

The Bulletin of

The Society for Experimental Psychology

and Cognitive Sciences

December 2017

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Get the word out!

Submit op-eds, photos, news, awards, advice, and more to Will Whitham at
will.t.whitham@gmail.com

President's Column

Jonathon D. Crystal



Division 3 (Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science) is a central part of representing science within APA. APA has many "issues" – including some that are challenging to scientists. However, APA is large, resourceful, and effective. APA maintains a large network of connections to impact decisions in Washington DC. The Science Directorate is one of the pillars of APA. It advocates for funding of research, and it is our loudest voice that can impact public policy that affects science. It is critical that scientists not abandon APA and APA not lose its scientists.

Division 3 SEPCS needs you! The demographics of Division 3 SEPCS are "old." In many ways, this is something to celebrate. We have a distinguished cadre of fellows and members. But our demographics mean that we need new members. How can we reinvigorate?

Recently Division 3 updated its name to reflect its brand as a society of scholars devoted to experimental psychology and cognitive science. An advantage of the branding includes two ways to become involved with SEPCS: as an APA member who joins Division 3 –the old way– and as a member of SPECS (without being a member of APA) –the new way. Some individuals may choose to be a member of SPECS without being a member of APA, but to impact APA, it helps to be a

member of APA (and join Division 3).

I am writing to ask you to do three things. Each of us has taken up service roles over the years, and I am asking you to undertake some outreach on behalf of Division 3 SEPCS. Many of us know people who should be members or fellows of Division 3 SEPCS. Some of these people were members in the past but may have let their membership lapse. Others are newer to the field and might not have considered Division 3 SEPCS. Here are my three asks:

A colleague in your department – many of us have a colleague down the hall who should be a member of Division 3 SEPCS but who is not a member. Please take a walk down the hall and chat about Division 3 SEPCS.

A colleague in your field – someone who you collaborate with, chat with at conferences, enjoy a group dinner with while at a conference... you know who this is. This is someone who is close to you. Please take a moment to suggest that your colleague join Division 3 SEPCS.

A graduate student in your department – this might be a graduate student who collaborates with you, or a grad student from the lab down the hall. This is someone who

is starting out in new roles, and representing science at APA is an important role.

Membership in SEPCS is free to grad students, and student membership in APA is inexpensive (and grows only gradually at later career stages).

If each of us reaches out to three people, the impact on membership is extraordinary. Each of you has served your field for many years. I can think of no greater service to the field now than to reach out to three people as a way to extend your legacy in the field you have been devoted to throughout your career.

Places to connect with Division 3 SEPCS:

<http://www.apa.org/about/division/div3.aspx>

<http://www.apadivisions.org/division-3/index.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/apadiv3/>

