

The Society for Descriptive Psychology

34th Annual Meeting

September 20-23, 2012

The Golden Hotel, Golden, CO

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 their behavior. Traditionally the scope of applications for Descriptive Psychology has included the practice of healthcare and psychotherapy; education and human development; societies, communities, and cultures; organizational leadership and effectiveness; forensic, legal, and law enforcement; computer science; and spirituality. The common ground shared by participants is the exciting and expansive conceptual framework of Descriptive Psychology.

The 2012 Meeting features presentations, panels, and participant discussions in the areas shown on the “Program at a Glance” pages and described in more detail on the following pages. New this year is the addition of Pre-conference workshops offered the first day of the conference. 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

2012 Program at a Glance

The Pre-conference Workshops (Mesa Room) *

Thursday moderator: James Holmes, Ph.D.

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Check-in and Registration for Pre-conference workshops and 34th annual conference outside the Golden Vista room.

9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. **Ethical Tango** Paula Holt J.D., MBA, and Sonja Holt, Ph.D.

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Lunch break (on your own); Board of Directors meeting: Elk Creek Board Room.

2:00 - 5:30 p.m. **Impossible World** Ralph Wechsler, Ph.D. and Ryan Breshears, Ph.D.

*The pre-conference workshops have been designed to attract guests who are not yet members of the Society for Descriptive Psychology. As such, these events carry with them a separate fee. Current SDP members receive a discount in the pre-conference workshop fee. Please see the fee section below for more details.

34th Annual Conference (Golden Vista Room)

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Check-in and registration outside the Golden Vista room.

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Welcome & dinner Charles Kantor, Ph.D.

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. **Presidential Address: Invisible to the Naked Eye**

Mary K. Roberts, Ph.D., President, Society for Descriptive Psychology

Friday morning moderator: Jane Littmann, Ph.D.

8:15 a.m. Breakfast served

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration outside the Golden Vista room

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. **A Policy-based Approach to Psychotherapy**

Raymond Bergner, Ph.D.

Break

10:10 - 11:10 **“If You're So Smart...”: Using Descriptive Psychology to Inform**

Executive Function Coaching

Aimee Yermish, Psy.D.

Break

11:20 - 12:20 **The End of Unconscious Processes**

H.Joel Jeffrey, Ph.D.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch served. Editorial board meeting (board members check with Keith Davis for meeting place)

Friday afternoon moderator: Laurie Bergner, Ph.D.

1:30 - 2:45 p.m. **Brain, Consciousness, and Behavior: Separate But Not Equal**

Jim Waters, Ph.D. and Elyse Morgan, Ph.D.

Break

2:55 - 3:25 p.m. **A Nonprofit Plans for the Future**

Mike Jackson, M.A, Director of Nonprofit Relations and Services,
Community First Foundation

Break

3:35 - 5:05 p.m. **Persons and the Problem of Other Possible People: What Do
Bodies Have to Do with It? A Panel Presentation and Discussion**

Wynn Schwartz, Ph.D., Anthony Putman, Ph.D., Joel Jeffrey, Ph.D.,
and Paul Zeiger, Ph.D.

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner served: Golden Vista room

6:45 – 7:45 p.m. **“And the beat goes on...”**

Carolyn Zeiger, Ph.D.

8:00-9:00 p.m. **Business meeting**

Mary K. Roberts, Ph.D., presiding

Saturday morning moderator: Eben Lasker, Psy.D.

8:15 a.m. Breakfast served

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. **Teaching Fundamental Psychodynamics Using Descriptive
Psychology**

Wynn Schwartz, Ph.D.

Break

10:10 – 11:10 a.m. **Love Across Differences: Study of Interracial Couples**

Anna Berin, M.A.

Break

11:20 a.m. - 12:35 p.m. **When Worlds Collide: Origins of Intractable Value Problems**

Anthony Putman, Ph.D.

12:35 - 1:35 p.m. Lunch served

12:35 - 3:00 p.m. Board of Directors meeting Elk Creek Board Room

1:35 - 6:30 p.m. Free time to enjoy the mountains and each other

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Cocktail hour and appetizers

7:30 - Banquet and awards ceremony

Sunday Morning moderator: Kristi Cassaday

8:15 a.m. Breakfast served

9:00 - 9:45 a.m. **Descriptive Psychology, One Bite at a Time**

C.J. Stone

Break

9:55 - 10:55 a.m. **Contributions of the Actor-Observer-Critic Concepts to the
Understanding of Vivid Re-Experiencing and Its Treatment**

Walter Torres, Ph.D.

