ISPP 2021: Advancing the Recognition of Marginalized Peoples

Where: Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montréal, Québec, Canada  
When: July 15-17, 2021  
President: Felicia Pratto (University of Connecticut)  
Conference Program Co-Chairs: Dr. Carla Houkamau (University of Auckland), Dr. Allison Harell (Université du Québec à Montréal)

Submission Deadline: December 1, 2020

As an international and interdisciplinary scholarly society, ISPP champions diversity in methods, theories, and research problems, welcomes perspectives and contributions from any location and from members with any identities, endorses human rights for all, and advocates for academic freedom for educators and students and freedom of thought for all people. Under the umbrella “inter-discipline” of political psychology, ISPP members research how humans’ many capacities, both collective and individual, influence the ways that people try to govern by both formal and informal means, the challenges and consequences people face in such endeavors, and how those endeavors change individuals and groups. A few examples political psychologists’ research topics include intergovernmental relations, the cultures of politics, justice definitions and procedures, collective decision-making, the nature of leadership, distinctive and multiple identities, eliminating scientific bias, researcher-activist and community relationships, cultural sharing and cultural appropriation, gender in formal and informal politics, how health and social services pertain to group power and intergroup relations, deliberative democracy, multi-layered politics and governance, community self-help, and others. The overarching goal of the Society is to facilitate new research produced by scholars in fields across the social sciences and other disciplines, including psychology, political science, sociology, ethnic studies, anthropology, history, economics, history, media and communication studies, philosophy, and others. You are warmly invited to participate in this exciting agenda at our annual scientific meeting in Montreal, 15-17 July, 2021.

In keeping with our tradition of researching diverse human groups, human problems, and human solutions, the theme of the 2021 Montreal scientific meeting is Advancing the Recognition of Marginalized Peoples.

This topic is important for two main reasons. First, several social sciences, educators, and national governments were instrumental in attacking and subordinating indigenous communities and others who have been marginalized via colonization and nationalization. Awareness of these processes and awareness of the positive alternatives developed by people in marginalized communities can help stop perpetuating – by design or by neglect – the damaging processes of colonization and nationalization. Considering broader experiences and perspectives may help understanding whether research might, for example, transmit Eurocentric or androcentric values and orientations, and potentially eliminate misunderstandings. Second, how marginalized communities grapple with self-governance, self-determination, inter-governmental relations, the ecology and economy, cultural inheritance, health, gender roles, trans-generational continuity and change are at the heart of political psychology. Our Society and discipline can only be made more complete through more recognition of marginalized peoples.

To this end, the 2021 Program Committee seeks to bring visibility, recognition and attention to matters of importance and relevance to Indigenous communities and other marginalized peoples, and the research methods and topics they deem important. As well as creating opportunities for marginalized voices to be heard and better understood, the conference will provide means of creating or strengthening connections among attendees. In addition to keynote talks, paper panels, workshops, and roundtable discussions, the conference will include time to enable opportunities for discussion, introductions, networking and potential collaborations. Newcomers should know that ISPP conferences have a very welcoming vibe, are attended by students and practitioners (as well as researchers), and provide several opportunities for early career scholars as well.

Thus, in addition to a special invitation to researchers who can offer perspectives of marginalized peoples, we encourage paper and panel submissions that will promote dialogue between researchers
who employ different methods, epistemologies, applications of interest, regions and disciplines. As one example, we invite panels featuring multiple disciplines and methods as ways of addressing the same, or closely related, topics. Further, because neither disciplines nor methods remain fixed, the Montreal conference will feature several workshops and symposia on new research methods, including qualitative, statistical, and big-data. Other conference features for attendees include a “Meet the Editors” panel (of our journal, Political Psychology), social occasions for early career scholars, mentoring sessions, our Scholars Under Threat symposium, and the ISPP Summer Academy, held before the conference.

Proposals for individual papers, symposia including several papers, roundtable discussions, and blitz presentations and posters on any topic in political psychology are welcome. The submission deadline is December 1, 2020, and presenters will be notified of their submissions’ acceptance in early February, 2021.

Montreal is an accessible, multi-cultural, friendly city with an astounding variety of affordable cuisines, art museums, music venues, world-class universities. Montreal also neighbors some of the prettiest landscapes and waterways in North America. Our conference just follows the world-famous Montreal Jazz Festival. Please plan to come share, learn, and participate in the 2021 Montreal conference!

Dr. Carla Houkamau, Associate Professor, Manupiri Māori, (Associate Dean Māori), Business School at the University of Auckland, Program Co-Chair

Dr. Allison Harell, Professor, Department of Political Science, Université du Québec à Montréal Research Chair in the Political Psychology of Social Solidarity; Co-Director, Consortium on Electoral Democracy, Program Co-Chair

Dr. Felicia Pratto, Professor of Psychological Sciences, University of Connecticut, President-Elect