<https://join.apa.org/divisions>

Jonathon D. Crystal

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University

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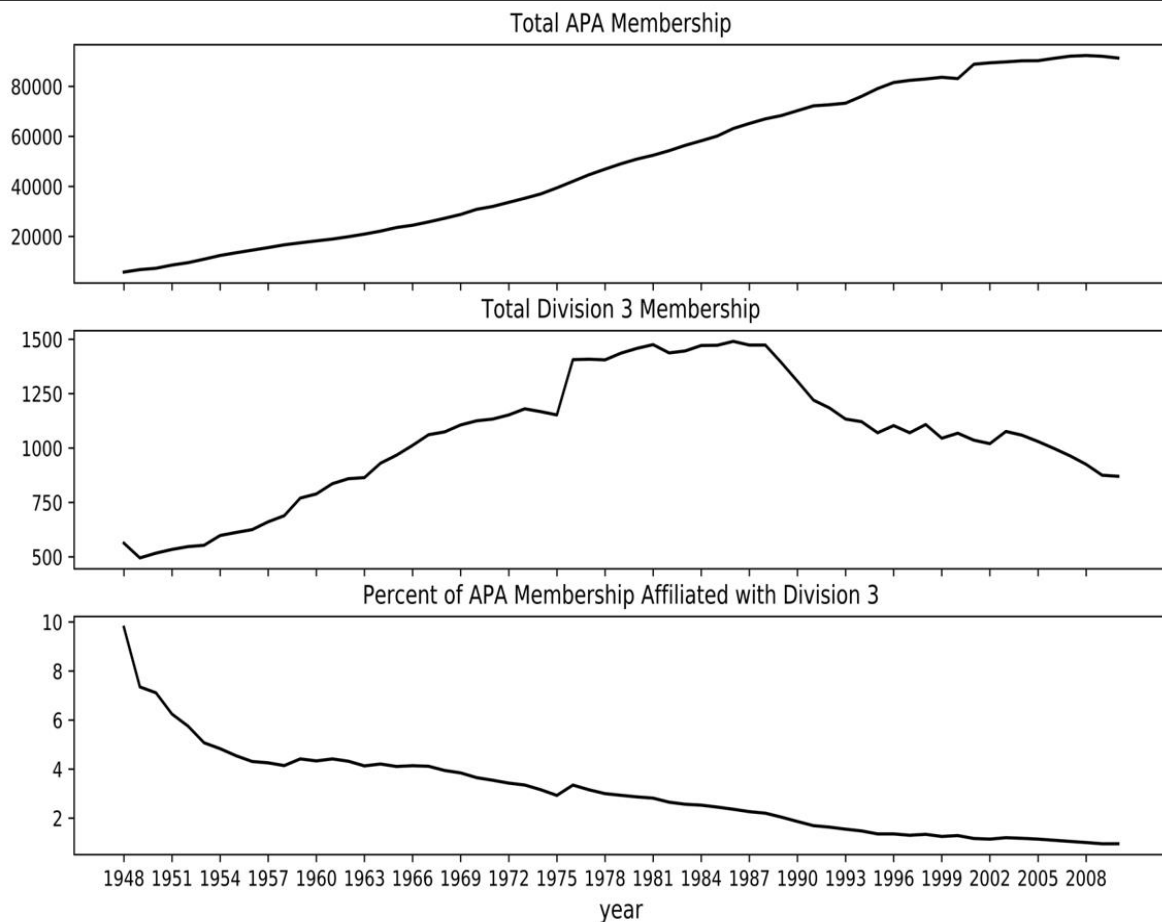
Recruit for Your Society!

Bonnie Perdue



Greetings! I am happy to be serving as the membership chair for Div. 3 this year. It is a great honor to be part of such an impressive Division and I look forward to interacting with many of you in the coming year. I want to reach out now to request your help. As membership chair, I will do everything I can to attract and retain members, but the collective society is a far more powerful recruitment agency than any person alone! Please consider yourself as an advocate for Div. 3. You can talk to colleagues, recommend the Division to students, bring us up when chatting at conferences, post a flyer (we've already made one for you!), share our info on social media, and any other means that you can think of to help spread the word about SEPCS! And in case my words haven't convinced you, here is some data for consideration.

(continued on next page)



Clearly this is a trend that we need to reverse! We all believe in the value of Div. 3, and with your help, we can spread that message to others and maintain a significant presence within APA.

To help you in your recruitment efforts, a print-and-share flyer is included on the next page of this Newsletter, and a printable brochure is located on the last page

If you have questions or suggestions, or want to communicate the names of any individuals you have attempted to recruit (whether or not they decided to join), please email us at sepcs.info@gmail.com



The Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science

The Society for You!!

Benefits of Membership

Associate with other scholars with similar research and educational interests, in an organization that has been bringing these disciplines together for more than seven decades.

Support national and local advocacy for science and education in experimental psychology and its many subdisciplines

Network with distinguished scholars who contribute to these areas through scholarship, mentorship, and leadership.

Access published issues of *The Experimental Psychology Bulletin*.

Stay informed on a wide range of issues related to these disciplines, including jobs, regulatory changes, grant opportunities, and available resources

Become eligible for numerous awards sponsored by the Society, and eligible to nominate students and colleagues for such honors.

Enjoy and participate in special programming at the APA convention and other annual meetings.

Gain opportunities for disciplinary service and leadership, valuable for professional development, recognition in the field, and "paying forward" for the next generation of behavioral scientists who use the methods of experimental psychology

Two Ways to Join

1. Complete the membership form at <http://www.apadivisions.org/division-3/membership/>.

You do not have to be an APA member to affiliate with SEPCS

Annual dues for postdoctoral and faculty affiliates = \$20

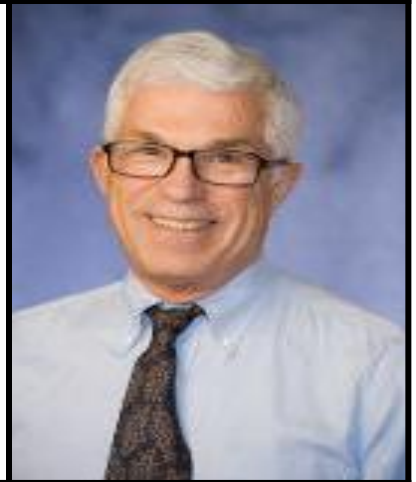
Annual dues for student affiliates = \$0

