

March 28, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

After long and serious deliberation, the Executive Committee of ISPP decided today to cancel our upcoming meeting in Berlin, scheduled for July 14-17. We have made this decision as a result of listening to officials in Germany and from around Europe, and in anticipation that many of our members from around the world will be unable to book travel over the next several months. Our first priority is the health and safety of our members and their families, as well as all those whose work is vital for us in our universities, meeting sites, and destination cities. The thought of missing our scholarly exchange and in-person connection is painful, but obviously that sacrifice is necessary at this point. Some of you might wonder what this means for our plans to visit Berlin in the future. We will be discussing that at the Governing Council meeting this July, but one possibility is that we visit Berlin in 2022 or 2023, and simply push back our other plans.

Now for the good news. The Executive Committee also voted today to move forward with a virtual meeting for 2020 that we think will capture many of the wonderful qualities of the in-person meeting. Many of the details are still unavailable, but we have some plans already made. We know many of you have indicated interest in presenting your papers online and getting as much feedback as possible, and that will certainly be possible. Please take a moment to scroll down and view the format of the virtual conference so that you may consider registering for the 2020 ISPP Virtual Conference, to take place from **July 14-16**.

Please let us know if you would like to attend the virtual 2020 ISPP Annual Meeting:

[Yes, I would like to attend](#)

[No, I would not like to attend](#)

### **Refunds**

Refunds will be granted according to the response above. All those who would like to participate in the 2020 ISPP Virtual Event will be refunded 50% of their in-person registration rate. All those who indicate that they do not wish to participate in a virtual event, will be granted a full registration refund.

### **Registration**

If you have not yet registered for the conference and would like to participate in the virtual event, please indicate your attendance above, and click the "Register Here" button afterwards to register for the virtual event.

## **Hotel Reimbursements**

If you have already booked your stay at the Maritim Berlin in ISPP's room block, you are able to cancel your reservation at no charge more than 48 hours prior to your scheduled arrival (even for those that were indicated as "non-refundable"). Please contact the hotel to cancel your reservation. If you experience any issue with your cancellation, you can contact the ISPP [Central Office](#).

## **Virtual Meeting - How it will work**

The first-ever ISPP virtual meeting will be hosted online by a professional online meeting company. Our virtual venue will contain a welcome area with the conference agenda, and virtual meeting rooms planned within two different time zones. Attendees can log in and choose which live sessions to join, and enter a virtual room with one click. Sessions will be recorded and made available to event registrants on-demand. We understand the significant loss of face-to-face interaction and exchanging of ideas that occurs during an in-person meeting. However, we hope to recoup some of this networking potential through our virtual event. Ideas for virtual networking opportunities are being discussed and plans for this will be shared at a later time. An alternative presentation format will be decided on for poster presentations. All other presentation formats will remain the same. Authors will need to indicate participation for the virtual event by **April 16th, 2020** to remain a part of this online program. Click [HERE](#) to see an example of the virtual meeting space.

The ISPP [Central Office](#) is available to answer any questions you may have. Please note, we are in the early stages of organizing this virtual event. We appreciate your patience and continued support as we navigate these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Valentino  
ISPP President