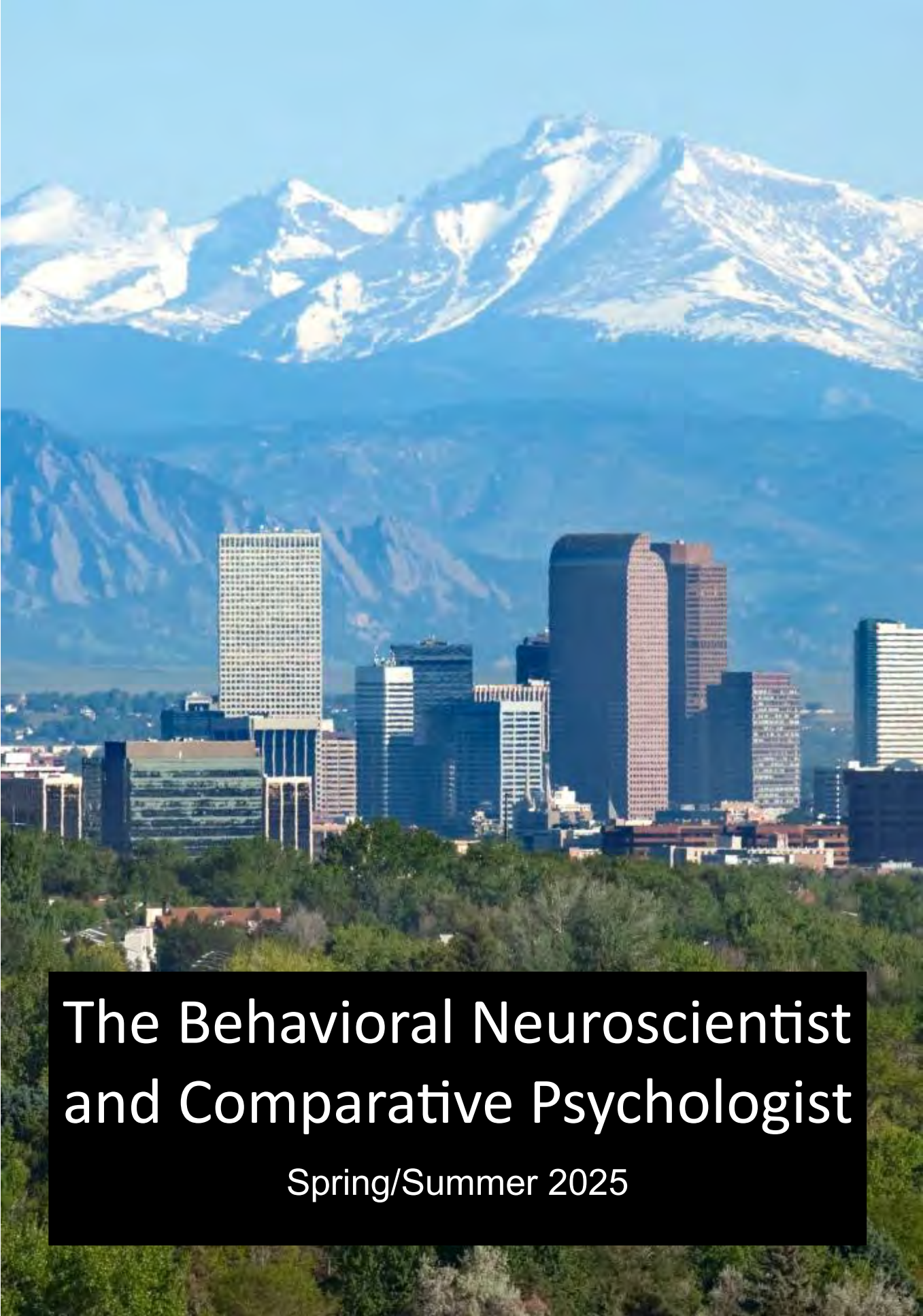


A scenic view of a city skyline, likely Denver, Colorado, with snow-capped mountains in the background. The city features several prominent skyscrapers, including the 19-story, white, rectangular building on the left and the dark, curved building in the center. The foreground is filled with green trees and foliage. The sky is clear and blue.