2. APA members can add SEPCS/Division-3 membership when you pay your APA dues.



Too Much Self-reflection: APA Council Report August 2017

J. Bruce Overmier



These are my personal reflections on the experience. I may be a little unusual, but every year I look forward to APA Convention. It is a time of renewing friendships with colleagues from across the country—even around the world. And, yes, there are many good lectures to attend; more than I can get to. Although I am not a fan of posters, there were some really good ones, too. But attending Council meeting is another thing altogether—especially in the last few years. It has been over-filled with accusatory tones (“You support unethical behavior!”, “You don’t like me!”, etc.), self-reflections about “improving” governance—a worthy goal—but offering solutions that revolve around additional layers of governance (e.g., Council Leadership Team) and removing Council (and thus member) oversight on finances and how APA works internally. Lawyer opinions—thoughtful though they may be—seem to block Council at every turn. It is an exercise in frustration. The agenda runs to over 1000 pages and is way too packed for the time allotted, so serious discussion is always truncated. Yet, good things are going on and do happen.

The Board of Scientific Affairs and the Science Directorate reported on their vigorous efforts the get some redress on the newly adopted new rules being imposed by NIH on research with humans that make

nearly every experiment we do a “clinical trial” with all sorts of additional approval and reporting burdens—and a likely clogging of IRBs. The problem arises from the new NIH definition of “clinical trial”. If you are not yet alerted to this, get informed before you try to start a new research study; it could very well now be a “clinical trial”! And, APA belongs to consortia (e.g., Federations of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, FABBS) that are advocating directly with agencies for change.

Council also adopted as APA Policy a resolution important to many of us: Resolution Affirming Support for Research and Teaching with Nonhuman Animals. This supports the research and teaching of many of our Division 3 members and, of course, those in Divisions 2, 6, 25, and 28, as well.

Other resolutions adopted included: Guidelines for Education and Training in Consulting Psychology/Organizational Consulting Psychology, Guidelines for Education and Training in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Resolution on Palliative Care and End of Life Issues, Resolution on Assisted Dying, and Multicultural Guidelines: An Ecological Approach to Context, Identity, and Intersectionality.

Multicultural and diversity issues inside of APA continue to be a hot topic, made even hotter by the lack

of time left for discussing Council's Diversity Work Group Report. Although only scheduled as an "information item", some wanted to discuss the report per se. The Work Group Report recommended policy and procedure shifts, participation and representation, and diversity training and cultural shifts within Council and APA, as a whole, so as to make greater strides in promoting the greater inclusion of diversity issues and the promotion of psychological health for racial and ethnic minority communities within the business of the Council. It was complemented by a Working Group Report on Stress and Health Disparities. While the latter is very informative to psychology in general, the former has more of an internal focus on matters of perceived incivility and under representations in Council. One action taken by Council illustrates this internal focus: Council voted to request that 1) each APA board or committee Chair (or assigned designee) serve as the Civility Ambassador for the respective board or committee listserv, 2) the Council Leadership Team assigns a member of the CLT to serve as the Civility Ambassador for the Council listserv, and 3) the APA President assigns a member of the Board to serve as the Civility Ambassador for the Board listserv. Civility Ambassadors are responsible for sending an annual statement to their assigned listserv regarding civility expectations and for providing corrective feedback to individual members when necessary. In some ways, niceness and civility are confused.

The so-called Hoffman Report or Internal Review about the APA actions and positions a decade ago on torture—something that APA NEVER endorsed and routinely opposed—continues to plague both Council and the legal team. And, presumable errors in the report are yet to be acknowledged. It is always before Council in Executive Session nowadays, and I cannot

discuss it. But, Council did for hours.

Council voted to send to the membership for consideration two more changes in the Bylaws that affect divisions and senior/retired members, respectively: Council voted to approve forwarding to the Membership amendments to Article XIX (Dues and Subscriptions) of the Bylaws which remove the \$2 discount for membership in one division. If the amendment is approved by the Membership, the funds will be redirected for use by the Office of Membership Recruitment and Engagement to allow them to be more creative on incentivizing members to join divisions and to experiment and try different methods to see what provides the best results for members joining Divisions. The ballot will be sent to the Membership for a vote on November 1, 2017. The Council also voted to approve forwarding to the Membership amendments to Article XIX (Dues-Exempt Category) of the Bylaws to remove the details associated with the criteria for the dues-exempt category from the APA Bylaws and instead to give Council the authority to determine eligibility requirements for the dues-exempt category. The ballot will be sent to the Membership for a vote on November 1, 2017. I take no real position on either of these although I opposed both in voting. What is really needed in place of this annual succession of small amendments to our by-laws—the implications of which are never really understood by anybody—is a thorough going revision by Policy & Planning Board of the by-laws to modernize and to get little things moved from by-laws to administrative oversight while keeping major concerns in the by-laws.

