

Amy Summerville

Candidate Statement

SPSP scientific programming has been a touchstone of my professional career. I first attended SPSP as a graduate student, and later brought my own students as a faculty member. I served on the Scientific Program Committee (2017-2018) and Convention Committee (2019-2022), developing a deep understanding of our flagship event and building relationships with staff and volunteers. I've helped to plan our first all-virtual and dual-modality conferences, and learned from member feedback about the benefits and challenges of those new experiences.

I see 3 core challenges that I would work to address as Member at Large for Scientific Programming.

Programming to meet the needs of the full range of professional stages and roles: SPSP scientific programming serves undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty in roles emphasizing both teaching and research, and scientists working outside the academy (as I am). As a board member, I would work to understand the ways that SPSP programming can better support the professional and scientific development of each of those groups, and develop new programming to address unmet needs.

Programming that reaches all members: One of the highlights of being involved in the 2021 and 2022 conventions was hearing from members who were able to access the meeting because of the virtual formats. I hope to strengthen and expand our virtual offerings to serve international members, including those in low and middle income countries, as well as members in North America who prefer virtual meetings due to family, health, ecological, and many other concerns.

Programming that reflects the diversity of our membership: Like many other organizations, the diversity of SPSP's speakers has not reflected the diversity of its membership (Johnson, Smith, & Wang, 2017). I am proud that as a member of the Program and Convention Committees, I helped lead initial efforts to consider speaker diversity as one facet of developing a well-rounded convention program. These ongoing efforts are critical to SPSP's ability to offer outstanding scientific programming that advances the science, teaching, and application of social and personality psychology.