pressdram (1971) <http://bit.ly/WMPcq7>”

d) Twitter name: Zzzooey (aka Alicia Hamberg)

<https://twitter.com/zzzoey/status/267172934517415936>

“It's not everyday you get to refer to Arkell v Pressdram (1971) <http://bit.ly/WMPcq7>”

e) Twitter name: ThetisMercurio (aka 2nd Defendant)

<https://twitter.com/ThetisMercurio/status/267184107417657345>

“It's not everyday you get to refer to Arkell v Pressdram (1971) <http://bit.ly/WMPcq7>”

## **Appendix 20 - The Claimants' Settlement in the Media**

1. February 2013 - Steiner Saga Ends - Glen Eden Guardian

<http://theguardian.org.nz/steiner-saga-ends-by-mels-barton/>

suggested that the School “*has nothing to be ashamed of... they have handled it quite elegantly*” by expelling the Claimants’ three children when, as the School admitted, a young girl had cause to report that she was being bullied.

37.3. The First Defendant refused to post the comment on his website, despite promoting it as hosting an open debate, and publicly claiming on the website that “*I accept comments from all, critical or supportive*” and “*I will only delete comments if they are offensive, not in a good spirit of debate, or are so far of topic that it can only be seen as trolling*”.

37.4. The First Defendant’s own attitude to having his comments blocked without any form of dialogue is evident from a tweet he sent to a third party on 30 May 2012: “*I am staggered you blocked me from commenting because I asked pertinent questions. You are doomed b/c you won’t engage.*”

37.5. It is admitted and averred that this was the first contact made between the Second Claimant and the First Defendant, following the First Defendant’s first blog post on Steiner schools – yet the First Defendant, who proclaims himself to be open to debate and a true skeptic, swiftly belied these supposed beliefs by blocking each of the Claimants’ email addresses (that were known to him via the Second Defendant) from being able to post to his website.

37.6. The words quoted from the comment are set out erroneously in the Defence. The first square brackets should refer to the Second Defendant, not the Second Claimant.

37.7. The Claimants will rely upon the full text of the comment at trial.

37.8. Otherwise, the paragraph is admitted.

38. As to paragraph 43:

*Particulars of malice*

- 73.1. Both Defendants are very strongly of the belief that Steiner schools are not a safe environment for children, and are manipulative and not to be trusted. Both Defendants have repeatedly described them as a “cult” (eg, the First Defendant on 14 June 2013: *“the important thing to grasp is that [Steiner schools] are part of an esoteric cult. What they say to the public differs from internal beliefs.”*)
- 73.2. The First Defendant has repeatedly written of how Steiner schools have a bizarre and dangerous approach to bullying, believing that it should be left unchecked, and of how they seek to vilify those who speak out against them:
- 73.2.1. On 5 November 2012 (a mere four days before publishing the malicious allegation), he wrote the following on his blog:
- “The [sic] are consistent reports of how Steiner Schools have a laissez faire attitude to problems such as bullying within schools. [...] Karmic influences need to be worked out and if a child is being bullied then intervention may interfere with the child’s destiny.”*
- 73.2.2. On 26 December 2012, he tweeted:
- “WTF! Appalling video evidence of unchecked bullying within Waldorf Steiner School environment. <http://vimeo.com/56109384>”*
- 73.2.3. On 19 March 2013, writing on his blog:
- “It is a common complaint that bullying goes unchecked as their [sic] is a belief that the bullied and the bullier and [sic] reversing roles from previous incarnations and these karmic issues must be worked out by the children.”*
- 73.2.4. On 13 May 2014, he tweeted:
- “Meltdown at Scottish Steiner School after bullying claims and cash crisis”*
- 73.2.5. On 20 May 2014, he tweeted:

*“Violence in a Swiss Steiner School. The karmic burden of bullying.”*

(linking to <http://bazonline.ch/schweiz/standard/Schwere-Vorwuerfe-an-RudolfSteinerSchule/story/25192472>)

73.2.6. On 31 July 2014, he tweeted:

*“Well done to the @BHAhumanists for uncovering that the government knew all about racism and bulling and homeopathy in Steiner Schools.”*

and

*“Excellent. #newsnight now talking about Steiner’s views on karma and bullying.”*

73.2.7. On 1 August 2014, in an article entitled ‘Government forced to reveal what they knew about racism and bullying in Steiner Schools’, he highlighted and linked to documents revealing the problem of Steiner School’s approach to bullying.

73.2.8. The First Defendant has also tweeted links to articles highlighting these issues, eg

74. <http://www.listener.co.nz/current-affairs/education/fairy-tale-fallout/>

75. <http://www.20min.ch/ro/news/suisse/story/16361886>

75.3. The Second Defendant has also tweeted about the same subjects, eg:

75.3.1. On 20 May 2014:

*“When my daughter was being bullied, it was said that this was because of the karmic burden of a past life,”* (linking to <http://bazonline.ch/schweiz/standard/Schwere-Vorwuerfe-an-RudolfSteinerSchule/story/25192472>)

75.3.2. On 6 July 2014:

*“The Waldorf Review - Why Waldorf Bullies - KARMA and BULLYING in Waldorf Schools #Steiner”* (linking to <http://thewaldorfreview.blogspot.co.uk/2014/06/why-waldorf-bullies.html>)

*defamation because it isn't, or account for why you have colluded in this campaign of covert victimisation against whistle blowers whilst overtly pretending to address Steiner issues. [48]*

27. As noted above, the Claimants would follow my Twitter timeline to see who was interacting with me and then push their own defamatory allegations against me towards those people. I interpreted the above excerpt from their letter as a threat to continue to stalk me and harass me with the use of third parties and so I thought that by publishing their letter any such third party may better understand the dispute between us.

28. The Claimants object to certain sections of the blog post, which was originally posted on Posterous in November 2012 and subsequently moved to Quackometer in April 2013 when I migrated some of the posts from Posterous after its closure. The blog post in its entirety is attached at [45 - 49]. I note that the blog post had 301 page views at the time the original Particulars of Claim were served on me (although a significant number of these may be from the Claimants themselves or prompted by this legal action). When I moved the post after the closure of Posterous I did not put it on the Quackometer's home page (which receives a lot of traffic), nor did I go through the usual promotion of new post in other channels. Typically, a new post on the Quackometer will quickly receive thousands of page views. This post has never received this amount and is indeed the least viewed blog post on my site by a large margin. As far as I was concerned, I was just moving the post to a new platform with the same purpose as originally intended in April 2013.

29. In particular the Claimants object to the passage:

*They claim their children were expelled because they were being bullied. I understand the school says it was because of the parents' behaviour... Since, February, I have ignored and filetered [sic] out their constant harassment by blog, tweet and video, both of myself and of others. [45]*

30. It is dismaying to see the Claimants claim that it is not true and defamatory that the Titirangi School stated that the reason the children's places were withdrawn was because of their parent's behaviour and that they claim I acted out of malice by making the statements I did in the blog post about the school's actions. The Claimants now suggest that I could have had no honest belief in this matter and that I wrote it to damage them.

31. On the contrary, I truly believed on the evidence before me, and continue to believe that the summary of the dispute in the blog post is correct for the reason set out in the following paragraphs:

**From:** Robert Sneyd <robert.sneyd@pms.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: On world mental health day..  
**Date:** 12 October 2012 4:24:48 pm GMT+01:00  
**To:** Amazon Films <info@amazonfilms.net>

---

I don't think I can accept a complaint, if this is a complaint, from a complainant with no defined address. If you wish me to pursue this matter then please send me a written and signed (on paper) communication with a permanent address and make it clear that it is a complaint. I will check if electronic commit actions are an acceptable alternative (I am out of my office), if they are then I would still expect a .pdf that when printed out looks like a letter and includes a proper signature. I will then pass it to my Head of Administration and put it into our complaints procedure. In any complaint you would need to be explicit in explaining how any of these allegations relate to the day to day business of the university as distinct to the activities of a private citizen.  
Yours sincerely  
RS

J Robert Sneyd  
Dean and Professor of Anaesthesia,  
Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry,  
The John Bull Building, Research Way, Tamar Science Park, Plymouth PL6 8BU, UK  
GMC registration No: 2721273  
Tel: +44 (0)1752 437355, Fax: +44 (0)1752 517842  
PA: Gemma Hurrell 01752 437358 gemma.hurrell@pcmd.ac.uk <mailto:gemma.hurrell@pcmd.ac.uk>

Web Page [tinyurl.com/rsneyd](http://tinyurl.com/rsneyd) <<http://tinyurl.com/rsneyd>>

On 12 Oct 2012, at 10:37, "Amazon Films" <info@amazonfilms.net <mailto:info@amazonfilms.net>> wrote:

Dear Mr Sneyd

Thank you for your response.

We are currently in the process of relocating to the UK, so our address is in flux at the moment.

As a result, I'm concerned that a physical letter might get lost, not to mention the fact that some letters and parcels sent to us never reached their destination and we wouldn't want to wait for something which could get misplaced. This email address would be the best means of communicating with us.

Is there a reason why this would not be an acceptable option?

Kind regards,

Steve & Angel  
[www.amazonfilms.net](http://www.amazonfilms.net) <<http://www.amazonfilms.net>>

On 12 Oct 2012, at 06:25 AM, Robert Sneyd <robert.sneyd@pms.ac.uk <mailto:robert.sneyd@pms.ac.uk>> wrote:

Thank you for your communication.  
I will need a full permanent postal address if I am to send any response  
RS

J Robert Sneyd

Dean and Professor of Anaesthesia,  
Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry,  
The John Bull Building, Research Way, Tamar Science Park, Plymouth PL6 8BU, UK  
GMC registration No: 2721273  
Tel: +44 (0)1752 437355 (my desk), Fax: +44 (0)1752 517842  
PA: Gemma Hurrell 01752 437358 gemma.hurrell@pcmd.ac.uk <mailto:gemma.hurrell@pcmd.ac.uk>  
Web Page [tinyurl.com/rsneyd](http://tinyurl.com/rsneyd) <<http://tinyurl.com/rsneyd>>

From: Amazon Films [<mailto:info@amazonfilms.net>]  
Sent: 10 October 2012 21:13  
To: Robert Sneyd

Subject: On world mental health day..

Dear Mr Sneyd

We are writing to you as the Dean of the new Plymouth University Peninsula schools of medicine and dentistry.

On world mental health day we would like to ask you the question as to why are senior lecturers at your university allowed to, away from work, be involved in smearing the mental health of others online?

It is not only the attempt to use mental health as a stigmatising tool to victimise people online, that is bad enough for someone with a respected position in mental health, or his family, but also, given that we only met the Byngs due to our whistleblowing activities, which as they knew had resulted in community mobbing, their behaviour, already comprehensively documented online, could not be better designed to actually cause mental illness.

1. coming very close to us suddenly, suggesting many involvements between our two families on the basis of our negative experience, our shared interests, their admiration of us and the fact that my mother was dying, hence we were camping in the UK having travelled from NZ. i.e. they were aware that we were in a very vulnerable state.
2. suddenly breaking off contact, when an initiative of theirs involving their son staying with us, finished abruptly as he wanted to go home. This was as I was about to publish an article that I'd been asked by Melanie Byng to write on what was described to me as a 'very high profile blog' in the UK on the subject of our mutual interest.
3. suddenly ostracising us completely both personally and also, much more significantly, from the public debate about our shared interests, the issues that we had experienced, which we were dealing with Human Rights over, and which had earlier prompted the Byng's to tell us we were 'clever', 'brave' and 'funny'.
4. At the same time as ostracising us from public debate, Melanie Byng then began actively warning others not to have anything to do with us and smearing our mental health to hundreds of people on twitter. She has even knowingly circulated material which attempts to cover up a 'pedophile' smear against a third party, who'd worked with us in the past.

This behaviour towards someone who was only in the country to look after a dying relative is beyond the pale. The fact that one of the perpetrators of it is a senior employee in your University should be a matter of shame.

Certainly it may be Richard Byng's wife who was responsible mainly for making a mess of the whole thing, but it's inconceivable that Richard doesn't know about it, so why has he, for the last year, been doing the opposite of what a responsible mental health physician of any sort should do? At the very least he has been knowingly allowing his wife to target and vilify others, using mental health stigma, and actively behaving in ways known to have adverse mental health consequences for the targets. She has done this for her own personal agenda and status.

Is this acceptable for those representing your institution? Why aren't there codes of acceptable conduct, with regards to mental health issues, which employees are expected to adhere to away from work?

If Richard Byng does not know about any of this, (an impossible scenario) then he should, because it is certainly compromising the reputations of all concerned.

On this, World mental health day, we feel you should know about it, as you are the people who employ Richard Byng for his knowledge and understanding of mental health, and we will not stop trying to bring attention to the absolute hypocrisy of such a person knowingly allowing that understanding to be distorted and used as a weapon against others.

These are all provable facts and facts which are already published as, due to these attempts to victimise us, we have no other defence but to document and publish the evidence to expose this behaviour.

I'm not a mental health professional, but I don't think you need a degree of any sort to see that setting people up to trust you by overstepping boundaries when people are vulnerable, then rejecting them, cutting them off and even ostracising them as a group, is a classic abuse scenario.

In this case it includes Dr Byng asking personal and unsolicited questions about my dying mother's care, during the 'love-bomb' phase, sending their son to stay,, suggesting we move near them, showing us local schools, personally inviting our 11 year old child to stay with them, because due to her experiences of bullying she had become education averse, and then just suddenly cutting off communication entirely, in the abuse phase.

They did not stop there however but then actively tried to publicly humiliate us and destroy our reputation – people the Byngs only met because we'd already been mobbed over our stand on bullying, and were dealing with Human Rights.

On World mental health day, we feel no shame in telling you of this and assure you that we will continue to publicise it and protest this outrageous behaviour which people should know about.

We do not expect a reply to the question as to why such a Senior professional is allowed to get away with this, and know that, as you can see in the news, people often tend to close in to protect the powerful against those who are seen as weaker, even feeling anger against the target, who must have asked for it somehow, rather than where it belongs when any kind of abuse comes to light.

If we asked for it, it was simply because we made the mistake of trusting, for which we've paid a high price.

On World mental health day it would be great if mental health was taken more seriously than that, but we feel that you should at least be aware.

Sincerely

Steve Paris and Angel Garden

---

Amazon Films followed the course of an education law change in New Zealand with their acclaimed political satire show "Beehave" - [www.beehave.co.nz](http://www.beehave.co.nz)<<http://www.beehave.co.nz>>. Amazon Films is an independent production company and produced features such as "birth-trust", a documentary following the first holistic birth trust conference in Bristol - [www.amazonfilms.net/birth-trust](http://www.amazonfilms.net/birth-trust)<<http://www.amazonfilms.net/birth-trust>> - and gave an Ealing-style comical look at natural health alternatives and the law with "Yam - anything that just grows by itself shouldn't be illegal" - [www.amazonfilms.net/yam](http://www.amazonfilms.net/yam)<<http://www.amazonfilms.net/yam>>. Amazon Films are currently producing a documentary about New Zealand private education, "Safe to Tell - the Rogue Schools of New Zealand" (working title) - [www.safetotell.net](http://www.safetotell.net)<<http://www.safetotell.net>>.

[www.amazonfilms.net](http://www.amazonfilms.net)<<http://www.amazonfilms.net>>  
[www.amazonnewsmedia.com](http://www.amazonnewsmedia.com)<<http://www.amazonnewsmedia.com>>

twitter - [www.twitter.com/amazonnewsmedia](http://www.twitter.com/amazonnewsmedia)<<http://www.twitter.com/amazonnewsmedia>>  
email - [info@amazonfilms.net](mailto:info@amazonfilms.net)<<mailto:info@amazonfilms.net>>

Dr Andrew Lewis  
Hazelwood Cottage  
Gurney Slade  
Radstock BA3 4TQ

Thursday, 2nd of May 2013

Dear Andy

We wrote to you some months ago attempting to persuade you to address the defamatory comments you have made about us and suggesting that you may have made these actions against us due to misinformation regarding ourselves that you had received from third parties. Your answer was to publish a response to the effect that you would respond to any legal representative of ours by telling them to fuck off.

Therefore, in line with the pre-action protocol for defamation we are again respectfully asking you to please either substantiate your allegations about us or publicly withdraw them.

Our letter requesting your attention to the libellous material you have written was published online by you on Posterous in November 2012 - [lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris](http://lecanardnoir.posterous.com/angel-garden-and-steve-paris) - and republished just a few days ago (according to two tweets you posted on the 28th of April), on your blog - [www.quackometer.net/blog/2012/11/angel-garden-and-steve-paris.html](http://www.quackometer.net/blog/2012/11/angel-garden-and-steve-paris.html).

The defamation includes unsubstantiated personal allegations against us in tweets stating that we have malice in our hearts, have told terrible lies about Melanie Byng, have tried to lose friends their jobs, as detailed in our last appeal to you to try and sort this out amicably.

There is plenty of evidence that you have spread these types of unsubstantiated allegations around, and the evidence is supported also by the fact that people regularly block us for no apparent reason often publishing tweets saying things like "Andy was right about you", while you go from city to city professing to be giving all the relevant information parents need on Steiner - i.e. attempting to occupy the centre of the debate, which you surmised in your posterous post that we "appear" to be trying to do.

These personal defamatory comments are not only unlawful and clearly designed to damage our reputation, but such prejudicial statements about parents coming out of nasty situations in Steiner education are also clearly at odds with your claimed views about Steiner schools, including the many statements you make that people who put forward the views of those you term "quacks" are actually using "false balance" (in fact you have republished what you said in November *after* the school has signed legally binding statements that corroborated our version of events).

It seems incredible that these two positions could be held by the same person, and we note that such inconsistency appears to be one of the things that amazes you yourself about adherents of Steiner for example that may love anthroposophy whilst acknowledging that their relatives have been killed by homeopathy.

The stress of undertaking such an action as we have with any institution is obviously substantial as we note that you acknowledge in regard to others attempting to hold dissembling institutions to account.

Yet any knock-on effect on our own children of your collusion with the attempts of friends of yours to undermine our actions appears not to register with you - in spite of the fact that we have tried to inform you about it and that you have been and continue to be traveling all over the country expressing your concern for children due to Steiner education.

Instead you appear to happily express these two incompatible points of view, i.e. that Steiner schools generally are less than honest, but that the Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School, which has now made several important and legally binding admissions about their failure to deal with bullying, and which also happens to be the National HQ for NZ Steiner schools, may have been justified in expelling the children of parents attempting to address the unchecked bullying, which you yourself refer to in your treatment of Steiner.

It certainly points to your particular position on this situation, including your outright defamation of us, being simply because of your personal group allegiances and not because the arguments or points of view hold any merit in themselves as evidenced by the fact that you do not appear to have made a single effort to find out the truth before making such damaging statements to third parties about people you do not personally know at all. As noted above, even your rude response to our earlier polite request for retraction and resolution, which acknowledged that you may have simply been misled, was published.

Therefore we suggest, for the last time, that you agree to discuss with us how to undo and rectify this nasty situation, and suggest that you are well-placed to allow the facts concerning parents who have succeeded in publicly holding a Steiner school to account over unchecked bullying to be part of the information that any parents considering such an education for their own children might "need to know".

Andy, please think about this. We are returning to the UK where we will be much better able to address the issues with you. Whatever the Byng's reasons for introducing initiatives that they couldn't see through, or take responsibility for, it is exceptionally easy to prove that it happened, and that all these offers made were because my mum was dying - perhaps they just didn't realise how stressful that might be.... Although that obviously sounds impossible, especially considering that Richard Byng is a Senior mental health lecturer, we were and are always prepared to seek resolution.

What we're certainly not prepared to do is to let that mistake of the Byngs' ruin our own reputation, through malicious untruths *or* to deprive people of knowledge of a Human Rights settlement by a Steiner school over bullying any further.

We therefore give you fair notice that having asked you several times to be reasonable and honest in this matter, we will make every effort at our disposal to get you to address the untruthful way you are treating us, while you yourself are demonstrably seeking to dominate the moral high-ground in public debate on Steiner.

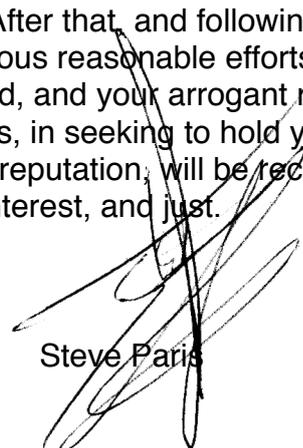
Andy, you're a savvy bloke, and a canny wordsmith. Let's sort this matter out now through diplomacy before we are forced, to protect our reputations, to take actions that will make that option unavailable.

We believe, however difficult it may seem given the entrenched views of some of your acquaintances, that you are up to this job, and we do mean that sincerely, as well as being aware that protocol demands that we make every effort to try and persuade you to willingly retract your unsubstantiated defamatory allegations against us and settle this matter in order to avoid possible legal action.

Should you choose to engage, you will find us ready and willing to negotiate a way out of any further hostility, and this would be our preferred avenue, especially given the struggle we've just finished with the school, with its effects on our family, as well as the necessity to come back to the UK, all of which is highly stressful.

Please respond to this letter by email, by the 8th of May. After that, and following this final plea for reasonableness and honesty, and given our previous reasonable efforts to settle this matter amicably, even to allow that you've been misled, and your arrogant response to those efforts, we hope that any subsequent actions of ours, in seeking to hold you accountable for attempting to undermine and defame our reputation, will be recognised by the relevant authorities as inevitable, firmly in the public interest, and just.

Yours sincerely  
  
Angel Garden

  
Steve Paris

From: Ms Angel Garden <angelgarden@mac.com>   
 Subject: ALERT - BBC about to promote "spokesperson" who is actively victimising whistle blowers. URGENT  
 Date: 19 November 2012 9:01:55 am GMT  
 To: fran.unsworth@bbc.co.uk  
 Cc: Media Lens Editors <editor@medialens.org>, fair@fair.org, let@transparencynow.com



9 Attachments, 1.7 MB

Dear Fran Unsworth

We are writing to strongly object to the segment on the "controversy" surrounding the Frome Steiner School on Inside Out (SW Mon 19th, 7.30pm, BBC1).

Our objection is on the basis that one of the contributors, Andy Lewis, has discredited himself by dishonestly censoring facts regarding initiatives by parents to challenge these schools through Human Rights. He has done this at the same time as running a covert defamation campaign. We have been documenting his and his friends' attacks on us as a whistleblowing family for over six months.

We put this evidence in front of your reporter nearly a week ago. Having admitted that she hadn't fully examined the evidence, she still insisted that it did not discredit Andy Lewis as a spokesperson on Steiner issues. We disagree. Hasn't the BBC learned anything about ignoring the voices of whistleblowers dealing with abuses?

We have sent the evidence below to several media watch-dogs and will also be complaining to ASA and Trading Standards as the BBC claims to offer fair and balanced debate. Promoting somebody as a debunker of Steiner who is actively involved in stigmatising and victimising behaviour towards those following due process with this system through Human Rights, is clearly unethical when done in full knowledge.

For the BBC to be made aware of this and to dismiss the damage that Andy Lewis is doing as being minimal, is cynical in the extreme and the South West team are pushing through with their programme for reasons that we must conclude have nothing to do with balanced or fair anything! Your reporter denied that being targeted in this manner by a large group of people with links to the Guardian through Sense about Science, could in any way limit our ability to publicly represent our (historic) Human Rights work (it is the first of its kind worldwide). How can you collude in such fiction, given what you are dealing with at the moment?

We urge you to remove this contributor from your programme, or postpone the segment until you can have a proper look at the evidence. Should comments be made in this segment that obfuscate or misrepresent the true situation regarding due process and Steiner Schools, the BBC, having been warned in good time, will be responsible for that misinformation as well as for promoting someone abusive to those who are simply seeking redress.

Exactly this situation occurred recently with the Committee for Skeptical Enquiry, who, in spite of being informed about Andy Lewis' actions and the realities of parents seeking redress from Steiner, asked Andy the misleading question "Why aren't people speaking out formally?" to which he answered "that's a very good question" and also commented that "It is very difficult to get hard information about what happens" in Steiner schools. [http://www.csicop.org/specialarticles/show/waldorf\\_steiner\\_and\\_education](http://www.csicop.org/specialarticles/show/waldorf_steiner_and_education)

And he's right that it's difficult, it's extremely hard, in fact, so why is he knowingly hiding the only case of its kind from his readers on his blog, his large following on Twitter or in interviews? If he cherry-picks the information he shares with others in this way, even information that could be of crucial importance to some of his readers (we know that one of them has been warned by their Steiner school against contacting the Human Rights Commission, for instance, yet Andy doesn't tell them that a family's succeeded in doing exactly that), how can anything he says be trusted? How can we know that he hasn't dished out this kind of treatment on others to silence them?

