

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS USA July 4 – July 7, 2018
The 41st Annual Meeting

ISPP 2018: Beyond Borders and Boundaries: Perspectives from Political Psychology

Where: Hilton Palacio del Rio, San Antonio, Texas USA

When: July 4-July 7, 2018

President: Eva G. T. Green (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

Conference Program Co-Chairs: Bethany Albertson (University of Texas at Austin, USA) & Frank Asbrock (Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany)

In contemporary societies there is a constant and simultaneous tendency both to construct and to contest boundaries between people. This conference aims to take stock of the social, scientific and political significance of various forms of boundaries and boundary making for political psychology. Boundaries range from tangible to symbolic, from porous to impermeable, and from changing to stable forms of separation and demarcation. Triggered by societal events such as domestic and international armed conflicts and legitimized by traditional and more recent political actors such as the increasingly influential right-wing populist movements, boundary making is heavily politicized. The current refugee crisis in Europe and elsewhere in the world has resulted in enhanced border controls, in the construction of physical borders as well as in a surge of exclusionary, but also of inclusive stances in public opinion. Economic inequalities reinforced by the great recession, in turn, harden the boundaries between the privileged and the less fortunate. Boundary making manifests itself in everyday talk about groups, in processes of identification with leaders, with groups and with protest movements, in attitudes towards other groups, in individual and institutional processes of discrimination, as well as in violent and destructive behaviours. Defining and asserting boundaries cuts across social categories such as social class, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion and sexuality as well as value- and ideology-based categories. Yet, many political leaders and popular movements strive to attenuate or abolish group boundaries and to bring about social cohesion by reducing social inequalities, providing equal opportunities, fighting discrimination, or facilitating access within the borders of a nation. Going beyond boundaries is a condition for enhanced cohesion, inclusion and empowerment. The opposing forces of making and breaking boundaries are intertwined and occur in parallel.

We invite you to participate in the ISPP Annual Meeting of 2018 in San Antonio, Texas, USA. We are particularly interested in proposals that provide new theoretical or empirical insights into the dynamics of boundary making and boundary contestation. The conference emphasizes theoretical and methodological plurality and hopes to bring together new research from the fields of psychology, political science, sociology, economics, anthropology, biology, geography, communication, history, philosophy, and other disciplines. Symposia, roundtables, papers, and posters on any other topic in political psychology are also welcome.

We wish to bring about an inclusive and enriching intellectual exchange between political psychologists from different backgrounds in order to reach a better understanding of the dynamics of society and politics in the world today, to outline possible societal change, and to discuss how political psychologists can contribute to such change.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio next summer. Watch the ISPP Annual meeting web page for updates!