

48th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology
Prague, Czech Republic, 3-6 July 2025
Call for Proposals & Papers

Social Identity, Political Conflict, and the Future of Democracy

Where: Prague University of Economics and Business, Prague, Czech Republic

When: 3-6 July 2025

President: Christopher M. Federico (University of Minnesota, USA)

Conference Program Co-Chairs: Christina Farhart (Carleton College, USA), Xiaowen Xu (William & Mary, USA), Andrea De Angelis (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 1 December 2024

The International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) invites scholars from different disciplines (political science, psychology, international relations, history, sociology, economics, anthropology, media and communication, gender studies, and more) to share ideas, theories, and current research on political and psychological processes that address the interplay between different types of identity (national, ethnic/racial, partisan, etc.) and the consequences of such interplay for democratic values and practice, with an eye to how we might protect robust, socially diverse democratic societies.

Throughout the globe, democracy and democratic norms have come under strain. This can be seen in the rise of authoritarian-populist leaders and regimes in societies as diverse as the United States, Hungary, Türkiye, Brazil, India, and elsewhere. But is also evident in opinion research showing increased willingness to abandon democratic values in the face of political loss, declining trust in democratic institutions, and varying degrees of increased tolerance for political violence.

The strains facing democracy in the present era often have their roots in social identity and conflicts linked to important social identities—nation, race, religious, ideology, and partisanship, to name a few. These include conflicts about whether national identity should be construed in a restrictive or expansive fashion in the face of demographic change, conflicts with arising from longstanding inequalities linked to group identities as varied as race, religion, and class, and conflicts between competing cultural visions in rapidly changing societies. When these identity-linked conflicts begin to overlap heavily with the identities that organized political competition—such as partisanship and ideology—the potential for democratic strain only increases.

Political psychology is uniquely situated to address the nexus between identity, political conflict, and the future of democracy. For the Prague conference, we encourage submissions that address these issues and related phenomena across the globe. The conference will be an opportunity to discuss innovative interdisciplinary research aimed at theorizing, empirically examining, and offering practical solutions to problems faced by democracies as they navigate conflicts linked to core social identities. We invite research that explores the psychological foundations of social and political identity, psychological processes that reinforce—or challenge—the inequalities that often fuel identity-based conflict, and factors that allow robust, socially-diverse democratic societies to flourish. We also invite work that examines the motivations and behaviors of leaders, activists, and citizens who either seek to undermine or preserve and extend democratic institutions.

We extend a warm welcome both to ISPP members and to scholars from all disciplines and countries and from all theoretical and methodological perspectives to submit their academic

contributions and research to our conference. All types of submissions (proposals for individual papers, panels, roundtables, and posters) on any topic in political psychology are equally welcome. We encourage the inclusion of discussants for panel proposals.

The conference will offer participants the opportunity to learn from, and interact with, distinguished keynote speakers addressing psychological processes at the interface of nationhood, social identity, and democratic practice. Per longtime ISPP practice, there will be an opportunity to attend a panel discussion with the editors of the Society's flagship journals, *Political Psychology* and *Advances in Political Psychology*. We will also offer mentoring events, networking opportunities for early-career scholars, the Scholars Under Threat Symposium, and prior to the conference, the ISPP Summer Academy.

Dr. Christina Farhart, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Carleton College, USA. *Program Co-Chair*.

Dr. Xiaowen Xu, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences, William & Mary, USA. *Program Co-Chair*.

Dr. Andrea De Angelis, SNF Ambizione Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, Switzerland. *Program Co-Chair*.

Dr. Christopher M. Federico, Professor, Departments of Political Science and Psychology, University of Minnesota, USA. *ISPP President*.