In Memoriam: Stephen Madigan

The Department of Psychology was shocked and saddened this past week to learn of the sudden passing of one of their own. Associate Professor of Psychology, Stephen Madigan, died on October 13th in Los Angeles, California, after suffering a stroke. Madigan was the longest tenured faculty in Psychology, having joined the Department in 1969. Yet, at only 73 years old, we have lost him too soon.

During his 46 years at USC, Madigan made significant contributions to the areas of cognition and memory as it related to human intelligence. He had an integral role in helping modernize the field of cognitive psychology and his recent research on deficits in visual memory storage in individuals who later developed Alzheimer’s disease, reported in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, could lead to diagnostic tests to indicate who is at risk and in need of preventive treatment. “Stephen was one of the most knowledgeable and serious scholars on human memory in America,” according to Associate Professor David Walsh, who worked with Madigan for more than 40 years.

Professor Walsh is not alone in his admiration for Madigan’s accomplishments. One of Madigan’s former graduate students, Bill Corwin, now an aerospace engineer, shared that, “during the infancy of personal computing, Madigan was developing software for statistical analyses that was on par with the premier, mainframe-based statistical software packages.” Professor of Psychology, Gerald Davison added that Madigan was “thoughtful, opinionated, passionate, and above all curious about all sorts of things. Some of the most stimulating collegial conversations I have ever had since coming to USC in 1979 were with him. He always had a novel take on psychological matters and on academe in general. He will be missed.”

Indeed, Professor Madigan will be missed. Even Madigan’s family wanted us to know that “USC was his life.” Aside from his research, Madigan twice served as Associate Chair of the Department of Psychology, from 1979–81 and again in 1989. He also served in several administrative capacities: as Area Head of Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience from 1993–96 and of Brain and Cognitive Science from 2008–10. He was acting Chair of the University Park Institutional Review Board in Spring 2005 and its Vice Chair from Fall 2005 to Spring 2006. Still, the thing Madigan valued most about his tenure at USC was his teaching and mentoring of students.

Professor of Psychology, Michael Dawson noted that Madigan taught an exceptionally wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses. He taught everything from research methods and statistics to developing his own course on creativity, which was immensely popular among undergraduate students. Dawson noted that, “Most importantly, Steve’s door was always open for generous, insightful, and honest advice to students.” “Steve delighted in their passion for learning, celebrated their achievements and strove to instill in them curiosity, intellectual honesty and clear-eyed critical thinking,” Madigan’s family wrote in a tribute. Finally, Professor of Psychology Ernest Greene added, “His love of teaching was only surpassed by his affection and care for his wife and children.”

Madigan is survived by his wife of 48 years, Sarah (Sally) Madigan; his daughter, Catherine (Kate) Madigan; sons John and Christopher Madigan; his son-in-law Jason Cole; his daughters-in-law Diane Sigman and Amber Madigan; and four grandchildren, Phoebe, Sean and Ne...


Sinatra, G. M. & Seyranian, V. (2016). *Warm Change about Hot Topics: The Role of Motivation and Emotion in Attitude and Conceptual Change about Controversial Science Topics* (pp. 245-256). In L. Corno & E. Anderman (Eds.). *APA Handbook of Educational Psychology*.


---

**Have You Read Anything Good Lately?**

If you have submissions for the Department of Psychology Newsletter, please email Daniel Paris <dparis@usc.edu>.

Remember to check the calendar on the front page of the department website for all upcoming events!

---

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Faculty Meeting**

October 21, 2015 at 12:00pm-2:00pm in SGM 414

**Social Psychology Brown Bag**

October 26, 2015 at 12:00pm-1:00pm in SGM 414

Pete Meindl, Ph.D. Student of Social Psychology at USC
Morality: Foundations to Applications
Research Spotlight: Values, Ideology, and Morals (VIM) Lab

The VIM Lab, directed by Dr. Jesse Graham (captured above, as he leads a lab meeting), aims to find empirical answers to questions regarding people's deepest core beliefs and worldviews, such as, “Why do we care so passionately about what is morally right and wrong, and why do we so often disagree about this?” The lab also looks at questions like, “How do shared ideological narratives influence our sense of right and wrong, and how do our moral convictions influence our political choices?”