The Behavioral Neuroscientist and Comparative Psychologist

Spring/Summer 2025

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The President's Column: Looking Forward

Dear Colleagues,

As a scientist, I'm used to making predictions that turn out to be wrong, which is good because I could have in no way predicted all the world events that occurred in the 6 months since my last Presidential Column. The recklessness and speed with which American science has been targeted and defunded is nothing short of disastrous for current and future scientists and generations of people. Yet, the sun still rises, there is somehow always grading left to do, and we continue on in our chosen careers for as long as we can. As such, Division 6 continues on, and we continue forward.

Some important updates to be aware of:

1. Early bird registration is open for this year's APA Convention in Denver.
2. We have a wonderful lineup of speakers as organized by our program chair Dr. Heather Manitzas Hill.
3. The Denver Zoo has generously provided Division 6 members a free entry during the convention. It's a wonderful zoo and I look forward to visiting it while in Denver!
4. We're working on becoming more active on social media, and you can expect to see more posts and content over the coming year.
5. **We received enough votes to approve the creation of the Charles Henry Turner Award,** which will function to acknowledge the time, effort, passion, and dedication of those who make significant contributions towards mentoring students from diverse backgrounds.

I anticipate this year's convention being a great event and opportunity to meet, learn, collaborate, and chat about the science being done in behavioral neuroscience and comparative psychology! Dr. Manitzas Hill in particular, deserves much thanks for staying on to manage the division's program yet again, as well as all the other members of the EC who make the convention a success and the division run smoothly. We lost a great in the passing of Dr. David Washburn, and those who knew him longer and are more eloquent than I have said it better but simply, his presence is missed.

In finishing this column and in a couple of months, this time as president, I want to continue with the theme I've tried to emphasize during my time, which is to encourage continued empathy and compassion for one another, particularly our students and early career scientists. As a current visiting assistant professor, I can say that it's a terrifying time to be trying to create a career, and the loss of funding will hit the most vulnerable of us, including potential and current students and early careers, hardest of all. In whatever way is available to each of us, I hope we continue to provide compassion and empathy to them, as well as making room to share it with our peers and colleagues. I know that the division is in great hands with Dr. Eric Thrailkill taking over as president, and I want to thank the division for welcoming me over this year. Here's to better days in science and academia that we may have to fight to see again, but will certainly come.

Lauren M. Robinson, Ph.D.
2024-2025 President

Welcome the new Social Media Coordinator

Hello! My name is Dylan Davidoff, and I'm excited to step into the role of Social Media Coordinator for APA Division 6.

I graduated from Eckerd College in 2023 with a B.A. in Animal Studies and a B.S. in Marine Science. While at Eckerd, I conducted research on learning and behavior in horseshoe crabs and assisted on projects focused on rough-toothed dolphin behavior and acoustics. I also helped manage our lab's social media, which sparked my interest in science communication and outreach.

Since graduating, I have been working in Eckerd's Advancement Office while staying connected to animal behavior research on campus. As I begin looking into graduate school programs, I am thrilled for the opportunity to help expand the reach and accessibility of the amazing work happening within APA Division 6. In this role, I am hoping to strengthen our presence and engagement across social media platforms, share highlights from the *Journal of Comparative Psychology* and *Behavioral Neuroscience*, provide updates from the Division, and spotlight the outstanding research and contributions of our members.

We're also excited to officially launch our Bluesky account (@apadivision6.bsky.social) later this month, so stay tuned!

If you have ideas, suggestions, or just want to connect—please don't hesitate to reach out. I am excited to connect with many of you and help showcase the incredible work happening across our community.

—Dylan Davidoff

dkdavidoff@eckerd.edu



APA 2025, Division 6 Agenda

Addressing Barriers to Successful Dog-Human Relationships:

Bridging Science and Practice

Thursday, August 7th @ 1:00 PM

Dogs are members of nearly half of US households, yet animals with “problem behaviors” are often returned to shelters or fail to get adopted. The aim of this session is to highlight some approaches to remedying problem behaviors in domesticated dogs.

