LETTER FROM SQIP COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Dear SQIP Members,

As Communications Officer, and also as Program Chair of our 2020 Conference and now the organizer of our Virtual Salons, I want to tell you about some exciting new things happening at SQIP. This spring and summer have been a tumultuous time – full of difficulties, loss, fear, disorientation, and also opportunities for change and growth. Through it all, the SQIP Executive Committee have been working to ensure that SQIP remains a source of collegiality, community, and intellectual vitality. We’ve been developing a number of initiatives to help support our members and keep our community connected and vibrant.

The first of these initiatives is our **SQIP Virtual Salons**. After the cancellation of our 2020 Summer Conference, the SQIP Executive Committee and the 2020 Program Committee worked together to find a way for qualitative researchers all over the world to come together and share ideas, as we typically do at our conference. The SQIP Salons are a series of monthly events, starting in August and continuing through the winter. They will be held online, and will be free and open to the public. Each lasting about 90 minutes, the Salons will showcase some of the panels and speakers from the 2020 conference program, as well as new developments in the field.

Letter from Communications Officer continued on page 5
RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: DR. ANJALI DUTT AND CARE CINCINNATI

By Logan Barsigian, Ph.D. student, University of California, Santa Cruz
Special thanks to interviewee, Dr. Anjali Dutt, University of Cincinnati

“We are part of a global community, and that global community exists in Cincinnati, and what affects one community likely affects another community.” This essential understanding underlies how Anjali Dutt, Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Cincinnati, approaches her current research projects with refugee communities in the greater Cincinnati area. Trained in social psychology, but firmly grounded in the aims of community psychology, Dutt’s core interests center on the relationship between global and local inequalities, and how the interconnections of the global community are mirrored in the interconnections of local communities.

Though many of her projects are mixed methods, Dutt credits her ongoing interest in qualitative psychology to an undergraduate class on the psychology of power, privilege, and oppression taught by Professor Karen Howe at the College of New Jersey. As a biracial, first generation Indian American, who benefits from white privilege, Dutt was able to understand her own experiences of privilege, marginalization, and erasure in more critical ways, saying: “that class was the first time I was thinking deeply about the structural reasons why inequalities exist and the systemic consequences of that...it was the first time that my life made sense in a more academic way.” Dutt was profoundly impacted by the inclusion of narratives from marginalized communities, in contrast to the sole focus on quantitative work in other psychology courses. “I would not have been able to articulate at that moment that it was a methodological reason that I found some topics more interesting than others...but, over time I came to see that what I was interested in needed something more humanizing.”

During graduate school, Dutt pursued multiple projects centering the voices of women working toward social change in their communities, including a narrative analysis of the oral histories of three lifelong women activists (Dutt & Grabe, 2014) and an inductive thematic analysis of interviews with members of a grassroots feminist organization in rural Nicaragua (Dutt & Grabe, 2019). In addition to furthering her interest in qualitative methods, Dutt credits this work with deepening her understanding of whose knowledge is considered legitimate in mainstream psychology, saying “my work as a graduate student really underscored for me the brilliance that exists in the global south that isn’t circulated, or that exists among community members with less privilege. There’s so much wisdom that came from conversation, from seeing what people are doing to create change in their own communities, because the structures that exist are unreliable and were built to support those with the most power.”

Research Spotlight continued on page 6
LETTER FROM INCOMING PRESIDENT

Andrew Bland, Ph.D.
Millersville University

Dear SQIP members,

I am excited and honored to serve as president of SQIP during 2020-21! As I prepare to step into this role, I want to take a moment to introduce myself to you.

For a quick biographical sketch, I am an associate professor of psychology at Millersville University in Lancaster County, PA. I am a licensed psychologist, currently practicing at Samaritan Counseling Center in Lancaster, PA. I was a signer of the petition to incorporate SQIP as a section of Division 5 and have served on the executive committee since 2016 as membership chair and as member of the communications subcommittee.

