



The FORUM

The Newsletter of the SPSP Graduate Student Committee Fall 2003

Fun and Learning under the Dutch Sun! : EAESP Summer School 2004

Would you like to take a break from the reality of the graduate school and hang out in Europe? Do you think you can't afford to because there is no such thing as a break from your research? Then we have some good news for you. It is possible to get out of your lab and still continue to gain knowledge about the field! Too good to be true? Read on.

SPSP will be co-sponsoring up to 5 students for the 2004 EAESP Summer School. Similar to the program held last summer in Boulder, the 2004 Summer School will take place August 1-15 and will be held in the beautiful northern Dutch city of Groningen. While the main goal of the school is to familiarize students with the latest theoretical, methodological, and empirical developments in specific subfields of social psychology, an equally important function is to facilitate contact among young scholars and encourage collaborative relationships and research.

This summer, five workshops with an enrollment of 12 student participants and two staff members are planned. One staff member will be a distinguished social psychologist from outside the Netherlands and the

other a social psychologist from a Dutch university.

Workshops Offered

Automaticity and Goals: Tanya Chartrand, Duke University and Ap Dijksterhuis, University of Amsterdam.

Stereotyping: Bernd Wittenbrink, University of Chicago and Olivier Corneille, Catholic University of Louvain.

Intergroup Relations: Russell Spears, University of Cardiff and Sabine Otten, University of Groningen.

Emotions, Motivation, and Decision-making: Nira Liberman, Tel Aviv University and Marcel Zeelenberg, Tilburg University.

The Self Brett Pelham, SUNY Buffalo and Diederik Stapel, University of Groningen.

Application Information

Doctoral students in social psychology currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program outside of Europe and who have not participated in a prior EAESP or SPSP Summer School are eligible to apply. SPSP will contribute to the board, lodging, and registration for sponsored participants. Participants will be expected to pay the student fee of 200 Euros while SPSP will pay the remaining fees. SPSP will also contribute up to

\$400 per participant to cover travel costs to Groningen.

Specifics can be found at www.rug.nl/psy/onderzoek/summerschool/ and www.spssp.org/eaespsum.htm. Questions about the summer school should be directed to Sabine Otten (summerschool@ppsw.rug.nl) and questions about SPSP applications/funding should be directed to Harry Reis (<http://reis.socialpsychology.org>).

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Coming soon to Austin..

Career Pre-conference: Thursday, January 29th

Join us for this pre-conference, organized and sponsored by the SPSP Graduate Student Committee (GSC) and the American Psychological Association (APA), which will feature 3 exciting presentations related to your professional career! The session, entitled, "Five Burning Questions of the Professoriate," is designed for aspiring academics who are currently graduate students or postdocs. Expert panelists will share their insights, with plenty of opportunity for discussion. A panel discussion titled "Alternatives to Academia" featuring presenters who will discuss nonacademic career opportunities and share tips on how to prepare for a career in nonacademic settings will follow the APA workshop. There will also be time for Q & A and information on where to locate other nonacademic employment opportunities. The final presentation will be a roundtable titled, "Moving from 'Student' to 'Professional': Tips for Navigating the Transition," featuring speakers from a variety of occupations, both academic and non-academic, who have made the transition from graduate student to employee in the last 3 years. The focus of this roundtable will be to provide insight into unexpected challenges, and present general tactics to aid you during the transition phase.

Mentoring Luncheon: Friday, January 30th

The Graduate Student Committee is organizing a mentoring luncheon for students attending

SPSP. As planned, the lunch will consist of 6-person tables in which participants, comprised of 5 students and 1 PhD-level SPSP members, will discuss mutual interests. We are currently in the process of developing a list of mentoring "topics" to organize luncheon tables around, and can use your assistance. What types of topics, if featured at the luncheon, would interest you enough to attend? Topics can either be research interests or concerns (for example, conducting research with the IAT; relationship research; or research on decision-making processes), or professional development concerns (for example, the publication process; preparing for an academic job; diversity issues; online data collection tactics). *Email us (spspsc@yahoo.com) if there are topics that you would be interested in.*

We are also seeking PhD-level SPSP members to serve as mentors. If you know of a PhD-level SPSP member who would be a great mentor, we welcome your recommendation. Likewise, if there is a particular PhD-level personality or social psychologist involved in SPSP who you would like to see at the mentoring lunch, we welcome that information as well. Please just send us the name of the individual and what topic you feel they could be mentors in.

