

Call for Papers ISPP Annual Conference

9-11 July 2023 in Montréal, Québec, Canada

**Understanding how social change emerges, evolves, and manifests in modern societies:
The role of social norms in shaping human behavior**

The International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) invites scholars from different disciplines (psychology, political science, psychiatry, history, sociology, economics, anthropology, among others) to share ideas, theories, and current research addressing political and psychological processes that take place at the individual, collective and societal levels, that in one way or another, relate to social change.

Societies constantly change. Sometimes, change takes time; such as the two centuries that have passed since the first feminists claimed equality between men and women and the continued struggle for bodily autonomy, economic parity, and other disparities today. In other cases, a few hours are enough to trigger major social movements, that lead to national and international conversations and policy change. Incremental progress and resulting backlashes emerge in the areas of gender equality, suffrage, LGBTQ+ rights and protections, civil liberties, and the integration or rejection of immigrants and other minority groups. Societies across the globe have seen a plethora of these examples, in which unexpected changes arise with varying degrees of spontaneity and are permanently installed, modifying the course of history.

In the Montréal, Québec, conference, we seek to address this and related phenomena by discussing cutting-edge interdisciplinary research aimed at understanding how social change emerges, evolves, and manifests in modern societies. We seek to stimulate discussions about the development of conceptual models of social change that advance our understanding of the underlying mechanisms that regulate people's behavior, set group memberships, and define what is socially desirable.

Across social sciences, the study of these mechanisms has been conducted using the cross-disciplinary concept of social norms. Although social norms involve top-down mechanisms, such as legal systems or internal regulations, it has been argued that much more commonly, social norms are a partly spontaneous, bottom-up, interactive process that emerge in social life (Cialdini, 2009; Hechter, & Opp, 2001; Legros, & Cislighi, 2020; Tankard, & Paluck, 2016). Though many factors may influence any given process of social change, changes in social norms seem to be present in all relevant social changes.

There are reasons to focus on the potential of social norms to explain social change. First, in contrast to cultural or economic changes that require long periods of time to consolidate, changes in social norms can be extremely fast, requiring minimum psychological engagement to be effective (see Cialdini, 2009; Tankard, & Paluck, 2016; Thaler, 2015). Second, the notion of a norm is a flexible concept used by all social sciences (with variations), which allows the development of a common ground of interdisciplinary understanding (Legros, & Cislighi, 2020). Norms are thus related to how citizens develop key capacities and motives necessary to participate meaningfully and effectively in public affairs, social life, and democratic processes that lead to social change. In this annual conference, we seek to discuss possible antecedents of norms that generate social change, factors predicting the emergence of new social norms, conditions under which these processes take place, and how norms arise and consolidate. We

also expect to discuss how to intervene or promote the development of new norms that foster behavioral changes in different social domains.

We warmly invite members of ISPP and scholars from all disciplines and cultures using a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches to submit their academic contributions and research to our annual conference. All types of submissions (proposals for individual papers, panels, roundtables, presentations, blitz, and posters) on any topic in political psychology are welcome.

The conference will offer participants the opportunity to learn from and interact with distinguished keynote speakers addressing social change and the roles of norms. As in past years, there is an opportunity to attend a panel discussion with the editors of our journals, *Political Psychology* and *Advances in Political Psychology*, as well as social opportunities for early-career scholars, mentoring sessions, our Scholars under Threat symposium, and finally, the ISPP Academy held prior to the conference.

Montréal is an accessible, multicultural, and amazing city that offers fascinating museums, performing arts venues, and world-class universities. The city also borders some of the most beautiful landscapes and waterways in North America. Come share, learn, and participate in the 2023 Montréal conference!

Dr. **Amanda Friesen**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Affiliate, Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Western University, Canada. Director of Body Politics Lab. *Program Co-Chair*.

Dr. **Tania Gosselin**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Université du Québec à Montréal, Co-director of the Laboratoire d'analyse en communication politique et opinion publique (LACPOP). *Program Co-Chair*.

Dr. **Rosa Rodriguez-Bailon**, Professor of Social Psychology, Department of Social Psychology, Co-Principal Investigator of the Social Psychology Inequality Lab, University of Granada, Spain. *Program Co-Chair*.

Dr. **Roberto González**, Professor of Social Psychology, School of psychology faculty of Social Science, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile. Principal researcher of the Centre for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES), and associate investigator of the Center for Intercultural and Indigenous Research (CIIR). *ISPP President*.