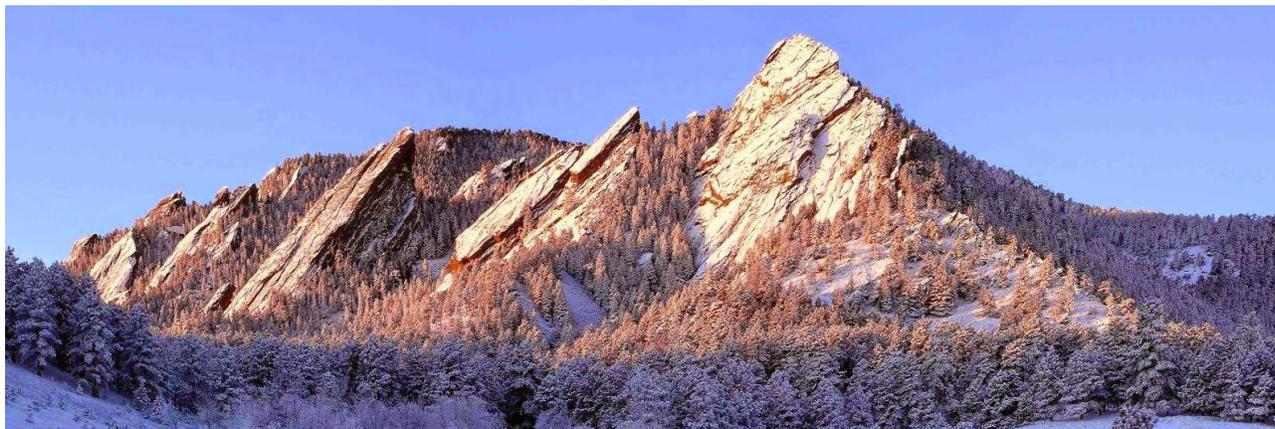


# 38th Annual Meeting Society for Descriptive Psychology



**October, 27-30 2016  
American Mountaineering Center  
Golden, CO**

The Society for Descriptive Psychology is a Community exploring the Person Concept: The interdependent conceptual framework of Person, Behavior, Language, and World to create common ground for the Human Sciences.

This year's topics include discussion on the extensive treatment of the relationship between brain and behavior, as well as implementing Descriptive Psychology in different treatment modalities and institutes. Other presentations will examine the concept of *cognitive closure*, elucidate science denialism, explore the conceptual similarities between Descriptive Psychology and physics, and present a variety of clinical cases that are conceptualized using a Descriptive Psychology framework.

The goal of this year's conference is to continue the exploration of Descriptive Psychology as a conceptual approach to a broad range of topics within the behavioral sciences, neurobehavioral sciences, social sciences, and humanities, continue building the Descriptive Psychology Community, and to promote further discussion about new approaches to disseminating Descriptive Psychology concepts and applications.

## **Registration Information**

[Click here to register for the Conference and Continuing Education credits!](#)

Attendees will be able to earn up to 13.5 Continuing Education credits during the meeting.

Registration on or before September 15th includes the Banquet and meals.

The fee for the Banquet will require a separate payment of \$80 after that date.

**In-person registration  
will be available  
at the American Mountaineering Center  
on the days of the program.**

# 2016 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## October 27-30

[The American Mountaineering Center Golden, CO](#)

### THURSDAY, OCT 27, EVENING SESSION

3:30 - 5:25 Board meeting (AMC Drumwright Board Room)

5:30 - 6:30 Check in/Meet and Greet (AMC)  
A light dinner buffet will be served

6:30 - 7:00 *The Conference will be convened*  
*Announcements*  
*Introduction of the President*

7:00 - 8:30 *Presidential Address- Notes on the Relationship between Persons and Embodiment*

Ned Kirsch, PhD

Abstract: The burden of explicating Persons and their worlds is carried by Descriptive Psychology. In doing this, Descriptive Psychology also carries the burden of identifying what must be the case about neurological embodiment (what embodied mechanisms must provide for, not what they are, how they are implemented, biologically or otherwise, how they operate, or how they interact) in order for there to be Persons and their worlds. The burden of explicating the specific embodied mechanisms by which the world of Persons is achieved, that is how those mechanisms provide for Persons, is carried by Neuroscience (at least, for humans). However, the embodied mechanisms that provide for Persons can only be identified as being what they are (that is, both predicted and recognized as having the significance of being contributing components to what is required neurologically for there to be human Persons, or in some other way for hypothetical non-human Persons), because there is a conceptually primary world of Persons that offers such guidance. What these two worlds share, and what we believe can be represented as an inextricable conceptual relationship, is recognition that there are no Persons without embodiment and that there is no significance for embodiment without a world of Persons.