Despite the numerous challenges with which our multicultural, global society is currently embroiled, I believe this is an exciting time to be alive. As I see it, COVID-19 has provided opportunities for numerous deep-seated imbalances and injustices to become exposed and dealt with at a wide-scale level. To help make that happen, qualitative research, with its emphases on reflexivity and lived experience, is ideal not only for providing evidence-based cautionary statements against maintaining the status quo but also for giving voice to possibilities for meaningful and sustainable changes both individually and collectively.

Your thoughts about and suggestions for SQIP are always welcome: andrewbland@hotmail.com.

Best wishes,

Andrew

“Qualitative research, with its emphases on reflexivity and lived experience, is ideal not only for providing evidence-based cautionary statements against maintaining the status quo but also for giving voice to possibilities for meaningful and sustainable changes both individually and collectively.”

VOTE IN APA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The election for President-Elect of the American Psychological Association is coming up! There are some very interesting candidates running this year. We encourage our members to read the candidate statements and biographies, and then to vote when you receive your ballot in mid-September. The candidates are Thomas G. Plante, Kirk J. Schneider, Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Frank C. Worrell, and Steven D. Hollon. You can read more about the candidates here: https://www.apa.org/about/governance/elections/president-elect-candidates.

When you cast your vote, please remember that APA a ranked-choice voting system, in which 2nd and 3rd choice votes can significantly affect election outcomes. So please be sure to consider all five candidates and make all your ranking choices with care. Voting works by asking voters to rank order the candidates on the ballot and the first candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast is elected. Ballots are counted by first counting the number of #1 votes each candidate receives. If a candidate doesn’t receive enough votes to reach a majority using the #1 rankings, the candidate with the lowest number of #1 votes is declared defeated and their ballots are then redistributed to the remaining candidates using the 2nd choice on those ballots. This continues until a candidate receives a majority of votes cast.

The election ballot will be available on September 15th.
WELCOME TO INCOMING SQIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President-Elect: Michael Bamberg

We are delighted to announce that Michael Bamberg is SQIP’s President-Elect. Michael is a member of the Hiatt School of Psychology at Clark University in Worcester, MA.

Michael has a long and distinguished record of contributions to applied linguistics, narrative analysis, and identity theory. He founded the journal Narrative Inquiry, and remained its editor for over twenty years. He also serves as editor of the book series Studies in Narrative, published by John Benjamin. Michael was a member of the APA’s Task Force on Qualitative Research, which developed the guidelines for reporting qualitative research that now appear in the APA Publication Manual (2019).

Communications Officer: Nisha Gupta

We are pleased to welcome our new Communications Officer, Nisha Gupta! Dr. Nisha Gupta is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of West Georgia, where she teaches courses in liberation psychology, creativity, and phenomenological research. She developed an innovative research method called "cinematic-phenomenological research" for her dissertation, which expresses phenomenological research findings as poetic cinematography. She produced the award-winning phenomenological short film illuminate using this method, about the lived experience of being in the LGBTQ closet (www.illuminateinthecloset.com).

Dr. Gupta enjoys teaching UWG students to conduct phenomenological research and present their findings to the public in artistic forms for the sake of social advocacy. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Duquesne University, and she is currently based in Atlanta, GA. You can view more of her work at nishagupta.org.

Member-At-Large: James Christopher Head

We are pleased to announce that James Christopher Head will be the new Division 5 Member-at-Large, representing SQIP within the Division 5 leadership. Many thanks to Heidi Levitt, who held this role previously.

James Christopher Head, PhD, is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of West Georgia. He teaches a variety of research methodology courses at the undergraduate, masters, and doctoral levels. His scholarship spans a variety of fields and focuses on topics such as experiential qualitative research, narrative inquiry, education policy research, and pedagogy.

He is a longtime member of SQIP’s Executive Committee, and currently serves in the role of early career representative. He also serves on SQIP’s Curriculum Task Force. In these roles, he helps students pursue and develop projects that they find personally meaningful, while engaging with a sense of purpose, methodological clarity, and social utility.
They will feature presentations on a theme or topic, as well as ample time for discussion and chat among attendees. Many of the Salons will be recorded and made available for those who are not able to attend at the scheduled time. This Newsletter contains more information about the planned topics and Salon schedule; we will be sending out more information about each event via our website, our Facebook page, Twitter, and our e-mail list-serve for SQIP members. If you have ideas for topics you’d like to see showcased at our Salons, please email me at feine@duq.edu.

