

POLICY, SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, AND YOU

Thursday, January 28, 2016, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Chair: Wendy Wood, Univ. of Southern California

SPSP's 2016 President Wendy Wood will be hosting a discussion that will answer questions ranging from, "are policy jobs out there for me?" to, "how can we improve the world by developing science-based policy?" We will all be asking such questions, given President Obama's 2015 Executive Order to use behavioral science insights to better serve the American people.

Speakers: Michael Norton, Craig Fox, Richard Thaler

ABSTRACTS

COLLABORATING WITH GOVERNMENT: A CASE STUDY ON TRANSPARENCY

I will discuss the results of a collaborative research project with the city of Boston, Massachusetts where increasing operational transparency — showing the work being done for citizens — improved perceptions of government. I'll then offer thoughts on how to initiate such collaborations, and how to increase the likelihood of follow through.

Michael Norton¹

¹Harvard Business School

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN SOCIAL SCIENCE AND POLICY

Policymakers are increasingly receptive to insights from social science, yet these scientists rarely have direct impact on policy with their research. In my talk I'll derive lessons from the success of neoclassical economists and enterprising behavioral scientists in influencing policy, and motivate a more effective approach to behavioral policy research.

Craig Fox¹

¹Univ. of California, Los Angeles

IMPROVING PUBLIC POLICY: HOW PSYCHOLOGISTS CAN HELP

Giving advice to policy makers is a job for which economists have held a monopoly. This needs to change, and thanks to the rapid spreading of behavioral insight teams in the UK, US and around the world, there is growing demand for input from behavioral scientists. No group is better prepared to offer helpful advice than social psychologists. Stop complaining about government: do something about it!

Richard Thaler¹

¹Univ. of Chicago

MEMOS TO THE PRESIDENT FROM A "COUNCIL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE ADVISERS"

What do psychological scientists want to tell President Obama, and what might make him listen? This talk will highlight insights drawn from Perspectives on Psychological Science's recent special series that received proposals from more than 400 psychologists about how they would use the most robust psychological research findings to inform public policy.

Bethany Teachman¹

¹Univ. of Virginia