



The Western Psychologist

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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2013 Convention Issue

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REGISTRATION FOR THE 2013 CONVENTION

If you have not registered for the convention, please register now. Early registration is open until March 31. The convention dates are April 25 –28 with the Terman Teaching Conference on April 24. Links for registration are on the [WPA website](#). We urge you to pre-register to reduce waiting time at the registration counters and receive early-registration rates. This link will take you directly to a [registration page](#).

HOTEL INFORMATION

All WPA events will be held at the Grand Sierra Resort. The hotel is sold out and the online reservations are closed.

We have booked rooms at two overflow hotels. Information on making reservations at these hotels is on our [Hotel Information page](#).

The WPA website also has information on the free shuttle from the airport to the hotel. Our rate includes airport shuttle service, parking, Internet access from your room, and telephone. There is no additional resort fee. The Grand Sierra Resort has many attractions for students including a cinema, go-karts, driving range, miniature golf, thrill rides, and bowling. Check the [Grand Sierra web page](#) for the schedule of events in the hotel's celebrity theater.

You can use twitter to provide or find information on the convention and make contact with others attending the convention. Just use **#wpareno**.

The complete program should be on the website by March 15.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to programs chairs Melanie Duckworth and Tony Papa from the University of Nevada, Reno, along with WPA President Bob Levine, for inviting an outstanding group of distinguished psychologists who will be presenting talks on a variety of topics. The WPA student council, headed by graduate student representative Amanda Chiapa, is arranging for student conversation hours to follow several speakers. There will also be symposia, paper and poster sessions, the **WPA Film Festival, Statistics Workshops**, and special workshops and panels for students and teachers.

PLUS, WE ARE CELEBRATING PHIL ZIMBARDO'S BIRTHDAY!

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday begins with the Jones Clinical Psychology Research Award Address by Jeffrey Wood (UCLA): **CBT For Youth With Autism Spectrum Disorders**.

Psychotherapy In and Out of the Office is the focus of a talk by Neil Altman. Dr. Altman discusses ways of practicing psychotherapy in nontraditional settings. He is author of *The Analyst in the Inner City: Race, Class, and Culture through a Psychoanalytic Lens*.

Jim Blascovich from the University of California, Santa Barbara will speak on **Challenge and Threat in Virtual Reality**. Jim is the author of *Infinite Reality: Avatars, Eternal Life, New Worlds, and the Dawn of the Virtual Revolution*.



Also on Thursday, the clinical psychology program at the University of Nevada, Reno has organized a panel that focuses on the latest research on **post-traumatic stress disorder**.

The Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP) is again sponsoring the very popular **Last Lecture**, this year featuring Laura Freberg from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Felicia Friendly Thomas from Cal Poly Pomona, and Steve Bacon from CSU Bakersfield.

In addition to talks by featured speakers, there will be numerous poster and paper sessions, symposia, and workshops each day of the convention.

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS



The Psi Chi Distinguished Speaker is Brian Nosek (University of Virginia): **Scientific Utopia: A Radical View**. Dr. Nosek co-founded and directs [Project Implicit](#), an Internet-based multi-university collaboration of research and education about implicit cognition – thoughts and

feelings that exist outside of awareness or control. He also co-founded the [Open Science Framework](#) to develop infrastructure and create processes that maximize the consistency between scientific values and scientific practices.

The APA Distinguished Scientist Lecturer is Lera Boroditsky (Stanford University): **How Language Shapes Thinking**. She will address such questions as Do the languages we speak shape the ways we think?



Do speakers of different languages think differently? Can learning a new language change the way you think? Do bilinguals think differently when speaking different languages? Her laboratory has collected data around the world, from Indonesia to Chile to Aboriginal Australia. Her research has won multiple awards including

being named an Utne Visionary.

Reagan A. R. Gurung (University of Wisconsin, Green Bay) is the PT@CC Distinguished Speaker: **Building Autonomy: Facilitating Metacognition and Successful Study Behaviors**.

