



NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

WESTERN PSYCHOLOGIST



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Find us on Facebook, follow on Twitter at @WPAwesternpsych and on Instagram at #wpaconvention to connect with others attending the convention.



Welcome Message from WPA President

John Grahe



To all WPA members —

I hope to see you at WPA 2022 convention in Portland, OR. We are planning to meet in person with the expectation that vaccination rates of our conference membership are high and that we will respect each other enough to engage in health behaviors as recommended by the Center for Disease Control. I won't pretend to imagine that the pandemic will have ended, but as humans, our need for social interaction persists, or perhaps this just reveals my bias as a social psychologist who studied social ostracism and interpersonal perceptions as a grad student.

In any case, I hope that you are well supported to manage this coming academic year. The world feels changed in many ways since the last time I shared face-to-face space with my students. An ongoing, threatening, and dynamic pandemic surprised us and challenged typical social behavior. A contested US Presidential election filled with misinformation and culminating in an attempted insurrection cautioned us about risks to democracy. Ongoing displays of injustice and violence plague any progress made toward resolving systematic racism and oppression. And weather extremes remind humanity that our entry in the Anthropocene Epoch (the historic period where humans impact the planet's climate and ecosystems) requires reconsideration of how we interact with the world around us. We are living in a moment of time that will be the focus of historians for generations to come and how we respond to these critical events will shape the future of our world civilizations. At times, these challenges overwhelm me as an individual as it highlights my own limitations and weaknesses. However, as a research psychologist, I am called to examine these questions. While there are components of these questions that are shared by other disciplines, all of these crises can be improved from better psychological research. This year, when identifying research questions, consider this moment in time. When I reflect on my own experiences of this period, I will have tried to make contributions to better society within the scope of my influence. When you reflect on this period, what do you want to have achieved for yourself?

Reflecting this world of challenges, the WPA 2022 conference will be themed, "Diversity, Social Justice, and Sustainability". To that end we are inviting speakers whose research addresses topics related to these topics and we will tag posters and talks with one or more of these subject areas to allow attendees to follow the themes across the conference. This will not change the reviewing criteria as all proposals will be given the same consideration, but where research connects to these themes, we will tag them for easier access.

Beyond the conference, there is much work to be done as an organization including the need to update our policies and procedures to meet the needs of the 21st century. I thank you for your patience in getting this work started in full earnest as we continue to find a replacement for our departing, and well-respected Executive Officer. However, for those of you seeking more opportunities to help build a WPA for the 21st century, stay tuned. The calls for action are coming soon.

Sincerely,
Jon Grahe, Ph.D., WPA President



2022 Convention News

CONVENTION HOST

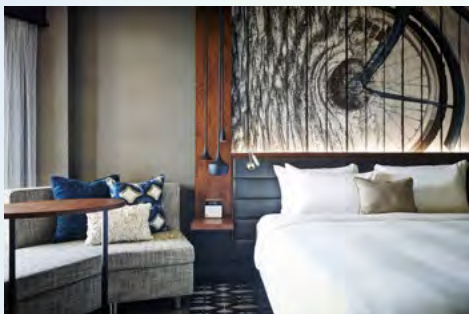


HUMBOLDT
STATE UNIVERSITY

Mark your Calendars!
April 28 - May 1, 2022

Registration opens January 1, 2022

**Portland Marriott
Downtown Waterfront**



We are looking forward to seeing you at the 2022 convention. This convention, hosted by

Humboldt State University, will be held Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1, 2022 at the Portland Marriott

Downtown Waterfront hotel. The theme of the 2022 conference is **“Advancing Diversity, Social Justice, and Sustainability,”** and serves as the driving force behind the selection of invited speakers. Thus far, the following invited speakers have been confirmed and many more will be added over the next few months: Sanjay Srivastava, Kim Kahn, Jordan Wagge, Kathleen Bogart, Gordon Nagayama Hall, Bonnie Green, Jeff King, Alysson Burns-Glover, Kimberly Rios, Arianne Eason, Laura Edwards-Lepper, Jaclyn Siegel, and Brittany Bloodhart.

The Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront hotel is an attendee favorite that is located across the street from the Willamette River and the South Hawthorne Waterfront Park. The hotel is also easily accessible from the Portland International Airport (PDX) using the MAX Red Line light rail system.

Since our last conference at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront hotel in 2018, the hotel has undergone a complete renovation. In addition to a completely new room design, the hotel boasts a new restaurant and a new coffee house.

Reservations can be made now at a special rate only available to conference attendees.

[BOOK YOUR STAY](#)

Please consider staying at the conference hotel as we have negotiated rates to ensure that you’re paying less than the generally available rate available to the public. In addition, you will have easy access to the convention as the hotel’s elevators deliver you directly to the convention space. Staying at the conference hotel also allows us to keep our conference registration rates reasonable as WPA receives the event space at a reduced cost based on the number of hotel room nights that are booked by our attendees.



WESTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, Oregon / April 27 - May 1, 2022

CALL FOR PAPERS

Submissions now being accepted through

DECEMBER 15, 2021

Advancing Diversity,
Social Justice, and Sustainability.

CONVENTION HOST



HUMBOLDT
STATE UNIVERSITY

Visit website for submission information at
WESTERNPSYCH.ORG



2022 Convention Confirmed Distinguished Speakers



Brittany Bloodhart



Laura Edwards-Lepper



Jeff King



Sanjay Srivastava



Kathleen Bogart



Bonnie Green



Kimberly Rios



Jordan Wagge



Alysson Burns-Glover



Gordon Nagayama Hall



Jacyln Siegel

Gordon Nagayama Hall
Professor Emeritus
University of Oregon

Kim Kahn
University of California,
Berkeley



Arianne Eason



Kim Kahn

Brittany Bloodhart
California State University,
San Bernardino

Kathleen Bogart
Oregon State University

Alysson Burns-Glover
Pacific University Oregon

Arianne Eason
University of California,
Berkeley

Laura Edwards-Lepper
Pacific University

Bonnie Green
Georgetown University
Medical School

Jeff King
Western Washington
University

Kimberly Rios
Pasadena City College

Jacyln Siegel
San Diego State University

Sanjay Srivastava
University of Oregon

Jordan Wagge
Avila University

In addition to talks by distinguished speakers, there will be poster and paper sessions, symposia, and workshops throughout each day.





Dear Council Members,

Welcome to fall! For those of you on the semester system, you will no doubt be contending with exams and the mid semester grind. For those of you on quarters, welcome to the party! Now, more than ever, we are reliant on routines and resources to help us make it through the changing needs of our students, mentees, and programs of research. We at WPA hope that you will continue to trust us as a resource for opportunities to connect across the region, and for training opportunities for your mentees.

We have a lot to look forward to as we prepare for 2022. One of the things I'm looking forward to most is meeting you in Portland during our annual convention! But don't wait until then to reach out. It is our mission to make WPA the best organization for sharing ideas and professional development within the region. Please let me know how WPA can best serve the region and help you and your colleagues to thrive. Best wishes for your health, and see you next year!

Sincerely,
Matthew C. Jackson, Ph.D.,
WPA Representative-at-Large

WPA Commemorating 100 Years Book

To commemorate our 100th anniversary, we've created this beautiful chronicle of the history of the WPA.

What's Inside

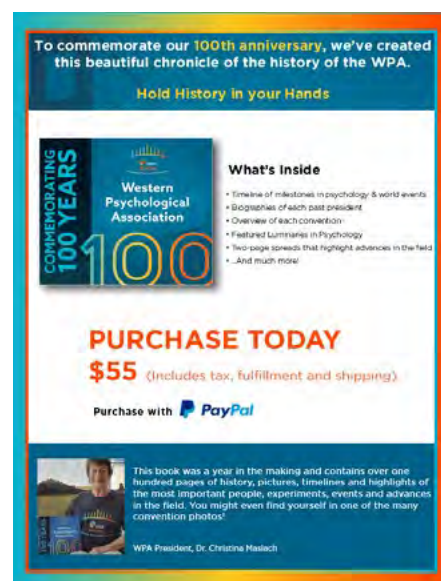
- Timeline of milestones in psychology and world events
- Biographies of each past president
- Overview of each convention
- Featured Luminaries in Psychology
- Two-page spreads that highlight advances in the field
- And much more!