Financially, APA has run a deficit in the last few years because of "off books" projects, but that budgeting process has been corrected and the deficit is being eliminated (too slowly in my view). Nonetheless APA is a \$125MM operation with healthy reserves and investments and spends millions on advancing psychological science.

In summary, Council was much as has been in recent years. President Puente was a most positive chair and “master of ceremonies” under challenging circumstances. Hats off to him!

References:

<http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/08/nonhuman-animals.aspx>

2016 APA Annual report: <http://ar2016.apa.org/>

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce Overmier
Council Representative

at a glance...

behavioral research and clinical trials

The redefinition of what sort of research constitutes a clinical trial by NIH could fundamentally change how we do research. Dr. Overmier’s report reflects our continued uncertainty about how the new guidelines will affect behavioral research. Keep in contact with this newsletter for commentary on this story as the conversation about how best to accomplish worthy goals of transparency and validity in federally funded research. In the meantime, follow these links to stay informed:

- <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2017/10/11/implementing-a-new-human-subject-and-clinical-trial-information-form/>
- <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2017/08/11/4-questions-for-researchers-and-institutions-involved-in-human-subjects-research/>
- <http://fabbs.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Lauer-Response.pdf>
- <http://www.nature.com/news/brain-researchers-in-uproar-over-nih-clinical-trials-policy-1.22550>



126th Annual APA Convention

San Francisco, California

August 9-12, 2018

<http://www.apa.org/news/events/2018/apa-convention.aspx>

Program details coming soon!

(Teaser alert: sessions on Animal Cognition, Big Data, Canine Cognition, Event Cognition, Early Career Science, Presidential Address by Jonathon Crystal, Spatial Cognition, Working Memory and more!)

PhDs: Publishing While You Study

Danielle Panoz-Brown



In the “publish or perish” world of academia and research, publishing while you study is essential for our aspiring careers. As graduate students, it is important to develop a plan and a path for publishing early in our careers.

Plan to publish early and often. For most of us, this is easier said than done. Life inevitably gets in the way while juggling the increasing demands of our coursework, training, assistantships, and research obligations. Getting published is hard, especially for students like ourselves. Fortunately for us, publishing can come in many forms (e.g., journals, book chapters, reviews) and there are more publishing outlets available today than ever before. First and foremost, we have to learn how to publish. This entails honing our writing skills, our research skills, and being productive in the lab—all of which take time. You need to budget this time carefully. To this end, early on in your student career it is helpful to develop a plan and timeline with your mentor that is in line with your research goals and productivity. It is also worth noting that there may be different publishing demands for early and late career faculty members—so it is important to navigate these concerns and motivations for both you and your advisor. For this, it can be helpful to discuss expectations with your advisor

to ensure that the plan serves both of you— a win-win.

What, when, and where you publish matters. As implied by the headline, publishing while you study rather than waiting until after you defend your dissertation can make you a more competitive candidate when you’re on the job market. Remember, the primary function of the dissertation is to demonstrate our ability to do sustained research and to get us the PhD. However, that does not mean that the dissertation in its form will immediately appeal to journal editors or book editors, the latter of whom are primarily concerned with maximizing their profits. This suggests that you should plan to revise and submit along the way. What you publish is also important. If you plan to publish your work in scholarly journals, at some point you will need to decide what the publishable unit of your research output will be. That is to say, whether it is better for you to have a small number of substantive publications or a large number of least publishable unit (LPU) papers is largely dependent on your career goals and the expectations of your particular subfield.

With that said, there are a few strategic considerations that may be helpful for you to keep in mind as you plot your path. First, it is best to plan for your paper submission stream to be as steady-state as possible—

keeping in mind that many journals have delayed lead times from the review process to the date of publication (this can range from weeks to several months depending on the venue). Second, this suggests that it is valuable to construct a productive research program (or programs) capable of generating steady streams of publishable data--again, this is where the early planning comes into play. Lastly, in order to crank out regular publications, you may need to rely on more LPUs than substantive, high-impact, or prestigious journals.