Break (extra time for checkout)

11:25 a.m. - 12:25 p.m. **The Mystic’s Dilemma**

Timothy Doyle, Ph.D.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch served

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

The Pre-conference Workshops**

Ethical Tango

Paula Holt, J.D., MBA, Lecturer, University of Denver, Department of Business Ethics and Legal Studies

Sonja Holt, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Private Practice; Clinic Affiliate, Graduate School of Professional Psychology

We all struggle daily with the dance of ethical decision-making. In many ways the mastery of this struggle compares to learning to dance the Tango. Much like the Tango, ethical decision-making develops from cultural elements with individual expression, requires incisive yet well-timed steps and elegant movements, and encompasses dramatic expression of powerful emotion. This workshop will discuss the lead-follow, back-and-forth dance every person faces with ethical dilemmas.

Impossible World

Ralph Wechsler, Ph.D. Aftercare Coordinator, PTSD Residential Treatment Program, Denver VAMC, and Ryan Breshears, Ph.D. Licensed Psychologist Director of Psychological Services, WellStar Health System, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Georgia

The concept of Reality has received little attention in clinical training for psychotherapists. Yet, considerations of an individual's "Reality" are fundamental in our clinical activity, whether we are assessing a psychotic client's distortions, helping a client recover from a traumatic event, or helping a suicidal client recognize or create reasons for living.

This workshop will introduce a framework for understanding and making sense of people in the context within which their behavior occurs—the Real World. Using concepts about how people construct the world they take to be real, the presenters will help clinicians navigate three of the most challenging clinical situations that they face: psychosis, suicide, and psychological trauma.

**Please see the pre-conference brochure or go to sdp.org for more detail on these workshops and the presenters.

34th Annual Conference Presenters

Invisible to the Naked Eye

Mary K. Roberts, Ph.D.

Psychologist, Computer Scientist, Writer, President, Society for Descriptive Psychology

The fundamental human capability to formulate a world in which everything fits, and everything is related to everything else, is codified in the State-of-Affairs System. In order to elucidate the SA System, three concepts are introduced graphically — representational forms, the categorical use of “is”, and calculational systems. The System itself is presented in brief. Its significance in generating reality formulas, and in codifying reality (“the boundary condition on our possible behaviors”), is explored.

A Policy-based Approach to Psychotherapy

Raymond M. Bergner, Ph.D.

Professor of Clinical Psychology

Illinois State University Normal, Illinois

This presentation explores the use of therapeutic policies in the conduct of psychotherapy, and in doing so introduces an alternative way to structure the entire intellectual framework of psychotherapy. In the talk, I shall (a) explicate the nature of therapeutic policies, (b) present a number of representative policies and their rationales, and (c) discuss the value of policies as common factors in psychotherapy, as embodying an integrative framework, and as lending themselves to enhanced levels of creativity and flexibility in the conduct of psychotherapy.

“If You're So Smart...”: Using Descriptive Psychology to Inform Executive Function Coaching

Aimee Yermish, Psy.D.

Clinical Psychologist, Educational Therapist, Private Practice, Stow, MA

Most interventions for ADHD and other disabilities affecting executive functioning involve the imposition of adult will upon an unwilling and uncooperative client. However, they rarely work well in real life. I will describe how I use status dynamics, the A-O-C model, and the parameters of intentional action, to develop interventions that engage the client as a partner in their own development and create long-term independent change.

The End of Unconscious Processes

H. Joel Jeffrey, Ph.D.

Professor of Computer Science, Northern Illinois University

The unconscious as the “cellar” of the mind, a forever inaccessible realm where most thought takes place, is a virtually universal idea in modern culture. That’s a serious problem if we are to have a science of people and behavior, because talking about in-principle unobservable processes is not science. In this paper we use the Actor-Observer-Critic formulation to articulate the entire range phenomena for which the conscious-unconscious processing metaphor was invented. We can say goodbye to unconscious processing as something to be taken literally and seriously.