Also on Friday, Worth Publishers is sponsoring a talk by Ronald Comer from Princeton University, author of [Abnormal Psychology: Teachers and Students: Psychology's Odd Couple](#). The relationship between students and teachers in psychology sometimes parallels that of a troubled marriage. Using a marital therapy model, this talk examines some of the key stressors in this relationship, including conflicting goals and needs; miscommunications, misattributions, and misperceptions; power differences; pet peeves and irritations; conflicting values and attitudes toward education; inaccurate expectations; and unconscious fears, doubts, and defense mechanisms. Does this marriage have a future? Can it be saved? Spoiler alert: Yes!



Paul Slovic (Decision Research and University of Oregon) speaks on an important and fascinating topic: **The More Who Die, the Less We Care: The Twisted Arithmetic of Compassion**. Most people are caring and will exert great effort to rescue individual victims whose needy plight comes to their attention. These same good people, however, often become numbly indifferent to the plight of individuals who are “one of many” in a much greater problem. Why does this occur?

Allen Gottfried (Fullerton Longitudinal Project) will speak on **Connecting the Past With the Future In the Course of Human Development: How the Cognitive Experience of Reading To Young Children Leads to Educational Benefits Across the Academic Life-Span**.

Constance Jones from CSU Fresno will also be presenting longitudinal data: **Lives and Science Through Time: Parallel Themes of Stability and Change**. Her talk focuses on The Berkeley Growth Study, Berkeley Guidance Study, and Oakland Growth Study, now collectively termed the Intergenerational Studies, are some of the most noteworthy long-term longitudinal studies of American men and women in existence.

Howard Friedman (UC Riverside) will discuss **Healthy Models Zoom Out: What The Longevity Project Says About Work, Stress, Love And Health**. Find out how he arrives at the conclusion that “In order to live long and prosper, health psychology studies with a social-personality essence and style should ignore current fashion and zoom out before zooming in.”

Ethnicity And Mental Health: The Strange Case of Asian Americans is the topic of a talk by Stanley Sue, Past President of WPA and Director of the Center for Excellence in Diversity at Palo Alto University.



The WPA Presidential Address by Robert Levine (CSU Fresno) is titled **The Geography of Time**. We will take a tour of time-keeping around the world, raising some questions along the way: How do we measure

time? Are we being ruled by the clock? What is this doing to our relationships? To our own bodies and psyches?

And finally on Friday, we have a DJ for **Club WPA** from 9 to midnight. Enjoy a fun evening with your friends and other WPA attendees.

SATURDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday morning starts with a talk by Jerry Burger from Santa Clara University: **What Was I Thinking? Why Good People Sometimes Do Bad Things**. We've all done things we are not proud of. Yet, with few exceptions, we all consider ourselves to be good people. How is that possible?



Deborah Layton is the author of [*Seductive Poison: A Jonestown Survivor's Story of Life and Death in the Peoples Temple*](#). She will be telling her story and joined by Philip Zimbardo.

Morgan Sammons is Dean of CSPP and a retired Captain in the U.S. Navy. His presentation focuses on **Improving Services for Returning Veterans: A Review of Issues, Problems, and Solutions from a Militarily Informed Perspective**.

Steven Hayes (University of Nevada, Reno) will discuss the implications of an evolutionary perspective for the core concerns of psychotherapy and applied psychology: **Evolution Science, Psychology, and Psychotherapy**.

Existing conceptual approaches fail to account effectively for the surprisingly nuanced social stereotypes people naturally hold, or for why they hold them. Steven Neuberg (Arizona State University) will present a new approach to this problem: **A Life History Approach to Stereotyping and Prejudice: Age, Sex, and Ecology (Race)**.

Jodie Ulmann (CSU San Bernardino) will give the WPA Teaching Award Address: **How'd I End Up In Statistics Class? I Just Want to Help People!**

The WPA Early Career Research Award Address by George Slavich (UCLA) focuses on stress and health: **Human Social Genomics: How Stress Gets Under the Skin And Onto the Genome to Affect Health**.

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL SESSION

MAKING A VITAL DIFFERENCE:

HOW PSYCHOLOGY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

WPA President Bob Levine has organized a special panel on Saturday afternoon. As psychologists, we have made remarkable contributions to the understanding of how ordinarily good people can be led to act badly, sometimes in ways they never would have imagined. It is only recently, however, that we have focused upon ways to reverse the formula in order to bring out the best in each of us. This panel brings together three cutting-edge, interdisciplinary, research-based organizations at the forefront of this new movement of creating positive social change agents.