Publishing is important for academic and non-academic careers alike. As the competition for scarce positions in academic and non-academic careers rises, having publications under your belt while applying for jobs is key, as many potential employers see it as evidence that a candidate would do well. To research-oriented employers, publishing during PhD is often viewed as an indicator of success, as it demonstrates that one is able to do productive research and publish it following the scrutiny of peer review. In fact, at many research focused institutions (e.g., R1 universities) publishing and teaching IS the job. Studies have shown that those who managed to publish while they were graduate students produce more papers throughout their careers (~30% more) and are much more likely to publish every year than those who do not. To this end, if you as an applicant already have a few papers in the bag as a PhD, search committees and heads of departments who are looking

for someone to hit the ground running can see you as a much safer bet relative to applicants who have not yet demonstrated their ability to get published. Not only that, but one's publication record is also considered for career advancement and tenure-track promotions in academia -- particularly your capacity to publish independently from your PhD mentors.

Contrary to popular belief, publications can also be important when seeking jobs in industry (albeit for different reasons). So, don't buy into the misnomer that industry doesn't care about publications. I recently learned this following a series of interviews with chief scientific officers and recruiters in Big Pharma. In this case, publishing helps build your reputation as a scientist. That is, in this context, papers highlight your experience with techniques and expertise in a domain. Publications can also be used to reflect the quality of your ideas, work ethic, and transferable skills, such as your ability to work with a team and communicate well.

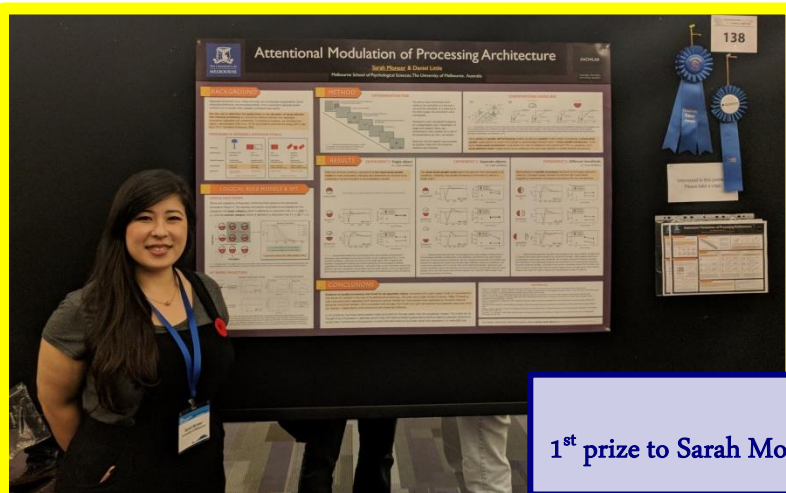
At the end of the day, academic search committees and industry recruiters want to know if you can do the job--and for many, previous performance is viewed as a reliable predictor of future performance. Thus, if you're a student who is pursuing these kinds of careers, it is never too early to start aligning your plan, path, and skills with their demands.

further reading:

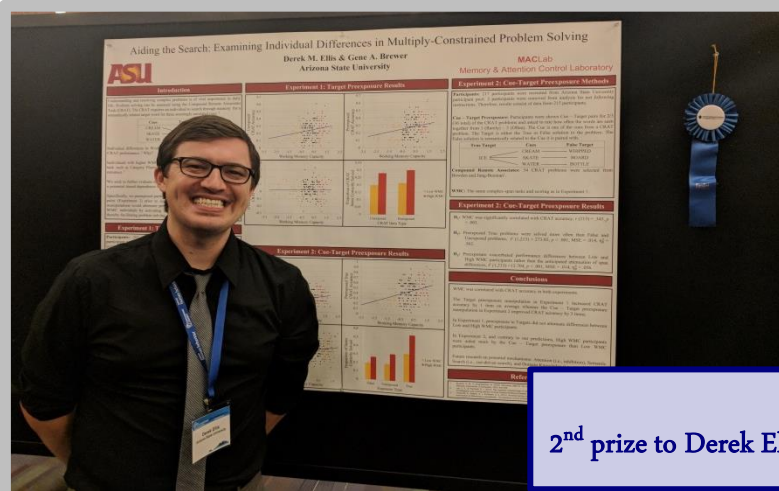
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/career-transitions/201110/writing-effective-cvs-and-resumes>