- **All Bark No Bite: Self-Control Training Fails to Live up to the Hype**
Ellen Furlong, PhD – Associate Professor, Transylvania University
- **Call for New Methodologies: Testing and Training Canine Self-Control in Real-World Contexts**
Rebecca Singer, PhD – Associate Professor, Berea College
- **Generalizing Behavior Change in Dogs for Lasting Impact: Teaching Beyond the Shelter**
Carley Faughn, PhD – Bergin College of Canine Studies

Mitigating Trauma: The Role of Dogs and Horses in Psychological Practice

Friday, August 8th @ 1:00 PM

Ongoing efforts to understand and address trauma strive to reduce symptoms, increase daily functioning, and decrease drop-out rates from empirically-supported treatments. Interactions with animals have increasingly been part of research and treatment aimed at mitigating trauma. This symposium highlights how dogs and horses play a role in clinical trauma practice.

- **Military Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Psychiatric Service Dogs**
Kevin Morris, PhD – Research Professor, University of Denver
- **Horses in the Treatment of Trauma: Myths and Clinical Considerations**
Nina Ekholm Fry – Director of Equine Programs, University of Denver

Emotional Support Animals (ESAs):

Skills, Ethics, and Legal Considerations for Psychologists

Saturday, August 9th @ 1:30 PM

Psychologists are increasingly encountering emotional support animals (ESAs) in clinical service and in settings such as colleges and universities. This interactive, skill-building session provides guidance for psychologists in navigating issues concerning ESAs such as role clarity and managing document requests in accordance with disability law.

- **Lecture by Nina Ekholm Fry**
Director of Equine Programs, University of Denver
- **Skill-Building Session**

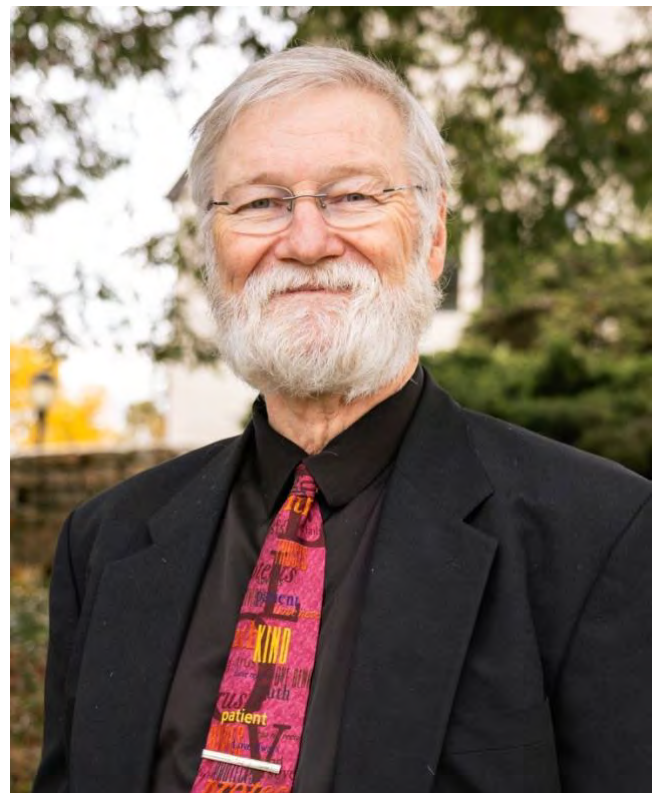
In Memory of Dr. David Washburn

The Society for Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology announces the passing of Professor Dr. David A. Washburn on January 24, 2025.

Dr. Washburn spent more than 30 years at Georgia State University in a variety of academic positions, and he contributed in many ways to the research and teaching missions of the university. He earned a B.A. in psychology in 1986 from Covenant College, and then the M.A. (1987) and Ph.D. (1991) degrees from Georgia State University in psychological sciences. He remained at Georgia State University in postdoctoral positions until he was appointed to the faculty in the Department of Psychology in 2000. He retired in 2019 as Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, having served stints as Chair of the psychology department and, for 18 years, as Director of its internationally renowned Language Research Center. The day after retiring from Georgia State, Dr. Washburn accepted an appointment at the rank of Professor of Psychology at Covenant College, where he taught and conducted research until his death.

