



SAS Intergroup Emotions Preconference 2023

March 30th, 2023

SOCIETY FOR
AFFECTIVE SCIENCE

Emotions in a Political World

In this preconference, we will focus on the role of emotions in political processes, including political polarization, voting, collective action, political violence, and upholding democracy. With the political turmoil that has risen in the last decade across the world, understanding the impact that emotions have on political processes is paramount.

This preconference will utilize a flipped-talk presentation. Speakers will pre-record their talks and conference attendees will have two weeks to watch them. During the conference, each speaker will give a 5-minute overview of their talk, followed by a rich Q&A discussion that will be moderated by Dr. Sa-kiera Hudson. The flash talks will be live.

9:00 – 10:00 am **Part 1: Research Mix and Mingle**

10:00 – 11:30 am **Part 2: Emotions Contributing to Political Conflict**

10:00 – 10:10: Conference and Speaker Introductions

10:10 – 10:30: Five-minute Talk Reviews

10:30 – 11:30: Moderated Discussion

- **Dorainne Green:** Barriers to Bridging the Political Divide: Why We Avoid Cross-Attitudinal Conversations
- **Steven Webster:** Title TBD
- **Stacey Greene:** Why didn't I know that?!: Emotional Responses to Out-group Racial Histories

11:30 – 12:00 pm **Break**

12:00 – 1:15 pm **Part 3: Early Career Scholar and Flash Talks**

1:15 – 2:00 pm **Lunch Break and Poster Session**

2:00 – 3:15 pm **Part 4: What Can We do About Political Conflict?**

2:00 – 2:05: Speaker Introductions

2:05 – 2:30: Five-minute Talk reviews

2:30 – 3:15: Moderated Discussion

- **Siwar Hasaan Aslih:** Hope for peace or hope for justice? The role of hope in collective action within contexts of oppression
- **Jan Gerrit Voelkel:** Megastudy identifying successful interventions to strengthen Americans' democratic attitudes
- **C. Daryl Cameron:** Choosing Empathy Across Political Divides



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Meet Our Speakers

Dorainne Green



Assistant Professor

Indiana University: Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

<https://psych.indiana.edu/directory/faculty/green-dorianne.html>

<https://twitter.com/drdorainnegreen>

Dorainne's research interests center broadly on understanding and addressing the factors that contribute to social inequality by focusing on social identity threat – i.e., instances where individuals feel like one or more of their social identities may be devalued or disrespected. Specifically, her work investigates how threats to social identity including group-based discrimination and stereotype threat shape cognitive, psychological, behavioral, and physiological outcomes that, in turn, have implications for disparities in many life domains. Her research simultaneously considers the antecedents of social identity threat and demonstrates the consequences of contending with it. She adopts a multi-level, multi-method (e.g., experimental, physiological, longitudinal, experience sampling) approach to investigate these questions, and to identify strategies that can help members of stigmatized groups manage the challenges of navigating diverse spaces, including those most likely to trigger social identity threat.



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Jan Gerrit Voelkel



Graduate Student
Stanford University, Department of Sociology
<https://sociology.stanford.edu/people/jan-gerrit-voelkel>
<https://twitter.com/jgvoelkel>

Jan's research studies intergroup and interpersonal relationships with two guiding research questions. First, what causes people's willingness to harm others and defend inequalities? For example, Jan's research has found that categorizing others into ingroups and outgroups is so powerful that it even shapes the application of moral principles that are thought to be universal. Another example is that Jan's research has found that people from disadvantaged groups have limited access to political leadership positions not only due to prejudice but also due to concerns about the perceived electability of these candidates. Second, how can personal or societal change be achieved that increases equality and/or reduces harm? Jan has developed interventions that increase support for policies that aim to reduce economic inequality or increase opportunity for immigrants. Jan has also led the Strengthening Democracy Challenge, a megastudy that tested 25 crowdsourced interventions for reducing anti-democratic attitudes and partisan animosity. Jan is also interested in meta-scientific questions about how to make scientific progress more reliable. He has written on how to use Open Science principles in the social sciences and contributed to JASP, a free and open-source statistics software.



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Steven Webster



Assistant Professor
Indiana University, Department of Political Science
<http://www.stevenwebster.com/>
<https://twitter.com/stevenwebster>

Steven Webster's research focuses on the nature of political behavior and public opinion within the United States. More specifically, he studies the forces driving mass polarization; how voters form perceptions of political actors, such as candidates, parties, and related political entities; and how signals from party elites shape voters' beliefs and attitudes. In order to shed light on these questions he draws on theories from both political science and psychology. Webster's work has been published in *Political Science Research & Methods*, *Political Behavior*, *Electoral Studies*, *American Politics Research*, *Advances in Political Psychology*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, and *Social Science Quarterly*.

Webster's book, [*American Rage: How Anger Shapes Our Politics*](#), is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. The book presents results from a series of experiments that show that anger causes citizens to lose trust in the national government and to weaken in their commitment to democratic norms and values. He then shows that, despite these negative externalities, political elites strategically elicit anger within the electorate because voter anger leads to voter loyalty.



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Stacey Greene



Rutgers University, Political Science
<https://www.staceyagreene.com/>
<https://twitter.com/StaceyAGreene>

Stacey Greene is an assistant professor in the political science department at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She studies inter-group politics between marginalized groups, especially racial, ethnic, and gender minorities. Her research focuses on factors that promote political action on behalf of other minority groups; political attitudes toward out-groups, and the processes of learning about race in the United States.



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Siwar Hasan-Ashlih



Postdoctoral Fellow

Stanford University, Polarization and Social Change Lab in the Sociology Department

<https://www.siwaraslih.com/>

<https://twitter.com/SiwarAslih>

Siwar investigates social movements, oppression, emotions, intergroup relations, intergroup conflicts, and psychological interventions. Her scholarship aims to understand the challenges and opportunities in social change efforts across multiple cultural and historical contexts, while placing the voice and the issues of disadvantaged groups at the heart of such efforts. Particularly, her work considers the motivations and barriers affecting participation in collective action, as well as the features of social movements that can improve or impede shifts in public opinion. For example, Siwar's work offers a complex view of the emotion of hope and the involvement of allies from dominant groups in social movements and delves into how these factors help or harm mobilization of members of both disadvantaged and advantaged groups. Her work also considers how civilian and police violence in the context of social movements impacts public opinion across the political divides.



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C. Daryl Cameron



Penn State University, Department of Psychology
<https://emplab.la.psu.edu/>
<https://twitter.com/DCameron84>

Dr. Daryl Cameron (he/him/his) is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology and senior research associate in the Rock Ethics Institute. He received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology from the College of William and Mary. He completed a summer post-doctoral appointment at the Duke University Kenan Institute for Ethics, and was a Fellow at the Stanford University Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE). Dr. Cameron is a member of the Moral Psychology Research Group, an interdisciplinary group of psychologists, neuroscientists, and philosophers who study moral cognition. Before coming to Penn State, he was a faculty member at the University of Iowa from 2013-2016.

Dr. Cameron investigates the psychological processes involved in empathy and moral decision-making, using an interdisciplinary approach drawing on affective science, social cognition, and moral philosophy. In much of his research, he examines motivational and situational factors that shape empathic emotions and behaviors toward others. In other research, he uses implicit measurement and mathematical modeling to assess empathy and moral judgment in healthy, clinical, and incarcerated populations.