CSI were fully briefed before publication and have therefore misled the public – which could impact on the welfare of children, as families simply aren't being given the information they need to take action.

How transparent does something have to be, for even the BBC to be able to see it?

Kind regards,

Angel Garden & Steve Paris

Here is the evidence the BBC has already been given, which is now public knowledge, and has been sent to Press watchdogs. It also comprises some of the evidence for defamation proceedings against Andy Lewis by us. It shows the dishonesty of this contributor with regard to the subject he is meant to be contributing to in a "balanced debate".

--

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIIMNQDuMQ> – this is a 4-minute video clearly showing that Andy put "Human Rights" in the spam folder so that any comment made about this case would be automatically filtered. This took place in February, before Steiner education had been approved to become free-schools.

More recently, others mentioned our case and although the comments were displayed, they didn't last long as Andy deleted them from the timeline so that only a few visitors, if any, ever saw them:



From: Steve Paris steve@amazonfilms.net  
Subject: Discredited Interviewee?  
Date: 19 November 2012 11:28 am  
To: Sam Smith sam.smith@bbc.co.uk  
Cc: simon.willis.01@bbc.co.uk, ben.woolvin@bbc.co.uk

---

Dear Sam

Thank you for your email.

I would like to discuss the content of your last paragraph.

You've said that we've "made a number of assumptions about who was interviewed for the programme". I would have to disagree with that. Andy Lewis himself published on his blog that he had been interviewed for your programme, so it's pretty much come from the horse's mouth. You also hadn't denied it during our first conversation, just like you told us then that you had not interviewed a person called Melanie Byng.

You then said that we "expressed concerns based on those". That's absolutely correct. We've provided you with evidence in the form of a video and multiple screenshots, that Andy Lewis is involved in both overt censorship and covert defamation, smearing, and victimisation. In other words, bullying. We've even shown you evidence of the extent of that campaign in terms of people openly admitting that Andy has been smearing us. Yet you're quite happy to put this person onto the TV on a platform of being knowledgeable about Steiner Education, and completely leaving out any mention of bullying as well, and this on the first day of Anti-Bullying week.

Andy had no problem concealing to his many readers and legion of followers the only case in history of a Steiner school being looked at by Human Rights. He's done this by not talking about it even though he knew of the case's existence, deleting comments referring to it both in February and more recently, and smearing the family concerned online. If he's capable of doing this while claiming to be looking into the dangers of Steiner education, doesn't it make you wonder what else Andy may be concealing? I may be biased, but someone so comfortable in hiding important information, which would in fact bolster his own case, may not be the most reliable person to interview on this, or actually any, subject, since there's obviously an agenda here that is definitely not open. We've only been made aware of this because it happened to us. It may well have happened to others for all we know.

I know you've told us you're confident that your programme will be fair and balanced, but I just wanted to point out one last time that I truly feel that the one person we know you've interviewed for this programme may well be unreliable and untrustworthy based on the above, and could affect the credibility of your entire programme when this becomes public knowledge.

In the meantime, we've taken the liberty of forwarding our correspondence on to media and Trading Standards Watchdogs.

You asked us how we'd feel if, days before a transmission, someone rang up making allegations about us, should our roles be reversed. I replied that it would depend if we did what it was that was alleged, and if so, tough luck for us. In truth, that is the case here. But what if this question was the other way round, If you had done the work to seek justice, not just for your own kids but for so many others, and some bloke came along and tried to make you disappear, whilst covertly smearing you to goodness knows how many people, would you allow that to happen without saying a word?

**From:** Ms Angel Garden <angelgarden@mac.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Enquiry - Defamation of those whistle blowing a cult  
**Date:** 16 November 2012 5:46:26 am GMT  
**To:** jackofkent@gmail.com



Hello David, I'm not sure whether you received this email, as they do sometimes go astray, so I'm just sending it again, just in case. I'd appreciate an acknowledgement.

Many thanks and best wishes

Angel

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ms Angel Garden <angelgarden@mac.com>  
**Subject:** Enquiry - Defamation of those whistle blowing a cult  
**Date:** 12 November 2012 10:46:36 am GMT+13:00  
**To:** jackofkent@gmail.com

Dear David

I'm writing to you to ask for your help as I know that you've dealt with some really difficult cases of defamation. In fact it is entirely possible that others will contact you in regard to this case, due to skeptic connections, but I'm not writing about some case of a "quack" issuing defamation to stop evidence coming to light.

Andy Lewis has referred me to Arkell v Pressdram, which I guess he thinks is very funny, but what he's overlooked is the fact that in that case, it was Private Eye who had all the evidence, whereas in this one, it's us, and we do have heaps of it, both of personal and professional smearing (including from the wife of a prominent mental health lecturer), and also, of Andy knowingly making omissions in his 'reporting' on Steiner education, that, given the realities, do amount to misleading the public/fraud.

The reason we're at this juncture is that skeptics are not prepared to look at the evidence and so we have become the target of a heavy overt and covert smear campaign by skeptics on the internet: they just use their followers to crush our voice. That will not stop them opining about the difficulties experienced by those subject to abuse in the Savile case, for example, and this is nothing so extreme as child sexual abuse, but it does concern the abuse of children, and Human Rights Law.

Would you please indicate that you would be open to me sending you a short summary of the situation so that you could maybe advise me as to the best path to pursue. Obviously, if you've been contacted by others, you'll have to tell me to bog off, but this campaign against me for standing up to a bullying school and for children, is a transparent bullying cover-up, and as anti-bullying advocates, rolling over just isn't a possibility.

Also, if you were thinking of advising others, it might be interesting for you to realise the extent of evidence we've collected over the last year.

Cheers

Angel Garden.

**DISCLOSURE - FEBRUARY 2015 - Part 5**

- Tab 1 Email from C2 to Bob Lawrence [Redacted]
  - Tab 2 Tweet from D1
  - Tab 3 How Steiner Schools treat people
  - Tab 4 Quotes taken from correspondence to and from TRSS
- 

**Tab 3 - How Steiner Schools treat people [25-Jul-2014 & 8-Nov-2014]**

Fairy-tale fallout - Education - The Listener

“Over an extraordinary few months, parents and staff left the school in droves. The school has no clear record of numbers. But those we talked to say the racism – and **the way the school “vilified” those who spoke out against it** – drove out six of Te Ra’s 35 staff members and more than 29 families. It was a huge hit for the roll, which is now 157.”

“After the racism claims surfaced, there were fraught meetings and shouting matches, sides were taken and friendships abruptly cut off. The tight school community tore itself apart. The investigator’s report later found that, initially, “the problem was denied [by Te Ra] and **those raising it were vilified to the point where their continued involvement with the school became untenable for them and for many others**”. “

Switzerland-ERSL

**“it still astounds me the way they made us feel we were the problem, when it was our child who was the victim! Just like in your case!”**

**DISCLOSURE - FEBRUARY 2015 - Part 5**

- Tab 1 Email from C2 to Bob Lawrence [Redacted]
- Tab 2 Tweet from D1
- Tab 3 How Steiner Schools treat people
- Tab 4 Quotes taken from correspondence to and from TRSS

-----

**Tab 3 - How Steiner Schools treat people [25-Jul-2014 & 8-Nov-2014]**

Fairy-tale fallout - Education - The Listener

“Over an extraordinary few months, parents and staff left the school in droves. The school has no clear record of numbers. But those we talked to say the racism – and **the way the school “vilified” those who spoke out against it** – drove out six of Te Ra’s 35 staff members and more than 29 families. It was a huge hit for the roll, which is now 157.”

“After the racism claims surfaced, there were fraught meetings and shouting matches, sides were taken and friendships abruptly cut off. The tight school community tore itself apart. The investigator’s report later found that, initially, “the problem was denied [by Te Ra] and **those raising it were vilified to the point where their continued involvement with the school became untenable for them and for many others**”. “

Switzerland-ERSL

**“it still astounds me the way they made us feel we were the problem, when it was our child who was the victim! Just like in your case!”**

She reports constant harrassment, chasing, unwanted attention and she appears weary and enervated and says each morning that she doesn't want to go.

**11th May 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090511.html>**

*From Angel Garden, Steve Paris to Susanne Cole, Mark Thornton, Sheryl Mace, Heather Peri*

[R] reported to us today that [...] hit her with a pencil, or 'flicked' her. She said that she told Mrs Cole and that he had to apologise twice. She said that although it had felt 'dealt with', she did not think it would stop him doing it again. She was displaying the wired behaviour we were talking about last week, and we cannot avoid noticing that she did not report any incidents between last week, when there were incidents, and today, when there was another one. i.e. when she does not get hit in any way at school, she does not exhibit the behaviour.

[...]

She also said that she is largely the only one who is telling, certainly the only one of the girls. Since I have now seen the guidelines and they encourage and exhort all children to report all incidents, what are you doing to build that into your daily culture?

**14th May 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090514-1657.html>**

*From Heather Peri to Angel Garden, Steve Paris*

During the course of recent Lower School Meetings a number of developmentally appropriate initiatives have been discussed to support a number of children in the class who are causing concern, which Mrs Cole has initiated in her class.

The College of Teachers also recently completed a class study for Class 3/4 and, along with the insights gathered from all teachers at the Lower School Meeting, a number of further strategies are currently being initiated.

**15th May 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090515-1148.html>**

*From Angel Garden, Steve Paris to Susanne Cole, Mark Thornton, Heather Peri, Sheryl Mace*

Today I have heard two disturbing things while talking to a parent about next week's school trip. Pauline Marshall told me she saw a child from class 3/4 in obvious distress from some physical incident, coming in for first aid and basically in a right state at the very beginning of the day.

At the same time she confirmed to me, what [R] had told me yesterday, that another child is leaving this class because of such incidents and the general 'bullying', her words, not mine.

**15th May 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090515.html>**

*From Heather Peri to Angel Garden, Steve Paris*

Parents will also be advised of the steps that will be taken should children not be responding appropriately to the strategies the school has put in place to build a more positive learning environment.

**21st May 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090521.html>**

*From Angel Garden, Steve Paris to the School Trustees*

Instead, the Anthroposophical Impulse is invoked as the reason that the school cannot come into line with the rest of the world on developing (and possibly adapting) a policy of zero tolerance of intentional hurting.

**24th May 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090524.html>**

*From the Sean Gribben [Trust Chair] to Angel Garden, Steve Paris*

Thank you for your letter dated 21/05/09 outlining your concerns with the behavioural issues in class 3/4 and how these are being dealt with by the College of Teachers.

We (the Trust) we made aware by the CoT that there were issues they were dealing with on an email from Heather Peri dated 21/05/09 giving us a brief outline of things and their plans for working to resolve things.

You may not be aware but the "structure" of the relationship between the teachers, principal/management and trust in the Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School is quite different to other schools.

The Trust Deed which the school is founded on leaves the management of the school, teachers and pupils to the teachers (CoT) and the Trusts role is to supply the facilities and money to enable this to happen.

Unfortunately this leaves the issue you have raised to be dealt with by the CoT as it does not fall within the role of the Trust.

That said we are very concerned about this and will be working closely with the CoT/Management team to assist in any way we can and to see that your concerns are addressed.

We understand that Mark Thornton will be (may have already) contacting you about meeting and following up on things so hopefully this will be a step towards resolving things.

Heather is away for a week and therefore the Trust and Cot will not meet until the week of the 1/06/09 but please be assured we will be discussing this and the progress being made to see a resolution.

Please feel free to email me [email address] or ph [phone numbers] if you feel you would like to discuss this further.

Yours faithfully

Rudolf Steiner School (Titirangi) Trust

**26th May 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090526-1609.html>**

*From Angel Garden, Steve Paris to Mark Thornton*

there was an incident where [...] tried to pull [R] from the monkey bars by both feet, which he had also done to [...] the week before, resulting in [...] hitting her head on a post as she fell flat on her back, having no way to support herself. This incident resulted in him having to 'apologise without smirking'. And although the day he did it to [R], his movements about the school were curtailed, he did not apparently stay within the allotted area. When I rang Susanne, she was not keen to

discuss it, and suggested that I should bring it up in the class meeting which was the next day, because it should "all come out in the open", an invitation which, on reflection, I declined.

I have last week received answer to my email from [an ex-parent] regarding my disappointment and sadness at her having to take [...] out of school. To my utter horror and astonishment, she has sent me many links and resources which, although they will be helpful in my research into the subject, also highlight what she has herself told me, for example in this sentence

"Whilst my decision has been to remove [...] I wish you the very best with this. It is not something that can be easily dealt with, as I know from the months and years I have put into this issue."

A very disturbing picture is emerging of parents having been trying in isolation to address this issue, obviously for a very long time. And yet you told Steve in effect that no-one else has ever complained like this. Certainly we have never been informed, during any discussion that others were having the same struggle. This may account for the long-running reputation of the school as being a place of bullying, as we hear over and over again. It does also make us wonder what other information or facts are being withheld.

[...]

Today on the school outing, apparently the children were made to sit alternating boy/girl in one of the vehicles, and on the way back [R] was next to [...] who had thrown a stone at her during the trip! She did tell about this and so adults were aware of the situation. Also on the trip, [...] was whipping her with a piece of flax, which was taken off him. He then was thrashing about with an old branch, narrowly missing [...]’s head. [...], meanwhile, was poking people with a really sharp object. [...]’s netball trophy got broken in her bag and her distress at this was mocked by [...] who was singing a song about her crying sounding like choking. Apparently also [...] is teased about being too thin, whereas [...] has in the past been teased about being too fat. No wonder [R] told me, before the outing last week to Aratake, that it didn't feel safe to be a girl at school as [...] had ridiculed any and every suggestion as to how she could do her hair up.

[...]

So while we appreciate the import and implications of the action of informing the Ministry and the necessity to safeguard the Anthroposophical base of school life, which they may very well not understand...we cannot see how any further delay will benefit the children who are being harassed and bullied, and feel that it is a moral duty to take actions which will result in their protection. We are incredulous that no-one appears to have done this before.

**27th May 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090527.html>**  
*From Mark Thornton to Angel Garden, Heather Peri, Sheryl Mace, Sean Gribben*

I feel that we have reached an impasse and I hope we can find common ground and understand each other better. I feel sure that what you, as parents, and we, as the school, want must have far more in common than otherwise.

Although, as our Trustees have quite properly stated, the responsibility for this area lies with the College, it might well be that by including someone from the Trust in our meeting we might make strides towards a shared picture which would represent something worth working towards.

I do not intend a proscriptive approach to a meeting and hope my answer carries enough clarity.

**1st June 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090601-2228.html>**

*From Angel Garden, Steve Paris to Mark Thornton, Heather Peri, Sheryl Mace*

Would you state why the matter cannot be dealt with until Thursday please? That will be a week since the day this occurred and that is too long for an 8 year old to have to manage the stress of such a situation.

In the meantime, [R] cannot be expected to go to school with [...] and be in the care of...who knows...? It is not a safe situation for her and so we must do what you suggested to us some time ago if we cannot entrust her to the school, and keep her at home.

Each day until this matter is resolved is a day that [R] will stay at home because of bullying at school. This is in direct contravention of her right to a safe education and we will be recording it as evidence of the extraordinary manner in which the Steiner School would prefer to keep those who bully others at the school, and let those who are being bullied stay at home, rather than put in place a consistent and transparent strategy for eliminating bullying.

[...]

We note that as yet, although the school has stated an intention to meet and discuss these matters, no actual date has been suggested and remind you of your duty to respond in a timely manner.

**2nd June 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090602-1051.html>**

*From Angel Garden to Mark Thornton*

As far as the CoT is concerned, would you please reply to our request that members attend who specifically disagree that there should be a clearly transparent system of steps with clear and transparent consequences for children who hurt others. I know, for example, that Judith Cunningham feels that this will be violent to a child who is thus monitored. Although we respect and understand (eventually) how the structure of the school works, if the structure itself is used as a way to prevent these issues from being properly, or openly dealt with, then that is prejudicial to fairness. More than that, at this point, it will not further that point of view for those who hold it to remain silent, as we are taking action on this issue one way or another.

(It must also, incidentally, make your job very hard!)

I will be contacting the Ministry again this week to find out exactly what the implications of them being brought in are, specifically, whether they can force the school to implement a system which is (possibly) really antithetical to Anthroposophy, or whether, even if the Steiner School is put on notice to improve the system, there will be more room for creativity in approach. This is not by way of further delay, and as we have said, it is time for the School to look with an open mind at the programmes and systems which have proved themselves in putting a stop to bullying behaviour in many schools in many different countries, as many of the parents at the school believe.

**5th June 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090605-1138.html>**

*From Angel Garden, Steve Paris to Mark Thornton*

The matter is that today [R] was threatened with an axe by [...] who pushed her backwards into a post, she sustaining several knocks. [R] told the teacher and he exhorted everyone to get along apparently. Meanwhile [R] having fallen down a bank, she climbed back up and when she got to the top [...] pushed her hard to she fell back down. [R] did not tell the teacher this time. She said that she knew nothing would happen.

[...]

Apparently he also pushed [...] down, who didn't tell either. [R] said that there was potentially a long way to fall, we will verify that in the morning.

**5th June 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090605-1221.html>**

*From Angel Garden, Steve Paris to Mark Thornton*

Being threatened with an axe and pushed down a steep bush-covered bank, has not helped either. We consider the school's actions in leaving [R] alone with [...], given that he had already told the school in his 'interview' that he was 'pissed off' with [R], in a situation involving sharp tools, to lack any professional integrity whatsoever and any complaints about her must be taken in that context. What were they?

**6th June 2009 - <http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/090606-2056.html>**

*From Desmond Burdon [Trustee] to Angel Garden, Steve Paris*

I tried phoning this evening, as I'd rather speak than write. I am extremely sorry about what's happened and need to confirm what I have told you before. The Trust, and I, had no say or action in the out come of CoT decision. We had a meeting with Mark on Thurs eve. and were set to "sit in" on the proposed meeting with you on Mon at 3:00 pm. Mark did call me on Fri. Afternoon to tell me that the CoT had made a final decision, then followed the letter, which I only saw late this afternoon. (Sat.)

## **Is it the parents' fault?**

### **C21-1 - Waldorf Critics (18 Nov 2009) - About our Titirangi Experience**

“It is classic Steiner school behavior when confronted with their own abysmal failures: staff stalling for months in an apparent effort to avoid urgently needed action to ensure children's safety and emotional well-being, prevaricating, ignoring parents' written concerns, and finally misrepresenting the facts to the parent body at the expense of innocent children and their families.

These parents have done an excellent job of documenting the school's misdeeds. I am only halfway through the archives. It's like reliving our own horrible Waldorf nightmare. I know many other former Waldorf parents will find their detailed account of their experience--with its entire chain of correspondence--unpleasantly familiar.

Dan, I hope you're posting the link on the PLANS website. It perfectly illustrates so many problems with Waldorf, not just the dangerous attitude to the bullying issue but also insensitivity to children, disregard for safety, unprofessional stalling tactics, outrageous hostility to parents who make legitimate efforts to rectify serious problems, and an utter lack of normal understanding of right and wrong.”

### **C20-681 - Private Email (21 Nov 2009)**

There is nothing in your story that I have not heard many times before from parents of children at Steiner schools, except the specific detail of an axe being involved. The one big difference is that you have documented it so well. It seems to be standard operating procedure that when parents draw attention--no matter how courteously and discreetly--to inappropriate behavior or inadequate supervision by teachers at Steiner schools, their children are made to suffer, the parents are shunned, and the children and/or their parents are badmouthed to the rest of the school community. It all too frequently ends with the children being booted from the school, if the family has not already left in anger. Over a period of 12 years, I saw it happen to other families at our Steiner school. I know many parents who have seen it at other Steiner schools. I always assumed the parents had failed to communicate appropriately with the school about their issues and that all could have been resolved if only they had done so. Then it happened to us, and finally our eyes were opened. It seems not to matter how bad the wrongdoing of the teachers; they typically circle the wagons and defend their fellow Anthroposophists at the expense of innocent children.

### **C6-3055 Carol's Couch (30 Aug 2010)**

In order to try and understand what happened I have spoken with many families worldwide over the last few years. What is striking is when a family complains and begins to ask too many questions there appears to be a pattern:

1. When the parents complain and request a meeting, the school deliberately procrastinates delaying the parent alerting the authorities.
2. A meeting is finally arranged where a very different (Anthroposophical) interpretation is given by the teachers/trustees in an attempt to manipulate the parents into thinking there is no problem.
3. The parents become so frustrated they make contact with the authorities.
4. The school may expel the child at this point and start a smear campaign telling the community (including the children) there is something wrong with the parents/child who has filed the complaint.
5. The authorities request the notes, the school 'loses' the notes.
6. In order to further suggest the parents/child are at fault a trespass notice is issued.
7. When all else fails the schools have been known to make anonymous calls to social services.

### **C6-3055 - Carol's Couch (8 Sep 2010)**

Instead of the teachers and the head of a school handling terrible situations caused by a specific teacher (or even the head of a school), Waldorf does the opposite. They turn the victim and victim's family into criminals worthy of expulsion. They literally demonize the whole family and create gossip and injury to the children.”

### **C13-5301 - The Listener (Page 1) (July 2014)**

those we talked to say the racism – and the way the school “vilified” those who spoke out against it – drove out six of Te Ra’s 35 staff members and more than 29 families.

#### **(Page 4)**

“the problem was denied [by Te Ra] and those raising it were vilified to the point where their continued involvement with the school became untenable for them and for many others”.

**C6-3188 - Waldorf Critics (28 Sep 2010)**

you would get conflicting testimony because you would get the lies spread around the school to counteract the damage that could be done if people knew the truth. I heard many stories as to why children and their families were to blame for situations that led to their leaving our Waldorf school. I sometimes heard the parents' side of the story but usually gave the school the benefit of the doubt because I was one of those people who thought the school was wonderful and could not believe that any school could be capable of some of the things parents claimed had happened. Then it happened to my family, and then I heard the lies that were going around the school. That's when I learned for the first time that truth and integrity — things I value — were not valued at our Waldorf school. Since then, I've heard many, many stories from parents around the world that indicate deception and lack of integrity are systemic in Waldorf education. [...]

Waldorf schools have, among many other problems, an intrinsic problem with truthfulness and honesty. I warn any satisfied Waldorf parents to pay more attention when families leave the school suddenly or unexpectedly and to dig deep to find out what really happened. Do not accept the school's version at face value. Ask questions. See if your questions are encouraged or discouraged. See if the answers really make sense in the context of the real world, not just the secretive murky world of Waldorf, where everything has meaning that you don't necessarily fully understand. And most importantly, call or write to the parents of the children who left and ask them to tell you about the situation from their point of view.

**C18-7180 - The Problem Child (Page 3)**

I'm appalled at the way they shoved everything under the carpet, refusing systematically to answer our questions or even to simply dialogue with us; it still astounds me the way they made us feel we were the problem, when it was our child who was the victim!

**C20-328 - From The Waldorf Review's page header:**

'rude to parents' 'do not trust them' 'shame and humiliation to "discipline" students' 'cultish'  
'they began to threaten us with expulsion when we asked too many questions'  
'communication problems'

**C20-347 - The Waldorf Review - Norwich Steiner School - (Page 2) (4 Aug 2013)**

I expressed my displeasure at the way the school had handled both the initial problem and my complaint but for a brief minute felt we were getting somewhere. Then at the end of this meeting I was informed that the school had raised a child protection issue against me concerning improper sexual conduct with my daughter. I don't think I either need to or even could accurately describe how I felt upon hearing this. I still now even weeks later cannot truly believe that an organisation that deems itself fit to look after children could stoop to such disgustingly low standards.

**C20-447 - The Waldorf Review (Page 2)**

Without trying to sound tacky, I felt my leaving the Waldorf was very similar to leaving a cult. I was shunned and lost everything.

**C13-5313 Lies, Damned Lies (Jan 2013?)**

"Many (parents) are referred to in negative terms behind their backs".

**C5-2928 - Alicia Hamberg - Kingdom of Childhood (Novel) (Page 4) - 14 Oct 2011**

the tendency to ignore problems instead of dealing with them. Hoping they'll just go away. Or that nobody will notice. Or that you can bluff yourself out of a crisis. Waldorf schools have these fantastic communities that everyone has to believe are fantastic, or the image crumbles. Bad things happening detracts from the feeling of being blessed."