The VIM Lab is currently working on several projects, including studying moral persuasion and trying to chart how it differs from persuasion in non-moralized domains. They have also begun mapping, with the goal of ultimately reducing, moral hypocrisy -- that is, holding others to a higher moral standard than one holds oneself. Also, keep an eye out for several publications currently in press, ranging from topics on “when values and behavior conflict” to “ideological differences in the expanse of empathy.” You can find more about these projects, publications, and other details about the VIM Lab, on their website: <http://www-bcf.usc.edu/~jessegra/index.html>.

"The VIM lab has a dedicated group of people who are not only very committed to their projects, but also very concerned about the learning experience that the research assistants get," explains Kian Siong, a senior undergraduate psychology student who has been working with the VIMLab for the past two years. “The experience thus far has been a really meaningful one. I have learned to execute many different studies and have been involved in discussions about novel research ideas.” Kian Siong is also completing a senior honors thesis investigating the mechanism behind the effects of guilt-proneness on perceived task effort under the mentorship of Dr. Graham.
### Graduate Program: Welcome to the Incoming Class of 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Student</th>
<th>Area of Study</th>
<th>Faculty Advisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minwoo Ahn</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Dr. Steven Read</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Betz</td>
<td>Quantitative Psychology</td>
<td>Dr. Richard John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Blanken</td>
<td>Clinical Science</td>
<td>Dr. Dan Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Calderon</td>
<td>Clinical Science</td>
<td>Dr. Steven Lopez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Hoover</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Dr. Morteza Dehghani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Iskiwitch</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Dr. Jesse Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mona Khaled</td>
<td>Clinical Science</td>
<td>Dr. Darby Saxbe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ying Lin</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Dr. Daphna Oyserman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elissa McIntosh</td>
<td>Clinical Science</td>
<td>Dr. Dan Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skye Parral</td>
<td>Quantitative Psychology</td>
<td>Dr. John McArdle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Rasmussen</td>
<td>Clinical Science</td>
<td>Dr. Gayla Margolin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariam Rubenson</td>
<td>Clinical Science</td>
<td>Dr. Stan Huey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiaobei Zhang</td>
<td>Brain and Cognitive Science</td>
<td>Dr. John Monterosso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Mengtian Zhao</td>
<td>Quantitative Psychology</td>
<td>Dr. John McArdle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Matthew Betz**  
Quantitative Psychology  
Dr. Richard John  
Judgement & decision making, locus of control, risk analysis, cooperative and adversary decision making

**Mona Khaled**  
Clinical Science  
Dr. Darby Saxbe  
Dyadic coping with health-related adversity, positive adjustment and physiological health

**Ying Lin**  
Social Psychology  
Dr. Daphna Oyserman  
Cultural mindsets, social context, embodiment

**Jessica Mengtian Zhao**  
Brain and Cognitive Science  
Dr. John Monterosso  
Neuroimaging and behavioral techniques, emotion & decision-making
**2015 Annual Fall Undergraduate Research Opportunities Faire** - Professors from around the Department of Psychology, with posters and graduate students by their side, come to promote their research labs to prospective undergraduate volunteers.

**2015 Fall Incoming Student Mixer** - Welcome event for new freshman and transfer students full of ice breakers, food, and old-fashioned social networking.

**2015 Fall Graduate School Information Panel** - A panel of experienced psychology faculty, staff, and graduate students, speak with undergraduates about pursuing graduate programs.

**2015 Fall Resume Workshop** - Psychology students get to work one-on-one with trained peer mentors and a department advisor to refine their resumes.

**Remaining Fall Events**

**Graduate Applications Workshop**
10-14-15
6:00pm in VKC 159

**Movie Night**
10-28-15
6:00pm in SGM 514

**Nature Hike**
11-08-15
10:00am in Griffith Park

**Study Break**
12-02-15
6:00pm in SGM 501

2015 Fall Alumni Panel - Alumni from the Department of Psychology came to campus to discuss their career path and how they arrived at where they are today.