

Rebecca Shiner
Candidate Statement, SPSP Elections 2021

I would be honored to serve as SPSP's second Member at Large for Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs). I attended a small liberal arts college as an undergraduate and decided halfway through graduate school that my dream job would be to work as a professor at a similar institution. My graduate advisors encouraged me in this pursuit, although it was certainly not a common one for people coming out of my graduate program. I could not believe my good luck when I obtained a job at Colgate University—which, despite the “University” in the name, is a liberal arts college. I have been grateful for the efforts of SPSP to meet the needs of its PUI membership since this initiative was started by Mark Leary in 2015. I attended an initial meeting on this topic at the 2015 SPSP convention and discovered there that PUIs vary considerably within themselves, with some focusing largely on teaching and others focusing more evenly on a balance of teaching and research. PUIs also vary widely in the resources that available to faculty.

SPSP has already made great progress in the last 5 years in meeting the needs of PUI faculty, for example, by providing small grants for research. I joined the inaugural SPSP committee for PUIs last year, and we hosted several events at the 2021 convention for PUI faculty and graduate students potentially interested in working at PUIs. The excitement among the faculty and students attending our events was palpable, in spite of the Zoom format; there is so much that SPSP could do to serve these members and attract new PUI faculty to the organization! I am eager to work on initiatives already underway to create community using the PUI listserv, provide mentorship from established PUI faculty for graduate students interested in similar careers, and establish annual convention events. I hope to work with SPSP to devise creative solutions for assisting PUI faculty in meeting the particular and varied challenges they face, such as overcoming relative isolation in their subfields within their departments. I also would like to find ways that SPSP can support faculty from PUIs as they strive to adopt Open Science practices, including the expectations of larger sample sizes. Finally, I would seek to integrate SPSP's current diversity and inclusion initiatives into the work of the PUI committee, in part by collaborating more directly with the Diversity and Climate Committee.

I would bring strong leadership and organizational experience to the SPSP Board. I have served in numerous leadership roles at Colgate, including as Chair of my department and our Faculty Affairs Committee; so I have an intimate understanding of the opportunities, needs, and constraints faced by faculty at PUIs. I served as the Secretary-Treasurer for SPSP in 2009 (filling in for a Secretary-Treasurer who had just been elected President) and learned a tremendous amount in that one year about how to run a successful professional organization. I was an Associate Editor at the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and *Journal of Personality* and would bring that editorial experience to my work as a Member at Large as well. I love starting new initiatives; for example, I am just finishing a 6-year term as the founder and director of a new Residential Commons Program at Colgate. So, I would particularly value the opportunity to have an impact on this still-new effort on behalf of PUIs.

My most relevant service experience for this position is my work as the Executive Officer of the Association for Research in Personality (ARP) from 2015-2017. ARP is a younger and much smaller sibling organization of SPSP. In my role as the Executive Officer, I organized our Board meetings, monitored the activities of all of the committees, made regular decisions about pressing issues, ran the operations for our biennial meeting, organized elections, and served as a Governing Consortium Member for *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. Using what I had learned from my year on the SPSP Board, I worked with the ARP Board and officers to set up a stronger organizational structure, establish a more stable financial footing, and create new awards and ways of supporting graduate students. Drawing on all of these experiences in our scholarly field and at my own PUI, I am excited to serve my fellow social and personality psychologists and the faculty and students of the PUIs that I love so much.