



THE 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR DESCRIPTIVE PSYCHOLOGY

October 11th-14th 2018

The American Mountaineering Center
710 10th St, Golden, CO 80401



The Society for Descriptive Psychology (SDP) is a Community exploring the Person Concept: The interdependent conceptual framework of Person, Behavior, Language, and World to create common ground for the Human Sciences. This year's topics include Descriptive Psychology's conceptualization of psychological trauma, moral injury, and PTSD treatment formulation; examining the concept of Personality; use of DP concepts such as world, behavior potential, community, and Actor-Observer-Critic to understand sociopolitical concepts such as 'tribalism'; and the role of informal 'person characteristics' appraisals in the practical application of status assignment. We will hear about the Descriptive Psychology Archives preserving the works of Peter G. Ossorio at the University of Colorado Boulder; and we will explore the potential uses of DP in making connections among behavioral science, as examined from both naturalistic and ordinary language perspectives. Finally, contributing members will offer presentations on their paradigm case formulations (PCF) for a variety of underexplored states of affairs, including such topics as "Daydreaming", "Parkinson's Disease", and "Getting Old". The goal of this year's conference is to continue the exploration of Descriptive Psychology as a conceptual framework for understanding a broad range of topics within the behavioral sciences, and to most importantly reflect upon and celebrate the 40-year history of the SDP and its members.

Registration Information

[Click here to register for the Conference and Continuing](#)

[Education credits!](http://www.pelicanpresspensacola.com/id17.html) (<http://www.pelicanpresspensacola.com/id17.html>)

Full Conference Registration (including banquet) for Society Members: \$300

Full Conference Registration (including banquet) for Non-Members: \$330

Full Conference Registration (including banquet) for graduate students who are Society members: \$160

Full Conference Registration (including banquet) for graduate students who are Non-Members: \$180

Half-Day Conference Registration: \$100

Registration on or before September 15th includes the Banquet, meals, and a commemorative SDP 40th Anniversary T-Shirt. The fee for the Banquet will require a separate payment of **\$80** after that date.

This program is approved for 10 hours of continuing education. The University of Denver, Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. GSPP maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

The American Mountaineering Center is an accessible building. Please notify SDP conference organizers at the time of registration if any accommodations are needed.

Please note: In the event of any necessary cancellations, the Program registration fee will be refunded in full up until the September 15th registration deadline. After that, no refunds will be offered for cancellations.

In-person registration will be available at the American Mountaineering Center on the days of the program.



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

2018 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE October 11-14

The American Mountaineering Center Golden, CO

THURSDAY, OCT 11, EVENING SESSION

3:30 - 5:25 Board meeting (AMC Drumwright Board Room)

5:30 - 6:30 Check in/Meet and Greet (AMC) A light dinner buffet will be served

6:30 - 7:00 *The Conference will be convened Announcements Introduction of the President*

7:00 - 8:30 *Presidential Address: Applying Descriptive Psychology to the Treatment of Psychological Trauma*

Ralph C. Wechsler PhD, SDP President

Abstract: This presentation will first review Descriptive Psychology's conceptualization of psychological trauma, i.e., as an encounter with the unthinkable that fundamentally reformulates a person's world concept and/or self-concept and results in a significant restriction of a person's behavior potential. It will then offer a Descriptive Psychology perspective on Cognitive Processing Therapy, a contemporary approach to the treatment of PTSD. This presentation will also touch on the issue of moral injury as it relates to PTSD, and explicate some therapeutic strategies, tactics, and techniques for treating PTSD derived from Descriptive Psychology and based on clinical experience treating veterans with combat-related PTSD at the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center. **This session is eligible for 1.5 Continuing Education credits.**

FRIDAY OCT 12, MORNING SESSION

8:15 - 9:00 Breakfast (served in the AMC Conference Room)

9:00 – 10:00 *What is Personality? Three Myths and a Definition*

Ray Bergner, PhD

Abstract: This presentation addresses the problem that the field of personality psychology remains in need of a consensus formulation of its core subject matter, that of the nature of "personality" itself. Part one of the article introduces and questions the following three myths about personality and its study: (1) The term "personality" refers to an underlying causal entity within a person. (2) The study of personality is the study of the whole person. (3) Our most prominent "theories of

personality" actually qualify as scientific theories and are actually about *personality*. Part two is devoted to presenting a new Descriptive Psychologically-based definition of the term "personality", a conceptual justification for this definition, and discussion of this new formulation. **This session is eligible for 1.0 Continuing Education credit.**

10:00 - 10:10 Break

10:10 – 11:10 *The Wretched Nurseries of Unceasing Discord: Tribalism, political conflict, and person communities.*