**C13-5313 - Lies, Damned Lies quoting Alicia Hamberg**

many waldorf educators -- including those who make videos, including those who seem a bit more enlightened (or have humour) -- feel that anyone who complains or anyone who is or feels hurt must have something wrong with their heads. Either they're disturbed, or they're hysterical, or... in any case, the 'fault' is with them.

**C21-10 - Alicia Hamberg - Waldorf and the Media 2 (Page 1-2) - 29 Jan 2013**

Among the more serious consequences that might occur, if someone has not already been put off pursuing the topic, it is worth looking at a few examples. For what it's worth, they are not made up, and they are only examples. They are all things I have seen or read people report, some of these things occur again and again. [...] you will be called a wide variety of ugly names; then, of course, there is general smearing and defamation of character — in private and in public you will risk being dragged into the gutter: you are not only ignorant or hateful or bitter or vengeful or a darned materialist, which speaks to your lowly character, perhaps you are also some kind of crazed sex maniac or you are debilitated or you are mentally disturbed or you are guilty of criminal acts or you suffer some other moral or mental decrepitude or derangement.

Basically, anything — invented, half-true or whatever, it doesn't really matter — that can be used against you might be used against you, in any distorted shape or form; anything to preserve the movement and to rubbish you. It will not be about the validity or the substance of your experiences, claims or arguments — it will be about you.

**Tab 76 C8-3768 - 1.2.2012 at 9:06 - the 2nd defendant:**

In Steiner you often hear about it. In Edinburgh apparently a child's arm was broken. I'm not sure if that was ever reported, but I was told that the family (who of course complained) were ostracised by the school community.

**Tab 90 C8-3904 - 29.2.2012 - the 2nd defendant -**

The role of karma is well established, and I'm certain it is sometimes played out in the odd decisions Steiner teachers make about children. I've often read or heard accounts of apparently unchecked bullying amongst quite small children in Steiner kindergartens, as well as with older children.

**Tab 99 C8-3934 - 13.3.2012 at 8:51 - the 2nd defendant**

"Steiner schools quite often exclude parents, in my experience."

**Tab 119 C9-4122 - 10.5.2012 at 17:12 - Diana Winters**

"Sadly, it occurs to me that the stories of what happened to her children are probably NOT exaggerated. Which would make the whole thing just incredibly sad."

**Tab 172 C10-4374 - 22.12.2012 - Diana Winters**

"I supposed the original reports about their daughter being bullied were probably true - they're in accordance with many reports from Steiner schools"

**C13-5080 - What Every Parent... (Page 396) - 16 Jun 2014**

However, when hundreds of thousands of dollars of school fees began disappearing and I queried where it went, we were very quickly shunned as a family by the school community.

**C15-6167 Steiner Schools and Risk Factors for Child Abuse (Page 3) - 5 Nov 2012**

An organisation founded on deceit is unlikely to be in the best position to protect children.

**C14-5413 - Frome Steiner Academy: Absurd Educational Quackery - 27 Feb 2012**

That all sounds wonderful. What they do not say is that this approach is based on occult thinking, astrology, clairvoyance and esoteric cult-like beliefs.

**C14-5643 - The Insidious Pervasiveness of the Cult of Rudolf Steiner - 5 Jul 2012**

**C15-6167 Steiner Schools and Risk Factors for Child Abuse (Page 4) - 5 Nov 2012**

There are consistent reports of how Steiner Schools have a laissez faire attitude to problems such as bullying within schools. [...] Karmic influences need to be worked out and if a child is being bullied then intervention may interfere with the child's destiny.

**C2-1688 - Bill Roache, Karma, Reincarnation and Steiner Schools. (Page 2) - 19 Mar 2013**

This worldview has consequences within schools. It is a common complaint that bullying goes unchecked as there is a belief that the bullied and the bullier and reversing roles from previous incarnations and these karmic issues must be worked out by the children.

**C20-188 - Testimonial from TRSS**

My daughter has been at the School for a year in the nursery(which was lovely) and the first term in one of the kindys. Our dreams were shattered when she was bullied by a classmate, ending in being covertly punched in the face. We would have persevered with the school, if the teachers could have given us a sincere response of concern followed by a clear and effective plan to change the attitude and behavior of the bully. Unfortunately their behavior showed scant concern, and no assurance of commitment or method to change the situation. We have withdrawn our daughter, but will still be part of a process to have the issue of bullying in the kindys confronted and changed. Your website helped us to come to this decision immediately, realizing that the school was not ignorant or innocent of the problem, but would seem to have a strange and hidden position.

I want to thank you for your website. you have been brave, intelligent, and determined in trying to work with the school to illuminate and overcome its grave and engrained fault of protecting bullying. ( which clearly also harms the children who are bullies). I totally commend your emphasis on rational honesty.

**Guidelines for Child Study - Working with Angels, Beings and Children**

(Page 20 of C20-200) - August 28, 2010 - 11:40 pm - Melanie Byng

More and more I am convinced that not only should the UK taxpayer not fund Steiner Waldorf schools, these schools must and will be exposed, and the inevitable and desirable consequence of this will be that they cease to exist. 'Choice' is not an issue – this is a farce, not a viable educational alternative.

**Kicking Us Off the Platform**

Gregoire Pera

Tab 141 C9-4221 - 2/9/2012 23:03

Alicia - Andy needs Gregoire's permission to initiate a translation - I'm being a bit pushy due to the hideous A&S situation.

Tab 143 C9-4225 - 1/9/2012 00:00

if I were Gregoire I'd appreciate a warning about A&S

Tab 144 C9-4230 - 15/9/2012 at 23:55

ignore Steve! He doesn't need our help. His worst insult is calling me "Ms Byng", to "flag up" a hint of gross-professional-misconduct-by-proxy, like a desperate Sune. Call an ambulance. yes, you can see the teeth marks on his shins.

Tab 145 C9-4233 - 20/9/2012 at 9:01pm (Sam?)

I worry they're going to seriously undermine his case, does he realise how dangerous they are? He may need to consider legal action himself.

Tab 145 C9-4233 - 20/9/2012 at 9:08pm

I agree, it's extremely unfortunate. Unless there's another translation soon it will be impossible to discuss his case without confronting what they're doing.

Tab 148 - C9-4248 - 28.9.2012 at 13:20

they have a translation too? Bugger. Well, he can't stop them but at least they didn't get any money out of him? so that will piss them off, and it must have taken a huge amount of time too.

Tab 148 C9-4265 - 28.9.2012 - Diana Winters

"I did see Angel and Steve's translation of Gregoire's article - it looked like a darn good translation, I have to say, though I haven't read but a brief bit; I did have the impressions it was very polished. It is actually a shame we can't work with them on this - a shame that they 'got to' Gregoire a little too soon. I mean it's too bad to have several people duplication efforts with the translation."

Mr Gove (27/4/2012)

X-05 - C12-4987 - 13/5/2012 at 13:03 - (to Richy Thompson of the BHA)

it's best not to give them any attention or RT their work. I'm occasionally forced into warning others if they're being prolific (as they are today).

X-05 - C12-4987 - 13/5/2012 at 2:13pm (from Richy to Melanie)

Thanks for the heads up. They've been tweeting at us for a while too - DC gave me a similar warning some time ago!

Tab 117 C9-4062 - 7/5/2012 at 14:33 (to Alicia)

she must know I'm talking to people in private (on twitter). No one tweets their videos even though they're coming from Steve now, so it's confusing.

Tab 123 - C9-4166 - 13/5/2012 at 19:09 (to Alicia, Diana Winters)

"I've done my very best on Twitter - so many people to write to...I've tried to stop people tweeting their stuff but I don't know everyone. Sent your post to several people who asked if they should be concerned. So there, it was useful.

Tab 123 C9-4166 - 13/5/2012 at 20:11 (to Alicia, Diana Winters)

I can only see Good Schools Guide tweeting it - I've spoken to her (she was mortified when she realised who it was)

#### The Waldorf Critics

C9-4048 - 3/5/2012 at 15:44 (Melanie to Diana and Alicia)

Diana has boxed them into a corner. it isn't going to be easy to respond gracefully.

C9-4054 - 4/5/2012 at 23:55 (Diana to Melanie and Alicia)

Eventually they will get angry, and then it probably won't be hard to get rid of them.

C9-4053 5/5/2012 at 02:32 (Diana to Melanie and Alicia)

I hope they engage with Pete some more; he'll provoke them...

#### Warning the HRC

Tab 74 - C8-3750 - 26.1.2012 at 13:36 - 2nd defendant:

don't think it hasn't occurred to me to write to the human rights commission, or whatever it is, in NZ and inform them of her behaviour. That one text to me should do it.

Tab 109 - C9-4032 - 28.4.2012 at 6:52 - 2nd Defendant:

In other words, if someone was to suggest to the commission that they are unsafe they'd be doubly unlikely to support a legal case which they'd then have to pay for themselves.

Tab 109 - C9-4032 - 28.4.2012 at 19:57 - Alicia:

problem is, I think, that to suggest this, you might have to reveal who you are, and Angel and Steve would have the right to know this too. Personally, I wouldn't risk it. They'd go after you for libel.

On may article of ANGELIC DISHARMONY in May 2012 (a thread that attacked us from 9th May to 9th of September 2012 with no right of reply [C4-2579]

*the article contained a link to the Titirangi Steiner School's website. Clicking on that link would register on the school's site analytics. The more people clicked on it, the higher up the list Angelic Disharmony would appear, increasing the odds that the school would spot the link, check it out and perhaps us all those attacks as ammunition to derail the Human Rights Settlement we were having with them at the time during May-Dec 2012.*

64. From 4 to 7 November 2012 the Claimants' Twitter campaign escalated further in particular through use of their @Steinermentary Twitter handle as follows:

4 November 2012      *"@marel\_matt @Kevin Wheldall would u b interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that [the First Defendant] censored from his blog? [link]"*

*"@KevinBullMusic @deevybee would u be interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that [the First Defendant] censored from his blog? [link]"*

*"@Anna-Webb wouldyou like to see a worrying vid re #steiner & #freeschools that [the First Defendant] censored from his blog? [link]"*

*"@keithgrimes @Horsham\_Skeptic wld u b interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that [the First Defendant]"*

*censored from his blog? [link].”*

*“@anarchic\_tepot @Nebula63 wld u b interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that [the First Defendant] censored from his blog? [link].”*

*“@FromeLabour @kausikdatta22 wld u b interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that [the First Defendant] censored from his blog? [link].”*

*“@jdc325 @\_JosephineJones wld u b interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that [the First Defendant] censored from his blog? [link].”*

5 November 2012 *“@MycroftII @StitchMitchell @[the First Defendant] I thought [the First Defendant] said he published everything without moderation unless it triggered his spam filter”*

*“@LeabFHardy pro Steiners aren’t the only ones who try to censor stuff online; [the First Defendant] censors stuff too, like this video: [link]”*

7 November 2012 *“@PhDelinquent sadly nothing will change as long as people critical of #steiner keep mobbing the whistleblowers and spread lies about them.”*

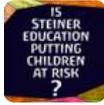
*“@PhDelinquent Kylie asked [the First Defendant] why no one is speaking out. We have and we’ve been attacked by the Steiner critics and the skeptics.*



**Matt Kaiser** @marvel\_matt · 4 Nov 2012

<applauds> What Every Parent Should Know About Steiner-Waldorf Schools, by @lecanardnoir [quackometer.net/blog/2012/11/w...](http://quackometer.net/blog/2012/11/w...)

Reply icon Retweet icon 2 More options icon



**Steinermentary**

@steinermentary

@marvel\_matt @KevinWheldall would u b interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that Andy censored from his blog? [is.gd/mrgove](http://is.gd/mrgove)

	<p><b>Complete Version: Whistleblowing in Education - Mr Gove's...</b></p> <p>[Note: this video combines all three shorter parts into one, for those who prefer to watch the whole story in one go.] As Brits prepare to shell out their me...</p> <p><a href="http://youtube.com">youtube.com</a></p>
--	--

6:36 PM - 4 Nov 2012

Reply icon Retweet icon Video icon More options icon



Reply to @marvel\_matt @KevinWheldall



**Kevin Wheldall** @KevinWheldall · 4 Nov 2012

Thanks; will watch when I can. @steinermentary @marvel\_matt @KevinWheldall

Reply icon Retweet icon More options icon



**Steinermentary** @steinermentary · 4 Nov 2012

@KevinWheldall @marvel\_matt hope you like it :)

Once you've had a chance to watch it, I'd be interested to hear what you think of it.

Reply icon Retweet icon Video icon More options icon

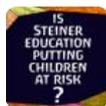
Kevin Bull Retweeted



**Dorothy Bishop** @deevybee · 4 Nov 2012

RT @lecanardnoir:what parents shld know abt Steiner Schools [qako.me/VizQbp](http://qako.me/VizQbp)  
<+ comment from me on Aric Sigman link

9 2



**Steinermentary**

@steinermentary

@KevinBullMusic @deevybee would u be interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that Andy censored from his blog?  
[is.gd/mrgove](http://is.gd/mrgove)

**Complete Version: Whistleblowing in Education - Mr Gove's...**

[Note: this video combines all three shorter parts into one, for those who prefer to watch the whole story in one go.] As Brits prepare to shell out their me...

[youtube.com](http://youtube.com)

6:34 PM - 4 Nov 2012

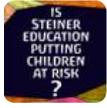
9



Reply to @KevinBullMusic @deevybee

Trends

- #InspiringWomen Promoted by App Store
- #InternationalWomensDay
- #BadSexIn3Words
- #WhatWomenWant
- Wales
- #GETGARYTOCLAIRES40TH
- TAG Heuer
- Grace Poe
- Sharapova
- Mark Carney
- Samsung Galaxy S7



**Steinermentary**

@steinermentary

@Anna\_Webb would you like to see a worrying vid re #steiner & #freeschools that Andy censored from his blog?

[is.gd/mrgove](http://is.gd/mrgove)

	<p><b>Complete Version: Whistleblowing in Education - Mr Gove's...</b></p> <p>[Note: this video combines all three shorter parts into one, for those who prefer to watch the whole story in one go.] As Brits prepare to shell out their me...</p> <p>youtube.com</p>
--	---

7:53 PM - 4 Nov 2012



Reply to @Anna\_Webb

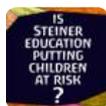
Trends

- #InspiringWomen Promoted by App Store
- #InternationalWomensDay
- #BadSexIn3Words
- #WhatWomenWant
- Wales
- #GETGARYTOCLAIRES40TH
- TAG Heuer
- Grace Poe
- Sharapova
- Mark Carney
- Samsung Galaxy S7



**Dr Keith Grimes** @keithgrimes · 4 Nov 2012

@marvel\_matt @lecanardnoir I had a friend who worked in Edinburgh Teen mental health unit (only one in scotland). 2/3 Steiner kids.



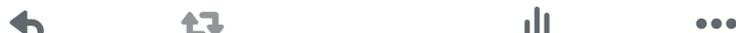
**Steinermentary**

@steinermentary

@keithgrimes @Horsham\_Skeptic wld u b interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that Andy censored from his blog?  
[is.gd/mrgove](http://is.gd/mrgove)

	<p><b>Complete Version: Whistleblowing in Education - Mr Gove's...</b></p> <p>[Note: this video combines all three shorter parts into one, for those who prefer to watch the whole story in one go.] As Brits prepare to shell out their me...</p> <p><a href="http://youtube.com">youtube.com</a></p>
--	--

6:37 PM - 4 Nov 2012

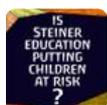


Reply to @keithgrimes @Horsham\_Skeptic



**Horsham\_Skeptics** @Horsham\_Skeptic · 8 Nov 2012

@steinermentary Only just seen your tweet, thanks - I'll watch it when I get home later :)



**Steinermentary** @steinermentary · 8 Nov 2012

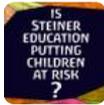
@Horsham\_Skeptic no worries. I hope you like it. Let me know what you think of it pls :)





**anarchic\_teapot** @anarchic\_teapot · 4 Nov 2012

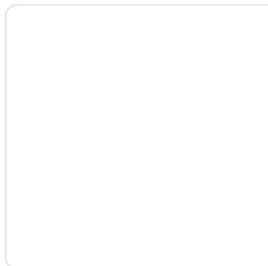
Good grief, "Daniel" is terrifying. RT @lecanardnoir: Interesting comments appearing now on my Steiner School post. [qako.me/VizQbp](http://qako.me/VizQbp)



**Steinermentary**

@steinermentary

@anarchic\_teapot @Nebula63 would u be interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that Andy censored from his blog? [is.gd/mrgove](http://is.gd/mrgove)



**Complete Version: Whistleblowing in Education - Mr Gove's...**

[Note: this video combines all three shorter parts into one, for those who prefer to watch the whole story in one go.] As Brits prepare to shell out their me...

[youtube.com](http://youtube.com)

6:37 PM - 4 Nov 2012



Reply to @anarchic\_teapot @Nebula63

### Trends

- #InspiringWomen Promoted by App Store
- #InternationalWomensDay
- #BadSexIn3Words
- #WhatWomenWant
- Wales
- #GETGARYTOCLAIRES40TH
- Grace Poe
- Mark Carney
- Kim Kardashian
- Sharapova
- Samsung Galaxy S7

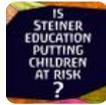
From Labour Retweeted



**Dr Keith Grimes** @keithgrimes · 4 Nov 2012

@marvel\_matt @lecanardnoir I had a friend who worked in Edinburgh Teen mental health unit (only one in scotland). 2/3 Steiner kids.

Reply icon Retweet icon 2 More options icon



**Steinermentary**

@steinermentary

@FromLabour @kausikdatta22 would u b interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that Andy censored from his blog? [is.gd/mrgove](http://is.gd/mrgove)

	<p><b>Complete Version: Whistleblowing in Education - Mr Gove's...</b></p> <p>[Note: this video combines all three shorter parts into one, for those who prefer to watch the whole story in one go.] As Brits prepare to shell out their me...</p> <p><a href="http://youtube.com">youtube.com</a></p>
--	--

6:38 PM - 4 Nov 2012

Reply icon Retweet icon Like icon More options icon



Reply to @FromLabour @kausikdatta22

Trends

- #InspiringWomen Promoted by App Store
- #InternationalWomensDay
- #BadSexIn3Words
- #WhatWomenWant
- Wales
- #GETGARYTOCLAIRES40TH
- Grace Poe
- Kim Kardashian
- Sharapova
- Mark Carney
- Samsung Galaxy S7

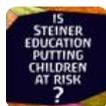
@jdc325 Retweeted



**Dorothy Bishop** @deevybee · 4 Nov 2012

RT @lecanardnoir:what parents shld know abt Steiner Schools [qako.me/VizQbp](http://qako.me/VizQbp)  
<+ comment from me on Aric Sigman link

9 2



**Steinermentary**

@steinermentary

@jdc325 @\_JosephineJones would u be interested in seeing a worrying vid re #steiner that Andy censored from his blog?  
[is.gd/mrgove](http://is.gd/mrgove)

**Complete Version: Whistleblowing in Education - Mr Gove's...**

[Note: this video combines all three shorter parts into one, for those who prefer to watch the whole story in one go.] As Brits prepare to shell out their me...

[youtube.com](http://youtube.com)

6:39 PM - 4 Nov 2012

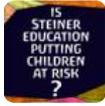
9



Reply to @jdc325 @\_JosephineJones

Trends

- #InspiringWomen Promoted by App Store
- #InternationalWomensDay
- #BadSexIn3Words
- #WhatWomenWant
- Wales
- #GETGARYTOCLAIRES40TH
- TAG Heuer
- Mark Carney
- Grace Poe
- Sharapova
- Samsung Galaxy S7



**Steinermentary**

@steinermentary

@LeahFHardy pro Steiners aren't the only ones who try to censor stuff online; Andy censors stuff too, like this video:

[is.gd/mrgove](http://is.gd/mrgove)

	<p><b>Complete Version: Whistleblowing in Education - Mr Gove's...</b></p> <p>[Note: this video combines all three shorter parts into one, for those who prefer to watch the whole story in one go.] As Brits prepare to shell out their me...</p> <p>youtube.com</p>
--	---

6:16 PM - 5 Nov 2012



Reply to @LeahFHardy

### Trends

- #InspiringWomen Promoted by App Store
- #InternationalWomensDay
- #BadSexIn3Words
- #WhatWomenWant
- Wales
- #GETGARYTOCLAIRES40TH
- Grace Poe
- Kim Kardashian
- Sharapova
- Mark Carney
- Samsung Galaxy S7



**Robert W Edwards**

*November 3, 2012 at 9:19 pm*

Great article but why no mention of all the unchecked bullying that apparently takes place in those schools? Here's a cool video I found on the subject:  
<http://t.co/OTwvZG7>

REPLY



**Robert W Edwards**

*November 5, 2012 at 9:13 am*

So do you not care about evidence of bad pedagogy provided by people who actually had family members attend a Steiner School? Is the entire issue / debate a mental exercise for you?

-r

Thanks for erasing my earlier post. Nice exchange of free ideas.

-- I

REPLY

1861-2011 : 150 years of Rudolf Steiner

# LUCIFEROACITY



**@zzzoey**  
alicia hamberg

one of the greatest joys of blogging comes from being able to derail discussion threads without having to suffer from a bad conscience.

7 Oct via [TweetDeck](#)

**An Open letter to all those identifying themselves as Steiner/Waldorf Critics.**

**Update: Since this letter was published, Thetis Mercurio has revealed herself to be Melanie Byng from Devon.**

*This letter to Steiner critics seeks answers to the following questions:*

- 1. Do the critics generally approve of the aggressive behaviour of some critics towards people who've had negative experiences of the Steiner movement but whose methods may not be understood?*
- 2. Do these people who apparently see themselves as gatekeepers of Steiner criticism actually represent the views of all critics?*

We unfortunately have to report the fact that we have observed and experienced both passive aggression arising out of a self-protective "need" for anonymity which makes it very hard to call someone to account, and active aggression, which seeks to destroy that which it says it does not understand, by means of public mobbing behaviour.

Either of these forces could have a very negative effect on anyone, but especially on families coming out of damaging scenarios at Steiner schools, where they experienced the schools' cultish, xenophobic, and often brutish behaviour. Finding such aggression among those apparently 'critical' of the awful behaviour of Steiner schools, could very well become a wounding force even

worse than the original, due to the secondary nature of the wounding together with a reasonable expectation of finding, among those claiming to be critical of Steiner education, at least a fair hearing.

From a loose network of people supposedly dedicated to stopping abuse and indoctrination? We think so.

But in the Steiner critics, these Luciferocious tendencies are not even operating alone, but together. We are now in the unfortunate position of being able to attest to that effect, where Steiner critics have publicly mobbed a family because their friend, whether they knew it or not, needed to hide behind anonymity, having already duffed the family up in private.

It has been a shocking experience, to say the least, and resembles nothing more strikingly than the behaviour of the Steiner School our kids went to. The anonymous critic displayed the same seductive, grooming types of behaviour that we have had to document at the school and the public mobbing was full of the same xenophobic projections that the school dished out, not caring how weak the logic and only intending to eject the "irritant" who wouldn't simply toe the line. It has been a devastating combination.

It is shocking to have to flag up such behaviours in the critics, but it gets worse because in mobbing us, Alicia Hamberg has clearly positioned herself as a protector of Steiner Critics generally, with significant influence and the apparent power to "endorse" projects. In banning us and professing the need to warn others about us; she has acted as a Gatekeeper.

