



STUDENT NEWSLETTER

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SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

"WELCOME

Dear SPR Student Members,

It is a busy and exciting time for those involved in the planning of SPR's annual meeting. Whether you are new to SPR or a returning member, you will find numerous opportunities to get involved, interact with colleagues, and meet leaders and future leaders. We have been working hard and using your comments to shape the 2026 event.

This year's meeting will start with a full day of preconference workshops that range from novel statistical analysis techniques to didactic training in psychophysiological methods. Dr. MJ Heise will be leading a workshop on the use of multilevel modeling as a statistical technique for analyzing event-related potentials. Dr. Olav Krigolson will be leading a didactic training in the collection and analysis of mobile electroencephalography data. Dr. Nilam Ram will be leading a workshop on the utility of time series analyses for psychophysiological data. All of these workshops were shaped based on student and member feedback from previous meetings. We hope you take advantage of these opportunities to train directly with the experts.

The meeting itself will contain ample opportunities for hearing about cutting-edge work in the field. Whether you attend the keynote addresses from Drs. Beatriz Luna, Michael J. Frank, and Wendy Berry Mendes; present at or cheer on other trainees during the Faces of the Future flash talks; meet new colleagues at one of our four poster sessions; or roll out of bed early for the speed mentoring breakfast, you will find that SPR provides a unique environment for being involved from the moment you collect your name badge. I hope that this year provides a foundation for your involvement in this special society for many years to come.

Finally, please take advantage of social events, including the Student Social, business meeting, and Saturday Night Social, which offers a uniquely treasured SPR way to close out the conference. I know I speak for other faculty attendees when I say that we look forward to seeing you there. See you in Halifax!

- Rebecca Brooker & Sarah Karalunas, 2026 Program Co-Chairs

MESSAGE"

Join us for the SPR 2026 Annual Meeting in Halifax, Canada!

October 14 - October 17, 2026

Halifax Convention Centre, Halifax, Canada

The 66th Annual Meeting of SPR will feature a collection of symposia, workshops, poster sessions, and talks spanning across the field of psychophysiology.

Invited speakers include Michael J. Frank, PhD (Brown University), Wendy Berry Mendes, PhD (Yale University), and Beatriz Luna, PhD (University of Pittsburgh).

Registration for the meeting is now open. Consider becoming a member of SPR to save on your registration. More information is available [here](#).

SEE YOU AT HALIFAX!



Michael J. Frank, PhD
Brown University, USA



Wendy B. Mendes, PhD
Yale University, USA



Beatriz Luna, PhD
University of Pittsburgh, USA

SCHEDULE

AT A GLANCE

Poster Sessions

Poster Session I — Oct 14, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Poster Session II — Oct 15, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Poster Session III — Oct 16, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Poster Session IV — Oct 17, 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Invited Keynote Addresses

Beatriz Luna, PhD — Oct 15, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Michael J. Frank, PhD — Oct 16, 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Wendy B. Mendes, PhD — Oct 17, 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Special Sessions

Speed Networking Breakfast — Oct 15, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Faces of the Future Flash Talks — Oct 15, 5:10 – 6:30 p.m.

Early Career Award Talks — Oct 16, 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Luncheons*

Women in Science Education (WISE) — Oct 15, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Meet

our Editors! A Panel Discussion — Oct 16, 11:45 – 1:15 p.m.

(hosted by CPSI and ETC)

Business Meeting & Awards — Oct 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Social Events

Student Social (offsite) — Oct 15, 9:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Saturday Night Social — Oct 16, 9:00 – 11:59 p.m.

*Luncheons are only \$10 and can be purchased through the registration portal. Students will receive a FREE ticket to attend the Business Meeting luncheon.

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

| **October 14th, 2026**

Measuring and Modeling Psychophysiological Synchrony: The Multitude of Ways We Can Analyze Longitudinal Dyadic Data | Nilam Ram, PhD

A practical introduction to methods for modeling psychophysiological synchrony that may manifest at multiple timescales. No prior experience with multilevel or time-series modeling is required, though familiarity with R is helpful. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop with R and R Studio installed. Materials will be available at <https://thechangelab.stanford.edu/>.