Keep your eye on your email and on the student website - more information about the pre-conference and mentoring lunch will be posted soon!

Graduate Poster Award Returns!

Perhaps you recall seeing little pink signs on posters saying "GPA candidate" last year...and maybe you wondered what that was all about? Each of those posters was a candidate for Graduate Poster Award. Last year's winners were selected by our panel of secret judges based upon not only the written presentation of the research, but also based upon how well the student communicated their knowledge and enthusiasm in a conversation.

This year, seven GPAs will be awarded - one in each poster session. Again, posters will be judged by secret judges.

Empirisoft, the producer of Media Lab and DirectRT has generously agreed to sponsor this year's awards. Thanks to their generosity, GPA winners will receive not only the opportunity to have their poster displayed for the remainder of the conference, their name published in the Dialogue and in the Forum, and a check for \$50.00, but will also receive free single-user licenses for Media Lab and DirectRT. Anyone who has used either of these programs for administering multimedia experiments or collecting reaction time data will tell you, those licenses and those programs are priceless.

Don't miss your chance to enter your poster. Details can be found on our website. The deadline for submission is October 31. All submissions must be received as attachments and include all authors and session number. Good luck in Austin!

Two Weeks in the the Rockies

by Camille Johnson

You can read the Dialogue article for the fair and balanced description of the first SPSP Summer Institute in Social Psychology, but look no farther to get the real dirt. The real truth? It was hot. Not like “oh hey, I feel a bit warm”-hot. It was damn-I-wish-could-live-in-my-fridge hot. H-O-T, hot. And the dorms, well, they were dorms. Regular ol’undergraduate dorms with shared showers and skulky guys dumping the trash on weekends. The food? Well let’s just say that the dining hall speciality was deep-fried cod and the novelty of “breakfast potatoes” wore off after the first three days. But you know what? There’s no way in the world I’d have missed this opportunity. Sure, I had no luggage for 5 days, and I froze my butt off during a recreational “hike” in Rocky Mountain National Park, but the benefits out-weighed all of that.

Students participating in SISP were divided in to 5 classes taught by several area experts: Social Neuroscience (Eddie Harmon-Jones and Tiffany Ito), Close Relationships (Peggy Clark and JP Laurenceau), Social Identity (Steve Wright and Amelie Mummendey), Terror Management (Jeff Greenberg and Tom Pyszczynski), and Implicit Social Cognition (Mahzarin Banaji, Irene Blair, and Brian Nosek). Each class was distinct not only in topic, but in style and texture. I was in the social neuroscience class, and surely it was the only class to ever give its

male instructor a red dress as a thank you, and receive tubes of KY Jelly in return. We spent our mornings in lectures and our afternoons applying said jelly and electrodes to one another. The other class to actually collect data during SISP was the Implicit Social Cognition class, or “Boot Camp” as it was dubbed by its participants. Nary a soul escaped taking at least one IAT during the second week of the program, as boot campers put their new-found programming knowledge to the test. The Close Relationship folks did not actually collect data during the two weeks, but instead reviewed theories, dove into hierarchical linear modeling, and produced an adaptation of The Dating Game for their final presentation. The Terror Management class was caricatured as the movie class, but students in the course each produced a research proposal and gained from the relaxed teaching style of their instructors. Finally, the social identity group also produced not only one proposal each, but two, one focused on the positive aspects of intergroup relations and one focused on the negative aspects. As a result, few were seen at a midweek party in our honor.

Of course, it wasn’t all work. Students headed over to The Hill to check out bars and down to Pearl Street for more refined food and drink. Evenings were spent playing ultimate Frisbee, soccer, tubing

down Boulder Creek, or by the pond (and the geese) behind the dorm. People karaoke-d, mused philosophical, or caught the sunrise on a hike. Over the weekend, we participated in one-day methods workshops and then headed to either Rocky Mountain National Park, Denver, or spent a day of rest around Boulder.