A lasting memory of our 100 year anniversary

\$55 (includes tax, fulfillment and shipping)

Purchase with PayPal:

PURCHASE BOOK



To commemorate our 100th anniversary, we've created this beautiful chronicle of the history of the WPA.

Hold History in your Hands


COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS

Western Psychological Association

What's Inside

- Timeline of milestones in psychology & world events
- Biographies of each past president
- Overview of each convention
- Featured Luminaries in Psychology
- Two-page spreads that highlight advances in the field
- ...And much more!

PURCHASE TODAY
\$55 (includes tax, fulfillment and shipping)

Purchase with 

This book was a year in the making and contains over one hundred pages of history, pictures, timelines and highlights of the most important people, experiments, events and advances in the field. You might even find yourself in one of the many convention photos!

WPA President, Dr. Christina Haslach

New Board Members

The WPA membership elected three new members to the WPA Board and each will serve for a three year term.



Delia Saenz, Ph.D. (Arizona State University) will serve as President-Elect through the 2022 conference, then as President through the 2023 conference, and concluding as Past-President through the 2024 conference. Dr. Saenz is a professor in the Department of Psychology and currently serves as the Chief Diversity Officer for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. As a former WPA President, we look forward to her service on the Board.



Matthew Jackson, Ph.D. (CSU Los Angeles) was elected as Representative-at-Large. Dr. Jackson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at California State University, Los Angeles. His research examines how the intersections of social identities shape the complex issues that prevent equity in a diverse society, and how we can change social structures to further our equity goals. He has seven years of experience in coordinating intervention research, embedded within college classrooms, with the goal of broadening participation and student success in education.



Christopher Warren, Ph.D. (CSU Long Beach) was reaffirmed as the Treasurer of WPA after being appointed as the Interim Treasurer. Dr. Warren previously served as the Secretary of WPA before transitioning to his new position.

Information on the full Board can be found here:

[WPA BOARD](#)





EMAIL VITAE

WPA Is Looking for a New Executive Officer

The Western Psychological Association seeks to hire an Executive Officer (EO) starting in Fall, 2021. The Executive Officer serves as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the WPA Board of Directors and is appointed by the Board for a renewable three-year term. This is a paid part time position with commitments the entire year (starting at \$50,000 per year with no benefits), with some months requiring a heavier time commitment, such as before and during the annual convention in April.

Regular functions of WPA include planning board meetings, working with the board to advance existing and future programs, and helping to coordinate the WPA Council of Representatives and the WPA Student Council. The ideal candidate will help transition WPA into a 21st century organization that maximizes its resources to increase capacity to serve current and future members.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Evidence of experience coordinating conferences or running large organizations.
- Expertise with database management software
- Demonstrated experience and/or skill working with persons from diverse backgrounds
- Masters or Ph.D. in Psychology or a related field
- Experience working with websites and social media

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience at WPA Conferences or other similar academic conferences
- Conscientious, well-organized, and willing to learn new skills
- Ability to learn and operate financial management software
- Demonstrated skill in working well within team environments

Please email vitae, statement of interest in, and qualifications for the EO position, and two letters of recommendation to Dr. Jon Grahe, Chair of WPA EO Search Committee, Department of Psychology, Pacific Lutheran University, graheje@plu.edu. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found.



2022 Award Nominations Being Accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for WPA Fellowship Status and for the following WPA Awards:

- Outstanding Teaching Award
- Early Career Research Award
- Social Responsibility Award
- Enrico Jones Award for Research in Psychotherapy and Clinical Psychology

Nominations require a letter of nomination (may be a self-nomination) describing the qualifications of the nominee, along with a current Curriculum Vita of the nominee and two supporting letters, that must be received by January 5, 2022. The nomination letter should include contact information for the people who provide letters of support. It is the responsibility of the nominator to assure that supporting letters are received by the deadline.

Full information about the awards and nomination procedures can be found clicking the Learn More button.

