ISPP SUMMER ACADEMY

WHEN:
July 2nd—July 4th, 2018

WHERE:
Hilton Palacio Del Rio
San Antonio, TX
200 South Alamo Street
San Antonio, Texas USA 78205

FOR MORE INFO:
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NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

DEADLINE:
March 30, 2018

INSTRUCTORS:
Johanna Dunaway
Neil Ferguson
Nehemia Geva
Peg Hermann
Catarina Kinnvall
Howie Lavine
Joanne Miller
David Redlawsk

The European Consortium on Political Science Research sponsors one Summer Academy Course
Media Effects in the Changing Information Environment

A rich history of research in media effects tells us a great deal about the various ways in which the content of media messages influences attitudes and behaviors. Yet a growing body of research reveals important social and psychological effects from changes in communication technologies. While some of these effects are born from technology-driven changes in content, evidence increasingly shows the important role that media hardware and software play in how individuals process information. After an overview of traditions in media effects, we will examine what changing information technologies mean for our current understanding of media effects and what this suggests for determining the most fruitful paths for future research.

Translations of Political Psychology to Experimental Designs

This course will focus on the use of experimentation, not only as the empiricism to garner support for causal hypotheses, but as an efficient tool to shape and reshape our conceptual models prior to data collection. We will focus on three major aspects of experimentation: the development of our treatments (IVs); the importance of the context where these treatments are embedded; and finally, the operationalization of our dependent variables. We will discuss our factors in relation to process-oriented as well as outcome-oriented designs.

Political Psychology and Leadership

Political psychology has become an important feature in the study of political leaders and leadership. Of interest is who can become a political leader, how important are constituents in shaping who is selected as leader and what he or she can do, what traits are important to know in understanding how political leaders make decisions and act, and under what circumstances is it critical to know something about political leaders to understand what governments are likely to do. The focus will be on national political leaders from around the world.

Psychological Understandings of Engaging and Disengaging Terrorism

This session will review the current thinking in terrorist studies around how and why individuals engage in violent extremism, the impact it has on them, and the processes involved in leaving terrorism behind and disengaging from using violence. The session will draw on accounts of former combatants from Northern Ireland to illustrate the factors that pertain to these aspects of terrorism.
The Political Psychology of Multiculturalism

This course will focus on the challenges and opportunities of multiculturalism. Profiling the methodologies of critical discourse analysis and narrative analysis, the course examines regimes of citizenship, patterns of integration and conflict, and identity strategies adopted by majorities and minorities across Europe and North America. Political psychological concepts under consideration include: cosmopolitanism, engagement, radicalization, essentialism, memory, ontological security, othering, trauma, and xenophobia.

Open Versus Closed: Personality, Identity, and the Politics of Redistribution

Debates over redistribution, social insurance, and market regulation are central to American politics. Why do some citizens prefer a larger role for government in the economic life of the nation while others wish to limit its reach? We will examine how deep-seated personality traits underpinning the culture wars over race, immigration, law and order, sexuality, gender roles, and religion shape how citizens think about economics, binding cultural and economic inclinations together in unexpected ways.

The Political Psychology of Conspiracy Theory Beliefs

The purpose of this session is to introduce students to the political psychological approaches to the study of belief in conspiracy theories. We will focus on theories that posit dispositional, situational, and/or motivational explanations for conspiracy theory endorsement. We will then discuss what the empirical findings say about the prospects for "correcting" conspiratorial beliefs, and for quelling the spread of conspiracy theories in the age of social media.

Behavioral Decision Theory Experiments using Dynamic Process Tracing

Experiments are a cornerstone of political psychology. In this session, I will discuss a particular tool for mounting decision making experiment, Dynamic Process Tracing (DPTE), developed by Rick Lau and I. I will explain the basics of how DPTE works and give examples of its use to support experimental studies. This discussion will be embedded in a broader discussion of the role of Behavioral Decision Theory in political psychology.