We have also initiated several programs to support graduate students who are engaged in qualitative research. Graduate school can be a precarious time even under the best of circumstances, and we recognize that COVID-19 has introduced new hurdles into the training trajectory for many students. Our Small Grants program offers awards of up to $500 for four graduate students. Over the past month, we have received applications from graduate students who need additional funds to cover research expenses; we will announce award winners in August. We have also created a Consultants Panel to link graduate students with senior methodologists who can provide some additional consultation and support on their research projects. With the help of our Student Representative, Zenobia Morrill, and the members of our Student Advisory Group, the SQIP Executive Committee continues to seek ways to support students who are interested in qualitative research in psychology. If you have ideas for how we can do that, please get in touch with Zenobia at zenobia.morrillo01@umb.edu.

I am also very happy to announce the redesign of our website at sqip.org. Working with the design firm Evolution Point, we have given our website an overhaul to make it more accessible, informative, and user-friendly. Check it out – and while you’re there, be sure to check out the latest of our Distinguished Researcher Interview Series, in which graduate student Logan Barsigian interviews Heidi Levitt, this year’s winner of the Division 5 Award for Distinguished Contributions in Qualitative Inquiry, about methodological integrity and her functionalist theory of gender.

Speaking of Logan Barsigian, I am very happy to announce that going forward, they will be the Co-Editor of the SQIP Newsletter – this is their first issue. Deep thanks to Dave Tomaselli, outgoing Co-Editor, for all of his contributions to past SQIP newsletters, and thanks to Logan for stepping into the role. This summer newsletter has lots of exciting content, including a Spotlight on Anjali Dutt, Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Cincinnati, as well as an overview of some books recently published by SQIP members (including mine) – and check out the article for publishers’ discounts!

Lastly, I’d like to share the bittersweet news that after several wonderful years on the SQIP Executive Committee, I am stepping down as Communications Officer at the end of August. I am delighted that the position will now be held by Dr. Nisha Gupta, whose creativity, vision, artistic skill, and commitment to inclusivity and liberation will be great gifts to SQIP. You can read more about Nisha – as well as about our President-Elect, Michael Bamberg, and about James Christopher Head, a longtime member of the SQIP Executive Committee, who is our new Division 5 Member-At-Large – in the newsletter. You can also read about Andrew Bland, SQIP’s President-Elect and Membership Chair, who will be assuming the position of President at the end of the summer.

It has been an honor to serve on the Executive Committee for SQIP, and I am grateful to each of you for bringing your insight, energy, curiosity and care to our shared work. Keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth
As her career progressed, Dutt’s focus on the intersections of global and local inequalities naturally led to her current work with refugees. Along with Dr. Farrah Jacquez, Associate Professor of Psychology at University of Cincinnati, Dutt currently collaborates with twelve community members representing seven refugee communities (Bhutanese, Burundian, Congolese, Iraqi, Syrian, Somalian, and Guatemalan). This research has been funded by a community conversations grant by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Together they have developed Civic Action for Refugee Empowerment (CARE Cincinnati), a series of projects centering refugee communities in the greater Cincinnati area. Following a community-based participatory research model, the research questions, methodologies, and materials for each project are designed collaboratively, with the twelve community members considered equal partners in the research.

The first CARE project was a mixed methods study incorporating oral surveys and focus groups with refugees from each community to ask “what are the biggest challenges facing refugee communities in Cincinnati today?” For the first phase of the project, approximately 300 surveys were administered by the community research partners in the language spoken by each participant. After compiling these initial results, they held interpretation sessions using a focus group format to gather community feedback, which was crucial for highlighting the lived experiences of participants and clarifying unexpected survey results. For instance, a high percentage of participants indicated that they felt safe in Cincinnati, which was initially surprising given the many ways in which they experience marginalization both locally and nationally. However, after analyzing feedback from the interpretation sessions, Dutt notes: “If you go from living in a refugee camp, of course it feels safer to move into your own apartment. That doesn’t mean that people feel safe enough, but they feel safer. So, you get a sense of that movement, that fuller picture, of what people’s realities are.”

