

The 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology

Polarization, Misinformation, and Entrenched Group Conflict: Harnessing Political Psychology to Find Solutions to Problems New and Old

Where: Maritim Hotel, Berlin, Germany

When: 14-17 July 2020

President: Nicholas A. Valentino (University of Michigan)

Conference Program Co-Chairs: Thomas Craemer (University of Connecticut), Lilliana Mason (University of Maryland)

Submission Deadline: 1 December 2019

The last two decades have seen great technological and economic transformations worldwide. It has become easier to communicate with each other and with strangers, in our families and communities, and across borders. Falling barriers to trade have led to a dramatic increase in the movement of products and labor, helping to lift vast numbers of people out of poverty in developing nations.

But with these exciting transformations also came great challenges and conflict. The rise of populist and anti-immigrant parties in many democracies in the west seem to move in lock step with polarization and political gridlock. These trends now threaten economic growth around the world. The very communication technologies that brought so many benefits- increasing social connection, the mobilization of social movements, and increased access to news and information from around the world- also occasioned a proliferation of misinformation, fake news, and propaganda so subtle it is often impossible to identify and control. The institutions of democracy itself- election systems and access to the ballot- are increasingly challenged.

Using new technologies, the power of bad actors to inflame racial and ethnic tensions and even to cause lethal violence at the individual and state level seems to be on the rise. Conspiratorial thinking, anti-scientific sentiment, ethnic and racial animus, and extremist ideologies all seem to find it easier to operate in such an open political and economic environment.

And as if all that weren't enough, these threats all come at time when we seem to like each other less and less, with partisan affective polarization on the rise in country after country. How can we find a path toward sound and majoritarian policy making in such a moment? The stakes could not be higher, as scientists discover for example that our inaction even for the next few decades on issues of climate change could have consequences that last centuries.

What are the causes and consequences of these trends? Is political compromise no longer possible in an era of extreme polarization, deliberate misinformation, and entrenched conflict within and across borders? We are especially interested in papers that address these questions.

Political Psychologists seem uniquely qualified to understand, explain, and even to help address how we got here and where we might go next. Our great strength is our diversity- in terms of our backgrounds, our areas of expertise, our experiences, and our abilities. We study the role of

psychology at the level of the individual, the group, the institution, and state. We study context and culture, and the ways those broad social forces interact with individual psychological processes to affect behavior and political decision-making. It is via this intellectual inclusivity, our dedication to learning from each other across great distances and differences, that makes ISPP such a special organization.

We invite you to participate in the 2020 ISPP Annual Scientific Meeting in Berlin, Germany. The ISPP Annual Meeting brings together scholars across disciplines and epistemologies using a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches. Our overarching goal Society is engage with new research produced by scholars in fields across the social sciences, including psychology, political science, sociology, ethnic studies, anthropology, history, economics, media and communication studies, and many others.

Proposals for traditional panel papers are welcome, as are proposals for symposia, roundtables, blitz presentations and posters on any topic in political psychology, including those relevant to any aspect of the theme addressed above.