



# The Society for Descriptive Psychology

Thirty-second Annual Meeting  
September 30 – October 3, 2010  
The Golden Hotel, Golden CO

## Conference Information

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## What is Descriptive Psychology?

Descriptive Psychology is a different approach to understanding persons and behavior. People and what they do make sense. Descriptive Psychology is a precise, systematic, complete articulation of *how* they make sense. Rather than looking for “underlying” mechanisms, causes, drives, brain processes, or the like, Descriptive Psychologists seeking to understand someone’s life and actions look at how everything in that person’s life fits together at that moment: their circumstances, the reasons the circumstances give them to act in various ways, their relationships and what those imply, their unique characteristics, their identity and self-concept, and their place in all the meaningful communities they are a part of. In short, Descriptive Psychologists focus on the *human* logic of the person and their life, using a sophisticated, rigorous formulation of Descriptive Psychology’s core concepts: person and behavior. That unique formulation and focus make it the approach *par excellence* for understanding people and human life – and its dilemmas.

**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 2010 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](http://www.sdp.org)

## Society for Descriptive Psychology 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting—at a Glance

### Thursday, Sept. 30

|                  |   |                              |
|------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 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. | <b><i>Tutorial: Fundamentals of Descriptive Psychology</i></b>          | H. Joel Jeffrey              |
| 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. | Welcome; dinner in the conference room                                  |                              |
| 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. | <b><i>Teaching and otherwise introducing Descriptive Psychology</i></b> | Moderated by H. Joel Jeffrey |

### Friday, October 1

|                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| 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 - 9:15      | <b><i>Reconceptualizing “Defiance Disorder”</i></b>   | Bill O’Brien   |
| 9:15 - 10:15     | <b><i>Eligibility issues in therapy with cognitively gifted clients</i></b>   | Aimee Yermish  |
|                  | Break   |  |
| 10:30 - 12:00    | <b><i>Ordinary Magic, Part 3: Consciousness, Community and Worlds</i></b>   | Anthony O. Putman  |
| 12:00 - 1:30     | Lunch in the Conference Room  |  |
| 1:30 - 2:30      | <b><i>What actually happened when Pete said “No”?</i></b><br><b><i>Decreasing prejudice by case study</i></b>   | Sara Beautz  |
|                  | Break   |  |
| 2:45 - 3:30      | <b><i>Mindful Ignorance: I, Thou, and empathy</i></b>   | Wynn Schwartz  |
| 3:30 - 5:00      | <b><i>Presidential Address: “A report from the field: Using paradigm case formulation and parametric analysis in emerging fields of healthcare”</i></b>             | CJ Peek, with Benjamin Miller, Alexander Blount and others |
| 5:15 - 7:00      | Dinner in the Conference Room   | Golden Vista room  |
| 7:00 - 8:00      | Society Business Meeting  | CJ Peek Presiding  |
| 8:00 on          | <b><i>Memorial for Anna Geyer Heinrich</i></b><br>followed by<br><b><i>From Rap Session to Jam Session: DP players riff on themes suggested by the audience</i></b> |  |

### Saturday, October 2

|                   |   |                   |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.  | Light breakfast in the conference room                              | Golden Vista Room |
| 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. | <b><i>Conditions of Uncertainty</i></b>                             | Mary K. Roberts   |
|                   | Break   |                   |
| 10:15 - 11:00     | <b><i>Explaining Explanation</i></b>                                | Paul Zeiger       |
|                   | Break   |                   |
| 11:15 - 12:15     | <b><i>Antisocial Personality Disorder from a DP Perspective</i></b> | Ray Bergner       |
| 12:30 - 1:30      | Lunch in the Conference Room  |                   |
| 1:30 - 6:30       | Free time to enjoy the mountains and each other                     |                   |
| 6:30 - 7:30       | Social or “cocktail” hour   |                   |
| 7:30              | Society banquet & awards ceremonies                                 |                   |

### Sunday, October 3

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 7:30 - 9:00 | Light breakfast in the conference room |
|-------------|--|

|              |   |                               |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 9:00 – 9:30  | <b><i>A Descriptive Formulation of Self-Deception</i></b>                             | Jon van den Akker             |
| Break        |   |                               |
| 9:45 – 10:30 | <b><i>How did our children grow? – follow-ups on presentations from last year</i></b> | Moderated by Carolyn Zeiger   |
| Break        | 30 minute break for checkout  |                               |
| 11:00–11:45  | <b><i>Reflections on DP and where each of us are taking it next year</i></b>          | Moderated by Fernand Lubuguin |
| 12:00-1:00   | Lunch in the Conference Room  |                               |
| 1:30 - 3:00  | Board of Directors Meeting (Elk Creek Boardroom)                                      |                               |

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



***Descriptive Psychology Tutorial and teaching seminar***

**H. Joel Jeffrey, Ph.D.**

Professor of Computer Science, Northern Illinois University  
President-Elect of the Society for Descriptive Psychology

The goal of this tutorial is to enable those relatively new to Descriptive to better understand, and therefore participate in discussions of, the work presented at the Conference. It will focus on several of the most fundamental concepts of Descriptive Psychology: Intentional action, Deliberate action, Communities, Status, Reasons, and Emotion.

