



## **44th Annual Meeting of the Society for Descriptive Psychology**



**September 29th to October 2nd, 2022**  
**Hybrid Meeting**  
**In-person at Hampton Inn & Suites, Boulder-North**  
**6333 Lookout Road, Boulder, CO 80301**  
**and via Zoom**

The Society for Descriptive Psychology is a Community exploring the Person Concept—an interdependent conceptual framework of Person, Behavior, Language, and World—to create common ground for the Human Sciences. The Annual Meeting of the Society is an opportunity to share advances in, and applications of Descriptive Psychology.

The primary goals of this conference are to continue the exploration of Descriptive Psychology as a conceptual approach to a broad range of topics within the behavioral sciences, social sciences, and humanities, to continue building the Descriptive Psychology Community, and to promote further discussion about new approaches to disseminating Descriptive Psychology concepts and applications. The conference will include introductory, intermediate, and advanced presentations.

There are no fees for attending the conference presentations or attaining APA CE. By making the conference free of charge, our hope is to broaden the number and range of people who learn about and apply Descriptive Psychology. If you are new to DP or our Society, we welcome you and look forward to productive interactions during and after the conference.

Topics to be presented at the 44th Annual Meeting are diverse and address a variety of clinical, social, and ethical issues using concepts from Descriptive Psychology (DP). This year's topics include ways to enhance dissemination of Descriptive Psychology into "Mainstream" Psychology, conceptualizing the significance of sexual intercourse, making Buddhism accessible to Westerners, using Descriptive Psychology to help redefine complex subject matter for easier navigability, Descriptive Psychology as "therapy" for therapies, clinical case presentations, new concepts such as Lifework, Communities revisited, and Mind/World distinctions.

The target audience for this conference includes participants in clinical, behavioral, computational, and theoretical disciplines, including participants with any degree of knowledge of DP (including none). A broad range of topics within the behavioral sciences will be addressed. To assist people with a developing interest in DP, participants with more comprehensive knowledge will be available for mentoring. The Society particularly encourages attendance by emerging professionals who are interested in a new and comprehensive conceptual approach to their clinical practice and research work.

Given the improving pandemic status, this year we are pleased to present the 2022 Annual Conference for the Society for Descriptive Psychology in a hybrid format, both in-person and online via Zoom. The Conference Planning Committee endeavored to follow the Conference's established scheduling of presentations and events as closely as possible. However, for those joining remotely, Zoom will require some new social practices and procedures, including administrative procedures for awarding CE. We will provide detailed information about these practices prior to the start of the conference. We look forward to sharing our presentations with any interested academician, clinician, or student, whether a familiar face from previous meetings or someone who is only now discovering Descriptive Psychology. In-person attendees are invited to the Society's Banquet dinner on Saturday evening.

As usual, register for the entire event, attending as few or as many of the presentations as is permitted by your schedule, beginning with Thursday evening's Presidential Address. As part of the registration process, we will be asking that you please indicate if you are a "Society Member", "Non-member", or "Student," so we can manage our attendance records.

There are a few non-CE events, such as our General Business Meeting for current SDP members only. This year there will also be one CE event that will only be offered to in-person attendees in order to assure the confidentiality of the clinical cases that will be discussed. These are indicated on the Conference program below. Therefore, those attending the conference in-person, 10 CE will be offered. For those attending by Zoom,

8.5 CE will be offered (because the above noted presentation of clinical cases will not be offered on Zoom).

**[Click Here to register for the Conference](#)**

**Registration information can also be found at <http://www.sdp.org>. You can download a copy of the Conference program by clicking on the main page's conference link.**

**For those interested in attending in person and wishing to stay at the Hampton Inn Boulder-North, reduced rates for the conference are available until August 29th. Twenty rooms have been held until this date. The rates are: Standard King and 2 Queen Rooms - \$129; King Suites - \$159. This rate does not include tax and fees.**

**[Hampton Inn Boulder-North Reservations](#)**

The Society for Descriptive Psychology is a non-profit organization registered in Colorado. Should you wish to express appreciation for the value of the information in the presentations or for the CE's, please consider going to [www.sdp.org](http://www.sdp.org) where you will find a button to contribute directly to our student scholarship fund (offsetting expenses for students and emerging professionals to present at conferences), or by contributing to any non-profit organization serving mental health or community service initiatives that improve the general welfare. For current members in good standing (i.e., those who have paid 2022 dues) who register for this conference, there will be a \$35 discount in the individual or family dues for 2023. More information about this will be made available in the next dues notice.