<https://www.careereducation.columbia.edu/tips-resources>

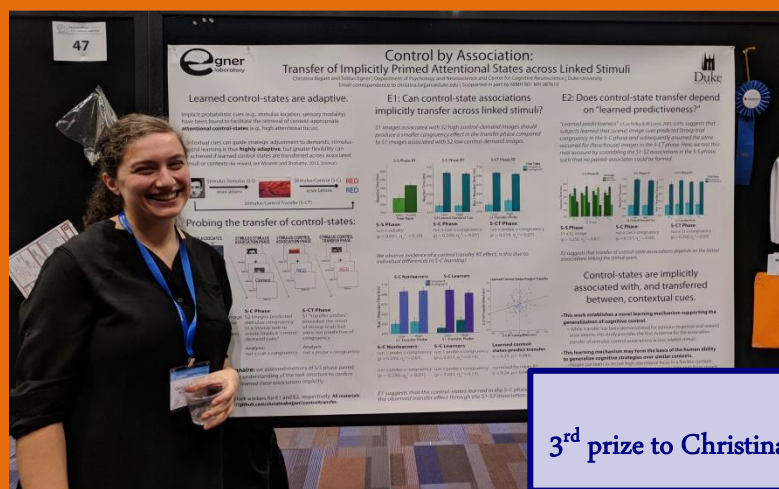
Congratulations to our SEPCS poster competition winners at the Psychonomic Society's Annual Meeting in Vancouver!



1st prize to Sarah Moneer of the University of Melbourne



2nd prize to Derek Ellis of Arizona State University



3rd prize to Christina Bejjani of Duke University

Congratulations to Anastasiya Kobrina for her SEPCS best talk award at the satellite meeting of the Comparative Cognition society in Vancouver!



Anastasiya was awarded for her talk entitled 'Mice are capable of discriminating natural from synthetic vocalizations'. Well done, Anastasiya!

SEPCS at the APA Annual Convention 2017



Sabrina Cohen-Hatton receiving her SEPCS Early Career Award with David Washburn



Morton Ann Gernsbacher receiving her SEPCS Lifetime Achievement Award with Anne Cleary

Are You Following the Science Directorate?

The APA Science Directorate plays a key role in advocating for the psychological sciences in Washington DC and beyond. Did you know that by signing up for their newsletter, *Psychological Science Agenda*, at <http://www.apa.org/science/about/psa/index.aspx> you can keep an ear to the ground on what is going on in Washington DC with regard to your science? This monthly newsletter includes news about research policy, funding, advocacy, training and awards for the psychological science community. It also includes features on new research, opportunities for scientists, and graduate student perspectives

*Like us on
Facebook!*

<https://www.facebook.com/apadiv3/>

*Check out our
Wikipedia Page!*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
Society_for_Experimental_
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*Want to
contribute?*

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SEPCS-D3 Mission

APA Division 3 promotes research and teaching in the field of experimental psychology and its many subdisciplines. It helps to stimulate the exchange of information among its members and with other sciences. SEPCS supports experimental psychology—and the science of psychology more broadly—through advocacy, service, education and training, research, policy, leadership in APA governance and collaboration with APA's directorates. Our members do basic and applied research in various settings on topics covered by the five flagship *Journals of Experimental Psychology*. Division 3 enthusiastically welcomes new members who do experimental work in any area of psychology, whether or not those scholars are also members of the APA.



Society for Experimental Psychology
and Cognitive Science **DIVISION 3**

SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL

PSYCHOLOGY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE

<http://www.apadivisions.org/division-3/>

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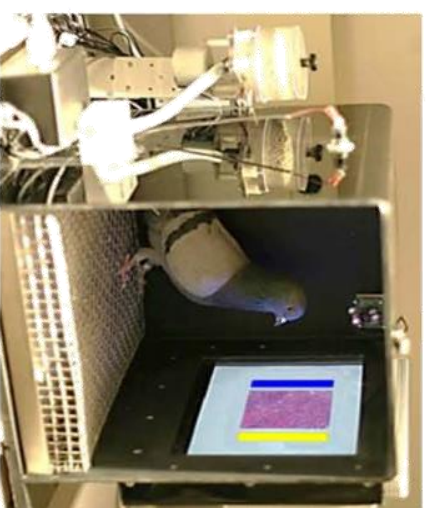
sepcs.info@gmail.com



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Society for Experimental Psychology & Cognitive Science

Division 3 of the American
Psychological Association





The Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science

The Society for you !

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<http://www.apadivisions.org/division-3/>