

THEORETICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL PSYCHOLOGY



Society for Philosophical and Theoretical Psychology

Midwinter Meeting (May 2-4, 2025)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Call for Proposals:

The Question of Normativity

The concept of “normativity” has significant implications across the diverse field of psychology, yet it often remains an implicit and under-examined assumption. This call for papers and presentations invites contributions that explore the question of normativity in psychological theory, research, and practice. We encourage submissions that critically examine the often-unspoken assumptions about “what ought to be” that shape our work as psychologists.

Possible topics and questions for consideration:

Across psychological subfields, how do our research methods and paradigms implicitly or explicitly rely on certain assumptions about normativity? How do these assumptions influence our understanding of reliability, validity, and scientific credibility?

What constitutes normativity in the study of cognitive processes such as perception, cognition, and emotion? How can we examine these processes through a lens of normativity, considering both neuroscientific and phenomenological perspectives?

How can we approach psychological assessment of individual difference e.g. personality, intelligence, etc. with greater theoretical and philosophical rigor, particularly concerning judgments about normativity?

How do social influences shape our understanding of what is considered normative in terms of perceptions, beliefs, and behaviors? How can we engage more critically with philosophical discussions of normativity?

How can psychodynamic and psychoanalytic theories contribute to understanding the development of, and challenges to, normative perceptions and behaviors?

Positive psychology explores concepts like happiness, virtues, and well-being. How can we better address the philosophical and ethical assumptions underpinning our understanding of these positive qualities?

Speaking clinically, how do implicit or explicit assumptions about normativity influence our approaches to diagnosis, treatment, assessment, and evaluation of outcomes? Do our current practices risk unintentionally harming or excluding individuals who fall outside traditionally defined normative populations?

How do questions of normativity arise in applied psychology, including developmental, clinical, counseling, industrial/organizational, forensic, and community psychology? How can we engage more responsibly with the ethical and practical implications of normativity within these applied fields?

We welcome diverse methodological and theoretical perspectives that shed light on the critical question of normativity and its far-reaching implications for psychology as a whole. This call encourages a rigorous and systematic examination of how our understanding of “what ought to be” shapes our work as psychologists. We hope to foster respectful debate and advance a conversation about normativity within our field.

Save the Date!

Date: May 2-4, 2025

Location: Point Park University (Pittsburgh, PA)

Submissions are now being accepted for:

- **Individual Paper Submission:** 20 minute oral presentation.
- **Individual Poster Submission:** 60 minute poster presentation in a room with other posters
- **Paper Symposium Submission:** 60 minute symposium that includes NO MORE than four presentations - Priority will be given to symposium proposals with clear coherence and involve a range of scholars (early/late career, ideological/disciplinary breadth, etc).
- **Conversation Session or Workshop:** 50 minute interactive session on a particular topic.

Please email all submissions to div242025@gmail.com by December 1, 2024. In your email, please state any technology requests you may have.

Registration and accommodation details will be available late fall 2024. Questions can be directed to div242025@gmail.com