**FRIDAY OCT 28, MORNING SESSION**

8:15 - 9:00 Breakfast

(served in the AMC Conference Room)

9:00 – 10:00 ***Infidelity Through the Lens Of Trauma: An Empirical Investigation***

Ray Bergner, Ph.D

Abstract: This research, informed by a Descriptive Psychologically based formulation of the nature of trauma, examined the reactions of women to their initial discovery of infidelity on the part of their spouses or close romantic partners. In a preliminary phase of the study, hypotheses were developed based on themes generated from the letters of 100 distressed women posting anonymously to self-help forums. Based on these themes, a new questionnaire, the Infidelity Discovery Reactions Scale (IDRS), was developed and administered online to a sample of women who were solicited on the basis that they had recently made an initial discovery of partner infidelity. Results indicated that scores on the IDRS strongly correlated with scores on the PTSD Checklist (PCL), a well-established measure of trauma, suggesting that that the discovery of infidelity is traumatic for many woman. Implications of these findings for clinical practice, psychometric results bearing on clinical use of the IDRS, and limitations of the present study are discussed.

10:00 - 10:10 Break

10:10 – 10:40 ***Neuro-baseball: An Allegory******The Requirements for a Scientifically Valid Neuropsychology***

Joe Jeffrey, PhD

Abstract: Neuropsychology studies neurological states of affairs (structures, objects, and processes), at several levels, related to behavior, including deliberate action, emotional behavior, and cognition. It has the potential to shed light on, and be a valuable tool in understanding and treating, a number of aspects of human phenomena, including psychological assessment, rehabilitation, and forensics, e.g., the possibility of better lie detection. That potential can only be realized, however, if the design, implementation, and interpretation of neuropsychological research are based on a precise, systematic, and comprehensive framework encompassing the entire range of possible behavioral facts involved. Without such a framework, one can never know what independent variables have not been recognized (and therefore not controlled), or what theoretical assumptions are being used unknowingly in interpreting the results. This talk illustrates this connection by examining the (imaginary) discipline of neuro-baseball: science that studies the neurology of baseball players in real time. This presentation is intended as an

introduction to the much more extensive presentation by Dr. Ned Kirsch, articulating the exact relationship between brain and behavior.

10:40 - 10:50 Break

10:50 –12:20 *Using Descriptive Psychological Language to Discuss and Evaluate Neuroscience findings: A Panel Discussion*

Ned Kirsch, Ph.D., (with Joe Jeffrey, Paul Zeiger and Ray Bergner)

Abstract: The panel will field questions from the audience to encourage a discussion on using the language and conceptual-notional devices of Descriptive Psychology to clarify neuroscience findings and how it relates to behavior of Persons.

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch

(served in the AMC Conference Room)

### **FRIDAY OCT 28, AFTERNOON SESSION**

1:30 - 2:30 *Love and Marriage, Love and Marriage... the challenges of marital therapy*

Laurie Bergner, Ph.D

Abstract: Just as marriage itself is challenging even in the best of relationships, so is marital therapy. With many years of experience as a marital therapist, Dr. Laurie Bergner will discuss the challenges of this very special area of therapy. Included will be what are appropriate goals for therapy, recognizing common patterns of relationships, and the varied ways that the marital therapist can work to create positive change or to help the partners terminate the relationship constructively.

2:30 - 2:40 Break

2:40 - 3:40 *The Descriptive Psychologist in the room: what the perspective offers*

CJ Peek, PhD

Abstract: Descriptive Psychology affords powerful ways to organize one's thinking about almost anything likely to be encountered by people doing work. But what is the contribution of a Descriptive Psychologist in the room? What does the DP person do or be in that room? How do you walk in as a DP, rather than wearing only one of your more conventional hats? One observer said, "As far as I can tell, Descriptive Psychologists help you become much clearer about what you are looking at—whatever that is".

