Hello Members of Division 34/SEPCP

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The data from the recent member survey have been analyzed and I have lots of new insights about how Division 34/SEPCP can support the professional needs of its members. It's really clear from the survey data that our listserv is an important resource – thanks to Bob Gifford for keeping it going for so many years! It was also readily apparent in the information collected that networking, sharing knowledge, and learning about new developments in psychology are all very important to the survey-takers. We have a social media committee coming up with new tools and refining the ones we currently have, which seems appropriate considering member needs/desires. Right now, we can share info about projects, etc., through this newsletter and the listserv.

Please contact me if you’re reading this and consider yourself a population psychologist. I want to make sure that the division/SEPCP is supporting your work.

Whether you’re an environmental, conservation, population, or eco psychologist, or something else, share information about your work with other members of Division 34/SEPCP in the next division newsletter. Send a write-up of your latest projects to the newsletter editor (sallyaugustin@designwithscience.com) for inclusion in an upcoming issue.

Also, feel free to send questions you would like to ask other members about research tools or techniques or anything else that’s been puzzling you. The newsletter is electronic, so article length is flexible and we can easily include photos, charts, etc.

We’ll publish news/questions from members in the first newsletter after we receive them -- so the sooner you forward your information, the sooner your write-up will get to other members.
Nominate someone deserving for the 2013 Newman-Proshansky Award -- info on the award follows in the announcements section of this newsletter.

Sally Augustin, PhD
Principal, Design With Science
sallyaugustin@designwithscience.com
President, 2012-2013, Division 34/Society of Environmental, Population, and Conservation Psychology

Member to Member

From Jennifer Veitch, recent research in lighting at National Research Council of Canada [we are re-running this article because the first time it appeared the embedded links weren’t live]:

One recent project was a literature review and research agenda concerning the effects of daylight and view through residential windows. Here is its abstract:

A 2004 report from the International Commission on Illumination introduced the concept of a necessary daily light dose that contemporary life in industrialized countries does not deliver, but to which better use of architectural daylighting could make a valuable contribution. Nearly a decade has passed since the last substantive reviews of the health and well-being effects of daylight and windows, making it time for a renewed examination of the literature. Moreover, there has been scant attention paid to the role of daylight in residential buildings, which is the focus here. This review identified three broad processes through which residential windows and skylights can affect people in their homes, for good and ill: visual processes, acting primarily through light detected at the retina by rods and cones; non-visual ocular processes, acting primarily through light detected at the retina by intrinsically photoreceptive retinal ganglion cells; and processes occurring in the skin. This qualitative review revealed that there is no shortage of research questions facing photobiologists, psychologists, architects, lighting designers and others in the broad lighting community, whether their interests are general or specific to daylighting for residences. The report includes a detailed research agenda aimed at furthering the use of daylighting and windows in the service of human well-being.

You can read a short summary of this work (written for construction industry professionals) in my organization’s quarterly newsletter here: http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/ci/v17n3/4.html, or you can download the full report here: http://nparc.cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/npsi/ctrl?action=rtdoc&an=20375039&article=0&fd=pdf.

On Thursday, December 6, I will present a one-hour webinar about this work, primarily aimed at the lighting and architectural professions. The free webinar is offered through the OSRAM Specifiers series. If you wish to join in, you must register at:
From Ann Devlin at Connecticut College:

Following up on their course work in Environmental Psychology (Psychology 320) last spring, a number of students are continuing their research by doing individual studies and honors thesis work. One student is using his study abroad experience in Sweden to collect cross-cultural data on college students’ perceptions of control and satisfaction in dormitory rooms with different levels of amenities and regulations. Students are beginning to use Amazon Mechanical Turk (mturk) to collect data, which opens up new possibilities AND challenges. A number of students from the course are also submitting their research from last spring as posters for the upcoming edra conference in Providence (edra44).

Ann’s website at Connecticut College describes her work: “Professor Devlin teaches courses on cognitive processes, industrial and organizational psychology, and environmental psychology . . . . Her expertise lies in environmental psychology, particularly in the creation of more humanistic environments in housing for the elderly and psychiatric hospitals. She also specializes in way-finding, the study of the manner in which environments (through their design and layout) and people (through their creation of maps and other tools) provide cues to help people navigate from an origin to a destination. Recently she has been using a touch-screen computer to conduct research on the types of cues (maps, photographs, written directions) that users find most helpful. Two articles using this technology, “Interactive Way-finding: Use of Cues by Men and Women,” and “Interactive Way-finding: Map Style and Effectiveness,” both co-authored with a student, were published in the Journal of Environmental Psychology . . . . Her most recent book, from Cambridge University Press (2010), titled What Americans Build and Why: Psychological Perspectives, examines five areas of Americans’ built environment: houses, healthcare facilities, schools, workplaces, and shopping environments. Synthesizing information from both academic journals and the popular press, the book looks at the relationships of size and scale to the way Americans live their lives and how their way of life is fundamentally shaped by the highway system, cheap land, and incentives.”
Announcements

Call for Nominations: 2013 Newman-Proshansky Award

We are now soliciting nominations for the 2013 Newman-Proshansky Award. The award is the Division’s professional achievement award for career contributions. When it is bestowed to an environmental psychologist, it is called the “Proshansky-Newman award,” and it is the “Newman-Proshansky award” when conferred to a population psychologist. This year, we are looking to make the award to someone who has made a contribution to the population psychology part of the division. Nominees need not be current members of the Division, but their body of work should reflect substantive contributions to population psychology. The award consists of a certificate and an opportunity to present an invited address at the APA convention in the year following the award.