For better or worse, SISP was like 14 days of the SPSP conference on steroids. There weren’t any poster sessions or big names to be awed by, instead it was a unique opportunity to get to know students from all over the country and world. These are the people that we’ll be seeing every February for the rest of our lives, and now I have 76 people other people with whom to share my boxed lunch. I learned about a topic that is not available at my university and made friends with those who study topics similar to mine and with people who study things I know nothing about. We spent 2 weeks immersed in a topic and in each other. Integrated with our recreational activities were discussions about research, the state of the field, our programs and our advisors. We emerged from these 2 weeks more knowledgeable, and better prepared to become contributing SPSP members. Yea, it was hot. Yea, it was super-hot. But all I can really remember now is laughing, sharing a couple of drinks, and all the people that I’ll be glad to see in Austin. So I’d love to see you all in Austin...and I’ll spot you \$8.40 for lunch.

Dear Sigmunda?

Maybe you've been seeing this subject pop up in your email and are wondering what the heck this email advice column is all about? The student listserv was created to be a forum for graduate students to discuss all sorts of issues, without fear of faculty seeing our soft-underbellies. The Dear Sigmunda column was created to facilitate this exchange of ideas and advice.

Each month, we send out a singlerequest for advice focusing on one common graduate student complaint. Often, these requests are compilations of several graduate students' personal situations. Then, we wait for you, with all your wisdom and experience, to provide advice for our lost soul. We send out that advice (with all identifying

information deleted) to the listserv and post it at www.spsp.org/student/sigmunda.htm.

If you have any issues you'd like to see addressed, send an email to spspgsc@yahoo.com. We'll forward your questions anonymously to the list.

Here's our latest letter, and a portion of one of the responses. If you have additional advice, send it to spspgsc@yahoo.com:

Dear Sigmunda,

Although I started graduate school to work primarily with my advisor, my experience has not been very positive. I have been thinking about changing advisors, but am really at a loss about how to do this without making waves in my department, step on toes, etc. I don't want there to be any animosity between us either. I am throwing this out for some suggestions

from other grad students who may have faced this problem, as I don't feel comfortable bringing this up with other faculty and graduate students in my department. Help! --Isolated and Alone

Because of your particular circumstances, I'm not sure exactly what to recommend. If you wanted to change advisors without making waves, I am inclined to suggest that your professional interests should shift in a new direction, one that moves you away from your advisor but stays true to your career goals. You could not do this quickly, nor could you look "suddenly happy," but I think an interest shift would be a solid reason for changing directions "midstream." This is what one of the successful students and I had discussed before his change. However, consider my suggestion only useful in an extreme situation. I personally feel the best way to deal with these situations is to be as straightforward as possible. It could be that your advisor experiences this situation the same as you. Or, it could be that the situation has simply been a series of misunderstandings and misinterpretations. Keep in mind that sometimes our unhappiness is more about our expectations for the mentoring relationship than it is about our interactions with our supervisors. Holton (1998) discusses how our expectations for the career can inadvertently interfere with our success. Other books that have made my professional career easier include those that helped me to deal with difficult people (e.g., Bramson, 1988; Brinkman, 2002; Gill, 1999; Osborne, 2002). Remember, we will always encounter incorrigible people in our careers; and yes, we will have to work with them.

Elections! Make your mark!

Run for Office! Be an elected member of the Graduate Student Committee (GSC)!

Have you noticed all of the exciting projects the GSC has been working on? Do you have more ideas that you think would be useful to graduate student members? Then you should run for the SPSP GSC 2004-2005 term!! We have five positions open this year: one for president, and four for member-at-large. The president is elected for a 2-year term (1 year as president and 1 year as past-president), while the members-at-large serve 1 year terms.

There are many benefits of being on the committee.

Student leadership, although at times challenging and time consuming, is an excellent way to network and ensure that student needs are met. Being an elected member is also important for your professional development, and looks great on your cv!

See the GSC website for more details about the positions and responsibilities. If you still have questions, feel free to contact any of the committee members. We'll be happy to answer any questions that you have. Look for the call for nominations in December and the elections ballots will arrive in January!