



The Society for Descriptive Psychology

Thirty-first Annual Meeting
October 8-11, 2009
The Golden Hotel, Golden CO

Conference Information

8/2/09

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About Descriptive Psychology

What is Descriptive Psychology? Excerpts from Ray Bergner, PhD (www.sdp.org/sdp/WHAT%20IS%20DP-Bergner.pdf)

“Descriptive Psychology is a set of systematically related concepts designed to give formal access to all facts and possible facts concerning human behavior.” Peter G. Ossorio (2006)

“. . . Descriptive Psychology (“DP”) is first and foremost a conceptual framework for the science of Psychology. Created in its original form by Peter G. Ossorio in the mid-1960s at the University of Colorado, it has subsequently been the subject of hundreds of books and papers that have updated, refined, and elaborated it, and that have applied it to domains such as psychotherapy, artificial intelligence, spirituality, organizations, communities, psychological theory creation, and research methodology. What DP primarily attempts to do is to provide the kind of precise, systematic, and comprehensive conceptual framework that is a pre-empirical requirement for the adequate conduct of psychological theorizing, research, and application. . .”

The Annual Meeting of the Society for Descriptive Psychology is an opportunity for professionals from many disciplines to gather and exchange ideas about a wide range of topics related to understanding persons and behavior. Traditionally this scope of applications for Descriptive Psychology has included the practice of psychotherapy and healthcare; education and human development; societies, communities, and cultures; organizational leadership and effectiveness; forensic, legal, and law enforcement; computer science, and spirituality / life cycle. The common ground shared by participants is the exciting and expansive conceptual framework of Descriptive Psychology.

The 2009 Meeting features presentations, panels, and participant discussions in the areas shown on the “meeting at a glance” page and are described in more detail on the following pages. Instructions for conference registration and making hotel reservations in beautiful Golden Colorado appear at the end of this program announcement.

For further information on the Conference, the Society, or Descriptive Psychology, please contact either:

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Society for Descriptive Psychology www.sdp.org

Society for Descriptive Psychology 31st Annual Meeting—at a Glance

Thursday, October 8

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Check-in and registration	Outside Golden Vista room
1:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting (Patio)	
4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	<i>Actor Central: An Introduction to Descriptive Psychology</i>	CJ Stone
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Welcome; dinner in the conference room	
7:30 - 8:50 p.m.	<i>Learning Descriptive Psychology: Promising practices from participants and a panel of students and teachers</i>	Introduced by CJ Peek

Friday, October 9

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Light Breakfast in the Conference Room	Golden Vista Room
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Registration	Outside Golden Vista Room
8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Break	<i>Trauma, Exposure, and World Reconstruction</i>	Raymond M. Bergner
9:45 - 10:30 a.m. Break	<i>The Victim Narrative and Status Dynamics</i>	Jason Shestok
10:45-11:50 a.m.	<i>Understanding Your Child: A Descriptive Psychology Approach to Being a Parent</i>	Sonja Holt, Charlie Kantor & Heather Holmes-Lonergan
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch in the Conference Room	
1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Break	<i>Practical Use of Descriptive Psychology: Applying Psychotherapy Concepts to Other Contexts</i>	H. Joel Jeffrey
2:45 - 4:15 p.m. Break	<i>The Field of Collaborative Care Learns from Newton: A Panel</i>	Intro by CJ Peek
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	<i>You're Mine: A Descriptive Psychology Approach to Being a Server</i>	Julia Peek
5:15 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner in the Conference Room	Golden Vista room
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Society Business Meeting	Keith Davis presiding
8:00 -	<i>From Rap to Jazz: DP players riff on themes suggested by the audience</i>	

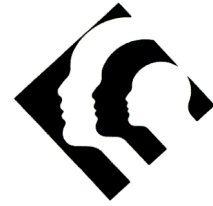
Saturday, October 10

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Light Breakfast in the Conference Room	Golden Vista Room
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Registration	Outside Golden Vista Room
8:30 - 9:45 a.m. Break	<i>At a glance and out of nowhere: Actor's knowledge and the on-going creation of meaning in the real world</i>	Anthony O. Putman
10:00 - 10:45 Break	<i>What we mean when we say "addiction:" A paradigm case formulation of compulsive pornography use</i>	Eben Lasker
11:00-12:15 p.m.	<i>Presidential Address. A Better Model of Self-regulation: The Core Issue in the Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence & Stalking</i>	Keith Davis
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Lunch in the Conference Room	
1:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Free time to enjoy the mountains and each other	
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Social or "cocktail" hour	
7:30 p.m.	Society banquet & awards ceremonies	