Brain, Consciousness, and Behavior: Separate But Not Equal

Jim Waters, Ph.D. and Elyse Morgan, Ph.D.

Psychological concepts are necessary to understand the behavior of persons. Yet, despite rejection even in physics, materialistic approaches to behavior and knowledge are privileged in neuroscience, to the detriment of therapeutics and understanding. A critique reveals scientific and conceptual flaws and limitations and its pernicious political-economic effects and underpinnings.

A Nonprofit Plans for the Future

Mike Jackson, M.A.,

Director of Nonprofit Relations and Services, Community First Foundation

Why are an endowment and planned giving important? How does Community First Foundation support nonprofit preservation? The answers to these questions will reveal new possibilities for the Society.

Persons and the Problem of Other Possible People: What Do Bodies Have to Do with It? A Panel Presentation and Discussion

Wynn Schwartz, Ph.D., Anthony Putman, Ph.D., Joel Jeffrey, Ph.D., and Paul Zeiger, Ph.D.

The problem of possible persons is a significant theme where Descriptive Psychologists have something to say. The absence of a sensible conceptualization can have unfortunate consequences. This has become recently apparent with some courts granting personhood to corporations (and potentially to search engines). A fundamental appreciation of the meanings of verbal behavior, deliberate action, community, and the dramaturgical patterns of life are central to Descriptive Psychology's conceptualization of persons. Historically, we only know persons as a human animal, but the concept of person is not restricted to a particular species in spite of our being the only one we recognize. The paradigm case of persons allows for nonhuman persons, nascent persons, manufactured persons, former persons, "deficit case" persons, and "primitive" persons. The panel will discuss the concept of person and the embodiment requirements that formally allow for and facilitate the achievement of the status of personhood.

“And the beat goes on.....”

Carolyn A. Zeiger, Ph.D.

From conference to conference, we continue to think, expand, and develop our understanding and applications of Descriptive Psychology throughout the year. This is a time when presenters from previous conferences briefly describe where they have taken their work since they last shared it in a DP conference.

Teaching Fundamental Psychodynamics Using Descriptive Psychology

Wynn Schwartz, Ph.D. Core Faculty, The Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology Teaching Faculty, Harvard Medical School and The Harvard Extension School.

A common ground that provides psychodynamic theories a sensible place with other psychological concepts and theories is often absent as taught in the academy with the result that useful understanding and practices are easily ignored or misunderstood. Descriptive Psychology provides concepts that can clarify classical psychodynamic theory in ordinary action language. “Repetition compulsion”, “compromise formation”, “transference”, and other basic psychodynamic concepts will be explicated using Descriptive Psychology’s “Intentional Action Paradigm” and the “Judgment Diagram” to illustrate how psychodynamics can be sensibly taught in ordinary language.

Love Across Differences: Study of Interracial Couples

Anna Berin, M.A., Child and Family Clinician and Psychological Evaluator, Worcester MA, Doctoral Student at the Mass School of Professional Psychology (MSPP)

The study is designed to accomplish three purposes: first to give voice to interracial couples by addressing the importance and centrality of romantic love and how members of specific group under specific conditions employ behaviors that help to navigate barriers to love. The second purpose is to understand and explore the multiple meanings attributed to the concept of love between the dominant and non-dominant race in the context of culture. The third is to address potential implications for psychotherapists and highlight the importance of multicultural competence. The results in the form of anecdotal stories (voices of couples who were interviewed) will be incorporated and presented at the conference.

When Worlds Collide: Origins of Intractable Value Problems

Anthony O. Putman, Ph.D.

Organization Consultant, Principal, The Putman Group
Director, Descriptive Psychology Institute

Worlds have a compelling consistency. Within worlds it is often possible to negotiate differences in values and practices; between worlds, it is notoriously difficult, even impossible, to do so. People will go to almost any length to maintain their worlds, even in the face of powerful reasons to change. Why? What holds worlds together so powerfully? This talk will take a deep dive into the complexity of people, communities and worlds in search of ultimates -- and some possible avenues to resolution of intractable value problems.

Descriptive Psychology, One Bite at a Time.

Clarke J. (CJ) Stone

Independent Scholar

In the early 1980s, John M. Carroll was teaching regular folk how to use dedicated word processors such as the IBM Displaywriter. There were lots of new concepts for the learners--and lots of restrictions—and he discovered instruction manuals were written in such a way that they *prevented* people from learning.