Dr. Washburn's research was federally funded for more than 30 consecutive years, including as PI of numerous program projects from the National Institutes of Health. He generated over 200 publications, and he wrote two books. He was privileged to mentor dozens of outstanding graduate students and hundreds of talented undergraduates and to collaborate with some of the most brilliant and creative scholars in his field. Among his many accomplishments included the development and training of nonhuman primates to use computers to provide insights into their cognitive abilities. This was a revolutionary advancement in the 1980s, allowing monkeys and apes to generate tremendous amounts of data as they worked on "computer games" that assessed everything from their basic perceptual experiences to their self-reflective metacognitive abilities. This new approach was supported for many years by NASA as part of a project to assess the psychological well-being of primates involved in the space program. Dr. Washburn's research extended beyond nonhuman primates, and he was one of the world's experts on the executive attention of humans. In addition, he engaged in research that took a pedagogical focus to better understand ways to improve teaching and learning for students.

Dr. Washburn received many recognitions in his career. He was a Fellow of Division 2 (Teaching of Psychology), Division 3 (Experimental), Division 6 (Behavioral Neuroscience & Comparative Psych), and Division 26 (History of Psychology) of the American Psychological Association (APA). He was also a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and the Psychonomic Society. He was elected an Honorary Member for Life of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP). He was elected and served as the President for Division 3 and Division 6 of the APA, as President of the SSPP, and as President of the Southeastern Psychological Association. He received Georgia State University's Exceptional Faculty Service Award and the Clifford T. Morgan Distinguished Service



Award from Division 6 of APA. He was nominated (with Duane Rumbaugh) by Yale University Press for the Grawemeyer Award for Psychology. These awards and recognitions speak to his excellence and international reputation as a scholar, teacher, mentor, and communicator of science.

What is not captured in his CV is the extent to which he made every group he was a part of more collegial and, in many cases, so much more fun. He was an excellent organizer of fun and weird events for his lab, his research center, and his department (paintball, bumper cars, pie-eating contests, intramural sports, and so forth), and he always supported the well-being of his students and colleagues in any way he could.

Dr. Washburn is survived by his beloved wife of more than 40 years, Catherine Anne (nee Childs), their children: Joshua Daniel (and Alahna Watson) Washburn, Timothy David Washburn, Jonathan Paul (and Danielle, nee Tabor) Washburn, Rachel Washburn, and Julie (nee Van Winkle, and Dr. Tyler) Brumback, and six grandchildren: Eliana, Annabelle, Benjamin, Malachi and Chloe Brumback and Wesley Washburn.

Michael Beran

There really isn't a way to easily sum up who David Washburn was and what he meant to me. David's very first job was to chase me AWAY from GSU, as he was the guy Duane Rumbaugh sent out to see if potential grad students had what it took to work at a primate center. David told me I would work long hours, weekends, and probably not even get paid. I told him I had no sense of style or hobbies that required much money, I did not have much to do on weekends anyhow, and I just wanted to study animal minds. I guess that worked because I made it past him that first day and into Duane's office. From there, David and I became friends and colleagues well before Duane retired and David took me on as a student for the end of my PhD studies. He supported me when I decided not to leave GSU and stay in a "soft money" position at the LRC, he supported me when grants were rejected, and then when I had the chance to join the faculty at GSU he supported me again. Along the way, he also drove to my house one Sunday and sat with my year-old daughter for 8 hours while I was too sick to move, and my wife was out of town. He and his family shared their Halloweens, Easters, and many other holidays with us and with our lab. We stood together and watched our wives and daughters walk by on their way to completing a 2-day or 3-day walk to raise money for breast cancer research (David often being in a costume of some sort and with Jello shots on hand for the walking women!). He also stole my wheelchair one time after I injured myself at the GSU rec center, and he was chastised by a 20-something for trying to make it pop wheelies. I won't get into the TWO times he almost got me arrested at the Canadian border!

Professionally, David introduced me to the importance of service roles in organizations such as Division 6 (and Division 3, SEPA, and SSPP). He modeled what it meant to sacrifice time and energy to support our field, and I have tried really hard to match his wonderful efforts. He taught me that teaching and service were as important as papers and grants. He taught me that science can and should be fun, and that the best ideas often come from not thinking too much about what "should be" but instead about what "might be."

Most importantly, David was my trusted friend for nearly 30 years. I will miss him terribly, and he will not be forgotten.