Sunday, October 11

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Light Breakfast in the Conference Room	
9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Break	<i>Minding the gap between community memberships: From summer camp homesickness to displaced persons.</i>	Matthew J. Krouner
9:45 - 10:45 Break	<i>Goals of Care Interviewing at the End of Life: A Descriptive Formulation and Recipe</i>	Richard L. Heinrich
11:15-12:00 pm	30 minute break for checkout	
12:00-1:00 p.m.	<i>Reflections on DP and where each of us are taking it next year</i>	Intro by CJ Peek
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Lunch in the Conference Room	
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting (Elk Creek Boardroom)	

Featured Presenters, Presentations, Panels, and Abstracts: Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Society for Descriptive Psychology



Actor Central: An Introduction to Descriptive Psychology

C.J. Stone

Independent scholar; also with the University of Minnesota, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science

People make sense—when you make sense of them as Actors. What we share as persons is being *Actors*. Actors have choice—and self-regulate with the regular use of complementary modes as *Observer* and *Critic*. Taken together these provide the elements of choice and behavior—motivation (what you *Want*) what you can distinguish (*Knowledge* and concepts), your skills (*Know-how*), what you “do” (*Performance*), the results (*Achievement*), and what it all adds up to (*Significance*).

People make sense as their choices reflect their own person characteristics (*Powers* and *Dispositions*—and *Derivatives* such as states, capacities, and what your body lets you do or not).

People make sense when you see how behaviors are nested parts of greater behaviors—achieved by other actions and choices that add up to “what the person is really doing”. Moreover, *people make sense* when you see their behaviors as part of shared *social practices*—things people do as members of communities.

People are typically non-mysterious to each other because of their shared competency in *acting as persons in a world of persons and their ways*—and this presentation is a basic introduction to how Descriptive Psychology outlines the “grammar” of this competency.

Learning Descriptive Psychology: Promising practices from participants, students and teachers

Spreading competence in Descriptive Psychology to new learners and to new areas of application can be challenging because it involves learning to use an extensive network of concepts as applied to problems or tasks at hand from a variety of fields or areas of application. This panel of students and teachers will explore promising approaches to spreading competence in Descriptive Psychology or “teaching and learning DP”.

Trauma, Exposure, and World Reconstruction

Raymond M. Bergner, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Psychology, Illinois State University

This presentation develops the implications of conceptualizing trauma in terms of devastating transformations of clients’ worlds. The presentation includes (1) an analysis of how this view renders the symptoms of PTSD intelligible; (2) a demonstration of how it integrates research findings on who is most vulnerable to PTSD; (3) a critique of the currently dominant “reprocessing of maladaptive memory structures” accounts of how exposure therapy works; and (4) a reconceptualization of how exposure therapies achieve their salutary results.

The Victim Narrative and Status Dynamics

Jason Shestok, M.A.

Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Boston, MA

The concept of victim and its place in one's personal narrative are outlined through the lens of Descriptive Psychology—how one becomes victim, the implication for status assignments, the manner incorporated in a personal narrative, and how the assignment of victim status can act as ceremony of both degradation and accreditation. The victim narrative draws attention to the person's identification as victim, conferring a self-denouncement, denial of status, and restriction of eligibility and can be used to undo shame and increase status in an effort to further present oneself in the world at large. Ossorio's maxim that a person does not choose less behavioral potential over more is invoked to support the argument. Scrutinizing the status of victim from a Descriptive perspective will hopefully generate a worthwhile discussion on victim status and eligibility using status dynamics.

Understanding Your Child: A Descriptive Psychology Approach to Being a Parent

Sonja Holt, Ph.D., Charlie Kantor, Ph.D. & Heather Holmes-Lonergan, Ph.D.

Holt and Kantor are in private practice in Arvada CO and Rochester NY, respectively. Holmes-Lonergan is adjunct faculty, Argosy University in CO.

Like cooking, parenting is a perennial topic with probably as many parenting guides as cookbooks. This presentation combines a Descriptive Psychology formulation of the task of parenting as helping children develop "Essential Competence" to become "Persons in a world of Persons" using principles inspired by Descriptive Psychology, in the form of a parenting workbook that offers specific child- and parent-friendly methods for making all this real in the lives of families.

Practical Use of Descriptive Psychology: Applying Psychotherapy Concepts to Other Contexts

H. Joel Jeffrey, Ph.D.

Professor of Computer Science, Northern Illinois University; DeKalb, IL

Many of the concepts, maxims and images useful in therapy, such as "be on the client's side," "little white balls descriptions," "there is no 'how'," and "meet the client where they are," are useful in contexts that seem quite unlike therapy, such as computer systems analysis. They apply for an interesting reason: Ossorio said, "We don't read minds. We read situations." In both therapy and systems analysis the situation is that we need a complete and detailed understanding of the clients' lives, as they engage in the practices of their community. Via presentation and small-group exploration, we will address: 1) What other images, maxims, and concepts apply in organizational tasks, and 2) What are some other contexts where ideas and techniques from therapy can be applied?