To fix this, he developed *minimalist instruction*. At the core, everything that needs to be done is treated as a stand-alone piece of information that points to other things that need to be done. You start at your own level of skill, and you only need to read about what you don't know. In a sort of pre-internet way, the stand-alone pieces were linked together, and you followed the links you needed. (His book about this is named *The Nurnberg Funnel: Designing Minimalist Instruction for Practical Computer Skill*.)

Descriptive Psychology is a very extensive, highly-elaborated, closely-linked set of concepts. There doesn't seem to be a best entry point for learning about the concepts and their links, so I decided to put the concepts on individual pages and link them. I expect the reader to move from concept to concept as needed.

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time; thus, **Descriptive Psychology, One Bite at a Time.**

Trapped in Actor's Knowing -- A-O-C Contributions to Understanding and Treating Vivid Re-experiencing in PTSD

Walter J. Torres, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist, Private Practice, Denver, CO

Vivid re-experiencing, or "flashbacks," is one of the most distinctive and unusual features of PTSD. It also remains one of the most awkwardly explained phenomena of the disorder, involving appeals to disorders of memory and brain function. Descriptive concepts, including A-O-C, impossible positions, and actor's knowing, serve to articulate vivid re-experiencing and its treatment.

The Mystic's Dilemma

Timothy Doyle, Ph.D.

Dept. of Religion & Philosophy, Northland College

How does one become an insider in a group in which competency appears to involve somehow grasping ineffable meanings and significances? This presentation poses a set of problems in the philosophy of psychology and asks the attendees to openly discuss these issues.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Golden Hotel is located at 800 Eleventh St. in Golden, Colorado. **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 Monday, August 20th.

Room rates:

Single King and Double Queen: \$124 per room, per night, plus local sales tax

Oversized Deluxe Double Queen: \$149 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



The creek outside the Golden Hotel

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

The Panhandle Learning Institute, a division of The Pelican Enterprise, LLC, will provide up to 12.5 hours of CE Credits for the conference (and up to 7 hours for the pre-conference). Please contact Linda Wasserman at 850-206-4608 or at pelicanpost@cox.net with questions.

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.

REGISTRATION

Plated meals are included *only* in early registration, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible. Registration after September 1st does *not* include the plated meals. This is because of our deadline for letting the Golden Hotel know your choices. Those who register after September 1st will be able to order from the Golden Hotel restaurant menu and eat with the group, but at their own expense. Your early registration fee includes *all* shared costs (like fees for the meeting room and A/V equipment), food for breaks, plated meals, and the banquet. Regular registration includes *all* shared costs, food for breaks, and the banquet.

The Pre-conference workshops are a separate fee. **If registering for one or two workshops, please include that fee in your total registration fee.**

Finally, we need you to choose a menu plan if you are an early registrant. There are four plans, each with a menu item already selected for a given day and given meal. These plans are presented in a grid form at the end of this document. Please look this over before selecting your meal plan. Make sure to write in what meal plan you are selecting. **If you select either the Upgraded or Premium plan, make sure to include the additional fee in your registration.**

Registration for:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Menu Plan (see below): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Menu Plan (see below): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Menu Plan (see below): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Menu Plan (see below): _____

Half-day Guest Policy:

Each SDP member registered for the conference may host a guest for a free half-day; the guest must be a non-member and may be hosted only once per conference. The free half-day is offered as a way to introduce new people to Descriptive Psychology and to our community. In addition, anyone who is not a member and is registered for the pre-conference workshops may also attend the 34th conference for a half-day as our guest.

4. The early registration Menu: Please select your choice of a meal plan from the table on the next page. The Standard (Blue Card) and Veggie (Green Card) options are included in the early registration fee. If you want to select the Upgraded Plan (Red Card) or Premium Plan (Gold Card), add the upgrade fee here. Please select a separate plan for each person registered. Remember to write in your plan in the space provided in the section with your name,address,etc.

