

ISPP **SUMMER** **ACADEMY**

WHEN

July 11-13, 2016

WHERE

**Sheraton Warsaw Hotel,
Warsaw, Poland**

Ul. B. Prusa 2., Warsaw 00-493

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APPLICATIONS**

**DEADLINE:
MARCH 4, 2016
12PM EST**

INSTRUCTORS

**Molly Andrews
Daniel Bar-Tal
Kevin Durrheim
Stanley Feldman
Helen Haste
Leonie Huddy
Victor Ottati
George Marcus
Janusz Reykowski
Nicholas Valentino
Nick Wheeler**

INSTRUCTORS

**Stanley Feldman
&
Leonie Huddy**

George Marcus

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Political psychology is a fascinating subfield that draws on both psychology and political science to analyze the origins and dynamics of public opinion, vote choice, collective action, and elite political decision-making. Political psychology lends sharp insight into contemporary politics, helping to explain the Arab spring and the circumstances under which political grievances are transformed into collective action, the mindset of intransigent and dictatorial leaders, and the effects of partisanship on Americans that leaves them divided on a host of political issues including climate change.

This session will provide an overview of political psychology research, including the distinct contributions of psychology and political science, and key methods, theories and approaches. These elements of political psychology will be elucidated through a focused examination of research on the political consequences of psychological reactions to terrorism.

THE NEUROSCIENTIFIC BASIS OF POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The traditional work of political psychology—focused as it is on beliefs, values, attitudes as explanations for how, when, and why people engage in politics—relies on methods and presumptions that neuroscience has shown to be largely incomplete and often false. Conventional theories and methods rely on observation and self-report and hence miss much of how the brain actually assess external affairs (via sensory input) and internal affairs (via somatosensory inputs).

This course provides an introduction into the methods and findings of neuroscience that reveal how these largely hidden dynamics shape consciousness, judgment and action. The course will show how established theories on decision-making (including voting preferences, social engagement (as members of groups, both antagonistic and affiliative), and political action, are reshaped by neuroscientific research. Central to the ongoing revision of conventional wisdom is the role of preconscious appraisals, emotions, and the relationship of preconscious and conscious realms as foundations for judgment and action. More broadly, the course will show how the future of political psychology is being reshaped by the impact of neuroscience research.

INSTRUCTORS

Kevin Durrheim

Nick Valentino

Helen Haste

Molly Andrews

UNDERSTANDING PREJUDICE AND XENOPHOBIA: A WORKSHOP ON DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

This will be a hands-on, how-to-do workshop that will cover basic principles and methodologies of discourse analysis. We will focus on prejudice and xenophobic discourse, and will come to appreciate the power of discourse analysis as a instrument in the political psychology toolbox.

POLITICAL COMMUNICATION: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MEDIA EFFECTS DEBATE

The purpose of the session is to introduce students to major areas of research involving the impact of the mass media on public opinion and behavior. We will focus on individual psychological mechanisms underlying media effects such as learning, persuasion, agenda setting, framing and priming. During our discussion, we will try to tie down these findings to the broader debate about the place of the news media in representative democracies.

EXPLORING YOUTH CIVIC IDENTITY THROUGH DIFFERENT EPISTEMOLOGIES

There are two distinct epistemological approaches in political psychology, with different methods and models. One addresses social and/or psychological structures, individual and group differences, and causal relations, the other addresses processes, patterns, discourses and contexts. In this workshop we will explore these important and sometimes controversial distinctions with reference to the development of youth civic identity and engagement.

EXPLORING POLITICAL NARRATIVES

Narratives are not only the means by which individuals breathe public life into personal experience, they are a primary tool by which individuals recognize and affirm themselves as members of a group, thereby often acting as a catalyst for the raising of political consciousness. Narratives can thus play a vital role in de-individualizing that which is personal; rendering experience into a narrative form can help individuals to become more actively engaged in shaping the conditions of their lives. Using a range of different kinds of political talk, this session will explore the relationship between micro and macro narratives of political change.

INSTRUCTORS

Victor Ottati

**Janusz
Reykowski**

OPEN-MINDED COGNITION, DOGMATISM, AND POLITICAL COGNITION

Dogmatic or closed-minded cognition is directionally biased; a tendency to select, interpret, and elaborate upon information in a manner that reinforces the individual's prior opinion or expectation. Open-minded cognition is directionally unbiased; a tendency to process information in a manner that is *not* biased in the direction of the individual's prior opinion or expectation. What is an appropriate measure of general and political open-minded cognition? What are the antecedents and consequences of political open-minded cognition. Research addressing these questions will be presented.

MARKET SYSTEM AND MOTIVATIONAL PROCESSES

According to popular theory, the market system is the necessary precondition of high productivity and socio-economic development. History of the last 300 years seems to support this theory showing that in competitive markets, self-interested behavior leads to public benefit. This is because the free market brings about the optimal conditions for mobilization of human potential and directing it into productive activities. According to this view the key factor in development of productivity is self-interest. There are, however, good reasons to maintain that economic motivation based solely on self-interest, especially its extreme forms like greed, has serious flaws as a source of socio-economic development and productivity. In many spheres of socio-economic life, a high level of intrinsic motivation is the precondition of attaining good results. But self-interest tends to weaken this motivation or suppress it altogether. It seems, therefore, that belief in market competition as a universal mechanism of high productivity and social development is not very adequate.

INSTRUCTORS

Nick Wheeler

Daniel Bar-Tal

TRUST AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF ENEMY RELATIONSHIPS

This session will explore both conceptually and empirically how the development of trust at the interpersonal level between the leaders of two enemies can open up new spaces for conflict transformation. A key focus will be on how enemy images become entrenched in decision-making processes and how cultures of distrust of this kind might be overcome through the building of trust at the interpersonal level. The role of personalised diplomacy, especially face-to-face encounters, in the trust-building process will be an important area for discussion. The conceptual material will be complemented with the exploration of empirical cases (e.g., the end of the Cold War and US-Iran relations).

SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL MACRO ANALYSIS OF INTRACTABLE CONFLICT

We will learn a conceptual framework that concerns the societal-psychological foundation and dynamics of intractable conflict: the nature of intractable conflict, experiences of the societies involved in this reality, evolution of socio-psychological infrastructure and culture of conflict and peace building.