LEARN MORE

All nomination materials should be sent to Terry Cronan, Chair of the WPA Awards, Click on Email Information. **Nominations must be received by the deadline of January 5, 2022.**

Please contact our Awards Chair, Terry Cronan, with any questions regarding our WPA awards.

EMAIL NOMINATION

A graphic for 'Future Conventions' featuring a night cityscape with a Ferris wheel and a river. The text 'Future Conventions' is overlaid in large white font. To the right, a blue box contains the following information:

**2023 April 27 - 30
Riverside, CA**

**2024 April 24 - 28
San Francisco, CA**

**2025 May 1 - 4
Las Vegas, NV**

2021 Award Recipients



WPA OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

CHRISTOPHER ABERSON

WPA EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARD

BIRGIT KOOPMANN-HOLM

WPA SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD

DELIA SAENZ

WPA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ROBERT AND ELIZABETH BJORK

WPA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

TERRY CRONAN

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD



CHRISTOPHER ABERSON

Dr. Abersson received his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Claremont Graduate University in 1999. Dr. Abersson is a full professor at Humboldt State University.

Dr. Abersson teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes. Most of the classes he teaches are on statistics and research methods. He is known to be an excellent teacher as evidenced by his teaching evaluations. He has also mentored an impressive number of students over his career. Dr. Abersson has 44 publications and has published two editions of a book entitled Applied Power Analysis for the Behavioral Sciences. He has presented over 150 workshops, posters, and papers at professional conferences. He was a major contributor to the development of the Web Interface for Statistics Education (wise.cgu.edu) focused on teaching of statistics, which received the Merlot Classic Award. Dr. Abersson has given more statistics workshops for WPA than anyone else, and, for the past 8 years, he has been the Coordinator the he WPA Statistics Workshops. These workshops focus on the latest statistics methodology, and provide WPA students and faculty with cutting-edge statistical techniques. Dr. Abersson served widely in editorial roles with Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy, Group Processes and Intergroup Relations, and Journal of Applied Social Psychology while also contributing to numerous editorial boards including Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology and Teaching of Psychology.

EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARD



BIRGIT KOOPMANN-HOLM

Dr. Birgit Koopmann-Holm received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in 2013 and is currently an assistant professor at Santa Clara University. Her research focuses on the intersection between culture, emotion, and sympathy/compassion (and other responses to suffering). Her work is important because little is known about how culture shapes compassion. Dr. Koopmann-Holm's research examines the role that culture plays in shaping how desirable or undesirable negative emotions are, and how this affects expressions of sympathy and compassion in response to others' suffering as well as how people conceptualize compassion.

Dr. Koopmann-Holm has published 11 articles in top-notch refereed journals, including the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, as well as the Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin. Additionally, she has written two chapters, one book, and has authored 45 presentations of her work at professional conferences. She recently received a research grant from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Dr. Koopmann-Holm serves as an Ad-hoc reviewer for a number of journals and is a consulting editor for Emotion.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD



DELIA SAENZ

Dr. Delia Saenz is a professor in the Department of Psychology and currently serves as Chief Diversity Officer for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. Throughout her career, her research, teaching and service have focused on improving the welfare of others by promoting understanding and amelioration of phenomena such as underrepresentation, gender and ethnic bias, class privilege, and exclusion. She has also addressed health care delivery issues faced by women of color, educational and classroom challenges among

Latinx children, and equity in participation of women, people of color, and those with disability in STEM disciplines. This work has been supported by agencies such as NSF, NIH, USAID, the W.T. Grant Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

More recently, Dr. Saenz's efforts have focused on encouraging academic institutions to diversify their administrative staff, faculty, and students, and to promote fairness and equity in structural and procedural domains. She has received recognition for her contributions to these areas, including the Kenneth & Mamie Clark Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Professional Development of Ethnic Minority Graduate Students from the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students; Outstanding Faculty Award from the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Association; Outstanding Mentor Award from the ASU Women's Faculty Association; and Excellence in Education Award from the Ronald McDonald Charities National Scholarship Association. Additionally, from 1994 to 1997, Dr. Saenz received the ASU Student Affairs Recognition Award for outstanding commitment and contributions to students.