### **Continuing Education Information**

This program includes up to 10.0 CE for in-person conference attendees and up to 8.5 CE for persons attending the conference virtually. 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.



Conflict of Interest Disclosure: The Society for Descriptive Psychology is a not-for-profit volunteer organization. The Society and all speakers at this conference specifically have no other personal, business, or volunteer affiliations that may give rise to a real or apparent conflict of interest, relative to the content of presentations. In addition to assuring the conflict free status of speakers, the purpose of this statement is also to protect the Organization's tax-exempt status when contemplating a transaction or arrangement that could benefit an officer, director, or employee. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest that apply to non-profit organizations.

If you have questions about any aspects of the Conference, please contact the Conference Planning Coordinator, Craig Webster, at [chwebster@gmail.com](mailto:chwebster@gmail.com).

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## September 29th to October 2nd, 2022

### THURSDAY, SEPT 29th, EVENING SESSION

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL PROGRAM TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE!!!**

6:15 – 6:30 *Conference Convenes*

*Welcoming Announcements*

*Introduction of the President by the President-Elect*

6:30 – 8:00 *Presidential Address*

**Ian R. Newby-Clark, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Psychology,  
University of Guelph**

#### **The Time is (Probably) Ripe for Change: Moving Descriptive Psychology into the Mainstream (1.5 CE)**

Of late, there have been significant changes in the practices of 'mainstream' psychology, including a greater emphasis on: a) using better statistical tools correctly; b) openness and transparency; and c) coherent theoretical approaches. Accordingly, although one can never know with certainty when a discipline is ripe for change, there are indications that this is an opportune time for Descriptive Psychology to push into the mainstream. I will describe, and invite input on, my three-pronged strategy for facilitating DP's move into the mainstream. At every opportunity: 1) Demonstrate the benefits of conceptual investigation; 2) Teach the basics to university students; 3) Use the maxims publicly.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, MORNING SESSION**

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL TIMES LISTED ARE IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE!!!**

9:00 - 10:00 **“Sexual Significance” (1.0 CE)**

**Raymond M. Bergner, Ph.D., Professor, Illinois State University**

On a late-night talk show, Bette Davis once asserted that “most sex is not about sex.” In this presentation, using Anscombe's significance ladder, I will first articulate the concept of “Significance”, and then develop a listing of a number of different significances that sexual intercourse can have. Several of these will be discussed in detail.

10:00 – 10:10 ***Break***

10:10 – 11:10 **Making Buddhism Accessible to Westerners (1.0 CE)**

**H. Joel Jeffrey, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Northern Illinois University**

Mindfulness and mindfulness training are widely recognized techniques in psychotherapy. Mindfulness is a classic Buddhist concept and technique. A natural question is what other elements of Buddhism could be helpful in therapy, but the Buddhist literature is very difficult for most Westerners. “Awakened essence of mind,” “relatively vs. absolutely real,” or “everything is infused with emptiness,” and many others are virtually impenetrable. This presentation uses Descriptive Psychological formulations of action, appraisal, status and consciousness to make this language intelligible. The goals are: 1) Have articulations of several classic Buddhist concepts; and 2) To demonstrate a method of arriving at those articulations.

11:10 – 11:20 ***Break***

11:20 – 12:20 **Primary Care Research Subject Matter: Reconceiving how it is organized to better engage participants at the international conference. (1.0 CE)**

**C.J. Peek, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN**

Primary Care Research is a broad field; the international conference program lengthy and dense. Leaders recognized that learners, younger faculty, and others often get lost “in the weeds” or lose their bearings as they search for topics of interest. The program can feel more like a laundry list of presentations clumped by common tags rather than organized by enduring and distinctive dimensions of the field. A 2022 leader-sponsored process informed by Descriptive Psychology concepts aimed to depict the subject matter and program as a more internally coherent and navigable body of inquiry and reporting. The approach to redefining a complex subject matter is outlined and results of this process presented in slides and handout.