The presenters are Emma Seppala (Center for Compassion, Altruism, Research and Education, Stanford University), Emiliana Simon-Thomas (Greater Good Science Center, UC Berkeley), and Philip G. Zimbardo (Heroic Imagination Project)

These leaders from [CCARE](#) (Center for Compassion, Altruism Research and Education), the [Greater Good Science Center](#), and the [Heroic Imagination Project](#) will present ideas about how their organizations address social problems in the real world, followed by a roundtable discussion that will focus on specific and practical applications of psychological research in creating positive and lasting social change. For example, one of the eight core themes of the Greater

Good Science Center is compassion. Emiliana Simon-Thomas will review evidence that we are biologically equipped for compassion and discuss how compassion can improve our lives, even in the domain of social media. Then Emma Seppala of CCARE will discuss the impact of compassion in organizations such as corporate environments and institutions such as military and veteran institutions. Finally, Phil Zimbardo will explain one way of putting compassion into action through specific training programs designed to inspire “everyday heroism.”

SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL EVENT IN CELEBRATION OF PHIL ZIMBARDO'S 80TH BIRTHDAY: THE CAREER PATHS OF FOUR EMINENT SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS



Philip Zimbardo, the heart and soul not only of WPA but of psychology as a world-wide discipline, is celebrating his 80th birthday. In his honor, three of his eminent colleagues and friends, along with Phil himself, will describe their career paths in social psychology.

ABE MASLOW, LEON FESTINGER, AND ME: ON MENTORS AND MENTORING, Elliot Aronson

PHIL THE CAPED CRUSADER, Lee Ross

MAKING A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE, Christina Maslach

FROM BRONX TALES TO CALIFORNIA DREAMING, Philip G. Zimbardo



Elliot Aronson is the only person in the 120 year history of the APA to have won all three of its major awards: for distinguished teaching, distinguished writing, and distinguished research. He

is the author of 23 books including *The Social Animal*, now in its eleventh edition. His most recent book is an autobiography, [*Not by Chance Alone: My Life as a Social Psychologist*](#).

Lee Ross is Stanford Credit Union Professor of Psychology at Stanford University. He is a co-founder of the Stanford Center on Conflict and Negotiation and the coauthor (with Richard Nisbett) of the books "Human Inference" and



"The Person and Situation" as well as nearly 100 journal articles and book chapters. Professor Ross' research focuses on biases in human inference, judgment, and decision making, especially on the cognitive, perceptual and motivational biases that lead people to misinterpret each other's behavior and that create particular barriers to dispute resolution and the implementation of peace agreements. He has also participated in "second-track" diplomacy and public peace processes in the Middle East, the Caucasus, and Northern Ireland, and done applied work relevant to global warming, health care, social security choices, and the academic challenges facing minority students and women in science.

Christina Maslach is Professor of Psychology at the University of California at Berkeley. She received her A.B. in Social Relations from Harvard and her Ph.D.



in Psychology from Stanford. She has conducted research in a number of areas within social and health psychology. However, she is best known as one of the pioneering researchers on job burnout, and has written numerous articles and books, as well as developing research measures. She has received national recognition as "Professor of

the Year," has served as president of the Western Psychological Association, and was selected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (which cited her "For groundbreaking work on the applications of social psychology to contemporary problems").

Philip Zimbardo is internationally recognized as the 'voice and face of contemporary American psychology through his widely seen PBS-TV series, *Discovering Psychology*, his classic research, The Stanford Prison Experiment, authoring the oldest

current textbook in psychology, *Psychology and Life*, going into its 19th Edition, and his popular trade books on Shyness in adults and in children; *Shyness: What it is, what to do about it*, and *The Shy Child*. Most recently, Zimbardo co-authored *The Time Paradox*, a new view of how time perspective influences our decisions and actions. He is also past president of the American Psychological Association, and the Western Psychological Association. Zimbardo has been a Stanford University professor since 1968 (now an Emeritus Professor), having taught previously at Yale, NYU, and Columbia University. He is currently on the faculty of the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, and the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, CA. He has been given numerous awards and honors as an educator, researcher, writer, and service to the profession. Recently, he was awarded the Vaclav Havel Foundation Prize for his lifetime of research on the human condition. His more than 300 professional publications and 50 books convey his research interests in the domain of social psychology, with a broad spread of interests from shyness to time perspective, madness, cults, political psychology, torture, terrorism, and evil.