***Teaching and otherwise introducing Descriptive Psychology***

**Moderated by H. Joel Jeffrey**

An ongoing interest of many in the Society is how to teach, explain, and otherwise tell people what Descriptive Psychology is and how it is different from what they know as “psychology.” Some things work and some things don’t. This will be a free-form, interactive discussion group with the goal of developing lists: what works, what doesn’t, good things to keep in mind, hip-pocket arguments, and anything else the participants have found to be useful.

***Ordinary Magic, Part 3: Consciousness, Community and Worlds***

**Anthony O. Putman, Ph.D.**

The Putman Group

In a post-script to last year's "At a Glance" paper, it was noted that: "The conceptual connections among Actor, Observer and Critic have already been spelled out in some detail, but there is still fruitful elaboration to do. In particular we will get considerable mileage from a deeper examination of the interconnections among A-O-C, Actor's knowledge, Communities, Conscious of and Conscious as, Real Worlds and the Dramaturgical Model." This presentation will pursue that elaboration to some surprisingly powerful conclusions. The audience should come prepared to participate rather than merely listen.

***Reconceptualizing “Defiance Disorder”***

**Bill O'Brien:**

Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Boston, MA

Defiance of authority has played a role in the development of civilization. It is a performance of revolution, be it social, political, or intellectual. Defiance of authority has also been pathologized, and can result in a variety of behavioral restrictions. This presentation will examine the dilemma of defiance, including how defiance can raise and lower status, eligibility, and behavior potential.

***Eligibility issues in therapy with cognitively gifted clients***

**Aimee Yermish**

Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Boston, MA

Among gifted people interested in finding a therapist, it is accepted that, "You've got to find a therapist who 'gets it,' because most of them don't." But in the psychological community, the common wisdom is, "There's nothing \*to\* get, and anyone who thinks they're so special that no ordinary therapist could understand them must be a narcissist," Mainstream psychological literature ignores gifted people as persons, focusing exclusively on “the gifts.”

Preliminary research shows that if a gifted client is looking for CBT-style advice, strategies, and coping skills, a therapist who is a good listener and who does not pathologize their gifted traits and experiences can be effective, but

if the client is dealing with identity issues – Who am I and where do I fit in the world? – more is needed. This presentation examines just what else is needed, applying the concepts of eligibility and empathy and addressing the question of whether, and to what extent, the therapist has to be able to keep up with the client intellectually.

***What actually happened when Pete said “No”? Decreasing prejudice by case study***

**Sara Beautz**

Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Boston, MA

Descriptive Psychology concepts will be used to understand significant empirical results in a comparison of teaching methods intended to decrease prejudice. Our hypothesis was that the case study method of teaching would be the optimal method for decreasing prejudice because the method teaches about individual cases rather than teaching stereotypical theories about ‘groups.’ Our study compared four groups of graduate students of approximately 14 per group (N=55) in a pre-post design. Participants took one of three offered mandatory cross cultural psychology courses (n=42), or a mandatory physiological psychology course (n=13). At the post measure, compared to the other three groups, participants (n=17) who had taken a course where case study was the primary teaching method were significantly more likely to report that they were less confident of their socially-prejudiced appraisals. Descriptive Psychology concepts of the Know-How Parameter, A-O-C, and the Deletion Operation will be used to analyze results.

***Mindful Ignorance: I, Thou, and empathy***

**Wynn Schwartz, Ph.D.**

The Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Boston, MA

and

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

A great deal of education and especially professional education involves cultivating skills and knowledge.

Psychologists are trained to recognize patterns and to develop serviceable formulations to aid in their attempts at being helpful. Students want to both “know” and to “know how” and are often intolerant of their uncertainty. They should learn not to be. Empathy and the I-Thou relationship, key therapeutic stances, require an embrace of the restricted understanding a person actually has of the other. In an empathic, I to Thou fashion, the psychotherapist discovers whom he or she sits with and conveys that understanding in a manner the other can manage. Mindfully ignorant, mindful and tolerant of uncertainty, the good enough therapist learns how to be in a psychotherapeutic relationship. The empathic therapist is both uncertain and knows how to be uncertain.