Nominations should include the candidate’s curriculum vitae along with a detailed statement indicating why the nominee is a worthy candidate for the award and supporting letters from others who endorse the nomination.

Send your nominations to the Chair of the Awards Committee, Jennifer Veitch, by email at jennifer.veitch@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca. The deadline for receipt is Monday, January 7, 2013.

The review panel will include the committee members and a selection of recent award recipients.

About the Newman-Proshansky Award:


Sidney Newman was active in the APA Task Force on Psychology, Family Planning, and Population Policy established in 1969 that brought population and human reproductive issues to broader attention in American psychology and eventually led to the formation of the Division, having edited an influential monograph together with Vaida Thompson in 1976. Among other positions, Newman served in the U.S. Public Health Service and in the Center for Population Research at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Harold M. Proshansky helped give definition to the field of environmental psychology when his Environmental Psychology in the Real World was published in 1976. Proshansky abandoned his earlier laboratory research because he saw the methods, rather
than the problem, as driving the research and sought to pursue psychological research on
texts of poverty, prejudice and group conflict. Proshansky became provost and then
president of the Graduate School and the University Center of the City University of New
York.

Open Position: Sustainability and Human Behavior, University of Michigan

The School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) at the University of Michigan
seeks to fill a tenure-track position at the assistant professor level. The position is part of
a cluster of hires in the area of sustainability and human behavior, with a particular focus
on the conditions that lead individuals, organizations, communities, and other social
agents to participate in environmentally sustainable behavior and to enhance
sustainability. Applicants should demonstrate a strong record of interdisciplinary
research in domestic and/or international arenas with grounding in the social and
behavioral dimensions of sustainability.

Applications are invited from candidates with expertise in one or more of the broad array
of social and behavioral sciences, and allied professional fields including anthropology,
economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, geography and related
disciplines such as business, landscape architecture, public policy, environmental
sciences, social work, law, and public health. Evidence of research in empirical
(including experimental) social and behavioral sciences, risk analysis, common-pool
resources, and/or decision-making under uncertainty is desirable, as is the ability to work
collaboratively with diverse faculty employing a broad range of analytical approaches.

In addition to strong disciplinary training and perspective, we seek candidates with
interest in integrating knowledge from multiple academic domains. The position, one of a
cluster of three across the University of Michigan, is inherently interdisciplinary. It brings
together new and existing faculty in cross-disciplinary teaching and research efforts on
the relationships among human actions, behaviors, and sustainability. In addition to the
SNRE position, the cluster includes the Ford School of Public Policy and the Department
of Urban and Regional Planning. This cluster hiring effort is intended to broaden and
deepen the University’s commitment to research and teaching in the area of sustainability.
A successful candidate will help build greater cohesion and capability among the large
and diverse UM faculty and students interested in this field. Thus, candidates should
possess the interest, skills, and temperament to interact effectively with other researchers.

A successful candidate is expected to:

1. Develop and sustain a nationally recognized research program that attracts
   external funding while contributing to the interdisciplinary problem-focused
   mission of SNRE;
2. Teach, mentor and supervise highly motivated doctoral, master’s, and
   undergraduate students;
3. Collaborate with interdisciplinary faculty within SNRE and across the
   university; and
4. Contribute through service to the stewardship of SNRE, the University of
SNRE’s mission is to contribute to the protection of the Earth’s resources and the achievement of a sustainable society. Our faculty is diverse, with natural scientists, social scientists, engineers, designers, and planners working together in a vibrant integrative setting. The School offers a professional master’s degree in six fields of study: conservation ecology; environmental informatics; sustainable systems; environmental policy and planning; behavior, education and communication; and environmental justice. It also includes a Landscape Architecture program that offers a Master of Landscape Architecture degree. In addition, SNRE participates in multiple cross-campus degree programs, including an undergraduate Program in the Environment and dual degrees with other UM units in urban and regional planning, business, engineering, law, and public health. The SNRE student body comprises more than 400 master’s and 60 doctoral students.

This full-time, 9-month faculty appointment commences on September 1, 2013. Review of applications begins on December 15, 2012, but applications will be considered until the position is filled. The following application materials should be sent in PDF format to sustainabilityandbehavior@umich.edu: a letter of interest; curriculum vitae; a writing sample; statement of current and future research plans; statement of teaching philosophy and experience; and three letters of recommendation.

The University of Michigan is an AA/EO employer and individuals belonging to underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

Rachel Kaplan
Samuel T. Dana Professor of Environment and Behavior
School of Natural Resources and Environment
University of Michigan
440 Church St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1041, USA
734.763.1061
rkaplan@umich.edu