*Likewise the anonymous "Thetis Mercurio" has been happy to be a kind of public face of Steiner criticism, if that isn't a conundrum! Yet her syrupy welcoming of distressed newcomers, all conducted through a pseudonym, disguises the fact that other things are going on in the background. So abusive is this combination, not only to adults, but also to children, that we sincerely believe that the only value in our recent experience is that we can now flag it up to others as another 'hole in the road' for them to avoid.*

*The only thing we don't know is whether the other critics actually do buy into it, hence this letter. We are not prepared to take Alicia Hamberg's word for her power to speak for all critics and whether or not we classify any critics mentioned here as Gatekeepers will depend solely on the responses we get to this letter.*

*Alicia Hamberg is of the opinion, as she said to us on her blog, that we are totally failing in our criticism of Steiner education:*

***"Your methods would, if you actually got that movie of yours finished and watched by anyone, sabotage criticism of Steiner/waldorf education for years to come. You're handing the waldorf movement the opportunity to dismiss — to laugh at — criticism on a plate."***

*Really? From over here, it's blindingly obvious that Alicia Hamberg, "Thetis Mercurio", Diana Winters, Pete*

*We are confident that at least one person, possibly more, must have observed what a targeting has taken place here, have noticed the way that huge projections have been made, and that we have been publicly drubbed, apparently because we had the temerity to mention the fact that if people do not name individual schools, then others will not be able to recognise the dangers of them.*

*Why those critics who have noticed that have said nothing, is a disturbing mystery.*

*Our methodology, as we described in **Safe To Tell**, is that we started from one simple observation, that although our daughter followed the advertised school policy which said that if you are bullied the thing to do is to tell, that when she told about the well documented bullying and assault, it was proven to be very unsafe, and we have continued to tell to see how far we have to go before it does become safe.*

*It is an interesting story, and sadly nowhere much more so than on Alicia's blog, where it is claimed that the critics are all about protecting children.*

*Does Alicia not know then, about how "Thetis Mercurio" has demonstrated what can really only be described as grooming behaviour towards our child? How can we call it otherwise when "Thetis Mercurio" made so many advances towards her, with healing offers of help to re-engage her with school, even sending out her son to us with the message that he came really only to talk to our daughter about his wonderful school, in the country. All this at the same time as having asked Angel to write an article for the Local Schools Network, as she knew that this could be helpful since we'd succeeded in getting in front of the Human Rights Tribunal. "Thetis Mercurio" also acknowledged the potential relevance of the New Zealand educational landscape to the Free school issue in the UK - and the timeliness of the opportunity - which came at a time of major stress for us, but was too important not to do, as "Thetis" said it was a really important opportunity.*

**Instead of working through any of the situations which she herself had initiated, however, "Thetis Mercurio" apparently then used the inconvenience caused by her own son as a reason to dump our daughter suddenly, without giving any reason. Just at the point that she began to show some interest, "Thetis Mercurio" suddenly refused to communicate with anyone in the family, in spite of her promised help, including with the article.**

**She then just sat back and allowed us to get viciously mobbed on the site of her friend Alicia, not even correcting Alicia's and Diana's nasty slurs on Angel's motivation for writing the article in the first place, which she absolutely knew to be untrue.**

**Even the absolute refusal of the mobbers to allow that we were still trying to put some humour into the situation, could have been alleviated if "Thetis Mercurio" had chosen to speak up, as she had told us how much she adored our comedy work and liked how we always tried to see the funny side, however bad the circumstance.**

**Could this be the same women who had written to Jenn (a woman who had attacked Alicia Hamberg via private email):**

*"To use your children as a shield to hide behind when in reality you've acted hastily and unkindly is the worst aspect of your behaviour so far"?*

*That's why it made us feel sick to read "Thetis Mercurio's" ingratiating welcoming of people into the critics fold and her constant commenting and tweeting about honesty etc., She has chosen to keep quiet about her own personal experience, but to remain 'objective' behind a pseudonym, in which actions she is defended by critics.*

**How convenient. We felt we couldn't 'out' "Thetis Mercurio's" 'unfriendly' treatment of our daughter, or ourselves, because it would cause zealots to attack her, while all the while, her zealot friend was attacking us! We were getting hammered by Alicia Hamberg on the very platform that, in advocating full publicity and due process, we were failing to**

A2/2015/2839

understand the necessity for children not to have to lose any friends:

“It might certainly be serious enough. But if it’s your own child losing a friend... that’s a different story, right? I would never think that’s ok or worth it. And I don’t even understand much about children — but I do understand that friends mean a lot to them.”

“Thetis Mercurio” may say that it’s all about the children, but her actions give the lie to that. How is it protecting children to behave as “Thetis Mercurio” has and then simply refuse to communicate about it whatsoever, never answering texts, emails and hanging up the phone? This behaviour is towards a child who is still dealing with the legacy of the bullying she endured at a Steiner school - the professed reason for approaching our daughter at all.

After “Thetis Mercurio’s” sudden about-face, we found an empty notebook with only the name of this school written by my daughter in small letters at the top of the first page - a tentative heading for a possible new beginning, now closed to her by a wall of silence from the gushing “Thetis Mercurio”.

This extreme reaction was all the more confusing for the fact that we were under the impression that any potential misunderstanding between our families had been resolved.

In writing to Jenn earlier, “Thetis” had cautioned her that: *“as a medical journalist with your own site dealing with ADHD and ADD – you will not want to be seen throwing around insults related to mental health.”*

But what about the fact that “Thetis Mercurio’s” husband also works in mental health? Why has he had nothing to say about the worrying grooming element in setting up an 11 year old child with all kinds of promises, or the likely effects of then just completely dumping her, with no explanation whatsoever?

“Thetis Mercurio’s” behaviour has been reprehensible but due to her protected anonymity; she’s actually had zero accountability. Less avatar, more scimitar.

Nevertheless it does look as though these critics act as and are treated as Gatekeepers by others as illustrated by Pete Karaiskos: *“For the dim wits at Steinermentary Project – DECEIT is what Waldorf Critics are fighting AGAINST! If we needed to lie in order to make our point... there wouldn’t BE a point.”*

His total acceptance of Alicia and Diana’s ‘conclusions’ about us, and his agreement that we need to be ‘exposed’ and ‘distanced from’ makes it clear that he treats them as such. What deceit is he talking about?

*So we must now find out whether the Steiner critics have anything to say about such behaviour. Certainly we find “Thetis Mercurio” occupies an exalted position, especially on Alicia Hamberg’s blog but of course, we can’t ask people there, because we’ve been censored.*

The question of whether Alicia Hamberg and “Thetis Mercurio”, Diana Winters and the rest represent all is exactly the same as the one we had to ask the New Zealand Steiner schools about the behaviour of the Titirangi Steiner School, writing to all those schools to flag up Mark Thornton’s promotion within The Federation of Rudolf Steiner Waldorf Schools in New Zealand after his actions in expelling three children whose parents had had to flag up bullying, including assault. The responses of the schools, and their lack

thereof, when given the facts, led us to put up a flag about the Federation, where Mark Thornton now holds more 'portfolios' than anyone else.

So it's highly ironic that we now find ourselves in this position vis à vis the critics. Because aren't Steiner critics the people who are trying to stop the abuses and cult behaviour of the Steiner movement? We certainly thought so.

What caused this punishment, with Alicia writing a blog post about us to announce our banning? We must be a threat if she's got to do that! After all, as she said herself, she's never "had to" ban any pro-Steiner person from her site.

Our only crime was to talk about the value of standing up and bringing difficult matters up for discussion.

Yes, we had the gall to mention the fact that Jo Sawfoot has just made the Norfolk Steiner school have to face up to its shame, subject which Alicia didn't find very interesting. As of yesterday, the 11th October 2011 however, it's good to see that maybe because of the very difficult whistleblowing actions Jo Sawfoot took against the school, the Norfolk Initiative Steiner School has not received State funding.

According to Alicia, though, she finds the philosophy of anthroposophy **far more interesting**. More than actually doing something about it? Well then, in that case, if Alicia Hamberg or "Thetis Mercurio" are representative of the Steiner critic movement, then its not all about protecting children is it?

Or perhaps it means all children but the child whose parents (and they weren't the only ones) thanked us for helping them realise that unless they took her out of the school, that she would be punched in the face again? Because **according to Alicia Hamberg**, they're not even real, just people we invented.

So what's the difference between the behaviour of these critics and the behaviour of Steiner Schools? Perhaps Steiner criticism itself has become a cult. Certainly if nobody is prepared to name what happened as a mobbing we would have to wonder...

*In a November 2010 article, Alicia quoted Rudolf Steiner:*

*"No person is qualified to form a judgment on the contents of this work, who has not acquired — through the School of Spiritual Science itself or in an equivalent manner recognized by the School of Spiritual Science — the requisite preliminary knowledge. Other opinions will be disregarded: the authors decline to take them as a basis for discussion."*

*And she commented: "The result is that anthroposophists always have an excuse for disregarding valid arguments from outsiders. And they do so, more often than not."*

But that's Alicia's excuse for disregarding valid arguments from outsiders! According to Alicia Hamberg and Diana Winters our very response to the experience of being attacked by a Steiner school is abnormal. The normal response, **according to Diana**, is to "get on with your life" in order to avoid your children getting further victimised. So, because we stood up, therefore alerting our children to the existence of and necessity for justice, we're now apparently out of touch with 'normal' parents and therefore lack some 'requisite preliminary knowledge': *"There's a sense coming from you that your own project became more*

*important than the children's wellbeing, at some point maybe you stopped being able to relate to these other ordinary parents whose main concern was helping their own children move on.” And that's why our 'opinions will be disregarded'.*

Not only that, Alicia of course went so far as to say that it was all our fault (another classic mobbing technique) and that she would have **chucked us out too** if she was head of a school herself. But what can have provoked her to say such an extreme thing about people that “Thetis Mercurio” had referred to as ‘funny’ and ‘brave’ because of the stance we took? It's a very extreme position, even if you don't understand someone's methods, as Alicia claimed she didn't.

*The question of what we are to do when it becomes so difficult to speak about hidden and violent matters, is certainly not exclusive to the Steiner movement. The internet is awash with the issues that face whistleblowers in all walks of life. It is the very reason we felt it was worth mentioning the option of standing up! It was also exactly the point of contention between our position and that of Alicia Hamberg and Diana Winters, that led to the public mobbing.*

**Not one Steiner critic has come forward to object to this aggressive, censoring behaviour which sounds, and feels, exactly the same as what happens if you're 'not a good fit' at a Steiner School.**

*Which means that it needs to be tested, because we've often asked ourselves, how does the Steiner movement manage to create such a feeling of being vulnerable to misunderstanding from an unfeeling world? It makes it very hard to speak out, as Alicia Hamberg was at pains to point out to us, many people don't feel they have a choice: **here**, and **here**.*

*How much more difficult is it to 'out' behaviour of people who, not only publicly oppose themselves specifically to such cultish brutality, but who are actually anonymous themselves, with only a pseudonym for a public profile?*

Apart from the clear danger to ourselves of continuing to dare to speak in such a hostile environment, surely we run the danger, by exposing weaknesses or corruption among Steiner critics, of giving the Steiner movement ammunition, and therefore being accused of being traitors, even to our own cause, but certainly to the cause of bringing injustices in the Steiner movement to light? Exactly the same problem for people needing to speak out about schools!

**But we know what has happened to us at the hands of soi-disant “Steiner critics”, and regardless of what mobbing critics might think, we know that a Steiner criticism that practises the same abuses that the movement itself does, is really quite useless and will never be able to vanquish the anti-values it claims to abhor.**

**Plus, if we do what Alicia Hamberg told us to do and “shut the fuck up”, walking away instead of publicising this, to avoid any damage to the movement of Steiner critics, we will be colluding in our own abusive treatment, another neat trick cults always manage to pull off.**

**We think this admirably illustrates why standing up in the first place is such a good idea, because the behaviour of those critics who “argued” against standing up, projecting their guilt-tripping behaviour onto us, is so clearly corrupt.**

**All this is information that must be made available to newcomers, because just as**

with the schools, if people are not warned then they cannot know.

Perhaps the critics will tell us that there is no collective obligation to the general public and that all critics are independent - again that's exactly what Steiner schools say.

Although it is unpleasant to have to revisit the excoriation of us performed publicly by Alicia Hamberg and Diana Winters, it is not hard to find within it all the silencing methods so frequently used against families by the Steiner movement, which are also classic mobbing techniques, e.g. that we brought it upon ourselves, that we made it up, that we are mentally unstable. All these tactics are flagged up again and again on Alicia's own blog! Why does nobody appear to have noticed that they have been used to try and get rid of us?

It is almost too dangerous to be personal in this regard, as it does feel dangerous now to speak up, when so much damage has already been done. The actions of "Thetis Mercurio", specifically, have been very hard to understand, as she has chosen to behave in an extremely aggressive manner at a supremely difficult time in our lives, which was her stated reason for getting involved in the first place. This is not the place to explore those circumstances, but **they are written about here.**

It was Thetis who asked Angel to **write the article on LSN** which caused the mobbing. By the time it was published, Thetis was absolutely refusing to speak to us, or to our 11 year old daughter, to whom she had made substantial advances. She obviously does not feel that she has done anything wrong in this and that is why when we now see her gushing to others about honesty and children's safety, we see a disgusting display of hypocrisy and an abuse of her anonymous status which other critics are at such pains to protect and defend.

That's why Alicia Hamberg banned us from her blog, because it made us feel so sick to read "Thetis Mercurio's" over-unctuous welcoming of people into the critics fold, whilst simultaneously drawling on that "you couldn't have known what you were getting into". that we were provoked into commenting anonymously; we were always drubbed otherwise by that point if we wrote anything as ourselves, so we thought we'd give anonymity a go.

Yet Alicia Hamberg's behaviour immediately following the publication of the article Thetis had asked Angel to write, came on top of what "Thetis Mercurio" herself had dished out, while Thetis herself did nothing to stop her "friend" from trying to completely destroy us, our work, our reputation. All the same circumstances were still going on in the background at this point, and we had no reason to assume that Thetis was not communicating privately with Alicia, in spite of the fact that she did not speak up publicly.

It will be interesting to see whether some Steiner critics are tempted to try to minimise the possible effects of this experience on a family who has worked so hard to get their case in front of the Human Rights Tribunal.

Alicia Hamberg's sole point was that **we were guilt-tripping people**: "*I'm saying that you're appealing to feelings of guilt*", and that **they can't be expected to stand up**:

*“After having had to leave waldorf — and taking care of all the other bad effects of steiner education and all the child’s already been through —, actually going around barking publicly is perhaps not something most parents have the emotional energy to deal with. And, again, it’s about what you want to put your own children through, after what they’ve already gone through.”*

**But of course Diana’s comment that our “project became more important than the children’s wellbeing” and Alicia’s mention of “what you want to put your children through”, aren’t acknowledged as a huge guilt trip. The exact same tactic was used against us by the Steiner School.**

Alicia denied trying to make us feel guilty for standing up to the school, and in doing so, she used the ultimate dehumanising tactic of assuming that we aren’t the same as other people and therefore **we don’t feel bad when mobbed:**

*“You’re supposedly professional documentary film makers — maybe you can more easily handle that stuff than others.”*

A comforting thought, while she put the boot in perhaps...

**We found a sixteen point test and if anybody wishes to argue with the fact that it was a mobbing, we will go back and show in detail the whole ugly scenario which we would rather not have to do since it was very unpleasant the first time round. If anyone does try and argue that this was not a serious attack, we will find it hard to believe that they have actually read it perhaps just skimming through the crib notes from Alicia Hamberg, like Diana, or Pete Karaiskos, whose “sad” comment and name calling makes a mockery of his own extremely tough experience, since he appears willing to dish it out to others whilst being completely uninformed. As Diana herself put it: “thanks for your summaries (this way I don’t have to read it all).”**

**Mobbing behaviour always only seeks to undermine, not to understand.**

**For instance, Alicia Hamberg accused us of “targeting people” by mentioning the fact that** if people don’t finger particular schools then no-one will know about the particular dangers of them. **Not only that, but in using the word “target”, Alicia (who has a law degree) was being deliberately provocative, since it appeared in the judgement in the Jo Sawfoot vs Norfolk Steiner school court case, which had been quoted in the LSN article. When picked up on it, Alicia backed off and claimed that she had meant ‘target’ in the sense that we were not trying to attract train-spotters or sky-divers - i.e. it was not a serious point, just a bullying tactic during a mobbing.**

**So how does Alicia Hamberg herself react should someone unreasonably attack her? In May this year she helpfully provided a useful control example when the aforementioned Jenn, who she describes as a “bliss-ninny”, wrote her an aggressive private email. Alicia’s response was robust, thorough and provides useful information as to her opinion on the ethics of attacking others and of censorship: “When people don’t enjoy what you write to them — threaten them! They think they’re allowed to do exactly what they please behind closed doors, as it were, and get away with it? That other people should just put up with it, unable to respond, prevented from protesting against it?”**

**She was clear that Jenn could not expect her to keep quiet about such an out and out attack on her and at the time, we felt Alicia’s response to such personal attack**

was entirely justified because we did not know how hypocritical it would look from here.

In contrast, finding Keith Thompson's article (who according to Alicia Hamberg **doesn't exist**) on our developing news site Amazon News Media, which is admittedly as yet fairly unformed, but nevertheless where we chose to publish our experiences about her treatment, Alicia Hamberg refused to link to it, telling her readers that it was all "filled with lies". Diana Winters then neatly fudged the issue for her by misleading readers, mentioning that anyone could Google Steinermentary and find the offending article. This neatly avoided people seeing the interview describing the vicious behaviour of the Steiner critics since it wasn't on that site at all, as Diana knew perfectly well if she'd read the article herself. If she hadn't, then Alicia has dishonestly allowed Diana to mislead others in order to avoid having them read our version of the mobbing she performed.

Regarding using another website to publish this interview, Alicia has written that we are 'boosting ourselves' by pretending to be someone else. Really? I don't think there is any single person who has made themselves so visible in this regard on so many websites as Angel Garden.

Of course, and isn't Alicia's other complaint that it's '**all about us**' another feature of the mobbing that is eerily similar to the Steiner school's attitude, and which we've read about numerous times as a hated Steiner tactic, on Alicia's blog and elsewhere? It is also a classic, if not the classic, mobbing technique.

Alicia has even tried to use the fact that we have more than one web-site as evidence that there is something wrong with us. Based on what? The fact that she has one blog? It's our way of filing the information we gather. It may not be the way others want to organise their work, but that is all that can reasonably be said about it. We did not ask Alicia Hamberg's permission to go to a Steiner School and we do not need her permission to decide how to respond to its abusive behaviour, or hers.

Angel's image is all over our work, making it extremely public, and that is what makes it different from others. Finding Amazon News Media, and then using the fact that we had published our point of view there, Alicia deliberately censored us, which she doesn't even do to Sune Nordwall, who presents himself anonymously all over the place, including publishing entirely fake interviews with her. Perhaps that's why she overreacted to the suggestion that her mobbing behaviour might find its way into video with her part in it being reconstructed, which led to cries of that being "unethical".

In regard to Sune Nordwall, Alicia has more than once been clear that communicating in private, and hiding behind the internet was unethical, and that people deserve a right to respond. **Here's what she said about Sune Nordwall's actions on Mumsnet:**

*"I don't think I (and my mental health) should be the topic in a thread on Mumsnet, when I am not allowed to post there. He knows I can't respond to anything written on Mumsnet, he had me banned from there (twice)"*

Really? These freedoms are selectively awarded and certainly not extended to us.

Incidentally, based on this comment, it'll be interesting to see if this letter gets discussed online in places unknown to us or where we've been banned, again this is what happened at the school.

In our case Alicia Hamberg has given neither us, nor "Thetis Mercurio" the chance to respond since she deleted both the comment we made about "Thetis", and Alicia's own comments about it, and instantly banned us. It's pretty obvious that "Thetis Mercurio" doesn't really want the opportunity to respond, preferring that others should remain as ignorant of her part in things, and of who she really is. And Alicia, being a good friend, has obliged by wiping any record of anything to do with it, or that it concerned "Thetis Mercurio" at all. Very cloak and dagger.

It probably wasn't the wisest thing to do, to post an anonymous comment, but hell, these are the people who had slammed us both for encouraging people to stand up, and for actively helping other people to remain anonymous at their own request! And the person we made the comment about was also anonymous, which is fine for them, apparently. Others, of course, have Avatars and virtuous anonymity, whereas if we ourselves use pseudonyms, they're "*fake identities*".

Jenn had written to Alicia in private, and speculated that Alicia Hamberg "*might fit in with a group of really maladjusted people (that being the Waldorf critics)*".

Alicia Hamberg responded...

*"Well, were it true, it still seems much preferable to the Waldorf paradise you're depicting. Because at least our world is somewhat closer to real. At least we don't feed ourselves on illusion."*

Yet Alicia and Diana have seen fit to tell us that as we have used properly signed off (i.e. broadcast-legal) and clearly labelled 'reconstruction' of parents testimony in a video, that this means that we should "call it fiction", which then quickly morphed into meaning that since we hadn't pixelated or blurred the images of those actual parents, but instead hired actors to speak their words, at their own request, thereby perfectly protecting their identities, that we made it all up. Alicia Hamberg and Diana did not stop short of declaring that we were "interviewing actors".

How is this not feeding on illusion? Even the BBC, even on the radio (no fuzzy pictures possible there), will use reconstruction (i.e., actors) to hide someone's identity. I guess that makes them "demented fuckwits" too, as Alicia Hamberg has called us on her site where others were allowed to make comment about us after we were banned as Falk did, waiting until then before joining in which does show remarkable courage!

All this faff about reconstructed video footage, so aggressively put to us, was coming from people who admitted themselves that their expertise is in the written word and nothing else, **as Alicia says:** "*I don't get what the medium is about. I don't experience the benefits, because I don't see the point.*"

Yet although Diana and Alicia admit that the old methods may not cut it any more, **as Diana said,** "*I know we're dinosaurs over on critics, talking mainly to each other because it's unlikely many Waldorf parents are actually reading that list*", **our efforts to work through the difficulties involved in developing a methodology for making video material about a cult, which**

is an extremely complicated, sensitive and now obviously dangerous business, have been completely dismissed.

It is impossible to view the icy behaviour of Alicia Hamberg and Diana Winters towards us, our work, our ethics, our evidence our motivation, our honesty, our experience, as being prompted by any real concerns about any of it. This cannot be seen as any kind of an attempt to engage with us. The point of a mobbing is always simply to mob. It's not hard to imagine that mobbing situations generally do tend to have hidden murky circumstances in the background and that is certainly the case here.

Another classic mobbing technique is to pretend that the victim has 'blotted their copy book', and therefore must lose the previous goodwill that the aggressor claims to have had. Alicia Hamberg's assertion that she had been positive about our Steinermentary site, in **late November 2010 when she discovered it is not especially true**. She thought we were apologists for Steiner, as others did also, and that we were off the mark, even then. No attempt was made to find out, no clicks on the 'contact us' button, even when "Thetis Mercurio" informed people that it was us - the site wasn't launched at this point, that happened on the 27th of February with our poster campaign - Rudolf Steiner's 150th birthday present from us.

Following that, we have found a post from around the launch date of the Steinermentary site. Alicia and Diana bemoaned the unreadiness of either Steiner criticism, or Alicia Hamberg, to engage with new media, including an acknowledgement that although reconstructions of actual interviews are not the first choice, that we have been transparent, **both from Diana**; *"there's nothing really wrong with it, since they're clear and upfront that it's staged, so it's not like it's deceptive"* or **from Alicia** *"I can't really object to it, since there's no deception going on"*.

Yet they had no problem in attacking our methods as if they were highly knowledgeable and of accusing us of dishonesty.

Alicia Hamberg's previous opinions can really only look vaguely positive against her recent assassination attempts including her current updates which she warned would be sloppy due to not giving a shit e.g.:

*"Update on September 22, 2011. I would very much like to warn people to get involved with the pair behind the Steinermentary project. I don't have the time to write more about it right now (see discussion threads), but I wish that nobody takes the post below as a sign of support for them or as a recommendation for people to get involved with them."*

In writing this open letter to the critics we know that we are again opening ourselves to potential further abuse, but if we don't do it, then we cannot either defend ourselves or warn others. This is the position that Alicia Hamberg, Diana Winters and "Thetis Mercurio" have put us in. Again, it's all so familiar in the Steiner treatment, where people feel they 'have no choice' but to remain silent.

Of course, to justify such brutish behaviour, it had to look as if it is us that aren't up for discussion, and of course this is said many times in the mobbing. But go back to **the original article on LSN** where Alicia Hamberg first picked Angel up on her comments about us creating a platform for video, and you'll clearly see Angel

apologise, and acknowledge that she had not come over correctly. Or go here and see how we felt constantly tripped up every time we tried to communicate. During the actual mobbing, of course, things looked different, but who can remain polite or even talk properly at all whilst others are trying to knock your teeth out?

The simple fact of the matter is that there is no "correct" way to respond to the experience of being hounded or mobbed by a group of people because you bring up things that they want hidden, whether that happens at a Steiner school, at the hands of an anonymous person, or on Alicia Hamberg's blog!