TERMAN TEACHING CONFERENCE
Wednesday, April 24

The Terman Teaching Conference will again be held on the Wednesday prior to the WPA convention. This is an excellent value with a registration fee of only \$25 if you [register online](#) by March 31. The theme this year is *Engaging Students*. A complete [description of the program](#) and the registration form are on the WPA website. Anne Duran from CSU Bakersfield is Conference Coordinator. Highlights include:

Scientific Thinking across the Psychology Curriculum: Lessons from Statistics
Susan A. Nolan, Seton Hall University

Public Speaking and Student Voices: Mastery from the Inside Out
Annan Paterson, School Psychologist

Coming Soon: Using Movie Trailers to Engage Students
Randy Schultz, California State University, Bakersfield

Getting to Know You: First-Day Activities
Stacy Teeters, San Diego State University

Beyond Lectures: How Teachers can use Findings from Psychological Research to Enhance Everyday Learning Environments

Clint Wilkins, Bryan Dickerson, Kristin K. Gundersen, Jerry Rudmann, and Kris Leppien-Christensen, Heroic Imagination Project

Organizing Effective Team-Based Research: A Hands-On Workshop

Brian Detweiler-Bedell, Lewis & Clark College
Jerusha Detweiler-Bedell, Lewis & Clark College

All pre-registered workshop participants will receive a copy of the book, *Doing Collaborative Research in Psychology: A Team-Based Guide* (2012, SAGE Publications). This text was written for students as an engaging guide to conducting research, with a focus on the many skills needed to collaborate effectively.

Thanks to **Worth Publishers** for their support of the Terman Teaching Conference.



STATISTICS WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

A statistics workshop will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the convention. Titles of the workshops are provided below. Complete descriptions of the workshops are on the WPA website. A separate registration is required for attending a workshop. The registration form for the workshops is on the WPA website. Registration fees are \$5 for students and \$10 for professional members. You also must register for the convention to attend the workshops. The workshops this year are:

Thursday

Factor Analysis for Understanding and Application

Dale E. Berger, Claremont Graduate University

This workshop will introduce participants to the theory and application of exploratory factor analysis with SPSS. The logical basis of factor analysis will be described, using intuitive mathematical and geometric explanations. The goal of the presentation is to develop a practical understanding of the decisions that the analyst must make (and pitfalls to avoid) regarding data screening, appropriateness of factor analysis, the number of factors to be extracted, the method of factor extraction (principal components vs. principal axis), the method of rotation (orthogonal vs. oblique), and interpretations and presentation of findings. To help participants apply what they have learned when they return home, they will be given a step-by-step guide covering the most important concepts and techniques needed for appropriate factor analysis.

Friday

R for SPSS Users

Christopher L. Aberson, Humboldt State University

R is a free software program that includes a dazzling array of statistical analyses and graphics (<http://cran.r-project.org/>). R is an open source program. Experts throughout the world write and contribute “packages” that perform analyses. This fosters continuous expansion of the program’s capabilities and inclusion of cutting-edge analyses well before their integration into commercial software. Despite these tremendous advantages regarding cost and rapid growth, using R can be challenging. SPSS users may find the R environment particularly difficult for a variety of reasons. For example, R is command driven rather than point and click. Also, once the program is open, there are numerous steps to take prior to beginning analysis. In short, R is an outstanding statistical analysis program, but it is hard for many students and researchers who primarily use SPSS (or other menu-driven programs) to get started using it. The primary focus of this workshop is to teach users how to get up and running in R. The first part of the workshop provides basic information such as a step-by-step guide to downloading and setting up R for optimal use, a discussion of the differences between R and SPSS environments, and demonstrations of how to use SPSS data (and other datafiles) in R. The second part of the workshop focuses on using different “packages” to conduct common analyses (ANOVA, Regression, etc.)

with a special focus on packages that provide menu-driven (i.e. SPSS-like) interfaces for R. I also cover R resources for more complex analyses (e.g. Structural Equations Modeling; Missing Data Imputation). Attendees should leave the workshop with the ability to use R independently for a wide range of analyses.