The Field of Collaborative Care Learns from Newton—a Panel

A real-time report & mutual consultation regarding a lexicon and unfolding paradigm case formulation for the subject matter of a national research network on the integration of medical and mental health care. This is a panel of leaders from the newly launched Collaborative Care Research Network (sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians) interacting with Descriptive Psychology experts on creating shared vocabularies and conceptual systems in new emerging fields.

You're Mine: A Descriptive Psychology Approach to Being a Server

Julia Trezona Peek

Minneapolis, MN

Conventional wisdom on being "customer-centered" has it that the server exists for the sake of the customer, that the customer "is the boss" or "is always right"—and that successful customer service people are subordinate to the customer. This presentation uses Descriptive Psychology concepts, especially status dynamics, deliberate action, and the relationship change formula, to illustrate how to be an effective server who creates a friendly but limited "container" of appropriate choices for the dining / bar experience and is "in charge" in a way that makes the experience safe and effective for the patron, tablemates, and the restaurant—and is rewarding (through tips and popularity) for the server.

From Rap to Jazz: Descriptive Psychology players riff on themes suggested by the audience.

Questions are gathered from the crowd for an ensemble of 3 Descriptive Psychology "players" to decide which themes to riff on and who starts "playing" first. They toss the theme back and forth, jazz style, playing off each other until the theme is ready to end and a new question entertained.

At A Glance And Out of Nowhere: Actor's Knowledge and The On-going Creation Of Meaning in The Real World

Anthony O. Putman, PhD

The Putman Group; Ann Arbor, MI

This presentation explores in depth the ways in which persons spontaneously create meaning in the real world. Building on last year's Presidential Address "Ordinary Magic: What Descriptive Psychology Is and Why It Matters", it offers a detailed re-conceptualization of some material in Malcolm Gladwell's "Blink", including his observations on "rapid cognition" that takes place in the "blink of an eye." Actor concepts from Descriptive Psychology take the surprise out of the validity of Gladwell's observations and account for them systematically as a fundamental property of real persons acting in the real world in real time.

What We Mean When We Say “Addiction:” A Paradigm Case Formulation of Compulsive Pornography Use

Eben Lasker, M.A.

Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology; Boston, MA

The last twenty years has seen a proliferation of behavioral addictions, as well as growing controversy over whether these compulsive behaviors should be labeled as such. This paper will attempt to avoid the pitfalls of strict definition by setting out the concept of addiction through a paradigm case formulation. The argument will be made that compulsive pornography use represents a deficit case of addiction, which different judges may hold differently. Key behavioral descriptions of addiction, such as narrowing of repertoire and use despite negative consequences, will be examined through an application of the judgment formula. Finally, a comparison will be made between addictive behavior and emotional behavior insofar as both are paradigmatically non-deliberate.

Presidential Address:

A Better Model of Self-regulation: The Core Issue in the Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence & Stalking

Keith Davis, Ph. D., President of the Society for Descriptive Psychology

Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology

University of South Carolina; Columbia, SC

A holistic, top-down Descriptive Psychology Model of Self-regulation (Ossorio, 2006) is presented and contrasted with two theories currently in vogue in mainstream psychology—Baumeister’s (Baumeister, Gaillot, Wall, & Oaten, 2006) “muscle strength, energy depletion” model and Finkle’s (2007) three-dimensional theory. The DP model avoids the conceptual problems of treating persons as passive targets of internal and external forces. The DP model is applied to the understanding of intimate partner violence by both men and women and to partner stalking. Suggestions for reductions in the severity and incidence of violence and stalking follow from the presentation.

Minding the Gap Between Your Communities: From Summer Camp Homesickness to Displaced Persons.

Matthew J. Krouner

Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology; Boston, MA

The challenges for culturally displaced persons have been discussed in Descriptive Psychology and continue to be relevant to society. Using the example of homesickness as experienced in the temporary community of a children’s summer camp, the concepts of community, degradation and accreditation will be discussed as they relate to the struggles of the culturally displaced. For both the homesick camper and the culturally displaced person a recognition or belief in diminished eligibility to engage in the significant activities associated with being a member in good standing in a community creates conditions ripe for anxiety and sadness in response to this temporary and reversible loss of status. By presenting the homesickness example and examining the larger significance of displacement, a conceptualization of the struggle to exist in a gap between communities emerges, allowing for insights into how temporary communities can provide for the needs of the displaced.