Jennifer Vonk

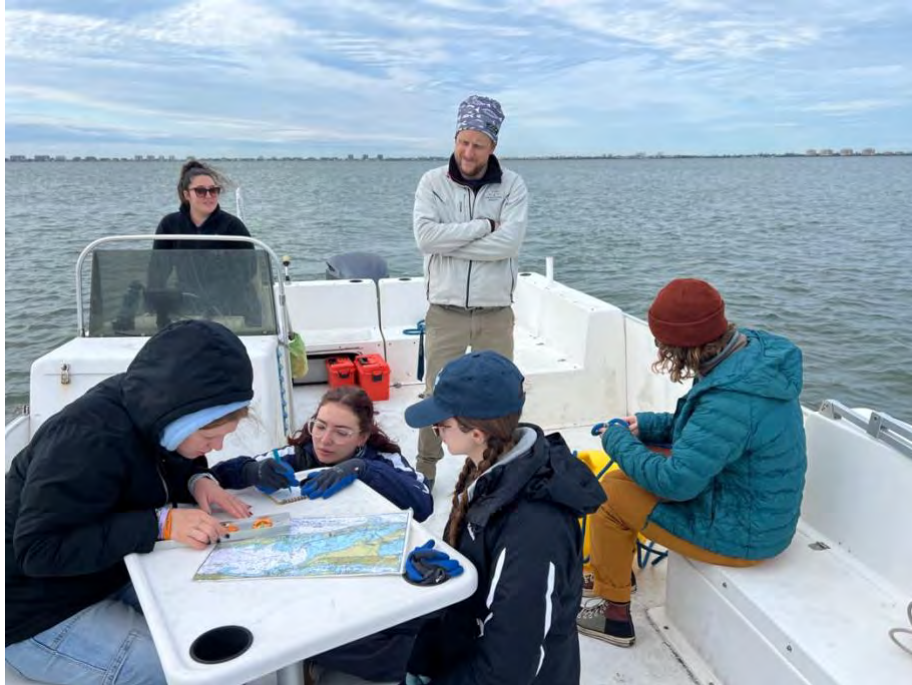
I didn't get to spend a lot of time with David but I was a huge admirer of his immense contributions to animal cognition and his tremendous investment in service to the field. So I don't have the amazing stories that his close friends and colleagues do, but I did get to know David when he invited me to serve as program chair during one of his Division 6 presidential years. I was so honoured that David would think of me for the role that I agreed, partially because the conference was in Toronto that year and I thought it would be a chance to visit the city where I spent my years as a doctoral student. During the convention, I was so busy managing all of the sessions that I didn't really have any time to visit old friends or just explore the city again. When I mentioned that to David, he said "I was counting on you not figuring that out when I asked you to serve." That was David - thoughtful and clever! He had remembered somehow that I was from Toronto and would be inclined to say yes. David always wrote the most amazing letters of support for his students and colleagues. He was kind enough to write letters for my promotions over the years and I was always struck by how insightful and diplomatic he was. He must have put so much time into those letters and I heard that he was still writing them a few weeks before he passed. David was one of a kind and irreplaceable. He also made so many amazing contributions to the encyclopedia of Animal Cognition and Behavior that I edited with Todd Shackelford. He was so willing to donate his time to those sorts of projects because he thought they would be valuable resources to the field. And he was a beautiful writer. He is missed.



Announcements

New Master of Science in Marine Mammal Science Program

New College of Florida, located on Sarasota Bay, would like to report that we opened a new Master of Science in Marine Mammal Science Program in August 2024. Our interdisciplinary two-year thesis-based program offers research training focused on marine mammals in comparative psychology, neuroscience, bioacoustics, ecology, and conservation. We also have partnerships with aquariums, labs, and field-based biologists across Florida, the U.S., and the world. For more information, see our website at ncf.edu/mimms.



22nd Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Comparative Psychology

Join us for an exciting opportunity to explore the cutting-edge discoveries and ongoing research in Comparative Psychology. Engage with fellow scholars and exchange ideas in this dynamic field!

December 3-5 @ Fundación Konrad Lorenz, Bogotá, Colombia

Registration opens June 15th

Invited Speakers include: Miriam García-Mijares, Brazil; Sara Cowie, New Zealand; Federico Sanabria, USA; Leonardo Ortega, Colombia; Clive Wynne, USA

See the website for more information: www.comparativepsychology.org

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