There is no law that says, 'when this happens, go to the fifth counter on the left', or something like that. We just do what we do and it makes sense to us and we'll explain it to anyone who asks politely.

The actual point of contention, which was the basis for the mobbing, that if people don't identify schools, then others will not know, is a clear and simple truth which all the mobbing in the world will never be able disguise and which neither Diana Winters nor Alicia Hamberg or anybody else, can or will ever be able to refute. And in fact, they did agree with it many times.

Then they ridiculed everything we were doing, and then Alicia Hamberg banned us.

The extremely aggressive behaviour of the Steiner critics have alerted us to two main tendencies:

1. the tendency for self-protective secrecy, combined with fawning insincerity and a lack of will to be open, honest or fair, as displayed by "Thetis Mercurio", whose syrup masks something altogether different with potential dangers, especially for those she is most enthusiastic about;

2. the tendency for aggression, actual public mobbing, and censorship, as displayed by Alicia Hamberg, Diana Winters, Esther Fiddler, Pete Karaikos and "Falk". Meeting places, like Alicia Hamberg's blog could represent a danger to unsuspecting whistleblowers, who could be re-traumatised should someone suddenly decide to chew their heads off in an inspired moment of 'critical thinking'.

Do critics generally condone the behaviours described here of these critics, and do these critics, in their actions and inactions, and in their passive and active aggression towards us, act as Gatekeepers for Steiner criticism?

They now have the dubious honour of being the inspiration for a new addition to the Steinermentary project, The Luciferocity Meter, as a measurement of the manifestation of blind fury dressed up as something else, which seems so prevalent throughout the Steiner world, where awful acts are not only tolerated but justified by various dogmas, anti-democratic acts which are in reality motivated simply by self-protection, xenophobia, and blind ambition, the desire to create a circle of covered wagons and simply shoot anyone who looks a bit different.

Over to you.

Case No: 3SA90091

A

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION**  
**SWANSEA DISTRICT REGISTRY**

Swansea Civil Justice Centre,  
Caravella House, Quay West,  
Quay Parade, Swansea SA1 1SP

B

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

**Before:**

C

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN QC**

-----  
**Between:**

**(1) STEPHANE (A.K.A. STEVE) PARIS**  
**(2) ANGEL GARDEN**

**Claimants**

D

**- and -**

**(1) DR. ANDREW LEWIS**  
**(2) MRS. MELANIE BYNG**

**Defendants**

E

Digital Transcription of Marten Walsh Cherer Ltd.,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Quality House, 6-9 Quality Court, Chancery Lane London WC2A 1HP  
Tel No: 020 7067 2900 Fax No: 020 7831 6864 DX: 410 LDE  
Email: [info@martenwalshcherer.com](mailto:info@martenwalshcherer.com)  
Web: [www.martenwalshcherer.com](http://www.martenwalshcherer.com)

F

-----  
**THE CLAIMANTS** appeared in Person.

**MR. JONATHAN PRICE** appeared on behalf of the Defendants.

G

-----  
**EXTRACTS FROM**  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
-----

H

\*\*\*\*\*

A

(Start: 15:09)

B

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: I am now going to hear Mr. Price. Some parts of this he may make quite short because he has put it in writing. Mr. Price, I am going to ask you to do it sitting down.

C

D

E

MR. PRICE: Thank you, your Honour. The starting point in any application to amend ought to be the proposed amended pleading, particularly in a case such as this where I am going to submit that if the claimants do have a separate case in harassment on the basis that they allege, it is an entirely novel case and almost certainly create new law. For that reason, apart from any other, it is incumbent upon them to produce clear, cogent and stable proposed amendment that the defendants can give us their instructions upon. The problem, in my submission, for the claimants and the reason that they cannot produce their claim to sensible particulars, is because there simply is no recognisable claim that they are trying to get at.

F

So the starting point is part 17. The claimants will require permission because the statement of case has been served. The exercise of the court's discretion is the subject of the *Swaine and Mason* case that your Honour has indicated he has already read.

G

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: Well, I am just going to stop you there. I see you refer to yourselves as the Paris Gardens. Is that how you...?

H

MS GARDEN: You can do, your Honour, if that makes it easier for you.

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: No worries. I shall read "the claimants". Have you seen a copy of that?

(Finish: 15:11)

\*\*\*\*\*

A

(Start: 17:34:30)

B

C

D

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: Right. Well that is what is going to happen. Next, you have no longer got solicitors and counsel. It is a question of who puts the bundle together. There may be arguments for the defendants to do it because they are used to putting things together and you can tell them what you want in. The disadvantage, if any, to a claimant is effectively none if you win at trial and a bill if you do not win at trial because if somebody spends a day or a day and a half at £160 an hour putting the bundle together, it is yet another bruise and rather a large one. My inclination is that it would be much more sensible if the defendants did it. They have got the resources but which way do you want?

E

MS GARDEN: Well, given that you have said that you think that we can make our case without reintroducing the harassment, your Honour, then I am quite happy for them to do it.

F

G

MS GARDEN: No. I understand that; but, on that point, can I refer to point 14 in our witness statement, which requested that you require that the confidentiality of their disclosures of their, what we still maintain is gang stalking and proxy and covert harassment be waived. So that it can be taken to the CPS so that they can explore it and see if they think it comes up to criminal standards of harassment because we believe it does.

H

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: Thank you. No, I will not. That is for the judge to decide and if a judge decides that it – well, it is not going to be adjudicated by the judge in this case and the short, very polite and courteous answer is, no.

A MS GARDEN: But how can we defend ourselves from it then, sir, because, you know, it is

----

B JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: Well, you are bringing a claim for defamation, which you  
say that you will be vindicated by the decision of the judge. If you are, you are.

You will be able to tell the world.

C MS GARDEN: So we can use – we can freely use the disclosure if within a trial to show  
that?

D JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: Within the trial the purpose of disclosure is that the people  
on either side can take it to the court and show the court and argue to the court.  
Unless the judge says, “Yes, there is permission to show this to others”. Well the  
rules say: no, it is only for the purpose of the trial. At the end of a trial if a judge  
thinks, “I think this ought to be seen by somebody else” he can do so but I am not  
ordering that now. All right. Thank you.

E Mr. Price, by close of play tomorrow can you render to the court an order  
please – I am asking him to do it because he is used to drawing up orders – which  
F reflects what I have directed today, by email copied to Mr. Paris and Ms. Garden,  
and a draft in MS word please, not PDF or a photograph. Thank you both very  
much.

G ((Finish: 17:38:28)

---

H

Case No: 3SA90091

A

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION**  
**SWANSEA DISTRICT REGISTRY**

Swansea Civil Justice Centre,  
Caravella House, Quay West,  
Quay Parade, Swansea SA1 1SP

B

Wednesday, 18th March 2015

**Before:**

C

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN QC**

**Between:**

**(1) STEPHANE (A.K.A. STEVE) PARIS**  
**(2) ANGEL GARDEN**

**Claimants**

D

**- and -**

**(1) DR. ANDREW LEWIS**  
**(2) MRS. MELANIE BYNG**

**Defendants**

E

Digital Transcription of Marten Walsh Cherer Ltd.,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Quality House, 6-9 Quality Court, Chancery Lane London WC2A 1HP  
Tel No: 020 7067 2900 Fax No: 020 7831 6864 DX: 410 LDE  
Email: [info@martenwalshcherer.com](mailto:info@martenwalshcherer.com)  
Web: [www.martenwalshcherer.com](http://www.martenwalshcherer.com)

F

-----  
**THE CLAIMANTS** appeared in Person.

**MR. JONATHAN PRICE** appeared on behalf of the Defendants.

G

-----  
**EXTRACT FROM**  
**DR LEWIS EVIDENCE**  
-----

H

\*\*\*\*\*

A

(Start: 15.40)

MS. GARDEN: Let us look at the false balance in this sentence then, in a claim against what someone said. Can you explain to the court what false balance is?

B

DR. LEWIS: Indeed. False balance is something I have written about. I have written about it particularly with respect of the BBC and how they report on controversial scientific issues. A false balance occurs when there is a settled scientific matter, for example – let us give a very simple answer – is the earth round? Okay. It is a settled scientific matter that the earth is round and let us say the BBC or any other broadcaster hosts the debate where they get a scientist in to argue that the earth is round and they get another person in to argue that it is flat. On a fifty-fifty basis that is a false balance because it gives the impression to the viewer or listener that this is a disputed fact with a fifty-fifty ratio, shall we say, because there are two people arguing where, in fact, it is a completely settled matter and that the person arguing that the earth is flat is probably a crank. This happens quite regularly on the BBC with matters of things like fringe beliefs, conspiracy theories, climate change of course, all sorts of things and the BBC have guidelines for dealing with this and sometimes they are not as good as they ought to be in that respect.

C

D

E

F

G

MR. PRICE: My lord, I get to my feet simply because I am hoping to be able to cut out a period of cross-examination by making a very brief submission. Dr. Lewis or any other witness, is not permitted to give evidence as to the meaning to the words complained of and ----

H

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: I know what you are about to say. When I am looking at whether something is defamatory, what is critical and all important is its natural and

A ordinary meaning, at least in a case like this. The person who decides the natural  
and ordinary meaning - if I had a jury here it would be the jury. I am the judge  
and jury in this case. I have to decide that. At the end of the case you will be able  
B to say to me by using the word “claim” which suggests something less than what has  
been established, that is giving a false balance, etc. That is what you wanted to say  
but it is for me to decide. So we could spend half an hour or an hour, which is very  
C interesting within limits ----

MS. GARDEN: So it is unnecessary.

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: -- asking Dr. Lewis but there is no purpose to it.

D MS. GARDEN: Okay. I think the salient point is that Dr. Lewis was in a position to and  
had in fact stated five days before that the Steiner schools were a dishonest cult, that  
they were deceitful and that they shouldn't really have control of children anyway.  
E So, therefore, in making this statement, if your honour would decide on the meaning  
of the words, there is more false balance in it than if it was just an ordinary person  
who had no idea about Steiner. That is my point.

F JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: I will ----

MR. PRICE: Two more, if I may. Two more very brief submissions. First of all, there is a  
G plea of malice on the record settled by specialist counsel on behalf of the claimants.  
It is very narrow. It does not relate to these points. Strictly speaking ----

MS. GARDEN: It relates to that point. It certainly relates to that point.

H MR. PRICE: -- strictly speaking, the claimants are not, therefore, entitled to cross-examine  
as to any other aspect of malice that has not been pleaded. I am not going to be that  
surgical about it. That is one point. The second point, my lord, is much store has  
been put into the veracity over the course of time of the statements Steve and Angel

are in dispute with the Steiner school in New Zealand. That is said to have been falsified by the passage of time. That sentence is specifically excluded from the words complained of in the particulars of claim, therefore it is strictly speaking again irrelevant to cross-examine as to whether or not that becomes falsified.

(Finish: 15.44)

\*\*\*\*\*

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

Case No: 3SA90091

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION**  
**SWANSEA DISTRICT REGISTRY**

Swansea Civil Justice Centre,  
Caravella House, Quay West,  
Quay Parade, Swansea SA1 1SP

Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Before:**

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN QC**

**Between:**

**(1) STEPHANE (A.K.A. STEVE) PARIS**  
**(2) ANGEL GARDEN**

**Claimants**

**- and -**

**(1) DR. ANDREW LEWIS**  
**(2) MRS. MELANIE BYNG**

**Defendants**

Digital Transcription of Marten Walsh Cherer Ltd.,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Quality House, 6-9 Quality Court, Chancery Lane London WC2A 1HP  
Tel No: 020 7067 2900 Fax No: 020 7831 6864 DX: 410 LDE  
Email: [info@martenwalshcherer.com](mailto:info@martenwalshcherer.com)  
Web: [www.martenwalshcherer.com](http://www.martenwalshcherer.com)

**THE CLAIMANTS** appeared in Person.

**MR. JONATHAN PRICE** appeared on behalf of the Defendants.

**EXTRACT FROM**  
**EVIDENCE BY MRS. BYNG**

\*\*\*\*\*

A

(Start: 15.49)

B

MS. GARDEN: I am just going to examine more whether the fact that you felt that you did not have any obligation, having made offers to our children or child meant that, on the basis of some obligation we apparently had to your son, that we(sic) are now warning everybody that we are untrustworthy and I want to have a look at who you warned because you warned everybody you could think of, did you not?

C

MRS. BYNG: No, I did not actually.

D

Q. Well, it says here that you have warned everybody. As many people as you could. Everyone who needed to be warned over a period of time?

E

A. I warned very few people actually and I was quite surprised when I went through my disclosure and looked at this, how few people I spoke to.

F

Q. You think 35 to 40 people is small?

A. I think the list that you – with respect, Ms Garden, sorry to be ruffling. With respect, the list that you produced includes people that I - for example, Sune Nordwall, whom I have never communicated with and John Stumbles, who are both supporters of Steiner education and whom I have never communicated with. I would never communicate with Sune Nordwall.

G

Q. Some of those people may have been warned by others or by the first defendant because I know that he had ----

H

A. I do not believe anybody warned Sune Nordwall about – none of us would have privately spoken to Sune. If ----

A

Q. You prefer Sune to us though, do you not, because you have said that. So let us not pretend that you would prefer to sit and talk to Sune. So let us look at who you did warn then. You warned Francis Gilbert and you said in your disclosure ----

B

A. May I answer that. Francis Gilbert wrote to me forwarding an email but I did not proactively warn Francis Gilbert. He wrote to me forwarding an email from Ms Garden.

C

Q. But you did tell other people that in that email that I told Francis Gilbert?

A. I did tell - I do not remember what I said. I certainly responded to Francis Gilbert, who asked me what – the email itself was very strange and he said to me, “What shall I do with this? Ignore it?” and I said, “Ignore. Yes, I think that is a good idea”. I certainly did not say, attack or criticise or – just ignore.

D

Q. So is this the email you were referring to when you told the first defendant that we had spread this, what you call a smear of grooming to journalists?

E

A. I cannot remember exactly which letter you sent to Francis Gilbert. I do not think it was the same one; but, certainly, that email, that open letter to Steiner critics, which you widely circulated, which had a scurrilous slur against me, which absolutely horrified, shocked and disturbed me and still does and it is still there on the web.

F

Q. That is not what I am asking. I am asking you that if the email that you were referring to when you wrote to Andrew Lewis that we told journalists about this grooming thing that you objected to, was this email that Francis Gilbert wrote?

G

A. It was a different one but I do not know whether you sent it also to Francis Gilbert since he was a contact.

H

Q. We could not find any email like that at all in disclosure; but, you know, it is just a point that I ----

A MR. PRICE: It is very similar – I am sorry, I am not interrupting in order ---

MS GARDEN: No, you cannot interrupt.

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: I am just pausing to hear Mr. Price.

B MR. PRICE: It appears not to be relevant. May I just remind the court that the case put by Mrs. Byng is that – or one of her cases – is that she was justified in retweeting an allegation of harassment, in part because she had been harassed by the claimants.

C The claimants have not sought to say that their conduct was reasonable because Mrs. Byng had sent these private communications, because they could not say that when they pleaded it and they have not sought to amend it or they have but on a different basis and they have failed. These communications were not known to them at the time they committed the conduct -----

D MS GARDEN: Well, we knew they were happening, we did not know what was said.

E MR. PRICE: -- that is complained of.

MS GARDEN: Well, we knew they were happening, Mr. Price. We correctly identified them -----

F JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: I was listening to Mr. Price for a moment.

MS. GARDEN: Sorry. I do apologise, your honour.

G MR. PRICE: Were one trying to prove harassment under the Protection of Harassment Act, the course of conduct is that set out in the particulars of justification. It is the lengthy and repetitious acts upon Mrs. Byng in public blog posts. The claimants may have sought to defend under the statutory defence of reasonableness on the basis that it was reasonable for them to commit a course of conduct for whatever reason. They have not done that. In the absence of a plea, this only goes to

A

credibility. In other words, he did not believe a lot of what you were saying and we have been through that. There has to be an end to -----

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: It is this rule of credibility that I have been allowing this.

B

MR. PRICE: So there has to be a limit. Given that there has to be a limit, in my submission, my lord, that limit has been reached some time ago and we are on the penultimate day of this trial. I think it is time to get to the nub of the issue.

C

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: Thank you very much. Ms Garden, you were anxious to say something to me.

D

MS. GARDEN: Okay. First of all, we did not know. Nobody had told us at any point in these proceedings that we would have to plead anything against the plea of justification but I totally understand that you are not responsible for it.

E

Nevertheless, that is true. So we could have sought to defend on that it was reasonable under the circumstances but the thing is the thrust of our argument has to be the same, whether we have made that pleading or not, that there is no justification in the statement that Mrs. Byng made given what she was doing under the surface, which we did correctly identify. For Mr. Price to say that we could not have known about it, that is rubbish. I mean, the whole defence is full of me correctly

F

identifying it; and, as I said to you at the beginning, if you put them side by side, the defence and the disclosure, all you will see is that I have correctly identified exactly what is in the disclosure and I cannot see why that should ever not be reasonable for somebody to do that is being covertly attacked.

G

H

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: It really comes to this. I need to put this in formal terms and I will; but, otherwise, it is a guidance to both parties but particularly to the claimants. The reason why I have allowed elaborately an opportunity to go into

A these things, is on the basis that you are testing the credibility of Mrs. Byng: Did  
she honestly take the view she did? Was she honestly responding to what she  
B thought was scurrilous against her, etc.? Now, we have more or less tested that issue  
to destruction. What is the central issue of the central issues? Was what was said  
defamatory and, if so, sort to justify. And you have been exploring whether there  
was malice. We do need to get back to the central points.

C MR. PRICE: Ms Garden here has said here in open court she was right. There were  
behind the scenes - it is in a very limited way and they do not accept it is limited but  
there were behind the scenes – both defendants occasionally emailing each other  
and/or third parties about the claimants.

D JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: Yes, I see that.

E MR. PRICE: I do not know if it assists for them to hear that and then move on in an  
attempt to push these proceedings forward.

F MS. GARDEN: So there is no value – this is a question, sorry, your honour. Is there any  
further value in us demonstrating the extent of Mrs. Byng’s covert enjoyment and  
participation in further mobbings which has happened to us on other people’s blogs?

G MR. PRICE: That is not a pleaded issue. You said ----

H MS. GARDEN: In terms of justification – otherwise we will not do it.

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: You will remember that we had the discussion – it was an  
argument with discussion on both sides – as to whether your pleaded case should be  
enlarged to include harassment. If that is a live issue in the case (well it is not) or if  
it were a live issue in the case, then to say, “Oh, somebody has been setting the pack  
upon me so that I have had a very tough time in all the unpleasant things that I have  
heard and that I have read about myself”, well that would be simply arguing part of

A the case; but, I have made my ruling. My ruling is that we are dealing with the  
defamation case. We are not dealing with a case in harassment, namely, below the  
B surface there was this campaign and participation, collusion in setting out an array of  
comments which might make people less fully pay attention to us. So that is not the  
C case that I am trying. So what I am trying to do is to give as much liberty to you as  
I properly can and, to be honest, probably a bit more because you are litigants in  
D person and you find it is not so easy to press your case, but I do need to say it is time  
to move on. You have done all that, as to whether there was deliberate collusion in  
setting the hounds upon you. That is not what this case is about. It is not the  
pleaded case. It is not what it centres on. So we need to get back to the main  
issues.

E MS. GARDEN: So we are dealing with the tweet and the tweet blog posts and on the tweet  
and the blog posts whether Mrs. Byng can be said to publish a blog post, whether it  
was malicious and whether the tweet, whether qualified privilege applies to it - am I  
right - and that is basically the cases we need took at. Is that correct, Mr. Price?

F JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: Well, broadly speaking, that is right. I think it may help –  
I am not going to interrupt yet again unless something makes the break; but it may  
be helpful. Mr. Price has said, “Look, there are certain things which .... but facts,  
G yes, there was discussion, yes, there was communication with the Byngs, Mrs. Byng  
and friends on certain subjects. I think actually it is common ground just looking at  
the disclosure; but, it might help you, as it were, to have it written out and then you  
H can make sure yourself. It is accepted that there was this degree of communication  
and we can also save a lot of time, actually.

(Finish: 16:02)

**A**

\*\*\*\*\*

**B**

**C**

**D**

**E**

**F**

**G**

**H**

**From:** Ms Angel Garden <angelgarden@mac.com>   
**Subject:** another draft  
**Date:** 18 August 2011 8:34:13 am GMT+01:00  
**To:** Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>



---

1 Attachment, 158 KB

Hi Melanie

I've rewritten this piece and I think it's getting better. I thought I'd give you a look at it now, if you've got time. It's still too long I fear, but there is a through-line which I like, at least.



[Isn draft 4 \(158 KB\)](#)

I'm hoping to finish this off today because we are still busy searching for accommodation in Surrey as we are planning to move back over as soon as passport gets here....currently having arguments because they don't want to send it to France. Mum is doing worse every day, we're currently stuck but will go as soon as possible.

Hope Joe got back all right, he did say he would let Steve know.....I guess we'd have heard if there was a problem.

Angel  
xx

**From:** Ms Angel Garden <angelgarden@mac.com>  
**Subject:** what's going on?  
**Date:** 19 August 2011 2:08:48 pm GMT+01:00  
**To:** Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>

---



Hi Melanie, I just saw the thread on Zoey's blog about Trademarks and I noticed that you are about today because you've commented on there this morning. Is there a reason why you aren't replying to me then?

I'm struggling, mum may have only days, we can't take the kids until we get a passport and I feel as if I'm being crushed by large rocks.

I do, however want to finish this writing. I'm trying to condense it, and I've changed all the sentence structures. I'm just gonna keep going, but I'm feeling a bit paranoid that you haven't replied. I can take it, you know, I know it's flabby as hell.

Angel

**From:** Ms Angel Garden <angelgarden@mac.com>  
**Subject:** phone and communication problems.  
**Date:** 20 August 2011 4:53:46 pm GMT+01:00  
**To:** Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>



---

Hi Melanie

Forgive me for writing to you again but we're starting to feel a little concerned here.

The fact that Joe didn't call us to tell us he got back home ok is no biggy: it's an easy thing to forget, even if he told Steve he'd do it when Steve dropped him off at the airport, but since his departure, i emailed you a few times and didn't get a reply. The same thing happened with Steve who texted Richard twice and didn't get a reply either.

Today, Steve decided to ring you up and got through to Felix and then Joe but the line went dead within seconds of Steve introducing himself. Steve rang back, thinking there had been a glitch but the phone goes straight to voicemail. It's really hard to imagine that Joe would hang up on Steve, and then not answer the phone again. Surely that's impossible.

Is there something wrong?

We've got so much to deal with here with my mum who's getting worse and worse and we fear the worst is pretty imminent. If it wasn't for passport gone missing, we would already have gone back up, but as it stands, I'm going back tomorrow on my own and they will follow as soon as the document arrives. It's a very difficult time as I'm sure you understand.

It's hard to not feel paranoid by the combined lack of communication from your end and I would appreciate it if you could tell me what is going on as neither of us have got any energy for this apparent silent treatment.

It's making us wonder if you've withdrawn your offer to help me write the Steiner article and get it posted, or help us should want to take the try week at Sands. And if you have, why?

Hope to hear from you soon.

Angel and Steve

**From:** Ms Angel Garden <angelgarden@mac.com>  
**Subject:** Ruby is 11  
**Date:** 23 August 2011 6:01:14 am GMT+01:00  
**To:** Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Steve Paris <sparis@mac.com>



Dear Melanie

I certainly don't need to be lying awake worrying about this but you've invited my 11 year old to stay, and created expectations for her, and now you're apparently prepared to dump her. It's not helping me sleep.

However you choose to behave towards us, that's up to you, steve and I have been trying to communicate and neither you, Richard, nor Joe seems able or willing to do so.

Here am I at mums, in the middle of the night, worrying about it. Great.

You're apparently incredibly pissed off because we asked a 17 year old to take responsibility. We get that. He was billed as somebody who could do that, but we now see that in fact we were expected to fill in the gaps. Why you should all be so angry about that is beyond me, we just took you at face value, as I said to Joe, against my initial instinct actually as teenager's whims can be a pain. If you hadn't billed him as so reliable we would have said no at this time, due to the very high stress we are already under which you seemed aware of.

Stress that caused me to ring the wrong number three times when trying to phone mum's consultant to get the low-down!!!!!! My mum has only weeks to live and I have to leave my young kids to even see her. It's very stressful!!!!