Overall, the research team found several key areas of challenges for participants, including transportation, tenant rights, school enrollment, and civic infrastructure. To address these challenges, they are developing two key projects: a video series on navigating life in Cincinnati and a workshop series on civic engagement. Both will be offered in the languages of each community and geared toward empowerment and social transformation. For instance, workshops will include not only information about how to navigate local infrastructure, but also about how to run for political office. As Dutt notes, “the real goal isn’t just learning how to navigate these things, but also to diversify participation and leadership in all aspects of the city.”

Based on findings from this first project, several additional studies are underway for CARE Cincinnati. Notably, one key finding was that many refugees wanted to connect across communities, despite their linguistic and cultural differences. Accordingly, the research team...
WHAT’S NEW IN BOOKS?

By Jeanne Marecek (previously printed in The Score)

Here are some of the latest titles in the field of qualitative psychology by SQIP members – some of which SQIP members can purchase at a discount through the publisher’s website (see below for codes).

Living on the Spectrum: Autism and Youth in Community

By Elizabeth Fein

Use the discount code SPECTRUMLIFE30 when ordering through the NYU Press for a 30% discount!

Autism is a deeply contested condition. To some, it is a devastating disease; to others, it is a fundamental and valued aspect of the self. How do young people growing up with an autism spectrum diagnosis reconcile this conflict, in the context of their own developing identities?

Ethnographic fieldwork, consisting of participant observation and in-depth interviews taking place in the context of participants' everyday lives, can provide insights into such key contemporary questions in clinical psychology. Living on the Spectrum is a clinical ethnography: an ethnography informed by clinical modes of engagement, interpretation and inference, working at the intersection of personhood and social world. While most of the research on Asperger's syndrome and related autism spectrum conditions has been conducted with individuals in laboratory settings, this book draws on two years of meaning-centered fieldwork, conducted by a trained clinical psychologist situated deeply within communities that bring people affected by these conditions together. The book illuminates the potentiality of autistic culture, by looking at how those on the spectrum make sense of their condition through shared social practices in the places where they live, learn, work, play, and love. In moving and persuasive prose, Fein shows how youth on the autism spectrum reach beyond medicine for their stories of difference and disorder, drawing on shared mythologies from popular culture and speculative fiction to conceptualize their experience of shifting and permeable personhood. In doing so, these young people are pioneering new and more inclusive understandings of what makes us who we are.

The Strange Case of Donald J. Trump: A Psychological Reckoning

By Dan P. McAdams
(Oxford University Press, 2020)

The Strange Case of Donald J. Trump is a psychological study of the life and personality of the 45th president of the United States. The book employs qualitative methods used in psychobiography and in the narrative study of lives to shed light on the life and personality of Donald Trump. Drawing on the theory and method the author has pioneered in the thematic assessment of life stories, McAdams argues that Donald Trump is the episodic man, living outside of time and narrative. Moving through life one discrete moment at a time, Trump is remarkably bereft of a narrative identity. He has no integrative story in his mind about how he came to be and where his life is going. The lack of a narrative identity sets into bold relief other extraordinary features of his personality, from his authoritarian sentiments to his overmastering narcissism. Trump’s episodic approach to life also helps to explain his remarkable charisma in the eyes of millions of Americans, who see
had planned a large gathering to share resources and build connections across these communities last spring. However, when this was canceled due to COVID-19, they repurposed the funds to design a new study asking how refugee communities have been affected by the pandemic. In addition, they will be starting a new project focused on youth mental health in refugee communities, a prominent concern among participants in the initial study.

In closing, Dutt shares a key reason why qualitative research is essential to her work as a mixed methods researcher focused on marginalized communities at the intersection of global and local contexts: “It captures movement. It captures the ways we’re influenced by culture, and changed by culture, and what aspect of culture we are being influenced by in a moment. And because I’m interested in moving communities, in migrating communities, it would be impossible to do what I’m doing without that.”

