46th Annual Meeting of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research
March 1-4, 2017 in New Orleans, LA

The annual meeting of SCCR will be held at the Hampton Inn and Suites Convention Center in New Orleans, LA. The meetings will begin on Wednesday, March 1 and end on Saturday, March 4, 2017.

The conference website is available (mysccr.org), where you will be able to find information about keynote speakers, the program, registration fees, accommodation, and other details.

For other information about SCCR, registering for the conference, finding accommodations, or about New Orleans in general is at the SCCR website: www.mysccr.org
Editor’s Message

Dear SCCR Colleagues,

I hope that you are all enjoying the Northern winter or Southern summer!

This December 2016 edition of the newsletter includes comments from the president-elect (and 2017 conference organizer) Jill Brown and from Bonnie Hewlett, the president of SCCR. There is also a statement of commitment to diversity and inclusivity from some of our colleagues, a short article about the benefits of studying abroad, and some announcements and a call for collaboration.

I sincerely hope that you will all contemplate submitting something for our June 2017 edition. Please consider contributing articles, book reviews, announcements for conferences, vacancy postings, calls for proposals and anything else that you think might be of interest to our members. Address contributions and any questions to: ashdown@hws.edu

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans in March!

Sincerely,
Brien K. Ashdown

President’s Message

Dear SCCR Colleagues and Members,

Winter is finally upon us! I trust everyone is having an invigorating fall semester and that your personal and professional activities are well under way.

It is with great anticipation and pleasure that the SCCR Executive Board, along with SCCR members, scholars and students can look forward to the upcoming Society for Cross Cultural Research conference, March 1-4th, 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Hampton Inn and Suites Convention Center.

Conference organizer and President-elect Jill Brown is continuing to work to bring together passionate and creative researchers and stellar keynote speakers for the 46th Annual SCCR meeting in the unique and beautiful city of New Orleans. All attendees can anticipate an exciting and stimulating conference offering an ideal forum for sharing and
discussing new ideas, establishing and maintaining professional and personal relationships, and building collaborations with national and international colleagues.

In other news, the SCCR Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for the office of SCCR Vice President. Please contact a SCCR Executive Board Member if you are interested.

We hope that everyone will come to experience what it is to be a part of the growing SCCR community, to gain insights into what takes place within an organization fostering diversity, and cross cultural and multidisciplinary research and collaboration.

We invite you to come and experience the intellectually stimulating atmosphere of the 46th Annual 2017 Society for Cross Cultural Research Conference, hosted in one of the most fascinating of all cities, New Orleans.

*Laissez les bon temps roulez!*

Bonnie Hewlett

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**President-Elect’s Message**

Hi everyone and greetings from Omaha, Nebraska. It’s cold here and I am dreaming of New Orleans. As President-Elect of the Society, I am busy making sure SCCR 2017 will be as good as ever.

I want to introduce you to Enrique Varela, an Associate Professor of Psychology at Loyola University New Orleans. He has graciously agreed to be my co-organizer for the meeting. Having him join our SCCR family has already been an asset so please make sure you welcome him along with the Loyola students at the conference.

Cross-cultural researchers are in for a treat March 1-4th at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research at the Hampton Inn and Suites, Convention Center New Orleans, LA. Let me tell you why.

1. **Keynote speakers:** We have an incredible group of scholars: Carolyn Pope-Edwards, Gilda Morelli, Joseph Trimble, Lisa Molix, and Melvin Konner. Please take the time to look at their abstracts and get excited to meet them, and share their ideas and research. [http://mysccr.org/keynote-speakers/](http://mysccr.org/keynote-speakers/)

2. **Workshops:** This year two workshops will be held at the conference. Carol Ember will workshop on Exploring Cultural Variation using eHRAF World Cultures and Andrew Coppens will workshop Graphic Analysis and Representation of Observational Data. You will be able to sign up for the workshops when you register for the conference. [http://mysccr.org/workshops/](http://mysccr.org/workshops/)

3. **New Orleans:** It is an amazing city, full of culture. Make sure to explore New Orleans, often referred to as the “most unique” city in the United States. The city was named for Phillipe II, Duke of Orleans, who was the reigning regent of France at the time of the city’s founding in 1718. New Orleans was under Spanish rule from 1763-1802, when it was retaken by the French First Republic and sold to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Because of its history, New Orleans is strongly influenced by French, Spanish,
Creole, and African culture. New Orleans is often considered the birthplace of American jazz music, and the city’s history as both a French and Spanish settlement has led to a strong Catholic tradition in the city. Catholic influences are reflected in New Orleans’ many festivals, most famously Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday. SCCR 2017 is beginning the day after Mardi Gras, so come early if you want and enjoy.

New Orleans’ unique architecture reflects the city’s multicultural roots. The French Quarter is famous for its unique Creole townhouses with their large courtyards and iron balconies. The French Quarter, the oldest neighborhood in New Orleans, has been designated a National Historic Landmark and is a popular attraction to both tourists and local residents. To this day, city regulations guide any renovations or construction in the neighborhood in order to preserve its historical architectural style. The French Quarter contains many restaurants including the Gumbo Shop for more casual meals, and Antoine’s and Tujague’s, which opened in the 19th century. Bourbon Street is the most well-known street in the French Quarter and is the center of the city’s nightlife.