Saturday

Scale Construction with Item Response Theory: EQSIRT

Peter M. Bentler, UCLA

This two-hour workshop will illustrate how to select items to develop an acceptable scale using item response theory (IRT) criteria by utilizing the new EQSIRT program. Originally developed for educational testing, IRT methodology is now used in all areas of psychology for developing and evaluating scales for binary and/or ordinal response data. EQSIRT was developed by the authors of the EQS structural equations program and IRT experts under sponsorship of the US National Cancer Institute to allow a wide variety of IRT methodologies to be accomplished in a coherent, user-friendly, and identical way across Windows, Mac, and Linux environments.

One or two datasets will be used to illustrate the process of scale development with EQSIRT. The first task is to evaluate the items/variables using exploratory multidimensional methods that allow classical and newer bifactor rotations to evaluate alternative structures that might be meaningful. EQSIRT provides two ways to assess dimensionality with correlation based and full information based exploratory factor analysis. If items are multidimensional, a decision needs to be made on the dimension that the scale should quantify. Then a specific IRT model needs to be chosen according to the response format of the items and the goals of the investigator. EQSIRT allows Rasch, 1PL, 2PL, 3PL models for binary data and the Graded Response Model (GRM), Generalized Partial Credit Model (GPCM), Rating Scale Model (RSM), and Nominal Response Model (NRM) for ordinal data. In EQSIRT, a scale may contain both binary and ordinal items, if desired. Scale evaluation also may require the use of multiple-group and/or multidimensional models; these options are provided by EQSIRT for all model types except NRM. Only selected model types will be illustrated in the workshop.

No Sunday Workshop This Year

DONATIONS FUND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Western Psychological Foundation has received two major donations for student scholarships. Both come from long-time supporters of WPA.

Steven Ungerleider, sport psychologist and visiting scholar at University of Texas at Austin, made a donation to honor Philip Zimbardo on his 80th birthday. The donation will enable WPA to provide an additional Christina Maslach-Philip Zimbardo Research Award in Social Psychology each year at WPA.

Allen Gottfried (Fullerton Longitudinal Project) and Adele Eskeles Gottfried (California State University, Northridge) funded the Gottfried WPA Student Research Award in Developmental Psychology. The first recipient of this award will be recognized at the WPA awards presentation on Friday, April 26.

2013 WPA ELECTION

Professional WPA members will soon receive a ballot for the 2013 election. The election will be conducted online -- a link will be sent via e-mail that will take you to a secure ballot.

This year we will be choosing a President-Elect. Elizabeth Ligon Bjork (University of California, Los Angeles) and Jodie Ullman (California State University, San Bernardino) are on the ballot.

We will also be electing a Secretary-Treasurer for a five-year term. Candidates are Chris Aberson (Humboldt State University) and Sharon Hammill (California State University, San Marcos).

WPA CONVENTION LINKS

WPA Home Page

<http://www.westernpsych.org>

Membership Forms

<http://www.westernpsych.org/forms/index.cfm>

Hotel Reservations and Travel Information

<http://www.westernpsych.org/convention/hotel.cfm>

Advice on Preparing a Poster for WPA

<http://www.westernpsych.org/pdf/WPAPosters.pdf>

WPA Convention Registration

<http://www.westernpsych.org/forms/events.cfm>

Terman Teaching Conference Registration

<http://www.westernpsych.org/forms/events.cfm>

Statistics Workshop Registration

<http://www.westernpsych.org/forms/events.cfm>

Member Login

<http://www.westernpsych.org/forms/login.cfm>

ENJOYING YOUR VISIT TO RENO

Our hotel is a self-contained resort with its own bowling alley, cinema, live entertainment theater, and thrill rides. There are numerous restaurants at all price ranges. Reno has many attractions such as a new minor league baseball park, a famous automobile museum, a river walk district with great restaurants and bars, Knitting Factory, and more. [Check out this Reno visitor's site](#). You should also check out tours of Lake Tahoe or Virginia City. Information on tours will be in the hotel lobby. There is also a rental car office at the hotel.

Check the Classified and Announcements Sections on the WPA website for jobs, grants, awards, conferences, and internships.

**WPA THANKS THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION,
WORTH PUBLISHERS, AND UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO FOR
THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR 2013 CONVENTION AND TERMAN
TEACHING CONFERENCE**