Charlie Kantor, PhD

Abstract: The concept of ‘tribalism’ tends to be associated with racist thinking of years past and its use not only tends to be pejorative in this way, but also degrades those painted as acting tribally using the very same methods it purports to deride. Political pundits have supported their use of the term with a body of cognitive research called Motivated Cognition and a subset of this research called the Politically Motivated Research Paradigm. This presentation will critique this research and then utilize Descriptive Psychology concepts of world, behavior potential, community, and Actor-Observer-Critic to give an alternative explanation of such findings. **This session is eligible for 1.0 Continuing Education credit.**

11:10-11:20 Break

11:20 –12:20 *A PCF of Parkinson’s disease*

Keith E. Davis PhD

Abstract: In Ossorio’s classic work on the Paradigm Case Formulation (PCF), he suggested three rules of thumb: “(a) choose a complex case, (b) start with an indubitable case, and (c) choose a primary or archetypical case” [BoP, pp. 29-30]. The task of this project is to present a way of organizing the variety and distinctiveness of Parkinson’s Disease (PD) so that we can see meaningful patterns relevant to treatments & PD’s etiology. **No Continuing Education credits will be offered for this session.**

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch (served in the AMC Conference Room)

FRIDAY OCT 12, AFTERNOON SESSION**1:30 - 2:30 *Informal Status Assignments***

Erol Zeybekoglu, PsyD

In this presentation, the term ‘Informal Status Assignment’ (ISA) is introduced to describe states of affairs that unceremoniously communicate changes to individual status, or place within a given community. Descriptive Psychology is used to examine the concept of ‘spontaneous stratification’ and its impact on symptom presentation and treatment outcomes. This presentation will provide an in-depth review of the Person Characteristic (PC) parameter described by Ossorio and explore empirically grounded methods of representing spontaneous PC appraisals as a basis for informal changes to the structural stratification of a group. **This session is eligible for 1.0 Continuing Education credit.**

2:30 - 2:40 Break

2:40 - 3:40 *Archival Processing: The Procedures Taken to Retain the Work of Peter G. Ossorio*

Katelyn Morken, MLIS

Abstract: This presentation will provide an overview on the archival process in relation to the contributions of Dr. Peter G. Ossorio that was donated to the Archives at the University of Colorado Boulder. The steps in archival processing and arrangement will be illustrated through Ossorio’s papers, and to ultimately emphasize the importance of this practice to those in the psychology field. This will ultimately highlight the community of the archives, how we follow our own social practice in providing resources to future users and the benefit in retaining material in general. **This session is eligible for 1.0 Continuing Education credit.**

3:40 - 3:50 Break

3:50 - 4:50 *Making Connections*

Mary K. Roberts, PhD

Abstract: Since the late 1950s, the division of universities into rigidly separated departments and disciplines has been recognized as problematic. Critics have warned of the danger of professional parochialism if graduate students are not exposed to relevant ideas and research from related fields. Nonetheless, many

psychologists have never heard of the breakthroughs achieved by professional philosophers over the past 70 years with respect to the concepts of “world”, “language”, “mind”, “behavior”, and “person”. These concepts, which are obviously relevant to behavioral science, are examined from both naturalistic and ordinary language perspectives. **This session is eligible for 1.0 Continuing Education credit.**

5:00-7:00 Free time for dinner on your own and enjoying Golden.

FRIDAY OCT 12, EVENING SESSION

7:00-7:30 *And the Beat Goes On*

Moderated by Charlie Kantor, PhD

This is an informal opportunity for conference participants to briefly share the ways they are using Descriptive Psychology, invite discussion or just give an update on their continuing work. **No Continuing Education credits will be offered for this session.**

7:30 - 8:30 *Society Business Meeting*

Moderated by Ralph C. Wechsler, PhD, SDP President

The major topic, as introduced and moderated by Ralph C. Wechsler PhD, SDP President, will be discussion of strategies for fostering the survival of Descriptive Psychology and the Society for Descriptive Psychology. **No Continuing Education credits will be offered for this session.**

SATURDAY, OCT 13, MORNING SESSION

8:15 - 9:00 Breakfast (served in the AMC Conference Room)

9:00 - 10:00 *Refinement of a Paradigm Case Formulation of a Daydream: Conceptual, Theoretical, and Empirical Considerations*

Ian Newby Clarke, PhD

In this session, you will learn about The Daydream Lab’s efforts to refine a paradigm case formulation (PCF) of a daydream. These efforts moved beyond conceptual analysis into an empirically based refinement of the PCF. This refinement was accomplished through the use of an open-format two-phase approach to measuring daydream content. The relation of daydream content, as

categorized according to the PCF's transformations, to loneliness and personality traits also will be discussed. **This session is eligible for 1.0 Continuing Education credit.**

10:00 - 10:10 Break

10:10-11:40 *Clinical Case Presentations*

Sonja Holt, PhD, Fernand Lubuguin, PhD, and Graduate Student Presenters from the University of Denver Clinical Psychology Program