Maybe you're pissed off because it was so important to me not to pile the kids in the car or have a long car journey with them immediately on meeting up after separation. But I don't think that is really your call to make. Whether you would have done that, as Joe said you would, is up to you.

That time alone with Steve was a lifeline to me and that is absolutely legitimate.

Why I should be lying here in the middle of the night trying to work it out for you is beyond me. You didn't seem short of words when I met you....

I trusted you, probably because I liked you. It never occurred to me that you would blithely foist more problems onto me at such a time and then do a number on us if problems occurred.

It's not as if we misrepresented the situation or location of our house or anything in fact did stress the isolation etc before you and he decided he should come. I now wonder who's choice it actually was.

All that as maybe. But you've gone out of your way to put Sands school in front of Ruby and made a lot of it.

is 11, she does not need more flaky behaviour like that from adults.

We will not walk away from situations like that with a shrug and expect her to take the hit. I think we've demonstrated that.

And we don't, in this situation, feel that we have committed some wrong that means that our kid should end up paying for it and we should take it on the chin or something, because we had to iron out the inconvenience of Joe's choices for our family at a difficult time, or because we trusted you.

In fact, expecting our kids to take the heat because of our request to fulfill expectations we were given is exactly what happened at the Steiner school!

We said no.

We look to you to take responsibility for your words and actions including towards our children.

Joe got exactly what he wanted! Richard even rang up to tell Steve when to take Joe to the airport. As it was, Steve got back to Les Graulges before the flight even left! But Steve is still prepared to talk to Richard, even if Richard did tell him what to do instead of owning his own stress about flight times.

Yet you feel it's legitimate to blank us.

Joe was simply asked to take responsibility. He was given fair opportunity to speak his mind and he said that he felt our solution was fair given all the circumstances. Ask him. What on earth is wrong with that?

Why won't you accord us the same respect?

If you feel aggrieved for any reason then bloody say so woman. I am quite ready to account for all of my actions.

It was your suggestion that        stay with you, your suggestion that Joe come over, we're not angry about that because we addressed the problems when they arose.

Now you've left us with a phone Joe ordered, several unanswered emails, texts and phone calls, and a bad taste ergo more stress.

All that is educational although extremely disappointing.

But you're also apparently choosing to dump an 11 year old who you chose freely to approach with offers, information and invitations – involvement.

That is not acceptable. It's not fair on her, surely that's obvious?

It's not exactly a great advertisement for the school either

I'm in the UK and back with mum. I'm willing to meet up to discuss and hear your point of view. Or we can do it on the phone, its up to you.

But I do need to ask you to take responsibility and recognize, even if not our point of view (which I can fully account for) then at least

We did not trash Joe, or you, neither have ANY of you put forward the point of view that we have. I asked joe and his stated opinion was that he hadnt been badly treated in any way.

Try asking        what she thinks, of Joe's behaviour, or of yours. I think you may get an honest answer.

So come on, what's the beef? My 11 year old needs you to get it off your chest?

We may never get on or have future business with each other after this storm in a tea cup. That's fine.

But do I think you owe me an explanation?

Yes I do.

Regards  
Angel

Amazon Films  
[www.amazonfilms.net](http://www.amazonfilms.net)

**From:** Ms Angel Garden <angelgarden@mac.com>  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** 6 September 2011 12:07:36 pm GMT+01:00  
**To:** Melanie Byng <melanie.byng@gmail.com>



thanks for replying.

i cannot imagine what on earth i have done, except that i know that your sudden silence has catapulted me back into horrendous stress.

what on earth made you do that? it's just such a horrible thing to do and i'm trying to recover now. I just wanted so badly to find out what made you behave like that instead of discussing any problems in a normal manner.

I am left confounded by the whole thing frankly, and again, need to state that all actions pertaining to you following Joe's visit are entirely down to the added stress caused by the end of that compounded by your unnecessary and unkind refusal to deal with it fairly.

we did nothing bad to you, but you have treated us exactly like the Steiner school did.

for my part, I never just walk away and will remain open to resolving issues. you were so friendly towards us, it seemed quite schizophrenic to just cut off communication, especially when Joe said he was quite ok with how things were left.

Was he just lying? Or what? We did what you all wanted and even my mum was stressed out by it, because she had to adjust. i only asked for some consideration. is that what the problem was?

i just don't understand at all Melanie, just not at all.

On 6 Sep 2011, at 11:51 am, Melanie Byng wrote:

I do not intend to offer you any help with your documentary. I am not prepared to publicise press releases. I am surprised if you imagine (if indeed you do) that I would place private information in the public domain, especially when it concerns children. I have given you no indication that I would do so. I am not sure what 'Respect me and mine' can mean except a request for me to behave ethically.

This discretion does not however place me under an obligation to support actively your professional activities.

I am certain that your primary concern is the health of your mother and the well-being of your children. Be assured that my priorities are similar with regard to my own family. As you are doubtless aware, my attempts to draw attention to Free Schools funding for the Waldorf movement in England are drawing to a close. If, as we believe to be quite likely, at least one Steiner school gains public money, it will be the responsibility of the British press to analyse the implications of this in a wider context.

I am writing this as a response to your attempts to contact me. I do not intend to continue any communication on this matter.

Case No: 3SA90091

A

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION**  
**SWANSEA DISTRICT REGISTRY**

Swansea Civil Justice Centre,  
Caravella House, Quay West,  
Quay Parade, Swansea SA1 1SP

B

Wednesday, 18th March 2015

Before:

C

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN QC**

Between:

(1) STEPHANE (A.K.A. STEVE) PARIS  
(2) ANGEL GARDEN

**Claimants**

D

- and -

(1) DR. ANDREW LEWIS  
(2) MRS. MELANIE BYNG

**Defendants**

E

Digital Transcription of Marten Walsh Cherer Ltd.,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Quality House, 6-9 Quality Court, Chancery Lane London WC2A 1HP  
Tel No: 020 7067 2900 Fax No: 020 7831 6864 DX: 410 LDE  
Email: [info@martenwalshcherer.com](mailto:info@martenwalshcherer.com)  
Web: [www.martenwalshcherer.com](http://www.martenwalshcherer.com)

F

-----  
THE CLAIMANTS appeared in Person.

MR. JONATHAN PRICE appeared on behalf of the Defendants.

G

-----  
**FURTHER EXTRACT FROM**  
**DR LEWIS EVIDENCE (AM)**  
-----

H

A

\*\*\*\*\*

(Start: 11:48)

B

MS. GARDEN: First of all, how would you like to be referred to?

DR. LEWIS: Dr. Lewis please.

C

MS. GARDEN: Dr. Lewis, ok thank you. We have never done this before, also have to

apologise your Honour, we were not informed that we needed to provide (unclear)

disclosure bundles to go with anything so I apologise in advance for the files you are

going to have to access. Because we just did not know that we were going to have to

do that.

D

JUDGE SEYS-LLEWELLYN: We will keep it to the minimum.

E

MS. GARDEN: Yes. So we will start off then by going to volume C6, page 2241. Sorry,

3243. This is the joint statement between us, our family. Which was us on behalf of

our children and the (unclear) Steiner School. Have you read it before?

F

DR. LEWIS: I have indeed, yes.

MS. GARDEN: Can you let the court know when you first read this statement?

DR. LEWIS: I do not remember.

G

MS. GARDEN: Did you read it before the second publication of your article, post about

us?

DR. LEWIS: I am trying to remember chronology. I would have read it probably fairly

shortly after you published it on your own website. But when I cannot recollect.

H

MS. GARDEN: So that was before you republished your (unclear) article on Quakometer

blog?

DR. LEWIS: It is likely, yes.

MS. GARDEN: Ok, thank you.

A

**(Finish: 11:50:30)**

\*\*\*\*\*

B

C

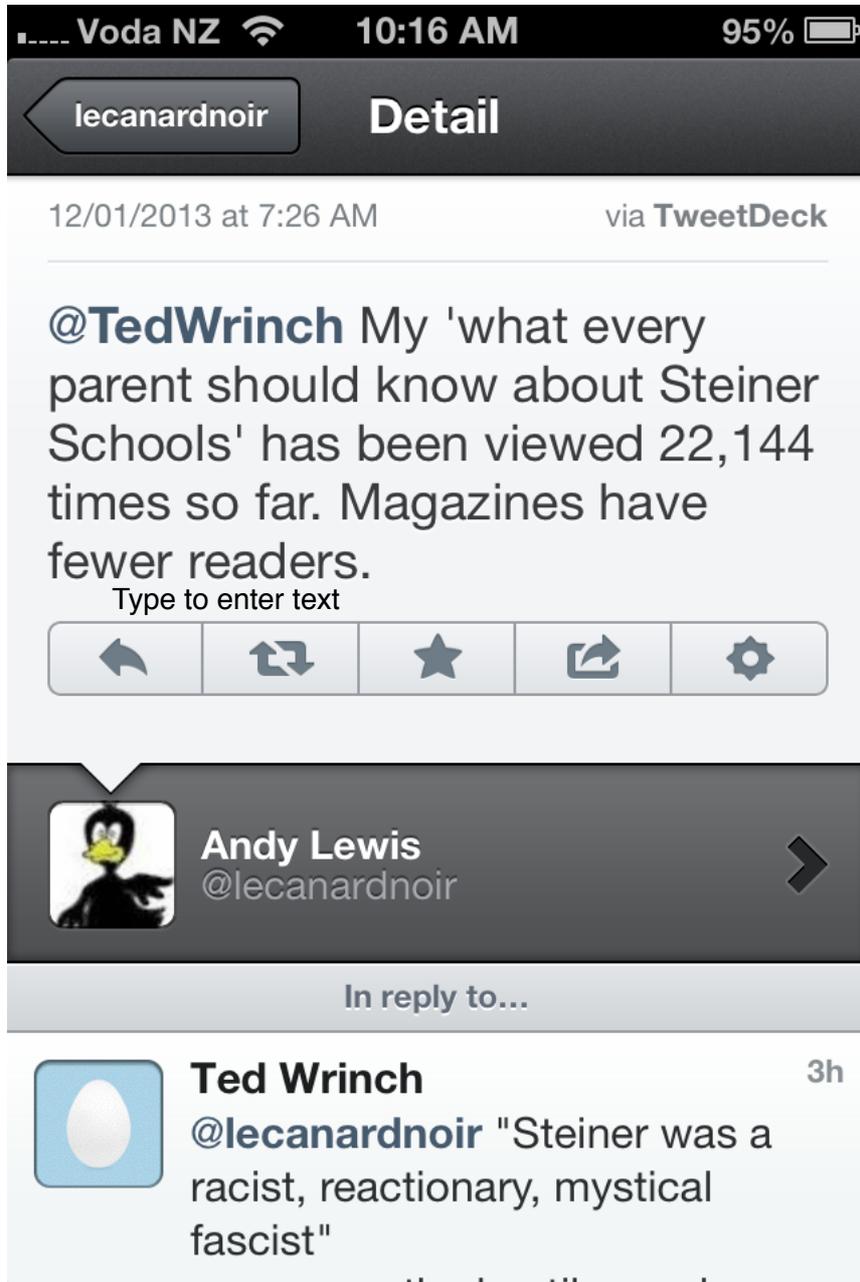
D

E

F

G

H



have confidence that those decisions have got better with each legal iteration.

Simon Singh has not been so fortunate. He has been refused permission to subject the current 'bogus' ruling to any scrutiny under an appeals process. He is currently subjected to the tyranny of the man on the Clapham omnibus where the meanings of the words he has written has been decided by one man who appears to believe he can have definitive and infallible insight into the mind of the 'common man'. There is currently no mechanism to question that ruling and so Simon is being forced to defend his words in the terms of a definition that is quite arbitrary, at the extreme of possible interpretations and in contradiction with Simon's own stated definition.

And even if Justice Eady's is right (and many doubt it is), then what the Dutch decision shows us is that by forcing Simon to accept an opinion about quackery that Simon would himself believe to be ill informed and ignorant of the true nature of alternative medicine then he is being denied a legitimate right to free expression about an issue of important public health. The ordinary man on the Clapham omnibus may indeed view quackery as simple fraud, but it is vital for public health for people to appreciate that it may be a little more complicated than that. And laws that force Simon to accept this situation are fundamentally unjust and oppressive according to rights that are now enshrined in European law.

The more I look at how English libel law operates the more convinced I am that such laws are an anachronism. Born in an age where a gentleman needed his honour protected against the tittle-tattle of the popular press, they now serve as a source of oppression where the powerful, the wealthy, the corrupt and the vested interest can close down democratic discussion. We now live in an age where we are all publishers, not just the press. The law is out of step and if the *BCA vs Singh* case causes fresh thinking about how we mediate the various rights involved in free speech then a great good will have been done.

*With thanks to Cees Renckens (pictured) of Vereniging tegen de Kwakzalverij and to Jo van Ringen for translating the court papers (my Dutch is limited to ordering a beer at the bar). I must add that*

**A2/2015/2839**

**down their web sites**

🕒 June 10,

2009 💬 260

# Titirangi Rudolf Steiner Messenger

## The Titirangi Three

expelled for being bullied

### Three and a Half Years

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Thanks to the help we received from the Human Rights Commission, and following that, from the Director of the Human Rights Tribunal, we have finally reached a settlement with the Titirangi Rudolf...

[Read more...](#)



### Mediated

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

We are now able to publish this agreed statement.

Our Human Rights Act complaint against Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School has now been resolved by agreement between the parties.

We will post the details...

[Read more...](#)



### Old habits

Sunday, September 16, 2012

Following due process is certainly a discipline requiring patience, which over the course of the last three years has become a habit of necessity for us.

It involves a lot of waiting. For example, it...

[Read more...](#)



Welcome to Titirangi Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood & School. A co-educational, non-denominational, and education for children seventeen (17 years) (Playgroup School) based on the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner. We are located on a 29 hectares in the Waikare Rangis, peaceful and natural, embraced by reef and bordering the Waikare Harbour, yet is only vibrant Titirangi 5 minutes from downtown.

### Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School agrees to mediate through the Human Rights Commission.

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

We heard back a week ago from the offices of the Director of the Human Rights Tribunal with the news that the Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School have



### about this site

• It all started with the **Welcome** page, back on the 22nd of June 2009, two weeks after our children were expelled for being bullied.

• The **News** pages chronicle what happened to our family from the moment this site went live.

• The **Letters** section contains all email and written communication between us and the school prior to the expulsions onwards.

• **Documents** holds a segment of a school **Newsletter** article concerning discipline and bullying, a **Leaflet** we'd produced in November 2009 summarising the situation between us and the school, and the Parent **Handbook**, a manual laying the Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School's rules. Check the different wording used before and after our children's expulsions.

• We made a series of **Videos** about our experiences and what we discovered about the Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School.

• **Media** features many newspaper articles about bullying in New Zealand along with interviews we gave to various journalists over the years.

• We're not the only family who

# Ostracism and Public Policy

Policy Insights from the  
Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
2014, Vol. 1(1) 38–45  
© The Author(s) 2014  
DOI: 10.1177/2372732214549753  
bbs.sagepub.com



Kipling D. Williams<sup>1</sup> and Steve A. Nida<sup>2</sup>

## Abstract

Ostracism means being ignored and excluded. Like bullying, ostracism causes pain and distress. Its targets either attempt compensatory behavior, aimed at being likeable and included, or they retaliate, provoke, and aggress. Qualitative interviews suggest that frequent exposures to ostracism make targets become depressed, exhibit helplessness, and engage in suicidal ideation and/or attempts. Unlike bullying, ostracism need not be persistent or unwanted, is difficult to monitor and penalize, and negatively affects basic human needs for acknowledgment and meaning. Research on ostracism reveals its characteristics, compares its consequences with being bullied, and suggests implications for public policy.

## Keywords

ostracism, social exclusion, rejection, Cyberball, bullying

## Tweet

Interventions aimed at reducing the frequency and impact of ostracism may be economically viable yet effective

## Key Points

- Ostracism research shows its long-term impact on heart, mind, and body, with damage that exceeds bullying.
- Ostracism interventions can link to anti-bullying programs, assess their independent impact, and engage the community.
- Community interventions raise sensitivity and produce action plans reducing ostracism.

## Introduction

Ostracism—being ignored and excluded—was neglected by social scientists as an aversive social behavior until the last three decades (Gruter & Masters, 1986; Williams, 1997, 2001, 2007, 2009). Since then, hundreds of experimental studies and review articles have detailed the large negative effects produced even by small exclusions (for meta-analyses, see Blackhart, Nelson, Knowles, & Baumeister, 2009; Cacioppo et al., 2013; J. Gerber & Wheeler, 2009; Hartgerink, van Beest, Wicherts, & Williams, 2014). Interventions and policy implications about ostracism are still in their infancy and have not yet attracted much institutional or governmental attention. Research on bullying, on the contrary, has attracted considerable attention since the 1970s (Olweus, 1977), with several intervention programs adopted worldwide (in the United States, see <http://www.stopbullying.gov/laws/index.html>). This article reviews the research on

ostracism, compares ostracism with bullying, and outlines implications for public policy.

Why is ostracism worthy of such attention? Ostracism is more insidious than bullying. People can ostracize others unnoticed and with relative impunity. Ostracism hurts as much or more than bullying, yet because it is characterized by the absence of attention and acknowledgment, it is difficult to monitor and regulate (Williams, 2001). In addition, individuals who endure long-term exposure to ostracism in schools (Saylor et al., 2012; Saylor et al., 2013) and the workplace (O'Reilly, Robinson, Banki, & Berdahl, 2014) show more severe downstream consequences than they do to bullying.

## What We Know About Ostracism

Considerable research since the late 1990s has documented the impact of being ignored, excluded, and rejected.<sup>1</sup> This work builds on a robust variety of methods and examines an array of outcomes.

## Range of Methods

Ostracism has been investigated using a variety of methods. Most mimic the casual exclusions of everyday life. In the laboratory, participants have been ignored and excluded

<sup>1</sup>Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA

<sup>2</sup>The Citadel, Charleston, SC, USA

## Corresponding Author:

Kipling D. Williams, Department of Psychological Sciences, Purdue University, 703 Third Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906, USA.  
Email: [kip@psych.purdue.edu](mailto:kip@psych.purdue.edu)

from tossing a ball (Warburton, Williams, & Cairns, 2006; Williams & Sommer, 1997), tossing a virtual ball (Cyberball; Williams, Cheung, & Choi, 2000), chatting in an Internet chat room (Williams et al., 2002), receiving text messages (Smith & Williams, 2004), following a get-acquainted discussion (Twenge, Baumeister, Tice, & Stucke, 2001; Wesselmann, Butler, Williams, & Pickett, 2010), and role-play exercises (Zadro, Williams, & Richardson, 2005). They have been asked to relive ostracism and exclusion in their own lives (Kross, Berman, Mischel, Smith, & Wager, 2011; Pickett, Gardner, & Knowles, 2004) and have been told that, based on their responses to a personality questionnaire, they will live life alone without friends (Twenge et al., 2001). Outside the laboratory, individuals were given eye contact or not while walking across campus (Wesselmann, Cardoso, Slater, & Williams, 2012), recorded in their diaries real or contrived ostracism (Nezlek, Wesselmann, Wheeler, & Williams, 2012; Williams, Bernieri, Faulkner, Grahe, & Gada-Jain, 2000), or were interviewed regarding the impact of their long-term exposure to ostracism (Williams & Zadro, 2001).

### Outcomes

**Physiological effects.** The diversity of methods employed to manipulate ostracism has been matched by the diversity of measures determining the impact of ostracism. In the brain, fMRI scans and electroencephalograms (EEGs) have shown that ostracism activates regions associated with detecting alarm and pain (Eisenberger, Liebermann, & Williams, 2001), sensing pain (Kross et al., 2011), transforming subjective feelings and behavior, uncertainty, rumination, emotional craving, and representations of significant others (Cacioppo et al., 2013). Thinking about being unexpectedly rejected causes the heart to decelerate (Gunther Moor, Crone, & van der Molen, 2010). Peer rejection also increases the stress hormone cortisol in children (Gunnar, Seban, Tout, Donzella, & van Dulman, 2003), and laboratory ostracism increases cortisol in some adults (Blackhart, Eckel, & Tice, 2007; Stroud, Tanofsky-Kraff, Wilfley, & Salovey, 2000; but see also Zwolinski, 2012).

**Psychological effects.** At the psychological level, ostracized individuals report “need-threat”—lower satisfaction of needs for belonging, self-esteem, control, and meaningful existence (Williams, 2009) and especially for some clinical populations such as the socially anxious (Zadro, Boland, & Richardson, 2006). Ostracism also increases in negative emotions, particularly anger and sadness (Chow, Tiedens, & Govan, 2008; Williams, 2009). Negative effects of ostracism have been demonstrated even when other factors would seem to make the ostracism unimportant or even beneficial. Expecting ostracism, even volunteering for it, still results in distress (Eisenberger et al., 2001; J. P. Gerber & Wheeler, 2014; Williams, Bernieri, et al., 2000). Furthermore, ostracism hurts even if the sources are despised (Fayant, Muller,

Hartgerink, & Lantian, 2014; Gonsalkorale & Williams, 2007), are known to be only computer generated (Zadro, Williams, & Richardson, 2004), are tossing a virtual bomb that will eliminate the player holding it (van Beest, Williams, & van Dijk, 2011), or when inclusion costs individuals money, whereas ostracism allows them to keep their money (van Beest & Williams, 2006).

**Behavioral effects.** Behaviorally, ostracism increases social susceptibility, which can increase the individual’s likeability, acceptance, and inclusion. Thus, following a brief episode of ostracism (in comparison with inclusion), individuals are more likely to conform (Williams, Cheung, & Choi, 2000), comply (Carter-Sowell, Chen, & Williams, 2008), and obey (Riva, Williams, Torstrick, & Montali, 2014). Ostracized individuals are also more likely to remember social (but not nonsocial) information (Gardner, Pickett, & Brewer, 2000), unconsciously mimic (Lakin, Chartrand, & Arkin, 2008), accurately distinguish fake from genuine smiles (Bernstein, Young, Brown, Sacco, & Claypool, 2008), and spot incongruities between emotional tone and message content (Pickett et al., 2004). Although social susceptibility can be a civil and generally pro-social response, it can also render the individual vulnerable to incorrect or even dangerous social influence. For example, ostracized individuals are attracted to extreme groups (Hales & Williams, 2014), and at-risk adolescents exposed to a brief episode of ostracism indicate a greater preference for socially risky drug and sexual behavior (Stock, Gibbons, Walsh, & Gerrard, 2011).

Ostracism’s effects depend on its severity. When being re-included is difficult or unlikely, or when threats to control are particularly high, ostracism can lead to provocation and aggression. Participants told they will have no permanent friends after they turn 25 (compared with other negative expectations of broken bones or positive expectations of inclusion) increase aggression expressed as noise blasts, shocks, and verbal abuse (Gaertner, Iuzzini, & O’Mara, 2008; Twenge et al., 2001; Warburton et al., 2006). Participants were less willing to engage in pro-social responses as a consequence of expecting a life alone (Twenge, Baumeister, DeWall, Ciarocco, & Bartels, 2007). A review of media reports showed that 13 of 15 school shooters had been ostracized or rejected, along with having mental problems and access to weapons (Leary, Kowalski, & Smith, 2003). Brief episodes of ostracism have also led to perceptions of physical coldness (Zhong & Leonardelli, 2008) and actual bodily coldness (IJzerman et al., 2012). Ostracism also disrupts self-regulation, resulting in excessive eating and giving up (Baumeister, DeWall, Ciarocco, & Twenge, 2006; Salvy et al., 2011).

### Ostracism and Bullying

Comparing the impact of ostracism with bullying is not easy (Williams & Nida, 2009). Equating their relative magnitude is problematic, and each has many forms that vary and comele.

Nevertheless, a few studies have attempted to distinguish between the two and to assess their independent impact on psychological and behavioral outcomes. In a role-play interaction, being verbally insulted is less distressing than being ostracized (Zadro et al., 2005). Experimentally, being included in an aggressive game with elements of bullying (throwing a virtual bomb that will eliminate the person holding the bomb) is less distressing than being excluded from the same game (van Beest et al., 2011).