3:40 - 3:50 Break

3:50 - 4:50 *Understanding “Ultimate Practice” through Deontological Ethics*

Erol Zeybekoglu, Psy.D

Abstract:

5:00-7:00 Free time for dinner on your own and enjoying Golden.

**FRIDAY OCT 28, EVENING SESSION**

7:00-7:30 *And the Beat Goes On*

Moderated by Charlie Kantor, PhD

Abstract: This is an informal opportunity for conference participants to briefly share the ways they are using Descriptive Psychology, invite discussion or just give an update on their continuing work.

7:30 - 8:30 *Society Business Meeting*

Moderated by Ned Kirsch, PhD

SDP President

The major topic, as introduced and moderated by Ned Kirsch, President, SDP, will be discussion of strategies for fostering the survival of Descriptive Psychology and the Society for Descriptive Psychology

**SATURDAY, OCT 29, MORNING SESSION**

8:15 - 9:00 Breakfast

(served in the AMC Conference Room)

9:00 - 10:00 *Having Fun with the Judgment Diagram*

Wynn Schwartz, Ph.D

Abstract: Dr. Schwartz will be examining the concept of “authenticity” and how it is becoming a “wastebasket” term. The judgment diagram, emotion formula, and the concept of significance implementations will be used to support Dr. Schwartz’s argument.

10:00 - 10:10 Break

10:10 - 12:20 *Clinical Case Presentations*

Sonja Holt, PhD, Fernand Lugubuin, PhD, and Graduate Student Presenters from the University of Denver, Clinical Psychology Program

(Or professional development presentation by Dr. Bryan Harnsberger, Psy.D on social media and community, integrating social media into your own practice, walkthrough of available social media platforms to implement for the advancement of Descriptive Psychology).

12:30 Lunch (on your own) and afternoon free for personal business, meetings, and recreation

### **SATURDAY, OCT 29, EVENING**

7:30 *Society Banquet*

*Announcements and Celebration*

### **SUNDAY, OCT 30, MORNING SESSION**

8:15 - 9:00 Breakfast

(served in the AMC Conference Room)

9:00 - 10:00 *Descriptive Psychology and the Laws of Physics*

Joe Jeffrey, Ph.D

**Abstract:** Most of us have heard of Newton's laws, quantum mechanics, and relativity. But where do they come from? *Why* does  $F = ma$ ? Why do very tiny particles have to be described by quantum mechanics instead of Newton's laws? Why does light *always* travel at the same speed? In physics classes we learn, "That's just how the universe is."

This is unsatisfying. It means the physical world, that which sets innumerable limits on us as humans, is arbitrary. It "just turns out" that  $F = ma$ . But  $F = ma$  governs every single ordinary interaction we have every ordinary object. So it "just turns out" that, e.g., if your car hits a wall at 60 mph you're dead? Really?

Descriptive Psychologists are generally familiar with Ossorio's observation that everything can be treated as a (defective) case of a person: dogs, clams, quarks. Using this observation, and asking some unusual questions, reveals that the laws of physics are not arbitrary at all. In this talk we'll see that asking, "What does a baseball know," reveals why things have inertia, and that  $F = ma$ . By asking, "What do two people, one inside and one outside, of a spaceship see," we can find out why the speed of light is constant. By asking, "What can we say about what happens to an object when it travels through some area so peculiar that we can *in principle* say nothing about what happens in that area," we find that quantum mechanics is forced upon us – it *could not* be any other way

The aim of this talk is to provide new understanding and, possibly, appreciation of the relationship between the physical world and the human one. And all without mathematics!

10:00 - 10:10 Break

10:10 - 11:10 *When in Doubt, Get Descriptive*

Timothy Doyle, PhD

Abstract: This presentation shows how Descriptive Psychology concepts are used in a Philosophy of Science course in order to help students gain an overview and understanding of the similarities and differences between different kinds of ‘science denialism’. Science denialism is rampant in our culture today, though no one group has a monopoly on it; science denialism is found across the entire political spectrum, from far left to far right, and in diverse areas of thought from religious fundamentalism to postmodern critiques of science. The presentation focuses on the use of ‘parametric analysis’ and ‘judgment diagram’ constructs that can be applied to better understand how denialists might move from a set of circumstances and values, to specific behaviors.