Abstract: Descriptive Psychology provides a way to systematize what a psychotherapist does and what psychotherapy achieves. While Descriptive Psychology is a complex and comprehensive system for understanding persons and behavior, "The Elements for Personal Change" provide new and experienced psychotherapists with an approach to psychotherapy that is immediately accessible. These Elements provide an approach to psychotherapy that makes sense to the client, and is both effective and efficient. In this presentation, the presenters will discuss on-going cases in their current practice, noting the ways that Descriptive Psychology has been utilized to develop Individual Case Formulations and to generate and implement corresponding treatment plans. **This session is eligible for 1.5 Continuing Education credits.**

11:40-11:50 Break

11:50- 12:50 *Descriptive Psychology and the Person Concept*

Wynn Schwartz, PhD

For the last 19 months, under contract with Academic Press: Elsevier Science Publishing, I have been writing *Descriptive Psychology and The Person Concept: Essential Attributes of Persons and Behavior*. I'm going to talk about how that went, and the decisions I made about offering Ossorio's Person Concept and Descriptive Psychology to a new audience — what to put in and what to leave out. Structurally, the book starts with a general orientation then examines, "Individual Persons", "Intentional Action", "Language and Verbal Behavior", "Community and Culture", and "Reality and Real Worlds". Between the chapters on action and language is a demonstration of applying Descriptive concepts to empathy followed by chapters organized around the Judgment Diagram and The Relationship Formulas. **This session is eligible for 1.0 Continuing Education credit.**

12:50 Lunch (on your own) and afternoon free for personal business, meetings, and recreation

SATURDAY, OCT 13, EVENING

6:30 *Cocktail Hour (AMC Conference Room)*

7:30 *Society Banquet (AMC Conference Room)*

Announcements and Celebration

SUNDAY, OCT 14, MORNING SESSION

8:15 - 9:00 Breakfast (served in the AMC Conference Room)

9:00 - 10:00 *The SDP and Online community*

Erol Zeybekoglu PsyD

Abstract: This presentation will offer an extensive overview of the new and improved SDP website (www.sdp.org) including an explanation of the website's enhanced capabilities, resources, and forums. The platform allows members to easily access primary texts, watch presentation videos, provide and receive feedback on new ideas with improved private forums, and organize SDP sponsored events from the comfort of their home or office. **No Continuing Education credits will be offered for this session.**

10:00 - 10:10 Break

10:10 - 11:10 *Getting Old and Getting Old: Accidental Degradation and How to Avoid it*

Joe Jeffrey PhD

Abstract: Ageism and, more generally, treating people differently purely on the basis of their age, are widely recognized. As with racism, this carries the danger that people come to see themselves as less – in this case, unable, both physically and mentally – an outcome of the principle articulated by Tony Putman: people become as they are treated as being. This talk addresses one aspect of this issue, a linguistic one: the very language used to talk about people older than a certain age is both a simple description and a status assignment; but there are no “markers” for

status assignments in English, and so it is very easy to come to see ones self as aged, infirm, and unable without intending to – an unintentional self status assignment. The goal of this presentation is to clarify this phenomenon and how to avoid accidental degradation. **No Continuing Education credits will be offered for this session.**

11:10 - 11:20 Break

11:20 - 12:20 *SDP 40 Year Retrospective*
CJ Peek, PhD

Abstract: This presentation will include a slideshow depicting the impact of Descriptive Psychology on the lives and professions of our contributors. Also, this presentation will allow for time to reflect upon and celebrate the 40 year Anniversary of the Society for Descriptive Psychology! Members will be encouraged to share stories, reflections, and aspirations for the SDP going forward. **No Continuing Education credits will be offered for this session.**

12:30 - 2:00 Lunch
(served in the AMC Conference Room)

12:30 - 2:00 *Board Meeting*
(AMC Drumwright Board Room)

Further Information about the Society, Descriptive Psychology and Student Support

Information on The Society for Descriptive Psychology can be found on the Society's website: <http://www.sdp.org> Please consider supporting student presentations by donating to The Student's Fund. The Society for Descriptive Psychology is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible, but please consult with your tax advisor. A PayPal button that directs you to a donation site can also be found on the SDP website.

A brief orientation to Descriptive Psychology can be found in the postings, People Make Sense: Foundations for a Human Science and A Short Course in Descriptive Psychology.

Information about Lodging

Lodging is available at local hotels. Please contact hotel directly to make reservations.

Days Inn: <https://www.daysinn.com>

303-557-1810

The Golden Hotel: <https://www.thegoldenhotel.com/>

303-279-0100

Denver West Marriot: <http://www.marriott.com/reservation>

303-279-9100

Table Mountain Inn: <http://www.tablemountaininn.com>

303-277-9898

Find Descriptive Psychology on Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/descriptivepsychology/>

Reddit: <https://www.reddit.com/r/descriptivepsych>

For more Information about SDP news, events, publications, and membership, please visit our official website:

www.sdp.org