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st, MORNING SESSION**

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL TIMES LISTED ARE IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE!!!**

9:00 – 10:00 **Descriptive Psychology as Therapy for Therapies (1.0 CE)**

**Wynn Schwartz, Ph.D., Lecturer, Harvard Medical School**

Peter Ossorio famously said, “Promise them anything but give them behavior potential” as a starting point for understanding the relationship of the formal subject matter of Descriptive Psychology (DP), The Person Concept, to the theories and practices that constitute psychotherapy. Although there are therapeutic approaches and ways of talking characteristic of the DP community, there is no Descriptive Psychology branded therapy, *nor should there be*. Instead, DP’s Person Concept provides a framework for comparative psychotherapy. That said, Peter Ossorio and Ray Bergner have systematically described policies and practices — deliberately compatible with the Person Concept — that are paradigmatic examples of how a person, deeply and competently informed by DP, might conduct non-eclectic psychotherapy grounded in pragmatics rather than theory.

10:00 - 10:10 **Break**

10:10 – 12:10 **Clinical Case Presentations: An Introduction.**

**Sonja Holt, Ph.D., & students from the University of Denver’s Graduate School of Professional Psychology Clinical Psychology Program (1.5 CE for in-person attendees only; there will be no Zoom broadcast of case presentations to protect client confidentiality)**

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.

**SATURDAY, OCT 1st, EVENING**

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL TIMES LISTED ARE IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE!!!**

- 5:00-6:00 Business meeting (In-Person and Virtual for Members Only)
- 6:00-6:30 Society Social Time for both Virtual and In-Person attendees, Announcements and Celebration - All Y’all are Welcome!
- 6:30 until ? Continuation of Social Time for Virtual attendees with a Virtual “Host”
- 6:30 until ? Banquet dinner offsite at a nearby restaurant for In-person attendees



**SUNDAY, OCT 2nd, MORNING SESSION**

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL TIMES LISTED ARE IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE!!!**

9:00 – 10:00 **A Descriptive Psychology Perspective on Careers (1.0 CE)**

**Lane Lasater, Ph.D. Author and Retired Clinical Psychologist**

This presentation examines the concept of “Lifework” as a central dimension of careers from three perspectives: a) How does one’s career actions reflect person characteristics, interests and background? b) What enduring patterns can be identified through a career? and, c) What is the personal significance of fulfilling one’s lifework? Utilizing Descriptive Psychology concepts, I identified central dimensions of Lifework, developed an interview schedule, and interviewed via Zoom five mid-to-late career members of the Society for Descriptive Psychology regarding their career processes and actions. From the interview information, I created retrospective career narratives illuminating themes, patterns and meanings in each person’s “Lifework.”

10:00 – 10:10 ***Break***

10:10 – 11:10 **A City of Two Tales: How complex communities achieve resilience in the face of overwhelming threat. (1.0 CE)**

**Charles Kantor, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Retired**

For 3 years America has faced a pandemic, increasing environmental deterioration due to a warming planet, brutal invasions leading to refugee crises, and political leadership enhancing conflict between American sub-communities. The pandemic exposed our vulnerabilities, but also our innovations to preserve our communities. Conversely, strong political factions emerged to threaten democracy. How do complex communities respond to such threats? What practices are fundamental to doing so and what does Descriptive Psychology have to say about such practices? As a paradigm case, New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina will help us develop parameters to understand the achievement of community resilience.

11:10 – 11:20 *Break*

11:20 – 12:20 **Being-in-the-World (1.0 CE)**

**Mary K. Roberts, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist and Independent Scholar**

In his magnum opus *Being and Time*, Martin Heidegger (1927) criticized psychology's emphasis on an individual's mind or consciousness, and tried to direct our attention to the individual's being-in-the-world. Almost 100 years later, the mind/world antithesis he articulated is still salient. I examine the mind/world tension in light of the Person Concept, and present a clinical case in which these issues are relevant.

12:20 – 12:30 *Meeting Announcements and Adjournment*

**Further Information About the Society, Descriptive Psychology, and Student Support**

Information about The Society for Descriptive Psychology can be found on the Society's website: <http://www.sdp.org>. A wealth of publications, including books, articles, and presentations by Peter Ossorio, plus many presentations and publications by SDP members, are available on the website.

Please consider supporting student presentations by donating to The Student's Fund. The Society for Descriptive Psychology is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations may be tax deductible. Please consult with your tax advisor. There is a "Donate" button on the SDP website to facilitate donations.