Mobile EEG and fNIRS: Practical Data Collection and Analysis in Real-World Settings)

Olav Krigolson, PhD |

An introduction to the theoretical foundations of mobile neuroimaging, considerations for field data collection, methodological pitfalls, and recommended analysis pipelines. No prior experience with EEG or fNIRS is required. Participants need only bring a laptop with MATLAB installed.

No Trial Left Behind: A Practical Guide to Linear Mixed Effects Models for Event-Related Potential Data | MJ Heise, PhD

A comprehensive introduction to LME approaches for ERP data, covering applications to mean amplitude, difference waves, and latency. Using sample R code, participants will walk through the essential steps of applying LMEs to ERP studies (e.g., power analysis, model specification, and assumption checking).

WELCOME TABLE

Are you new to SPR? Are you looking to connect with other students or researchers in your field?

Look out for the Welcome Table and our Student Ambassadors on your first night at the upcoming SPR 2026 Annual Meeting in Halifax. We would love to help you get oriented and make sure you get the most out of your conference experience.



We're hosting a Coffee Hour for students again!

Whether you're looking to discuss ideas, share your experiences, or simply enjoy a drink with good company, this is a good opportunity to do that and connect with similar minds.

Time and location to be determined.

October 15th, 2026 |

**STUDENT
COFFEE HOUR**





STUDENT SOCIAL

| **October 15th, 2026**

Whether it's your first SPR or you're a loyal frequenter, the Student Social is the perfect place to celebrate our student attendees.

Student attendees are welcome to join us Thursday, October 15 @ The Pint Public House (1575 Argyle St, Halifax, NS B3J 1J7) following the poster session. Food and drink tickets will be provided, and the venue includes access to a pool table, basketball, and arcade machines.

WISE 20TH



The WISE committee aims to advocate for and amplify the voices of women and gender minorities in psychophysiology. Every year, WISE hosts a luncheon and mentorship program at the annual meeting, provides Family Care Grants, and works to increase representation of women and gender minorities in SPR awards and recognitions.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the WISE committee!

- All attendees of the 2026 annual meeting will receive a **celebratory enamel pin**, designed by the student members of the WISE committee!
- A special **anniversary luncheon**, “Twenty lessons learned in 20 years of WISE” will center around reflections and advice from formative members of the WISE committee and women who played important roles in SPR and the field of psychophysiology more broadly over the past 20 years.
- Special **WISE anniversary posters**, including an interactive poster on the future of WISE.

Looking forward to another 20 years with WISE.



ANNIVERSARY

EARLY CAREER

This award seeks to recognize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the field of psychophysiology. Contributions may be in the development of new methods, important findings that advance our understanding of psychophysiological mechanisms or processes, or extensions of previous work into new areas or populations. Individuals will be evaluated on the basis of their research and involvement in the Society for Psychophysiological Research.

Individuals are eligible for this award if they are **(a) a current member of SPR**; and **(b) received their doctorate within the past 8 years**. Individuals who were previously considered and did not receive the award may apply again, provided that they remain eligible given the aforementioned time limits.

Up to two awardees will be selected. Award recipients will receive a plaque and will present their research at the annual meeting. Awardees will receive free registration for the meeting. Awardees are also expected to submit a manuscript conveying the presentation topic for publication in Psychophysiology.

Stay tuned for the 2027 Early Career Award application!

See [here](#) for more details.

AWARD

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FEATURE OF THE YEAR

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ANNA FINLEY

North Dakota State University

**Current SPR Committee to Promote
Student Interest (CPSI) Co-Chair**



Can you tell us a little about yourself and your role within SPR?

I am an Assistant Professor at North Dakota State University and Director of the Social Psychology and Affective Science in Health Lab. Before joining NDSU, I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Wyoming, my Ph.D. at Texas A&M University, and a postdoctoral research position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I joined SPR in my second year of graduate school in 2014 (only because I was too cheap to attend my first year of graduate school when SPR was in Florence, Italy!).