Goals of Care Interviewing at the End of Life: A Descriptive Formulation and Recipe

Richard Heinrich, M.D.

Medical Director, Hospice of the Lakes, Health Partners Medical Group; Minneapolis, MN

This presentation describes a practical *goals of care interview* for use by hospice, palliative care and other health professionals to facilitate patients’ and families’ “end of life thinking about the unthinkable”—making medical treatment decisions consistent with their values and achieving patient- and family-determined end of life planning and closure. It is axiomatic that we stand and exist in some particular and unique place in order to behave in one way or another, intending the world to be one way or another. This is so even when confronted by a chronic or terminal illness that challenges one’s very ability to physically stand or to psychologically retain one’s social place, let alone behave as one was accustomed to when healthy. Descriptive Psychology concepts set the stage for understanding *end of life world reconstruction* and what healthcare professionals are “doing by doing that” at the end of life.

Reflections on Descriptive Psychology and where each of us are taking it next year.

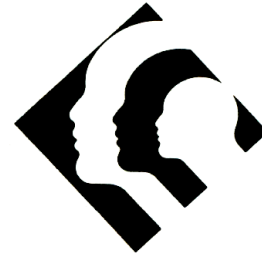
Reflections on the conference and sharing “what are you going to do in the upcoming year to help DP thrive and take its place in the world?” followed concluding remarks from the President, and a farewell till next time.

ACCOMODATIONS

The Society for Descriptive Psychology Thirty-first Annual Meeting

October 8-11, 2009

The Golden Hotel, Golden, Colorado



Accommodations: The Golden Hotel is located at 800 Eleventh St. in Golden, Colorado (www.thegoldenhotel.com)

Conference reservations must be made by phone at (800) 233-7214 or (303) 279-0100.
Please specify the conference and group name when making reservations.

The room reservation deadline is Friday, September 4th.

Room rates:

Single and Double:	\$119 per room, per night, plus local sales tax
Oversized Deluxe:	\$139 per room, per night, plus local sales tax
Creekside Suite:	\$239 per room, per night, plus local sales tax

The Golden Hotel is 45 miles from Denver International Airport and 12 miles from downtown Denver, just off I-70, with complimentary guest parking on-site. The Hotel is adjacent to Clear Creek and the Clear Creek walking path in the heart of Golden's downtown historic district.

Transportation options such as airport shuttles, cabs, and limo services appear on the hotel website:
www.thegoldenhotel.com



REGISTRATION FEES

Please tear off this page and mail in your registration

Please register as soon as possible. There will be registration available at the conference, but let us know if you know you are coming so that we are able to plan space and meals.

The hotel charges us a hefty penalty for meals added after September 24th.

The Society for Descriptive Psychology

Thirty-first Annual Meeting

October 8-11, 2009

The Golden Hotel, Golden, Colorado



Your registration fee includes your conference fees and all snacks and meals, including the banquet.

CE credits will be available for an additional charge.

Pre-registration (Must be postmarked by September 4th)

_____ SDP members @ \$300:	\$ _____
_____ Non-members @ \$350:	\$ _____
_____ Students @ \$50:	\$ _____

Regular Registration (postmarked after Sept 4th):

_____ SDP members @ \$400:	\$ _____
_____ Non-members @ \$450:	\$ _____
_____ Students @ \$60:	\$ _____
_____ Half-day* @ \$100	\$ _____
_____ Single day @ \$200	\$ _____

* Half-day rate can be used only one time

TOTAL conference fees: \$ _____

The Society Banquet: Saturday, October 10, 2009

The banquet is a fun and informal affair where you can enjoy getting together with old and new friends, and participate in community celebrations and singing. **The banquet is included in the full registration fee.** Banquet fees apply to guests not registered full-time for the conference:

_____ Adults @ \$60:	\$ _____
_____ Children @ \$30:	\$ _____
Total banquet fees:	\$ _____

Please mail (postmarked) by September 4, 2009 to:

THE SOCIETY FOR DESCRIPTIVE PSYCHOLOGY
 c/o Hap Cox, Ph.D.
 Roanoke College Counseling Center
 221 College Lane
 Salem, Virginia 24153 cox@roanoke.edu

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City / State / Zip _____
 Phone: _____

TOTALS

Conference fees: _____
 Banquet: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

The Panhandle Learning Institute, a division of The Pelican Enterprise, will provide up to 10 hours of CE Credits for the conference.

The Panhandle Learning Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Panhandle Learning Institute maintains responsibility for this program and its contents.