Examining real-world ostracism and bullying, a recent U.K. study indicates ostracism's power. A survey on bullying among 35,000 students between the ages of 11 and 18 (Benton, 2011) suggests that the most emotionally damaging type of bullying is "being left out." Pitting ostracism and bullying against one another, in an effort to determine which is worse, researchers administered the Bullying and Ostracism Screening Scale (BOSS; Saylor et al., 2012) to 1,076 children averaging 12.6 years of age (Carpenter, Nida, Saylor, & Taylor, 2012). Children who had been ostracized displayed significantly greater need-threat than children who had been bullied. Also without exception, children who had experienced neither bullying nor ostracism had the lowest levels of need-threat, whereas those who had experienced both consistently reported the highest levels of threat—suggesting ostracism and bullying each contribute independently.

Workplace bullying and ostracism generate a similar conclusion (O'Reilly et al., 2014). Whereas both workplace bullying and ostracism are aversive and disruptive for the targeted employees, they are perceived differently and have different downstream consequences. Surveyed workers rated ostracism as more acceptable, less harmful, and more permissible by employers. Yet compared with bullying, ostracism was more negatively related to a sense of belonging, well-being, and work-related attitudes. Finally, ostracism, but not bullying, predicted employee turnover 3 years after ostracism and harassment were assessed.

Although both physical pain (which sometimes characterizes bullying) and social pain (which always characterizes ostracism) are aversive and are remembered as painful, people induced to recall the painful event are more likely to relive the pain for the social event (Chen, Williams, Fitness, & Newton, 2008). This suggests that memories of ostracism can resurface and cause more pain in the future. Of course, bullying also causes social pain, as it excludes the targeted individual (although without ignoring), so the social pain from exclusion can likely linger, too.

### Implications for Public Policy: Children at Risk

The harmful effects of ostracism have been well documented, and its mechanisms are clear. Although most of the studies to date have focused on ostracism among adults, recent studies involving children and adolescents have, for the most part, examined the effects of ostracism in two established domains

(e.g., Williams, 2001): threat to basic needs and negative mood.

In general, studies with children (most often, Cyberball) have produced effects paralleling those well established with adults. For instance, ostracism generated similar need-threats and negative moods among adolescents (Sebastian, Viding, Williams, & Blakemore, 2010). Other studies with young people have yielded similar findings, although some inconsistencies question how much different age groups experience these effects (e.g., Abrams, Weick, Thomas, Colbe, & Franklin, 2011; Pharo, Gross, Richardson, & Hayne, 2011). Still, adolescents appear more influenced by peer rejection and by peer opinions than either adults or younger children (Kloep, 1999). Among children and adolescents, ostracism may undermine cognitive performance (Hawes et al., 2012), may discourage physical activity (Barkley, Salvy, & Roenmmich, 2012), and may encourage eating in those who are overweight (Salvy et al., 2011).

Some of the first research on ostracism in children (Nida, Twyman, Saylor, & Williams, 2009; Saylor et al., 2013; Twyman et al., 2010) has moved in a clinical direction. An ongoing project with a large pediatric sample (ranging from 8 to 17, with a mean age of about 12 years) has consistently found relationships between ostracism and compromised psychological adjustment—including ratings by parents as well as the children/adolescents themselves. Ostracism is associated with higher parent-reported behavior problems and children who are less socially competent. Particularly disturbing are the robust correlations between measures of ostracism and symptoms of depression. Yet another troubling finding here is the clear indication that the children most likely to be targets of ostracism are those who have special needs, such as autism or chronic medical conditions (e.g., spina bifida).

### Interventions for Ostracism: Unique Challenges

Not only may ostracism be more harmful than bullying, but it also presents distinct challenges for designing interventions. Unlike bullying, ostracism might be termed a *non-behavior*. Bullying involves overt behaviors intended to cause harm to another. Although bullying may escape the attention of others who could intervene, because the perpetrator chooses to bully away from adults in authority (e.g., teachers), witnesses can ordinarily see when bullying does occur. Even though the bully may not verbalize the intent, circumstantial evidence makes bullying obvious (e.g., clear differences between bully and victim in size or power); in addition, bullying entails specific behaviors to stop or prevent.

Ostracism is more likely to escape detection. However, even when witnessed or suspected, its perpetrator can legitimately claim to be "doing nothing," despite the intent to cause social harm. Ostracism entails no specific, overt behavior to stop or prevent; direct intervention in the form

of forcing the perpetrator to include the target of the ostracism may be counterproductive. Consequently, rather than focusing energy on changing the behavior of the ostracism perpetrator, intervention efforts might more productively focus on the target of ostracism, with the goal of mitigating its impact.

### **Public Policy Strategy 1: Link Anti-Ostracism and Anti-Bullying Efforts**

Anti-bullying efforts have become ubiquitous in recent years. Resources to assist school systems, administrators, teachers, parents, and organizations are widely available. Numerous websites (e.g., [stopbullying.gov](http://stopbullying.gov)) are available to inform and to connect individuals and organizations. Programs are commercially available for adoption by schools or school systems, such as the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP; Olweus et al., 2007). The highly regarded OBPP, which offers a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying at the systems level, is deeply rooted in decades of research. Currently, 49 states have anti-bullying laws, and 42 states have an anti-bullying policy. Likewise, a simple web search on anti-bullying programs yields an overwhelming volume of material. However plentiful anti-bullying resources might be, ostracism is rarely introduced as part of that discussion.

Introducing ostracism to any program about bullying would seem relatively easy. Both are used for the same purpose—to hurt another person. In addition, ostracism and bullying often occur together (Raskauskas & Stoltz, 2007). Just as bullying is a problem in schools, evidence suggests that ostracism is particularly likely to be used at school (Walker, Nida, & Warren, 2011). Separate anti-ostracism efforts are probably unnecessary. *It would seem to make sense—both conceptually and in terms of cost-efficiency—to piggyback efforts to combat ostracism onto existing anti-bullying strategies and related efforts to encourage positive behaviors.* The anti-bullying enterprise can easily evolve to incorporate ostracism as a basic component.

### **Public Policy Strategy 2: Appropriate Assessment**

Sound anti-bullying programs include targeted assessment. In particular, assessing the extent of bullying is absolutely essential. Similarly, assessment can gauge the prevalence of ostracism. Not only do such assessments provide information about the extent of the problem but over time, they document the success of efforts to reduce the incidence of bullying and ostracism.

Largely at the urging of pediatricians who expressed the desire to have a simple assessment to use with patients whom they suspected were having social difficulties, the BOSS (Saylor et al., 2012) emerged. The BOSS was developed using a group of 1,500 respondents 8 to 17 years of age; it takes 6 to 9 min to complete with an actual examiner present or about 18 min using a DVD presentation.

The administration begins by explaining different types of bullying (e.g., physical bullying, cyberbullying) and explaining ostracism, each supported by an illustrative drawing. The respondent then completes 16 items asking about the frequency of bullying and ostracism and 15 items comprising the ostracism scale. This last portion includes 12 items that assess threat to the four needs noted earlier, and the other 3 items ask about the extent to which the respondent has been a target of ostracism.

The BOSS used with an individual child or adolescent can assess that person's experiences with ostracism and bullying. Alternate version of the scales can assess a parent's perceptions of ostracism and bullying as related to that person's child. Yet another alternative—the “school climate” version of the scale—can be used with administrators, teachers, staff, and parents to develop a general snapshot of the prevalence of ostracism and bullying in a particular school. Just as building ostracism into programming related to bullying should be relatively easy, making ostracism part of the associated assessment mechanism should be a similarly simple matter.

### **Public Policy Strategy 3: Broad-Based Education and Engagement**

Some suggestions for combating ostracism may be applied both within anti-bullying programs and as part of the broader efforts to encourage positive behaviors; others are more general suggestions for actions to discourage ostracism.

*Give ostracism the attention it deserves.* Because ostracism is a sort of “non-behavior,” some may not grasp the full extent of ostracism's potential to do harm. Emphasizing this point is crucial when educating teachers, staff, and other adults about ostracism. Video materials with an anti-bullying theme are plentiful, but to our knowledge only one such production gives ostracism its due—a new documentary film (not yet commercially available) titled *Reject*. Focusing in part on the tragic story of an adolescent suicide triggered by an extended episode of bullying and exclusion, *Reject* devotes attention to the science investigating the impact of ostracism and social rejection (as compared with bullying), and a classroom intervention for Kindergarten to second graders based on Paley's (1992) book, *You Can't Say You Can't Play*, aimed at curbing social exclusion.

*Be intentionally inclusive whenever possible.* In school settings (and in related activities), supervising adults must model inclusion. For example, those responsible for artistic productions can always find off-stage support roles for those who are interested but lack the ability to play a more central role. Service-learning activities never need to exclude anyone. In communities, recreation departments can offer inclusive sports activities that involve children both with and without special needs. Being intentionally inclusive can also extend to developing partnerships with organizations that might engage in anti-bullying/anti-ostracism efforts.

*Embed anti-bullying/anti-ostracism efforts within a more comprehensive framework.* Regular assessment is a cornerstone of any approach to eliminate the negative social behaviors that have been the focus of these comments. All school systems attend to the socioemotional development of students—Why not make sure to include strategies, both direct and indirect, for teaching the importance of including others? Many schools employ the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system developed at the University of Oregon about 15 years ago (Horner, Sugai, & Anderson, 2010; Sugai & Horner, 2006); virtually all school systems not using PBIS itself employ some variant of it, the general goal of which is to bring about positive behavioral change. This approach focuses on acknowledging behaviors consistent with the rules, rather than overly focusing on punishment for violations. Such a system can acknowledge and praise inclusionary acts; ideally, including others would eventually become the norm. School psychologists can take the sort of broad-based approach (i.e., emphasizing assessment and awareness) advocated here (Leja & Wesselmann, 2013). Although their presentation uses the individual classroom or school as the frame of reference and ultimately addresses the matter of individual interventions, the model they present might be extrapolated to serve at a more macro level.

To illustrate, a Purdue University Extension program called “All In: Creating Inclusive Communities” pilot-tested the feasibility of these approaches. Local community members (in two counties so far), particularly those involved in education, came 3 times (once each week) to a local venue to (a) hear a research presentation on ostracism, (b) watch the film *Reject*, and (c) form small groups to discuss policy and interventions aimed at reducing ostracism and its negative impact within the school system. A preliminary program evaluation indicates that community members were quite positive about the informational value of the program and their perception that they can use the information to inform policy. Follow-up evaluations and observations of concrete changes in policy will be made available on <http://www.purdue.edu/hhs/extension/>.

*Use the “power of one.”* Social psychologists have long been aware that the behavior of a single individual who refuses to succumb to the prevailing social pressure in a group setting can lead other group members to behave in a completely different manner than otherwise expected. In his classic studies of conformity, Asch (1951) found that most people were willing (at least some of the time) to give an obviously incorrect answer to a question when others present had unanimously given that same incorrect answer; adding one lone dissenter to that situation reduced the level of conformity by nearly 75%. Similarly, although helping in emergencies is usually less likely in groups, a single group member who steps forward to help redefines that situation for the others present, thus prompting others to join in and thereby negating the apathetic “bystander effect” (Latané & Nida, 1981).

In short, single individuals can make a difference, and such appears to be true for mitigating the effects of ostracism. The presence of a single “accepting” other person is sufficient to reduce the aggression produced by social rejection (DeWall, Twenge, Bushman, Im, & Williams, 2010). Although as yet no empirical evidence shows the power of just one friend or ally in reducing the effects of ostracism, anecdotal evidence is abundant. One colleague who has been working with school-based interventions for ostracism and bullying has found that teachers and administrators have great success with enlisting the assistance of a trusted student to be a designated “friend” to an ostracized child.

## Conclusion

Consider the following episode described by one of our students in response to a final-exam question in a social psychology class that discussed ostracism. This gregarious individual, who had attended a large high school, had made it a goal to meet at least one new person every day at lunch, beginning with the first day of her freshman year. One day that year she had met another student whom she described as a “loner.” Because this young man was shy, awkward, and uncomfortable with social interaction, our social student had chosen not to invite him to sit at her lunch table—but every day thereafter for the next 2+ years said hello to him in the cafeteria with a smile or a wave. Eventually, she noticed that the other student had been absent for several weeks; when he returned to school, our student left him a nice note to welcome him back. That evening she received the following message on Facebook:

Hi Maria, thank you for saving my life. I have never fit in and have felt like I didn't deserve to be here anymore. I have no friends and my family doesn't notice if I don't come home. I thought I would be better off gone, so I took as many sleeping pills as I could. Before I started to drift away I thought of you waving to me and giving me a smile, so I called 911. Thought you should know why I was out of school. Thank you for your note.

All this student did was to say hello one day in the cafeteria during her freshman year and then flash a smile every other time she saw him. Those quick smiles likely gave him hope that not everyone wanted him gone and helped to ease the pain of being ostracized.

We believe that this simple message—the power of the single individual have a positive impact on the lives of those who are rejected—has the potential to infuse policy and practice at every level, from the individual to the classroom to the system and beyond. It is simple and easily implemented, and making the concept a central part of the discussion about social rejection in schools, families, and organizations should be an inexpensive undertaking that we believe can make a difference.

### Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

### Funding

The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

### Note

1. Many studies using ostracism manipulations refer to the effect of rejection. Other paradigms are also used that more explicitly reject (i.e., “you are not wanted,” “we don’t want to work with you,” etc.). Although there may be important distinctions between ostracism and rejection, those distinctions are not well understood. So, we will include the rejection research under the umbrella term *ostracism*. Most research has examined the impact of ostracism on individuals. Recently, some attention has been given to the impact of ostracism on small groups, as well as what causes individuals to ostracize others. In this article, we focus on the vast majority of research that is directed toward determining the impact of ostracism on individuals.

### References

- Abrams, D., Weick, M., Thomas, D., Colbe, H., & Franklin, K. M. (2011). On-line ostracism affects children differently from adolescents and adults. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology, 29*, 110-123.
- Asch, S. E. (1951). Effects of group pressure upon the modification and distortion of judgments. In H. Guetzkow (Ed.), *Groups, leadership, and men* (pp. 177-190). Pittsburgh, PA: Carnegie Press.
- Barkley, J. E., Salvy, S.-J., & Roemmich, J. N. (2012). The effect of simulated ostracism on physical activity behavior in children. *Pediatrics, 129*, 659-666.
- Baumeister, R. F., DeWall, C. N., Ciarocco, N. L., & Twenge, J. M. (2006). Social exclusion impairs self-regulation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 88*, 589-604.
- Benton, T. (2011). *Sticks and stones may break my bones, but being left on my own is worse: An analysis of reported bullying at school within NFER attitude surveys*. Slough, UK: National Foundation for Educational Research.
- Bernstein, M. J., Young, S. G., Brown, C. M., Sacco, D. F., & Claypool, H. (2008). Adaptive responses to social exclusion: Social rejection improves detection of real and fake smiles. *Psychological Science, 19*, 981-983.
- Blackhart, G. C., Eckel, L. A., & Tice, D. M. (2007). Salivary cortisol in response to acute social rejection and acceptance by peers. *Biological Psychology, 75*, 267-276.
- Blackhart, G. C., Nelson, B. C., Knowles, M. L., & Baumeister, R. F. (2009). Rejection elicits emotional reactions but neither causes immediate distress nor lowers self-esteem: A meta-analytic review of 192 studies on social exclusion. *Personality and Social Psychology Review, 13*, 269-309. doi:10.1177/1088868309346065
- Cacioppo, S., Frum, C., Asp, E., Weiss, R. M., Lewis, J. W., & Cacioppo, J. T. (2013). A quantitative meta-analysis of functional imaging studies of social rejection. *Scientific Reports, 3*, Article 2027. doi:10.1038/srep02027
- Carpenter, J., Nida, S., Saylor, C., & Taylor, L. (2012, February). *Consequences: Bullying versus ostracism in middle school students*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Carter-Sowell, A. R., Chen, Z., & Williams, K. D. (2008). Ostracism increases social susceptibility. *Social Influence, 3*, 143-153.
- Chen, Z., Williams, K. D., Fitness, J., & Newton, N. (2008). When hurt won't heal: Exploring the capacity to relive social and physical pain. *Psychological Science, 19*, 789-795.
- Chow, R. M., Tiedens, L. Z., & Govan, C. (2008). Excluded emotions: The role of anger responses to social ostracism. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 44*, 896-903.
- DeWall, C. N., Twenge, J. M., Bushman, B. J., Im, C., & Williams, K. D. (2010). A little acceptance goes a long way: Applying social impact theory to the rejection-aggression link. *Social Psychological & Personality Science, 1*, 168-174.
- Eisenberger, N. I., Lieberman, M. D., & Williams, K. D. (2003). Does rejection hurt? An fMRI study of social exclusion. *Science, 302*, 290-292.
- Fayant, M.-P., Muller, D., Hartgerink, C. H. J., & Lantian, A. (2014). Is ostracism by a despised outgroup really hurtful? A replication and extension of Gonsalkorale and Williams (2007). *Social Psychology*.
- Gaertner, L., Iuzzini, J., & O'Mara, E. M. (2008). When rejection by one fosters aggression against many: Multiple-victim aggression as a consequence of social rejection and perceived groupness. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 44*, 958-970.
- Gardner, W., Pickett, C. L., & Brewer, M. B. (2000). Social exclusion and selective memory: How the need to belong influences memory for social events. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 26*, 486-496.
- Gerber, J., & Wheeler, L. (2009). On being rejected: A meta-analysis of experimental research on rejection. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 4*, 468-488. doi:10.1111/j.1745-6924.2009.01158.x
- Gerber, J. P., & Wheeler, L. (2014). Clarifying the relationship between ostracism and relational devaluation. *The Journal of Social Psychology, 154*, 14-27.
- Gonsalkorale, K., & Williams, K. D. (2007). The KKK won't let me play: Ostracism even by a despised outgroup hurts. *European Journal of Social Psychology, 37*, 1176-1185.
- Gunnar, M., Seban, A., Tout, K., Donzella, M. A., & van Dulman, M. (2003). Temperament, peer relationships, and cortisol activity in preschoolers. *Developmental Psychobiology, 43*, 346-368.
- Gunther Moor, B., Crone, E. A., & van der Molen, M. W. (2010). The heartbreak of social rejection: Heart rate deceleration in response to unexpected peer rejection. *Psychological Science, 21*, 1326-1333.
- Gruter, M., & Masters, R. D. (Eds.). (1986). Ostracism: A social and biological phenomenon [Special issue]. *Ethology and Sociobiology, 7*, 149-395.
- Hales, A., & Williams, K. D. (2014). *In with the out-crowd: Ostracism increases interest in extreme groups*. Unpublished manuscript, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
- Hartgerink, C. H. J., van Beest, I., Wicherts, J. M., & Williams, K. D. (2014). *Ordinal effects of ostracism: A meta-analysis of Cyberball studies*. Unpublished Manuscript, Tilburg University. Retrieved from <https://osf.io/ht25n/>

- Hawes, D. J., Zadro, L., Fink, E., Richardson, R., O'Moore, K., Griffiths, B., . . . Williams, K. D. (2012). The effects of peer ostracism on children's cognitive processes. *European Journal of Developmental Psychology, 9*, 599-613.
- Horner, R. H., Sugai, G., & Anderson, C. M. (2010). Examining the evidence base for school-wide positive behavior support. *Focus on Exceptional Children, 42*, 1-14.
- IJzerman, H., Gallucci, M., Pouw, W. T. J. L., Weißgerber, S. C., van Doesum, N. J., & Williams, K. D. (2012). Cold-blooded loneliness: Social exclusion leads to lower skin temperature. *Acta Psychologica, 140*, 283-288.
- Kloep, M. (1999). Love is all you need? Focusing on adolescents' life concerns from an ecological point of view. *Journal of Adolescence, 22*, 49-63.
- Kross, E., Berman, M. G., Mischel, W., Smith, E. E., & Wager, T. D. (2011). Social rejection shares somatosensory representations with physical pain. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 108*, 6270-6275.
- Lakin, J. L., Chartrand, T. L., & Arkin, R. M. (2008). I am too just like you: Nonconscious mimicry as an automatic behavioral response to social exclusion. *Psychological Science, 19*, 816-822.
- Latané, B., & Nida, S. (1981). Ten years of research on group size and helping. *Psychological Bulletin, 89*, 308-324.
- Leary, M. R., Kowalski, R. M., & Smith, L. (2003). Case studies of the school shootings. *Aggressive Behavior, 29*, 202-214.
- Leja, A. M., & Wesselmann, E. D. (2013). Invisible youth: Understanding ostracism in our schools. *Communique, 42* (4), 1.
- Nezlek, J., Wesselmann, E. B., Wheeler, L., & Williams, K. D. (2012). Ostracism in everyday life. *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice, 16*, 91-94.
- Nida, S. A., Twyman, K. A., Saylor, C. F., & Williams, K. D. (2009, April). *Ostracism, depression, and adjustment in children and adolescents*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Olweus, D. (1977). Aggression and peer acceptance in adolescent boys: Two short-term longitudinal studies of ratings. *Child Development, 48*, 1301-1313.
- Olweus, D., Limber, S. P., Flerx, V. C., Mullin, N., Riese, J., & Snyder, M. (2007). *Olweus bullying prevention program*. Center City, MN: Hazelden.
- O'Reilly, J., Robinson, S. L., Berdahl, J. L., & Banki, S. (2014). Is negative attention better than no attention? The comparative effects of ostracism and harassment at work. *Organizational Science*. Advance online publication. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1287/orsc.2014.0900>.
- Paley, V. G. (1992). *You can't say you can't play*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Pharo, H., Gross, J., Richardson, R., & Hayne, H. (2011). Age-related changes in the effect of ostracism. *Social Influence, 6*, 22-38.
- Pickett, C. L., Gardner, W. L., & Knowles, M. (2004). Getting a cue: The need to belong and enhanced sensitivity to social cues. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 30*, 1095-1107.
- Raskauskas, J., & Stoltz, A. D. (2007). Involvement in traditional and electronic bullying among adolescents. *Developmental Psychology, 43*, 564-575.
- Riva, P., Williams, K. D., Torstrick, A., & Montali, L. (2014). Orders to shoot (a camera): Effects of ostracism on obedience. *The Journal of Social Psychology, 154*, 208-216.
- Salvy, S.-J., Bowker, J. C., Nitecki, L. A., Kluczynski, M. A., Germeroth, L. J., & Roemmich, J. N. (2011). Impact of simulated ostracism on overweight and normal-weight youths' motivation to eat and food intake. *Appetite, 56*, 39-45.
- Saylor, C. F., Nida, S. A., Williams, K. D., Taylor, L. A., Smyth, W., Twyman, K. A., . . . Spratt, E. G. (2012). Bullying and Ostracism Screening Scales (BOSS): Development and applications. *Children's Health Care, 41*, 322-343.
- Saylor, C. F., Williams, K. D., Nida, S. A., McKenna, M. E., Twomey, K. E., & Macias, M. M. (2013). Ostracism in pediatric populations: Review of theory and research. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, 34*, 279-287.
- Sebastian, C., Viding, E., Williams, K. D., & Blakemore, S.-J. (2010). Social brain development and the affective consequences of ostracism in adolescence. *Brain and Cognition, 72*, 134-145.
- Smith, A., & Williams, K. D. (2004). R U There? Effects of ostracism by cell phone messages. *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice, 8*, 291-301.
- Stock, M. L., Gibbons, F. X., Walsh, L. A., & Gerrard, M. (2011). Racial identification, racial discrimination, and substance use vulnerability among African American young adults. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 37*, 1349-1361.
- Stroud, L. R., Tanofsky-Kraff, M., Wilfley, D. E., & Salovey, P. (2000). The Yale Interpersonal Stressor (YIPS): Affective, physiological, and behavioral responses to a novel interpersonal rejection paradigm. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine, 22*, 204-213.
- Sugai, G., & Horner, R. (2006). A promising approach for expanding and sustaining school-wide positive behavior support. *School Psychology Review, 35*, 245-259.
- Twenge, J. M., Baumeister, R. F., DeWall, C. N., Ciarocco, N. J., & Bartels, J. M. (2007). Social exclusion decreases prosocial behavior. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 92*, 56-66.
- Twenge, J. M., Baumeister, R. F., Tice, D. M., & Stucke, T. S. (2001). If you can't join them, beat them: Effects of social exclusion on aggressive behavior. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 81*, 1058-1069.
- Twyman, K. A., Saylor, C. F., Saia, D., Macias, M. M., Taylor, L. A., & Spratt, E. (2010). Bullying and ostracism experiences in children with special health care needs. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, 31*, 1-8.
- van Beest, I., & Williams, K. D. (2006). When inclusion costs and ostracism pays, ostracism still hurts. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 91*, 918-928.
- van Beest, I., Williams, K. D., & van Dijk, E. (2011). Cyberbomb: Effects of being ostracized from a death game. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations, 14*, 581-596.
- Walker, D., Nida, S., & Warren, B. (2011, March). *Ostracism in rural and suburban adolescents*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Jacksonville, FL.
- Warburton, W. A., Williams, K. D., & Cairns, D. R. (2006). When ostracism leads to aggression: The moderating effects of control deprivation. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 42*, 213-220.
- Wesselmann, E. D., Butler, F. A., Williams, K. D., & Pickett, C. L. (2010). Adding injury to insult: Unexpected rejection leads to more aggressive responses. *Aggressive Behavior, 35*, 1-6.