***Presidential Address: Paradigm case formulation and parametric analysis in the health care field***

**CJ Peek, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

University of Minnesota Medical School

**Benjamin Miller, PsyD**

Assistant Professor, Dept of Family Medicine, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine

**Alexander Blount, EdD**

**Professor of Family Medicine and Psychiatry**

University of Massachusetts Medical School

The very public crisis in quality and affordability of health care has given several “good ideas in the wings” a realistic chance to take hold. Like all emerging fields in the history of science and practice, they are in early stages of development when it comes to consistent empirical support and a consistently understood system of concepts required for both research and practice development. This presentation describes how the methods of paradigm case formulation and parametric analysis are making a difference within the fields of 1) collaborative care / behavioral treatments in primary care, 2) palliative care, 3) patient-centered medical home, and 4) shared patient-clinician decision-making. It describes A) how you can tell if and when you need to do this in your field, B) how to gather together a credible group to do it, C) how to facilitate the process and write it up, and D) how to apply it and make a

difference. This presentation is led by C.J. Peek in collaboration with leaders who are who are sponsoring the work and prominent in each of the emerging fields.

### ***Conditions of Uncertainty***

**Mary K. Roberts, Ph.D.**  
**Independent Scholar**

After reviewing the concepts of doubt and uncertainty in light of the Person Concept, two dreams are analyzed using the “Drop the details and see what pattern remains” rule. The patterns revealed by the analysis reflect significant differences in relation to uncertainty for each of the dreamers. The historical context of the dreams, one dreamt in 1619 and the other in 1920, is discussed, as well as their significance for modern psychology.

### ***Explaining Explanation***

**Paul Zeiger Ph.D.**

Parkinson's Educator and Independent Scholar

In many of our roles – teachers, parents, managers, therapists – we are regularly called upon to give explanations, and at other times we listen to or read explanations presented by others. Sometimes they succeed better than at other times. What makes for a successful explanation? What makes something qualify as an explanation at all? What situations call for one? In the slogan “If you have a good enough description, you don’t need an explanation” -- why? How might we detect something else, say a sales pitch or a bunch of gobbledygook, masquerading as an explanation? Answers to these and related questions will be explored in the form of a conversation.

### ***Antisocial Personality Disorder from a DP Perspective***

**Raymond M. Bergner, Ph.D.**

Professor, Department of Psychology, Illinois State University

In this talk, I will discuss impulsive styles from a Descriptive Perspective, with an emphasis on antisocial personality disorder. The focus will be on discussing this kind of action, and this kind of person, from a worlds perspective, and contrasting this with the classical neoanalytic view of David Shapiro. Further elements in the discussion will include raising the question of whether impulsive behavior is really, as often alleged, a different kind of behavior, or if the term "impulsive" is better seen as a critic's term expressing (perhaps warranted) disapproval of the behavior. A third element that will come into play is Ossorio's Judgment Diagram.

### ***From Rap Session to Jam Session: Descriptive Psychology players riff on themes suggested by the audience.***

Questions are gathered from the crowd for ensembles of DP “players” to riff on. 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 and a new trio formed. Moderated by C.J. Peek, Ph.D.

### ***Reflections on Descriptive Psychology and where each of us is 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. Moderated by Fernand Lubugin



## ACCOMMODATIONS

**The Golden Hotel** is located at 800 Eleventh St. in Golden, Colorado ([www.thegoldenhotel.com](http://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, August 27<sup>th</sup>.**

### **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

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](http://www.thegoldenhotel.com)



The creek outside the Golden Hotel



**REGISTRATION**

**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. **Please note: the hotel charges us a hefty penalty for meals added after September 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Your registration fee includes ALL conference fees, snacks, and meals, including the banquet.**

**CE credits will be available for an additional charge.**

**Pre-registration (Must be postmarked by September 9<sup>th</sup>)**

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| _____ SDP members @ \$350: | \$ _____ |
| _____ Non-members @ \$400: | \$ _____ |
| _____ Students @ \$50:     | \$ _____ |

**Regular Registration (postmarked after September 9<sup>th</sup>):**

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| _____ 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 2, 2010 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. It extra *only* for guests and single or half-day registrants.** For those **not** registered full-time for the conference, the banquet fee is:

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| _____ Adults @ \$60:   | \$ _____ |
| _____ Children @ \$30: | \$ _____ |

**Total banquet fees:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**Please mail (postmarked) by September 9, 2010 to:**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**TOTALS**

Conference fees: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Banquet: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**