



Canadian Psychological Association to Host 76th Annual Convention in Ottawa

Ottawa (June 2, 2015) – The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) of Canada will be hosting its 76th Annual Convention at The Westin Ottawa hotel in Ottawa, Ontario from June 4 through 6, 2015. This not-to-be-missed event will feature more than 2,000 presentations and will be attended by researchers, practitioners, students, and policy makers from across the country. The convention is being held in conjunction with the 3rd North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference (NACCJPC).

“The CPA Board of Directors and staff are eager to welcome the Canadian psychological community to Ottawa for this year’s convention,” says Dr. Kerry Mothersill, President, CPA. “This one of a kind event allows Canadian psychologists to stay abreast of current research and trends, present their latest findings, celebrate the successes of our profession, network with their peers, and have some fun.”

One of this year’s highlights is the Science and Applications keynote address, which will be given by Dr. Elizabeth Phelps, Julius Silver Professor of Psychology and Neural Science, Department of Psychology, New York University. Her presentation entitled: “Changing Fear” is co-sponsored by CPA and the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science. She will discuss the neural mechanisms underlying human fear; how fears inhibited by the commonly-used Cognitive Behavioural Therapy techniques of extinction and emotion regulation can return as a consequence of stress; and why reconsolidating fear memories is a more lasting means of diminishing fears.

The Convention will also feature a panel on family violence, moderated by Dr. Kelly Dean Schwartz, Chair, Family Psychology Section, CPA. Panel members Steven Benmor, Lawyer and Chair, Family Law Section, Ontario Bar Association; Joan McKenna, Acting Superintendent, Ottawa Police Service; and Dr. Kerry Mothersill, President, CPA will discuss the effectiveness, deficiencies, and needed future investments in policy, legislation, program development, and practice to improve family health in Canada.

Other prominent speakers at this year’s convention include:

- Kerry Mothersill, Ph.D., CPA President – *Positivity enhancement in cognitive therapy*
- David Barlow, Ph.D., CPA Honorary President – *Should we be treating neuroticism instead of anxiety and depression?*
- Greta H. Bauer, Ph.D. – *Social Marginalization and the Mental Health of Trans People*
- Kevin Kelloway, Ph.D. – *Leading to Well-Being*
- Samir Sinha, M.D. – *Canada’s Coming of Age: How should we meet the Needs of our Ageing Population*
- Janice D. Yoder, Ph.D. – *Asking “So what?” About our Scholarship: Why Values Matter when Planning, doing, and Disseminating Research*

- Matt G. Kushner, Ph.D. – *False Starts and New Directions in Understanding and Treating Co-occurring Anxiety Disorders and Alcohol Dependence*
- Laurie A. Pearlman, Ph.D. – *Treating Traumatic Bereavement*

The papers and presentations featured at the convention cover a number of hot topics of general interest such as: military mental health and PTSD, the psychology of extremism and terrorism, psychology in rural and northern communities, sexual orientation and gender identity, aging, sexual victimization and rape culture, and education.

In addition to presenting their latest findings and learning from Canada's esteemed psychological researchers, convention attendees will have the opportunity to honour this year's CPA Award winners and fellows; participate in the Presidential Reception; join in the charity Fun RUN, benefitting The Alzheimer Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County; and enjoy a night of dancing and desserts.

For more information, please visit www.cpa.ca/convention.

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About the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)

The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is the national association for the science, practice and education of psychology in Canada. With over 7,000 members and affiliates, CPA is Canada's largest association for psychology. To find out more information go to www.cpa.ca.

Media at the Convention

Media are highly encouraged to attend. Registered press will have complimentary access to poster sessions that will give the broadest overview of the kinds of research and activities in which psychologists in Canada are engaged. Badges are required of all convention participants for entry into sessions and must be worn at all times. If you would like access to a keynote or other presentation or any other convention event, please contact the CPA.

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