- Wesselmann, E. D., Cardoso, F., Slater, S., & Williams, K. D. (2012). "To be looked at as though air": Civil attention matters. *Psychological Science, 23*, 166-168.
- Williams, K. D. (1997). Social ostracism. In R. M. Kowalski (Ed.), *Aversive interpersonal behaviors* (pp. 133-170). New York, NY: Plenum.
- Williams, K. D. (2001). *Ostracism: The power of silence*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Williams, K. D. (2007). Ostracism. *Annual Review of Psychology, 58*, 425-452.
- Williams, K. D. (2009). Ostracism: A temporal need-threat model. In M. Zanna (Ed.), *Advances in experimental social psychology* (Vol. 41, pp. 279-314). New York, NY: Academic Press.
- Williams, K. D., Bernieri, F., Faulkner, S., Grahe, J., & Gada-Jain, N. (2000). The Scarlet Letter Study: Five days of social ostracism. *Journal of Personal and Interpersonal Loss, 5*, 19-63.
- Williams, K. D., Cheung, C. K. T., & Choi, W. (2000). CyberOstracism: Effects of being ignored over the Internet. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 79*, 748-762.
- Williams, K. D., Govan, C. L., Croker, V., Tynan, D., Cruickshank, M., & Lam, A. (2002). Investigations into differences between social and cyber ostracism. *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice, 6*, 65-77.
- Williams, K. D., & Nida, S. A. (2009). Is ostracism worse than bullying? In M. J. Harris (Ed.), *Bullying, rejection, and peer victimization: A social cognitive neuroscience perspective* (pp. 279-296). New York, NY: Springer.
- Williams, K. D., & Sommer, K. L. (1997). Social ostracism by one's coworkers: Does rejection lead to loafing or compensation? *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 23*, 693-706.
- Williams, K. D., & Zadro, L. (2001). Ostracism: On being ignored, excluded and rejected. In M. R. Leary (Ed.), *Interpersonal rejection* (pp. 21-53). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Zadro, L., Boland, C., & Richardson, R. (2006). How long does it last? The persistence of the effects of ostracism in the socially anxious. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 42*, 692-697.
- Zadro, L., Williams, K. D., & Richardson, R. (2004). How low can you go? Ostracism by a computer lowers belonging, control, self-esteem, and meaningful existence. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 40*, 560-567.
- Zadro, L., Williams, K. D., & Richardson, R. (2005). Riding the "O" train: Comparing the effects of ostracism and verbal dispute on targets and sources. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations, 8*, 125-143.
- Zhong, C. -B., & Leonardelli, G. J. (2008). Cold and lonely: Does social exclusion literally feel cold? *Psychological Science, 19*, 838-842.
- Zwolinski, J. (2012). Psychological and neuroendocrine reactivity to ostracism. *Aggressive Behavior, 38*, 108-125.



# The Pain of **Exclusion**

Even trivial episodes of ostracism can shatter your sense of self. But you can lessen—and learn from—the pain

**By Kip Williams**

**O**ne afternoon in the mid-1980s I was sitting in a park on a blanket beside my dog when a Frisbee rolled up and hit me in the back. I turned around and spotted two guys standing a short distance away with hopeful looks. After standing to return their Frisbee, I moved to sit back down, when, to my surprise, the two strangers threw the disk back to me—an invitation. We formed a triangle on the grass, beginning a spontaneous game of three-way toss. But minutes later, for no discernible reason, they stopped throwing the Frisbee to me. At first, it was sort of funny, but when it became clear that they were not going to include me again, I felt foolish, awkward and hurt. I felt ostracized.

## Even brief episodes of ostracism involving strangers or people we dislike can lead to strong emotional reactions.

Like all social animals, ring-tailed lemurs will ostracize a member of their group if the animal becomes a burden. A lone-some lemur usually does not fare well.



I slunk back to my blanket and dog—and got an idea. As an assistant professor of psychology then at Drake University, I had long wanted to study ostracism, but I never knew how. The scenario in the park had required no conversation, no prior acquaintance and no ex-

pectation of future interaction. Yet it was emotionally powerful. I realized I could re-create my experience in the park as a virtual ball toss or Frisbee game in which certain players are excluded—and thereby take it into the lab. Cyberball, as I dubbed the computer

game, greatly simplifies the Frisbee incident—stripping away, for example, the precise way the other people look and act—yet manages to capture the emotional essence of ostracism. Today other researchers and I use various tactics to study this condition. We intentionally exclude participants from face-to-face conversations, chat-room discussions or group texting. We examine how people react when others avert their eyes or how participants respond when we tell them that others do not want to work with them. Sometimes we ask participants to recall incidents in which they have been left out and observe the effects of these memories on mood and behavior.

No matter how people are left out, their response is swift and powerful, inducing a social agony that the brain registers as physical pain. Even brief episodes involving strangers or people we dislike activate pain centers, incite sadness and anger, increase stress, lower self-esteem and rob us of a sense of control. Remarkably, we all feel that initial ache about equally, no matter how tough or sensitive we are. Personality traits do, however, influence how well we cope—whether we recover quickly or ruminate endlessly, whether we work to reestablish social ties or lash out in anger.

All social animals use this form of group rejection to get rid of burdensome group members. In nonhuman social animals, an unaccepted member usually ends up dead. Detecting ostracism quickly increases the likelihood that an individual can respond in such a way as to stay in the group and literally or figuratively survive the ordeal.

### The Sting of Silence

Athenians coined the word “ostracism”; they wrote the name of the person they wished to banish on ostraca, shards

#### FAST FACTS

#### The Agony of Ostracism

- 1**» Even brief episodes of ostracism involving strangers or people we dislike activate the brain’s pain centers, incite sadness and anger, increase stress, lower self-esteem and rob us of a sense of control.
- 2**» We all feel the pain of ostracism about equally, no matter how tough or sensitive we are. Personality traits do, however, influence how well we cope.
- 3**» Detecting ostracism quickly increases the likelihood that an individual can respond in such a way as to stay in the group and, literally or figuratively, survive the ordeal.

of clay. But the phenomenon appears to have existed for as long as social animals have. Typically the term—defined simply as being ignored and excluded—implies a situation in which a group is shunning an individual, but it could also describe “the silent treatment,” in which one individual ignores another, or a group excludes another group or even an individual rejects a group.

I first became interested in ostracism 32 years ago as a graduate student after watching a documentary about a West Point Academy cadet, James Pelosi. Pelosi’s superiors asked him to leave the academy because he did not put down his pencil at the required moment during an exam. But Pelosi refused to leave, so the unwritten policy of silencing ensued—for two and a half years. His roommate moved out, no one talked to him or even looked at him, and when he sat in the cafeteria, everyone at the table would rise and move to another. I was so moved by the power of this silent rejection that I vowed to study it someday.

Of course, social psychologists knew even then that the desire to belong influences many behaviors. People obey, conform, cooperate, engage in groupthink

and may even become reluctant to help others—all to remain part of the gang. But despite a few isolated studies that examined the effects of exclusion, no one was seriously invested in studying ostracism as a subject. Then, about 15 years ago, my colleagues and I began our experiments with ball-tossing games—real ones at first, followed by Cyberball.

In Cyberball, participants toss a virtual ball or disk with what they believe are two other human players represented by animated characters on a computer screen. When the ball is thrown to the participant, represented on screen by an animated hand, he or she throws it back to one of the other players by clicking that player’s cartoon icon. Some of the participants are “ostracized”: they receive the ball once or twice at the beginning of the game—but never again. The other participants—the included ones—get the ball one third of the time, as you would expect in a perfectly egalitarian game of toss.

In one of our early studies, published in 2000, I, along with students Christopher Cheung and Wilma Choi, asked 1,486 participants from 62 countries to play Cyberball online and then surveyed

their psychological state using a standard questionnaire. We found that those who had been cyberostracized for just a few minutes reported unusually low levels of belonging to groups or society, diminished self-esteem, and a lack of meaning in, and control over, their lives. They were also sad and angry. In a separate study, when we asked people to recount real-life incidents in a diary for two weeks, people reported experiencing an average of one such event per day, suggesting that many, presumably insignificant daily occurrences trigger this type of reaction. Moreover, these everyday episodes also increased self-reported measures of sadness and anger and lowered self-esteem and feelings of belonging.

These studies revealed that even subtle, artificial or ostensibly unimportant exclusion can lead to strong emotional reactions. A strong reaction makes sense when your spouse’s family or close circle of friends rejects or shuns you, because these people are important to you. It is more surprising that important instances of being barred are not necessary for intense feelings of rejection to emerge. We can feel awful even after people we have never met simply look the other way.

## Just a Game?

Seemingly trivial instances of ostracism provoke outsized emotional reactions. My Purdue University colleagues and I asked people to play a game of computer catch with two avatars, who would, in some cases, refuse to throw them the ball. While they played the game, the participants rated their mood on a dial, moment by moment. Most people who were excluded tried to laugh off the rejection at first but soon grew angry and, finally, despondent. One young man (right) first smirked when he failed to receive the ball, but after realizing he was unlikely to get it again, he flipped off the computer screen. Ultimately, he looked resigned to being left out. —K.W.



izing he was unlikely to get it again, he flipped off the computer screen. Ultimately, he looked resigned to being left out. —K.W.





Social exclusion crushes self-esteem, because it suggests that you did something wrong. You feel powerless: whatever you do, you will be met with silence. You are invisible, irrelevant—and, studies show, in physical pain.

This reaction serves a function: it warns us that something is wrong, that there exists a serious threat to our social and psychological well-being. Psychologists Roy Baumeister of Florida State University and Mark Leary of Duke University had argued in a 1995 article that belonging to a group was a need—not a desire or preference—and, when thwarted, leads to psychological and physical illness. Meanwhile other researchers have hypothesized that belonging, self-esteem, a sense of control over your life and a belief that existence

### (The Author)

**KIP WILLIAMS** is professor of psychological sciences at Purdue University, editor of the journal *Social Influence* and author of nine books. He earned his B.A. at the University of Washington and his Ph.D. at Ohio State University.

is meaningful constitute four fundamental psychological needs that we must meet to function as social individuals.

I quickly realized that ostracism uniquely threatens all these needs. Even in a verbal or physical altercation, individuals are still connected. Total exclusion, however, severs all bonds. Social rejection also deals a uniquely harsh blow to self-esteem, because it implies wrongdoing. Worse, the imposed silence forces us to ruminate, generating self-deprecating thoughts in our search for an explanation. The forced isolation also makes us feel helpless: you can fight back, but no one will respond. Finally, ostracism makes our very existence feel less meaningful because this type of rejection makes us feel invisible and unimportant.

The magnitude of the emotional impact of ostracism even makes evolutionary sense. After all, social exclusion interferes not only with reproductive success but also with survival. People who do not belong are not included in collaborations

necessary to obtain and share food and also lack protection against enemies.

### Warning Sign

In fact, the emotional fallout is so poignant that the brain registers it as physical pain. In a 2003 study we asked 13 undergraduates to play Cyberball while lying inside a MRI machine. The students thought they were playing with other participants inside other scanners, but in reality their playmates were automated computer characters. As soon as students began to feel ostracized, the scanners registered a flurry of activity in the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex—a brain region associated with the emotional aspects of physical pain [see “When Pain Lingers,” by Frank Porreca and Theodore Price; *Scientific American Mind*, September/October 2009]. Participants who were included in their games of Cyberball showed no such increased activity in this pain region.

Accordingly, painkillers can reduce

## Even in a verbal or physical altercation, individuals are still connected. Total exclusion, however, severs all bonds.

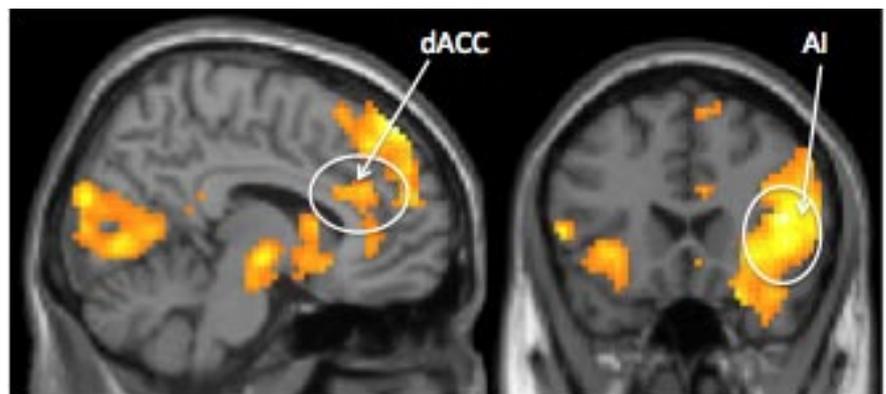
the sting of social separation just as they do physical pain. In a 2010 study University of Kentucky psychologist C. Nathan DeWall and his colleagues asked 26 college students to take two extra-strength acetaminophen (Tylenol) or an identical-looking placebo pill twice a day for three weeks. Then the students came to the lab to play Cyberball inside a MRI machine. The ostracized players who had taken acetaminophen showed significantly less activity in the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex (as well as other brain regions associated with emotional responses) than did ostracized players who took placebo pills. In a parallel experiment, the researchers also found that twice-daily doses of acetaminophen over three weeks reduced daily reports of distress and hurt feelings from social rejection in 62 students, compared with the effects of a placebo. Together the findings suggest that social rejection and physical injury are not such different experiences and share underlying neural pathways.

This pain equally affects people of all personality types, no matter how “tough” they seem to be. You might expect, for example, that people who have a lot of social anxiety, who lack self-esteem, or who are introverted, lonely or at risk for depression would suffer greater pain from ostracism. But when we ask Cyberball participants to fill out personality inventories measuring such traits, we find that individual differences have little influence on the intensity of the pain from ostracism. For instance, in a 2006 study University of Sydney psychologist Lisa Zadro and her colleagues found that socially anxious individuals endured no more initial distress from Cyberball ostracism than did those who scored low on social anxiety.

The power of this pain also tran-

scends circumstance and reason. Convincing Cyberball participants that a computer player rather than a person is excluding them fails to relieve their pain. Being ostracized by people you despise—in one study we tested people’s reactions to rejection by the Ku Klux Klan—causes as much hurt as being excluded by like-minded people. Even when we, as researchers, provide incentives for being excluded, people still feel upset when they are left out: as psychologist Ilja van

prompting us to reflect on the situation, determine its meaning and benefit from any mistakes we might have made. Sometimes we are ostracized for a good reason, and the sooner we realize we are behaving inappropriately, the sooner we can correct our behavior. If an individual is left out for slacking off by colleagues at work, for instance, the experience can motivate him or her to be more productive. And the mere fear of being shunned may motivate us to behave, on a daily



Being ignored and left out activates the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex (left), a region linked with the emotional aspects of physical agony, and the insula (right), which judges pain severity. Taking tylenol squelches both of these neural responses to ostracism.

Beest of Tilburg University in the Netherlands and his colleagues reported in *TK year*, people feel bad about not getting the ball even when we tell them they will lose money whenever that happens. And if we tweak the game so participants throw a bomb instead of a ball and tell players that the bomb may explode at any time, “killing” everyone, people still feel excluded and experience pain when the bomb is not thrown to them. This reaction is like feeling bad when you are not invited to play Russian roulette.

### Coping with Exclusion

Yet the pain is functional. It leads to learning that enhances survival by

basis, in a socially appropriate manner.

Most of us respond to ostracism in real life by slinking away or escaping from the oppressive clique. But an individual may fight back if he or she is, or feels, stuck in a social situation or is given the opportunity to do so. In a 2010 study my graduate student Eric Wesselmann and I asked each of 48 undergraduates to meet with a small group of people whom we collected, and later asked each of them whom they would like to work with on a shared project. We told some of the students that everyone in their group had picked him or her as a partner and others that no one had selected him or her. Then we told all the

participants that because of extenuating circumstances they would be paired with a new student who showed up late for a different experiment.

We then told each pair to complete a food preparation task in which the true participant cooked for the tardy student. Although participants knew that their partner strongly disliked spicy food, those who were told no one wanted to work with them doused the food with a lot (14.35 grams, on average) of hot sauce, compared with just a little (1.75 grams) in the food from those who

thought they were popular. In other studies, ostracized subjects have lashed out by giving perpetrators a negative evaluation for a job or blasting them with noise at the end of a computer game.

Ostracized people may react with hostility because they feel a need to regain a sense of control or, in cases of overt aggression, because they want to be noticed after being made to feel invisible. They act in this manner even though their verbal or physical abuse may diminish the chances of being included, at least in that particular group.

In real life, overt aggression may come more easily to some people than others, depending on personality factors such as narcissism and extroversion. But almost all people may feel compelled to act out against those who excluded them when there is a good opportunity to do so. In extreme cases, ostracized humans may resort to aggressive or violent acts when they have lost hope of being included in any socially acceptable group. Thus, feelings of ostracism may motivate perpetrators of school shootings and members of extremist organiza-

## Feelings of ostracism may motivate perpetrators of school shootings and members of extremist organizations.



People who feel totally ostracized from society may resort to violence if they have lost hope of rejoining any socially acceptable group.



People who are socially anxious do not feel more initial pain from being ostracized than anyone else does. But they take longer to recover from the experience.

cover from an episode of ostracism than other people do. In their 2006 study Zadro and her colleagues found that socially anxious participants still had not fully recovered from Cyberball ostracism 45 minutes after the game, whereas the other less anxious participants had already dealt effectively with their distress.

tions such as cults or terrorist cells.

But for most people, ostracism usually engenders a concerted effort to be included once again, though not necessarily by the group that shunned us. We do this by agreeing with, mimicking, obeying or cooperating with others. In our 2000 study, for example, Cheung and Choi asked participants to perform a perceptual task in which they had to memorize a simple shape such as a triangle and correctly identify the shape within a more complex figure. Before they made their decision, we flashed the supposed answers of other participants on the screen. Those who had been previously ostracized in Cyberball were more likely than included players to give the same answers as the majority of participants, even though the majority was always incorrect. Those who had been excluded wanted to fit in, even if that meant ignoring their own better judgment.

Although personality seems to have no influence on our immediate reactions to ostracism, character traits do influence how quickly we recover from it and how we cope with the experience. Psychologist Jim Wirth of the University of North Florida, along with Katie Poznanski, a [graduate?] student in my laboratory, and I have found that people who are socially anxious, tend to ruminate or are prone to depression take longer to re-

### Pain Relief

To avoid acting aggressively in response to ostracism and further degrading your social status, try to escape the scene and thus remove yourself from the chance to be belligerent. Then, distract yourself to cope with the sting. Instead of wallowing in involuntary memories, relentless hypotheticals and self-blame, derail that dark train of reasoning and replace it with thoughts of sports, sex or even the weather. You can also speed healing by inflating your sense of self. Remind yourself of your strengths by telling yourself, for instance, “I am a good father, a good tennis player and a good friend.” Such an internal dialogue counters ostracism’s threat to your self-esteem.

And instead of becoming belligerent, gain that sense of control by being decisive. If you need to choose a restaurant or movie for an outing with a friend, make a suggestion rather than letting the friend decide. You can even create illusions of control when you have none: if you are flipping a coin, call heads or tails before the other person does. That way, you get what you want, even if it does not matter for the chances of winning the bet. Creating such illusions is actually more empowering than lashing out is. On the other hand, attributing ostracism to factors such as prejudice that are beyond your control works against you, prolonging recovery from the experience, as my colleagues Purdue psychologists[?] Stephanie Goodwin, Adrienne Carter-Sowell and I found in a recent study of people playing Cyberball with avatars of different races.

And although being accepted into the group that ostracized you is usually difficult, other groups will embrace you if you are especially cooperative, hard-working and agreeable. Rekindling ties to family members or old friends also helps you regain a sense of belonging. When the Frisbee players shunned me in the park that day, I retreated, thereby avoiding a confrontation. Then I tried, perhaps subconsciously, to bolster my social and emotional ties—to my dog. More than usual, I petted and played with her. I had a strong urge to be affectionate toward her so she would show her happiness to be with me. **M**

### (Further Reading)

- ◆ **If You Can't Join Them, Beat Them: Effects of Social Exclusion on Aggressive Behaviors.** J. M. Twenge et al. in *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, Vol. 81, pages 1058–1069; 2001.
- ◆ **The Social Outcast: Ostracism, Social Exclusion, Rejection, and Bullying.** Edited by Kip D. Williams, J. P. Forgas and W. von Hippel. Psychology Press, 2005.
- ◆ **Ostracism.** Kip D. Williams in *Annual Review of Psychology*, Vol. 58, pages 425–452; 2007.
- ◆ **Ostracism: A Temporal Need-Threat Model.** Kip D. Williams. Edited by Mark P. Zanna. *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, Vol. 41, pages 279–314; 2009.
- ◆ **Tylenol Reduces Social Pain: Behavioral and Neural Evidence.** C. N. DeWall et al. in *Psychological Science* (in press).

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Melanie Byng** <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>  
Date: Sun, Jun 10, 2012 at 6:31 PM  
Subject: Re: steiner etc  
To: "WEBSTER, David (Dr)"

thank you - it isn't ever a nice thing to have to do.

very much looking forward to your book. Do keep in touch.

best. M.

On Sun, Jun 10, 2012 at 6:19 PM, WEBSTER, David (Dr)  
Yes ! Thanks..

wrote:

I was a little wary after so many replies so quickly, but this is very helpful/worth knowing.

I really appreciate the heads-up (as horrible business-types say- but it probably fits the context..) and will keep a distance. I think they backed off when they realised I wasn't important/influential!

Thanks for taking the time to warn me on this: much appreciated!

Dave.

Sent from my iPhone

On 10 Jun 2012, at 18:08, "Melanie Byng" <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)> wrote:

> hello David - you're not following me thus the email.

>

> @sjparis is unsafe - take care. He and his wife, astrologer 'Angel Garden' have been harassing me for 10 months since an encounter last summer. I suspect I'm just one of a line of people they've pursued, although it's been at times quite unnerving. They've also attacked every skeptic who won't accept their scurrilous comments on blogs, including Alicia Hamberg and Andy Lewis of the Quackometer, and have threatened a friend of ours who researches Steiner ed who wishes to stay anon. She's retreated completely to avoid their attentions. They have several twitter acs & blogs and don't always travel under the same names. There is of course significant critical activity re Steiner free schools (and Maharishi) but we're not in a position to publicise, and would certainly not expose anyone concerned to the attentions of this couple.

>

> You don't know me, so you have to come to your own conclusions but as a mate in the struggle against quackery, it's better you know now and don't end up having to disentangle yourself later.

>

> best, Melanie.

---

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Melanie Byng** <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>  
Date: Wed, Jan 23, 2013 at 1:58 PM  
Subject: Re: 'Sally'  
To: maura kwaten  
Cc:

god - I'll wait for it to be released! Poor Nick has been upset by the whole business though - he didn't realise there was a sock-puppet with an agenda.

xxx

On Wed, Jan 23, 2013 at 1:34 PM, maura kwaten

wrote:

Hi Melanie,

I actually just skimmed some of the comments and only just read them properly-what an annoying person ! I posted on the end but am glad she won't be back xxx

---

**From:** Melanie Byng <[melanie.byng@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.byng@gmail.com)>  
**To:** maura kwaten  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 January 2013, 10:10  
**Subject:** 'Sally'

'Sally' is defo Angel Garden, so Andy has blocked any further comments from her (he doesn't allow sock puppets anyway). This may explain a few things if you're confused, Maura. I am not of course going to say what happened when you DID try to start a court case, although it strikes me that the letter from Leigh Day is quite extraordinary. But Vanessa said again yesterday 'most people just want to walk away'. Who knows how many families have done that? Angel and Steve demanded that parents came forward and spilled the beans, mostly because it would have given them material for their documentary. They really care absolutely nothing for anyone who isn't useful to them.

xxxx