

Internet Resources for Personal Construct Psychology

Brian R Gaines

There is a wide range of resources supporting researchers and practitioners in personal construct psychology available through the Internet. These include mailing lists, calls for contributions to journals and conferences, journal contents, publication archives and conceptual grid elicitation and analysis programs.

The Internet and World Wide Web are dynamic resources subject to frequent change. The notes below are not intended to be exhaustive but rather to provide links to reasonably stable starting points from which to explore the support for personal construct psychology available through the Internet.

Web Sites with Links to PCP Resources

The *George A. Kelly* site at <http://www.oikos.org/kelen.htm> provides a short and readable biography of Kelly with quotations from his works and links to other relevant commentaries.

The *PCP-net* site maintained by Jörn Scheer at <http://www.personal-construct.net> is the only current site that provides a continually updated archive of a wide range of PCP resources on the web. It is a good starting point from which to explore what is available.

The increasing capabilities of sites that index the web in general and provide contextual search facilities, such as *Google* and *Google Scholar*, has to a large extent replaced manually maintained sites that attempt to keep track of particular topics but require substantial effort to maintain. The search term “personal construct psychology” coupled with the specific topics of interest will usually produce a number of relevant links as starting points for a search.

The abbreviations “PCP” and “PCT” are often used in publications but are less useful as a general search term because the same abbreviations are used differently in many other disciplines. They can, however, be useful in searching a relevant journal, as can “G A Kelly” term since his 1955 book, *The Psychology of Personal Constructs*, is frequently cited.

For those interested in his major tool for eliciting construct systems, his *conceptual grid*, the best search term is “repertory grid” since a specific form of concept grid, his *role repertory grid*, has become widely used as a generic name for the technique, even though his general term is more descriptive.

Mailing Lists

The PCP mailing list has been operating since 1994 and is fully archived on the web. It was instigated to provide mutual support among researchers and practitioners, and welcomes newcomers with questions about PCP theory, applications, methodology and research design. It is accessible at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/pcp.html>

There is an associated list for discussion of computer-based tool usage in personal construct psychology at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/pcptools.html>

Each site provides facilities for joining and leaving the associated mailing list, together with access to archives of past mailings.

Journals

Because personal construct psychology and conceptual grid techniques are content neutral and applicable to modeling mental processes in any individual or community, they are widely used in a diversity of otherwise unrelated disciplines, and the application literature is very widely scattered. Journals in many areas, such as psychology, education, anthropology, sensory studies, management and computing, carry articles relating to personal construct psychology and their contents are available on the web through the publisher sites.

The primary journal for PCP is *Personal Construct Theory & Practice* which is open-access, well-refereed and available at <http://www.pcp-net.org/journal/>

The *Journal of Constructivist Psychology* (formerly International Journal of Personal Construct Psychology) <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/10720537.asp> also carries relevant material.

Rivista Italiana di Costruttivismo (Italian Journal of Constructivism), has a focus on PCP studies <http://www.rivistacostruttivismo.it>

Societies and Major Centres

The first three societies listed each organize regional conferences and jointly coordinate the biennial PCP Congress.

Australasian Personal Construct Group <http://www.pcp-net.org/aus/>

Constructivist Psychology Network (formerly North American Personal Construct Network) <http://www.constructivistpsych.org>

European Personal Construct Association <http://www.pcp-net.org/europe/home.html>

Others significant societies and centres are:-

Italian Constructivist Psychology and Psychotherapy Group <http://www.aippc.it/>

Italian Institute of Constructivist Psychology <http://icp-italia.it>

UK Personal Construct Psychology Association <http://www.personalconstructuk.org>

Società Costruttivista Italiana (Italian Constructivist Society): <http://www.costruttivismo.it>

The Centre for Personal Construct Psychology <http://centrepcp.co.uk/>

Software and Services

There are a number of generally available repertory grid elicitation and analysis programs. The major ones are listed below in alphabetical order, and others are listed at the *PCP-net* site cited above. The primary analysis techniques for single grids are variants of Slater's (1976; 1977) *Ingrid* for principal components analysis and Shaw's (1980) *Focus* for hierarchical clustering, and it is noted which packages offer these, together with their specific features. Current guides to using such techniques are: A Manual for Repertory Grid Technique (Fransella, Bell and Bannister, 2004); The Easy Guide to Repertory Grids (Jankowicz, 2004); Personal Construct Methodology (Caputi, 2011); and this book.

GRIDCOR for Windows provides various analyses including *Focus* and correspondence analysis <http://www.terapiacognitiva.net/record/gridcor.htm>

GridSuite for Macintosh and Windows supports elicitation, *Ingrid* and *Focus* analyses, and comparison of grids based on the same elements <http://www.gridsuite.de/>

Idiogrid for Windows provides *Ingrid*, *Procustes* analysis and a number of other univariate and bivariate statistics and measures. It is freely downloadable at <http://www.idiogrid.com/>

OpenRepGrid offers a set of open source tools for grid analysis in the freeware statistical package R (<https://www.r-project.org>) at <http://openrepgrid.org>

OpenRepGrid on Air offers the analyses as a web service at <http://onair.openrepgrid.org>

rep:grid offers web-based elicitation and an interactive 3D presentation of a principal components analysis at freerepgrid.sofistiq.com

Rep Plus for Macintosh and Windows supports conversational elicitation, *Focus*, *Ingrid*, comparison of grids with common elements or constructs, content analysis and web-based elicitation and analysis, and is user-extensible through scripting. It is freely downloadable through <http://webgrid.typed.com>

WebGrid is a web service providing the elicitation and analyses capabilities of *Rep Plus* as a freely available service on the web at a number of sites listed at <http://webgrid.typed.com>. Grid files may be uploaded to the server in a wide variety of formats, and the online elicitation tools may be used in research studies to elicit and collect grids from remote users.

Citations

Caputi, P. (2011). **Personal Construct Methodology**. Wiley, Chichester, UK.

Fransella, F., Bell, R. C. and Bannister, D. (2004). **A Manual for Repertory Grid Technique**. Wiley, Chichester, UK.

Jankowicz, D. (2004). **The Easy Guide to Repertory Grids**. Wiley, Chichester, UK.

Shaw, M. L. G. (1980). **On Becoming a Personal Scientist: Interactive Computer Elicitation of Personal Models of the World**. Academic Press, London.

Slater, P., ed. (1976). **Dimensions of Intrapersonal Space: Volume 1**. John Wiley, London.

Slater, P., ed. (1977). **Dimensions of Intrapersonal Space: Volume 2**. John Wiley, London.