Since its founding in 1971, SCCR has hosted conferences that offer an ideal forum for sharing and discussing new ideas, establishing and maintaining professional and personal relationships, and building collaborations with national and international colleagues. My first SCCR was in 2004 in San Jose and I was hooked. I remember having breakfast with Carol and Mel Ember, and meeting Tom Weisner and Ralph Bolton, both of whom I cited on the first slide in my presentation. At my next SCCR meeting I ran into Akira Takata, whom 13 years earlier I met in rural Namibia when I was a Peace Corps volunteer.

As Bonnie Hewlett, our current President said last year, “Over the years, it has been inspiring to watch more graduate students from diverse disciplines participate and develop research networks at SCCR conferences and pursue careers in fields which encourage cross cultural research. The connections made at SCCR conference can have a lasting impact for scholars from all over the world.” By bringing together passionate and creative researchers, the 2017 SCCR conference offers the opportunity to share ideas, offer varying perspectives, and establish meaningful connections.

Yours,
Jill Brown
President-Elect SCCR
Committed to Cultural Diversity and Inclusivity

The rhetoric around the United States political landscape has been shocking, to say the least. We have seen calls for religious registries and denigration of women’s rights co-occurring in a context where various groups are forced to say their lives matter in the face of persistent marginalization. As an academic society that promotes cross-cultural understanding, the ongoing persecution and oppression of diverse individuals stands in direct contrast to the purpose of the Society of Cross-Cultural Research. No, we are not a political entity. No, we do not encourage our membership residing in the United States to take a stand for a given political perspective. But, we do embrace, explore, and respect diversity as a defining characteristic of our society.

SCCR is an international, cross-disciplinary organization, and as a result, is a compendium of unique, global perspectives. We may venture to guess that our commitment to diversity as a society is implicit in the work that we do; however, such assumptions are quiet voices in times when discrimination yells louder in the United States. Not all of our members live in the U.S., but the hateful messages pronounced are no less worrisome on a global scale.

This global impact influences our science, sure, but is also influences the people from whom we collect our data. Vine Deloria, in Custer Died for Your Sins, called on the social scientist visiting Native American tribes in the United States without providing any tangible impact for research conducted to do more. We cannot merely take data from culturally diverse individuals, whether they be gender, religious, or ethnic minorities, and abstract ourselves from the fearful reality to which those individuals are exposed in the United States. As a society of researchers, we can use our data to show that diversity in education, mental health, development, and an array of other arenas is profoundly beneficial, beautiful, and necessary.

This is not simply a reality we can ignore or hide from in the inner sanctum of academia. In fact, many campuses have encountered increased discrimination and the proliferation of hate speech in the last few months. As cross-cultural and cultural researchers, we have the unique ability (and admittedly, extensive privilege) to think about why and how we conduct our research. We can demonstrate the importance of cross-cultural findings and integrate these into social justice advocacy, thus encouraging us to step outside of the research lab (if many of us even use these…). Our society remains committed to diversity and inclusion, even if some in the United States would aim to devalue diverse others under the guise of safety, reverse racism, or some other perspective clouded by privilege.

Signed,
Theodore T. Bartholomew, Ph.D. Secretary SCCR
Smita Mathur, Ph.D. Social Science Area Representative, SCCR
Jill R. Brown, Ph.D. President Elect SCCR
Brien K. Ashdown, Ph.D. Newsletter Editor SCCR

Congratulations to William Jankowiak! A past president of SCCR, he has been invited to be a scholar-in-residence at two Hong Kong universities (City University and Chinese University) during the Spring 2017 semester. These are two week appointments where he will render advice to students about their research projects and give several seminars on different topics.
The Benefits of Studying Abroad
Sarah Taylor, Ph.D. Student
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
sarah.taylor@huskers.unl.edu

The Child, Youth and Family Studies doctoral program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln emphasizes the importance of global citizenry. Study abroad is one opportunity they have given students like myself to develop in this area. The idea of traveling alongside faculty members with pre-established connections in different countries appealed to me. I envisioned these study abroad experiences to be more authentic and comprised of activities that are often unlikely for travelers without these connections. Because I wanted to learn about family life in different parts of the world and the issues that they face, study abroad trips led by my department were opportunistic. Since entering my doctoral program four years ago, I have participated in two 3-week long study abroad trips. My first trip was to India in 2014, and my second was to China in 2015.

Both of my study abroad trips included sightseeing tours of historical sites, such as the Taj Mahal in India and the Great Wall in China. Though the sightseeing in these two countries was surreal and enlightening, the highlight of both trips for me was interacting with families and children. On both trips, we visited host families each for a night and learned about their daily lives, such as eating practices and other traditions. I was even invited to help cook a meal with our Chinese hostess.

