

A Call for Papers



37TH Annual Meeting of
The Society for Descriptive Psychology
Golden, Colorado
October 22-25, 2015

Steps Toward a Conceptually Adequate Human Science

The Society for Descriptive Psychology is a professional association that focuses on the intellectual discipline of Descriptive Psychology (DP), a distinctive approach to the human sciences initially developed by Peter G. Ossorio at the University of Colorado. Descriptive Psychology is unlike other “theories” or “systems” in that it includes several quite novel practices. Rather than propose mechanisms or make predictions about behavior, Descriptive Psychology consists of a set of richly elaborated concepts that include, for example, Intentional Action, Social Practices, Communities, and Persons – all of which continue to be

expanded upon and applied by Dr. Ossorio's colleagues and many students. Over the past 50 years, these concepts have proven to be extremely valuable in the conceptualization and reformulation of problems across the full range of disciplines in the behavioral sciences, social sciences and humanities. These include areas such as:

- psychotherapy and all related clinical approaches to psychopathology;
 - community mental health;
 - organizational behavior;
 - sociology, including the behavior of populations;
 - economics (for example, choice principles when faced with personal economic decisions);
 - health care delivery, including the organization of primary care "homes";
 - the relationship between Persons and neuroscience;
 - computer modeling of complex decision making and organizational systems.
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Each year, the Society meets for the presentation of papers concerning any aspect of human-oriented inquiry, often conceptualized from a Descriptive Psychology perspective, but also for the presentation and discussion of complex social and behavioral science inquiries for which a discussion of possible re-conceptualizations may be valuable.

The Society for Descriptive Psychology invites papers and presentations that address some subset of the following issues:

1. The pragmatic and conceptual foundations of the behavioral sciences, social sciences and humanities, including the implicit structure of the concept of Persons.
2. Development, refinement, and application of the tools and concepts of Descriptive Psychology as they relate to any field in the humanities, social sciences, behavioral sciences and kindred disciplines.
3. Development of a more adequate and person-centered model of scientific behavior.

As examples of the breadth of areas to which Descriptive Psychology can contribute, submissions are also encouraged that address clarification and advancement of more focused topics such as:

1. The behavioral logic of social justice, including specific case histories that require re-conceptualizations of (a) inequity; (b) social conflict; and (c) the interaction between individuals and community/organizational practices.
2. The assessment, evaluation, and practice of all forms of psychotherapy.
3. The assessment, evaluation, and conceptualization of forms of self-enhancing and self-degrading behavior patterns.
4. The conceptual clarification of health care delivery models.
5. The functioning of organizations and other cohesive groups of persons.
6. Issues concerning choice principals and decision making in behavioral economics.
7. The conceptual relationships between Persons and biological sciences, particularly neuroscience.

As noted above, Descriptive Psychology is specifically the intellectual discipline devoted to connecting and making explicit the implicit structure of the humanities, social sciences, and behavioral sciences, but

also the practice of — if not the substance of — those activities typically considered to be “hard” or “biological” sciences (that is, the human behavior of engaging in scientific inquiry).

The slogans below are a very brief orientation to Descriptive Psychology and its approach:

1. The world makes sense, and so do people. They make sense *now*.
 2. It's one world. Everything fits together. Everything is related to everything else.
 3. Things are what they are and not something else instead.
 4. Don't count on the world being simpler than it has to be.
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Limited funds are available to help cover **a portion** of the expenses of some students and early career academics and professionals who received their degrees within the last three years. Please indicate if you want to be considered for funding.

Information about the Society and past conferences and presentations can be found on the Society's website: www.SDP.org

To Submit:

By May 1, 2015, please submit a proposal for review (500-700 words in length, Microsoft Word format). Send the file as an attachment in an email with a body containing the title and the author's name, contact information, institutional affiliation and status (graduate student, faculty member, independent researcher, etc.) You will be notified whether or not your paper has been accepted for presentation. We currently anticipate that each accepted paper will be presented as part of a 60 minute conference session, including Q&A.

Inquiries and submissions should be sent to:

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