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References


him as an authentic primal force rather than a fully formed, morally accountable person. Eschewing clinical diagnosis, the book explores the utter psychological strangeness of Trump, to explain why he is so appealing to so many and so repellent to so many more.

Reporting Qualitative Research in Psychology: How to Understand and Meet APA Journal Article Reporting Standards (Revised Edition)

By Heidi M. Levitt

Use the discount code SQIP30 for a 30% discount when ordering through the APA website at at.apa.org/qual!

Heidi M. Levitt shows researchers how to use APA Style Journal Article Reporting Standards for Qualitative Research (JARS-Qual), Mixed Methods Article Reporting Standards (MMARS), and Qualitative Meta-Analysis Reporting Standards (QMARS). These standards provide much-needed criteria to guide researchers as well as journal editors, reviewers, and students. They also describe the critical elements of a qualitative study, including design choices, participant recruitment strategies, data analysis procedures, and the significance of the results. Levitt explains the purpose and function of the reporting standards, helping researchers strengthens the impact of their work. The book is relevant to varied qualitative methods and includes examples from APA journal articles to illustrate how writers can tailor their reporting style to their methodologies and goals. Levitt also details other key aspects of reporting qualitative research, such as how to establish a study’s methodological integrity. This revision has been updated so that it corresponds to the seventh edition of the APA Publication Manual and can better model current citation and referencing practices.
Welcome to the SQIP Virtual Salon!

Through a series of monthly online events, free and open to the public, the SQIP Virtual Salon will bring together qualitative researchers from all over the world, to share ideas and enjoy community, collegiality and inspiration throughout the year. Though we were unable to hold an in-person conference this year, the Salon will showcase some highlights from the conference program, as well as exciting new developments in qualitative psychology research.

Virtual Salon events will be held monthly, starting in August. Events will last approximately 90 minutes, and feature a series of presentations on a theme, as well as opportunity for questions and discussion. For those who are unable to make it to the scheduled event, many of them will be recorded and hosted on our website for all to enjoy.

Further information about presentations will be announced via our website, Twitter and Facebook.

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**August 17th, 6PM - 7:30 ET**
Global and Transnational Perspectives of the 21st Century Migration Crisis and Counter-Movements of Solidarity and Resistance: Co-constituting the Stories of Persons Embedded in Sacred Lived Migration Spaces  
**Organizers:** Peiwei Li and Mary Beth Morrissey  
**Presenters:** Peiwei Li, Mary Beth Morrissey, Andrea Nicklee, Juarez Mendoza, Juan Carlos Garcia Rivera, and Rakishanda Salem

**September 14th, 7PM - 8:30 ET**
Centering Critical Qualitative Inquiry and Psychopolitical Validity: Reflections from Doctoral Candidates  
**Organizer:** Carla Rosinski  
**Presenters:** Carla Rosinski, Serena Cardone, Myisha Rodrigues, Brandon Jones, Kimberly Cherry

**October 23rd, 12PM - 1:30 ET**
Generalization in Qualitative Research: How? Why? and To What?  
**Organizer:** Heidi M. Levis  
**Presenters:** Heidi M. Levis, Joseph A. Maxwell, & Tone Raud

**November 11th, 7PM - 8:30 ET**  
Conducting Qualitative Research with Caregivers  
**Presenters:** Lukas Hofstätter, Michelle LaFrance, Zoe Triandisfilidis, and Aaron Seaman

**December 7th, 4PM - 5:30 ET**
Current Directions in Discursive Psychology  
**Organizer:** Laura Kilky  
**Presenters:** Laura Kilky, Chris McVittie, and Rabul Samburaju

**January 18th, 7PM - 8:30 ET**
Toward a New Narrative Personality Health Psychology Training Model  
**Organizer:** Cynthia Winston-Proctor  
**Presenters:** Cynthia Winston-Proctor, Dené Thomas Muendua, Breanna Beard, and Alexandria Frank

**February 22nd, 4PM - 5:30 ET**
Qualitative Research Across the Life Course  
**Presenters:** Bambi Chapin, Kelly Clark/Keefe, Stacy Giguerre, and Hollen Reischer