Dr. Saenz has had a remarkable, and highly influential career as a leader, scholar, teacher, and practitioner in the fields of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her work has enriched WPA over many years as a notable leader. She began her affiliation with WPA in 1993, as program chair, has served on numerous committees, and was WPA president in 2012.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

TERRY CRONAN

Terry Cronan is Professor of Psychology at San Diego State University. She has received over fourteen million dollars in grant funding over the years, published 98 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and authored over 300 conference presentations, almost all of them with student co-

authors. She has taken hundreds of students to WPA, where several have won awards. Dr. Cronan is a Fellow in the Western Psychological Association, Society for Behavioral Medicine, and the American Psychological Association (Divisions 1 and 2). She received the WPA Outstanding Teaching Award in 2015 and was the WPA President in 2018. She now serves as the Chair of the WPA Awards Committee.



WPA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



ROBERT AND ELIZABETH BJORK

Robert A. Bjork (Ph.D., Psychology, Stanford; BA, Mathematics, Minnesota) is Distinguished Research Professor in

the Department of Psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on human learning and memory and on the implications of the science of learning for instruction and training. He has served as Editor of *Memory & Cognition* and *Psychological Review*, Co-editor of *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, Chair of a National Research Council Committee on Techniques for the Enhancement of Human Performance (1988-1994), and Chair of the UCLA Department of Psychology (2003-2010). He is a past president or chair of the American Psychological Society (APS); the Western Psychological Association; the Psychonomic Society; the Society of Experimental Psychologists; the Council of Editors of the American Psychological Association (APA); and the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology. He is a recipient of UCLA's Distinguished Teaching Award; the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Scientist Lecturer Award, the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Service to Psychological Science Award; the American Physiological Society's Claude Bernard Distinguished Lectureship Award; the Society of Experimental Psychologists' Norman Anderson Lifetime Achievement Award; and, together with Elizabeth Bjork, the James McKeen Cattell Award ("for outstanding contributions to applied psychological research"), the Mentoring Award from the Association for Psychological Science, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Psychological Association. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was selected to give the 120th Faculty Research Lecture at the University of California, Los Angeles, during February 2016.

Elizabeth Ligon Bjork (Ph.D., Psychology, University of Michigan; BA, Mathematics, University of Florida) is Research Professor of Psychology in the Psychology Department at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she has also chaired UCLA's Academic Senate and received UCLA's Distinguished Teaching Award. Her main area of research has been the study of human memory; in particular, the role that inhibitory processes—such as those underlying goal-directed forgetting and memory updating—play in creating an adaptive human memory system. A focus of her recent research has been the study of how principles of learning discovered in the laboratory can be applied to enhance instructional practices and self-directed learning. One theme of this research is how best to use "desirable difficulties"—such as testing, particularly multiple-choice testing—to enhance not only the learning of the explicitly tested information but also of related information, and additionally, how to use testing to potentiate the initial study and learning of both these types of information. She is a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists, a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, and has served on Editorial Boards and Review Panels for NIMH. Together with Robert A. Bjork, she is a recipient of the James McKeen Cattell Award ("for outstanding contributions to applied psychological research"), the Mentoring Award from the Association for Psychological Science, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Psychological Association.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



SHARI YOUNG KUCHENBECKER

Dr. Shari Young Kuchenbecker is the Associate Director and Co-Founder of the Western Positive Psychology Association (WPPA) at Claremont Graduate University, an organization dedicated to supporting student/faculty research within and between educational institutions, building the science of positive psychology. She received her bachelor's degree from Stanford University and Ph.D. in developmental psychology from UCLA. She began her research/teaching career at Chapman University, where she was awarded tenure at the age of twenty-nine.

Dr. Kuchenbecker first presented at Western Psychological Association (WPA) in 1974 and, over the years, she has coauthored many WPA poster and paper sessions with her students. In 2018, she served as the WPA Student Council Advisor. For the past 5 years, Dr. Kuchenbecker has volunteered at the WPA Annual Conference as the Event Photographer. She has captured our vibrant students and their proud faculty beaming at her camera. She loves being a part of WPA, and WPA is proud of her and her photographs!



Renew or Join WPA Now

JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Student Membership is Included with Student Registration