I use EEG and peripheral physiological measures to assess affective processes and their impact on health and well-being, with current interests in loneliness, social connection, and U.S. military veterans' transition to civilian life after service. I am currently in my second three-year term as Co-Chair of the Committee to Promote Student Interests (CPSI) (2024-2027), where I serve as a non-voting ex officio member of the SPR Board and organize the CPSI subcommittees. I am also a member of the SPR Education and Training Committee and the SPR Program Committee, where I contribute to various initiatives throughout the year. As CPSI Co-Chair, I advocate for student and trainee needs and coordinate with CPSI subcommittee chairs to support their initiatives and ideas. During the annual meeting, I am busy attending various SPR committee events, helping with CPSI events, absorbing as much of the amazing scientific programming as I can, and sometimes even presenting my own science!

What inspired you to become involved with SPR? What has been the most rewarding aspect of serving in your role?

My first SPR meeting was in 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia, and I was convinced to join CPSI by my labmates and then-chair, Dr. Phillip Gable—for the free food! I loved the community of psychophysiology trainees I found through SPR and CPSI, and I continued participating in CPSI as (co-)chair of the Meeting Events and Postdoctoral/Early Career subcommittees and as a member of the Newsletter subcommittee.

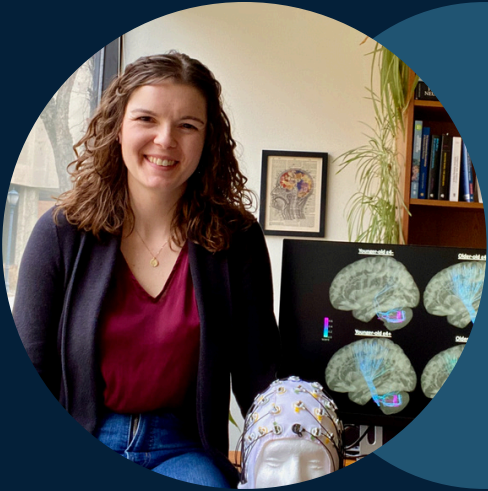
When Dr. Sarah Sass stepped down as CPSI Chair in 2022, I became CPSI Chair, and I was thrilled when Dr. Elizabeth Paitel joined me as CPSI Co-Chair in 2023! The most rewarding aspect of my role in CPSI has been helping students turn their exciting new ideas for SPR into realities.

What accomplishment, initiative, or moment are you most proud of from your time in this position, and why?

I am particularly proud about the different networking opportunities CPSI has sponsored, from virtual socials during the pandemic to an interactive welcome table and student coffee hour. The thing that has made SPR so special to me is the community that has been built across disciplinary boundaries by scientists united by an interest in psychology and physiology. I love that CPSI has continued to find new and exciting ways to invite trainees into the SPR community.

Looking ahead, what are your hopes for the future of SPR and its community?

The friendships, colleagues, and mentors I have gained through SPR have been instrumental in my career trajectory, in a practical sense but especially motivationally. People often talk about finding their “academic home”, and without the SPR community I don’t know that I would have continued on my long path from beginning graduate school in 2013, to my postdoctoral position in 2019, to starting my current faculty position in 2024. I hope that SPR continues to be a welcoming academic home and provides the encouragement and community all psychophysiology trainees need to succeed.



ELIZABETH PAITEL

Johns Hopkins University

**Current SPR Committee to Promote
Student Interest (CPSI) Co-Chair**

Can you tell us a little about yourself and your role within SPR?

I am currently Co-Chair of the Committee to Promote Student Interests (CPSI) and Women in Science and Education (WISE) committees and an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. I am a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. My research focuses on multi-modal neuroimaging biomarkers of preclinical Alzheimer's disease.

What inspired you to become involved with SPR? What has been the most rewarding aspect of serving in your role?

I was inspired by members of the WISE committee to become involved in committee membership with SPR. I was a graduate student at the time, and I expressed interest in the work that WISE was doing for the Society and the field at large. A few of the WISE members reached out, and I very quickly found my involvement in SPR growing.

My main role is to listen to, advocate for, and amplify the voices of trainees, women, and gender minorities in our Society. The most rewarding aspect of these roles has been the connections formed with the membership. You put your trust in us when you share the parts of your experience that have been positive, negative, and somewhere in between. And I value that trust immensely. Then we get to work with the Society's leadership to implement a solution, test it out, and come back around for more feedback. It's a constant work-in-progress, and it's a process that I have found deeply rewarding.

What accomplishment, initiative, or moment are you most proud of from your time in this position, and why?