11:10 - 11:20 Break

11:20 - 12:20 *The World, Worlds and Reality: A Historic and Substantive Account of the Descriptive Psychology View*

Tony Putman, Ph.D,

Abstract: Descriptive Psychology differs from other approaches to behavioral science in many ways, but perhaps the most distinctive and important difference is the place “world” has in its conceptual structure. From the beginning, Peter Ossorio articulated “world” not merely as a background context for the behavior of persons but as an inextricable part of the Person concept. From 1964 to the present day, the Descriptive Psychology concept of “world” (and its companion, “reality”) has deepened and evolved in ways that give unparalleled access to matters of great current interest. This presentation will offer an historical overview of the concept and its evolution, with a substantive account of what it all means. Tony Putman began studying worlds with Dr. Ossorio in 1965 and has been engaged with the concept ever since.

12:30 - 2:00 Lunch

(served in the AMC Conference Room)

12:30 - 2:00 *Board Meeting*

(AMC Drumwright Board Room)

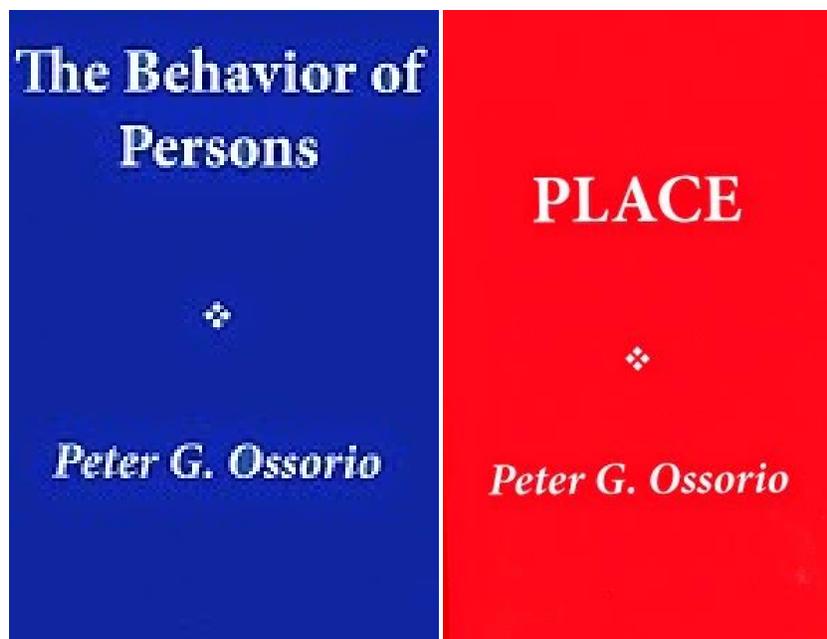
## **Further Information about the Society, Descriptive Psychology and Student Support**

Information on The Society for Descriptive Psychology can be found on the Society's website: <http://www.sdp.org>

Please consider supporting student presentations by donating to The Student's Fund. The Society for Descriptive Psychology is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible, but please consult with your tax advisor. A PayPal button that directs you to a donation site can also be found at: <http://www.sdp.org>

A brief orientation to Descriptive Psychology can be found in the postings, [People Make Sense: Foundations for a Human Science](#) and [A Short Course in Descriptive Psychology](#).

Peter Ossorio's masterwork, **The Behavior of Persons**, and his volume of status dynamic maxims, **Place**, are now available in paperback from the [Descriptive Psychology Press](#).



## **Information about Lodging**

Lodging is available at the [Golden Hotel](#) and the [Hampton Inn](#).  
Call the hotels directly to make reservations.

Conference Discounts are available at:

The **Days Inn** ([303-278-6600](tel:303-278-6600)) under "Society for Descriptive Psychology" \$119/night

The **Golden Hotel** by the deadline of 9/21/15 ([303-279-0100](tel:303-279-0100)) under "Society for Descriptive Psychology" \$169/night for a King Suite, or \$192/night for a Deluxe Double Queen Suite with a sleeper sofa, sleeps 3 people – a great option for students or anyone who wishes to share a room and save (equates to \$64 a person/night)

Other hotels in the area that have competitive rates:

**Denver West Marriot:** <http://www.marriott.com/reservation>

**Table Mountain Inn:** <http://www.tablemountaininn.com>

## **Find Descriptive Psychology on Social Media**



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