_____ Red Plan @\$15
_____ Gold Plan @\$20

4. Total Meal Upgrade fees: \$ _____

5. The Society Banquet: Sat. night, Sept. 22, 2012

The banquet is **included** in both the early and regular full registration fee. It is extra only for guests and other registrants. For those **not** registered full-time for the conference, the banquet fee is:

_____ Adults @\$75 \$ _____
_____ Children@\$30 \$ _____

5. Total Banquet fees: \$ _____

1. or 2. Total Registration fees:	\$ _____
3. Total Pre-conference workshop fees:	\$ _____
4. Total Meal upgrade fees:	\$ _____
5. Total Banquet fees:	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED:	\$ _____

Please mail (postmarked) by Sept 1, 2012.

Society for Descriptive Psychology
c/o Hap Cox, Ph.D.
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Meal Plan Options

Please select the meal plan that you would like. Once you select a plan, your meals will be served as outlined in the table immediately below. A more detailed description of the menu items is included as well to help you select your choice.

	Veggie - Green Card	Standard Plan - Blue Card	Upgraded Plan - Red Card (+\$15)	Premium Plan - Gold Card (+\$20)
Thursday 9/20				
Dinner	Pasta Primavera	Roasted Chicken Breast	Grilled Pork Chop	Honey Seared Mahi Mahi
Friday 9/21				
Breakfast	Veggie Bagel Sandwich	The Summit	Bagel Sandwich	Strawberry French Toast
Lunch	Veggie Creekside Salad	BBQ Chicken Sandwich with House Fries	The Foothills French Dip with House Chips	Salmon Club with Cole Slaw
Dinner	Vegetable Napoleon	Pasta Primavera	Honey Seared Mahi Mahi	Top Sirloin
Saturday 9/22				
Breakfast	The Summit	Golden Breakfast	Strawberry French Toast	Bagel Sandwich
Lunch	80401 Salad	Creekside Salad	Golden Classic Cheeseburger with House Fries	Fish Tacos with Tortilla Chips and Salsa
Sunday 9/23				
Breakfast	Veggie Bagel Sandwich	Strawberry French Toast	Golden Breakfast	The Summit
Lunch	Veggie Creekside Salad	The Foothills French Dip with House Chips	Fish Tacos with Tortilla Chips and Salsa	Golden Classic Cheeseburger with House Fries

Breakfast Selections:

The Summit

Strawberry Yogurt with Fresh Fruit and House Made Granola

Veggie Bagel Sandwich

Scrambled Eggs, Cheddar Cheese, and Fresh Fruit

Golden Breakfast

Scrambled Eggs, Hash Browns, Toast, Chicken Sausage

Strawberry French Toast

Battered Texas Toast, Fresh Strawberries, Chicken Sausage

Bagel Sandwich

Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Patty and Cheddar Cheese

Lunch Selections:

Veggie Creekside Salad

Greens, Tomato, Onion, Hard Boiled Egg, Bleu Cheese Dressing

80401 Salad

Bibb Lettuce, Shallot Vinaigrette, Grapefruit and Orange Supremes, Brie Cheese & Toasted Almonds

Creekside Salad

Greens, Tomato, Onion, Bacon, Chicken, Hard Boiled Egg, Bleu Cheese Dressing

BBQ Chicken Sandwich

Dry Rubbed and Grilled Chicken, Cheddar Cheese, Bacon Aioli & Crispy Onions

The Foothills French Dip

Thinly Sliced Roast Beef, Hoagie Roll, Au Jus & Horseradish Sauce

Golden Classic Cheeseburger (with Cheddar Cheese)

Fish Tacos

Blackened Mahi Mahi, Avocado & Tomato Slaw, House Made Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Salmon Club

Grilled Salmon, Bacon, Brie Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato with Dill Spread on Sourdough

Dinner Selections:

Vegetable Napoleon

Grilled Portobello Mushroom with Goat Cheese, Grilled Vegetables, Basil Pesto

Pasta Primavera

Linguini with Sauteed Summer Vegetables

Grilled Pork Chop

With Peach Salsa, Pan Roasted Red Potatoes, Sauteed Rainbow Chard

Roasted Chicken Breast

Tuaca Bacon Beurre Blanc, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Sauteed Spinach & Bell Peppers

Honey Seared Mahi Mahi

In a Citrus Butter, Poblano Citrus Rice, Sweet Corn & Leeks

Top Sirloin

8 ounce Bleu Cheese Crusted Sirloin with Horseradish Demi-Glace, Rosemary Roasted Red Potatoes, Sauteed Garden Vegetables