There are a lot of individual initiatives and events that I have been proud to contribute to over the past few years, but there has been a recurring theme in both my roles with WISE and CPSI that stands out. In both of these positions, I often invite trainees and gender minorities to participate as speakers or panelists, apply for awards within the Society or take on leadership roles within a committee. Unfortunately, the most common response that I receive from them is, "I don't think I'm qualified for that". This is where I feel the direct impact of these positions. We get to be a pause point in the never-ending marathon of a scientific career – to say, "You are qualified, and you deserve to be here." I hope those encounters encourage people to challenge their own "I'm not qualified" reactions in the future and to encourage their peers to do the same.

What advice would you give to members who are interested in becoming more involved with SPR or taking on leadership roles?

My advice is to absolutely go for it! SPR has implemented self-nominations for committee membership, which means that the table is really open for everybody who is interested in getting involved. If you have questions about the committees or would feel more comfortable having somebody else facilitate your committee membership, just ask!

If you are attending SPR 2026 in Halifax, plan to join us at the **CPSI meeting** (October 16th) – there will be free food! No prior involvement is necessary.

You can also reach out to [Anna](#) or [Elizabeth](#) if you are interested in getting involved in SPR or the CPSI.



SPR STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS

The Student Communications Committee is excited to announce the launch of our new communication platform for SPR trainees and post-docs. This is a currently active Discord server where SPR members can communicate year-round both during and outside of the annual conference. Members can facilitate roommate matches, plan group meet-ups, share recommendations for places to visit in Halifax, and more. Moreover, this is a platform that can be used to connect with researchers outside of the annual meeting – from discussion threads about psychophysiology to casual virtual events.

If you're interested in joining, please fill out this brief [survey](#). We would love to hear your preferences and ideas, and can send you a link to join the server.

SPR STUDENT EXCHANGE FORUM

Interested in working with psychophysiologicalists abroad? Check out the Students Exchange Forum at sprweb.org/Exchange_Forum! Our forum currently includes SPR labs from the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany. These labs are happy to host students and postdocs who want to learn new psychophysiological methods. We are here to assist you in establishing connections with these SPR labs.

JOIN THE **CPSI**!

October 16th, 2026 |

Interested in putting these SPR student initiatives together? Come join the SPR Committee to Promote Student Interests at the upcoming meeting.

Open to all trainees, students & post-docs. Food will be provided.

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EXPLORE HALIFAX
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Halifax Waterfront Boardwalk

Stretching 4 kilometers along the water, this vibrant promenade is one of the world's longest urban boardwalks. It's packed with public art, local shops, playgrounds, and bustling tours, making it the perfect spot for an afternoon stroll by the ocean.

Head to the Salt Yard for Canadian classics like lobster rolls, BeaverTails, poutine, and Cow's Ice Cream, or kick back at the popular Stubborn Goat Beer Garden for craft brews and unbeatable harbor views. For fresh local goods, stop by the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market and head up to the rooftop terrace for scenic views of Georges Island.



Halifax Public Gardens

Step into a lush 16-acre Victorian oasis right in the heart of the city. Fall is a gorgeous time to visit, featuring vibrant autumn leaves, late-season dahlias in full bloom, and lovely winding pathways. Free 1-hour historical and horticultural walking tours run daily through the end of October!



Halifax Harbour Dartmouth Ferry

For just \$2.75, take a ride on North America's oldest continuously operating saltwater ferry! Head to the top deck for sweeping photo ops of the Halifax skyline, then take a stroll through downtown Dartmouth to check out its charming cafes, local shops, and street art.



Citadel National Historic Site

Perched high above downtown, this star-shaped fortress offers a look into Halifax's rich history alongside commanding views of the city and harbour. Don't miss the daily cannon fire at noon. It's a classic Halifax tradition!

Peggy's Cove

No trip to the area is complete without seeing Nova Scotia's most iconic lighthouse! Located about 45 minutes from downtown, Peggy's Cove offers dramatic coastal views, with ice cream and fresh lobster rolls available nearby to enjoy the view with.

P.S. Remember to admire the ocean safely and stay off the wet black rocks!



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Anna Finley and Elizabeth Paitel of the SPR
Committee to Promote Student Interests.

This newsletter is sent to current student and
general members. Please forward to any interested
students or colleagues!

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