Each study abroad experience is unique. In India, our main learning objective was to better understand the global issue of human trafficking. We visited organizations in the red-light districts of Mumbai and New Delhi that serve the children of trafficked women with the goal of ending next-generation trafficking. We also visited Save the Children in Mumbai, an organization that offers services and education to young girls who have been rescued out of the commercial sex industry. Though these girls did not speak English, we were able to make each other friendship bracelets, which was a very warm and powerful experience. In China, our main objective was to learn about Chinese culture through our interactions with families and schools. We met with students and instructors at Chinese primary and secondary schools, as well as Beijing Normal University and Xi’an Jiaotong University. We attended classes, as well as engaged in art projects with the younger children. Specifically, at the secondary school and
During graduate school, we often learn about culturally diverse families through textbooks, films, and discussions. However, as a result of my study abroad experiences, I have realized that there comes a point when it is necessary to reach beyond these sources of information. Even though three weeks in a country can only provide you a glimpse of reality, for me, it provided an accurate and honest picture to supplement my classroom learning. Study abroad provided opportunities beyond being a tourist; I was able to gain an understanding of the lives and experiences of the people.

Study abroad can also provide you with a new perspective. As someone who grew up in a small, rural town, study abroad broadened my perspective of families around the globe. As a society, we oftentimes tend to only focus on the differences between people. Although there are many cultural differences between families around the world, my study abroad experiences have helped me to also see similarities. I have learned that despite our different nationalities or cultures, we share many similarities in our desires and expectations for families and children.

I encourage everyone who studies abroad to fully immerse themselves in the culture. It is easy to say, “No, thank you” when offered food that does not look familiar or to pass up an unplanned excursion after a long day. But in fact, one of my favorite memories from China was when some of us woke up before sunrise and walked to the nearest park to watch people gather for community exercise. We ended up being invited to participate with Tai Chi and square dancing groups, where the Chinese participants took us by the hand to teach us the steps. My final piece of advice would be to share your stories and pictures with friends and family when you return from your trip, particularly to those who have never had the chance to travel abroad. Study abroad had an impact on me and the way I approach my work, but learning about my experiences had an impact on my curious friends and family as well.

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New Book Announcement!
Robert Schrauf
Professor and Head of the Department of Applied Linguistics
Pennsylvania State University

Attention to cultural variation has become an important source of insight in the social, behavioural, and health sciences. Mixed methods research provides an especially sensitive and powerful way to make systematic cross-cultural comparisons, in which qualitative approaches give a window onto cultural meaning and the phenomenological 'feel' of social life, and quantitative methods facilitate hypothesis testing and sophisticated modelling of social and behavioural phenomena. For researchers engaged in cross-cultural projects, this book offers a theory-based approach to integrating 'numbers' and 'text' based on discourse as the originary form of data collection, the method and framework of analysis, and the medium of publication. The book provides concise explanations, targeted examples, step-by-step instructions, and actual analyses of cross-cultural, quantitative survey data and qualitative interview data, with special attention to language(s) and translation as clues to the study of cultural variation. Order from: Cambridge University Press.

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SCCR Newsletter, December 2016
Offer to Collaborate
Douglas Caulkins, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus in Anthropology
Grinnell College
caulkins@grinnell.edu

I am interested in talking with potential field researchers interested in ethnonational identity in Celtic countries or their diasporas elsewhere. See the following collaborative publications. I would be interested particularly in collaborating with fieldworkers in Scottish American or Irish American communities.

Celtic Identity Project:


If you are interested in collaborating, please contact: Douglas Caulkins, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus in Anthropology, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Email: caulkins@grinnell.edu

Correction: In the June 2016 edition of the Newsletter, we erroneously stated that Elif Dede Yildirim received the 2016 Leigh A. Minturn Award for Early Career Cross-Cultural Research. Instead, she received the 2016 John & Beatrice Whiting Award for Student Cross-Cultural Research.
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SCCR - A Community of Scholars and Students

SCCR is a multidisciplinary organization. Its members all share a common devotion to the conduct of cross-cultural research. SCCR members are professionals and students from the social science fields of Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, and related fields including Education, Family Studies, Social Work, Human Development, Psychiatry, Communications, Ethnic Studies, Business, etc. A distinguishing characteristic of the Society, compared with other academic organizations is that it is fundamentally interdisciplinary and provides members the opportunity to network with scholars from a wide variety of approaches to cross-cultural and comparative research. Since its founding in 1971, SCCR has hosted conferences that offer members and participants the opportunity to know each other better, form productive and lasting relationships, and provide genuine support for their fellow colleagues and students.

To join SCCR, submit the online application form and pay your dues online (listed below), or print and fill out this form and mail it to the Treasurer along with your dues payment. Membership dues are not included in conference fees, and should be sent only to the SCCR treasurer, online or by mail.

Membership in the Society for Cross-Cultural Research begins after your payment has been received, and will continue for one or two years, depending on the selection you make (see below). After becoming an SCCR member, you will begin receiving the current issues of Cross-Cultural Research. Back issues of the journal are available online only.

There are three categories of membership in SCCR. Regular, Student, and Retired members receive Cross-Cultural Research, the Newsletter, 20% publisher discounts from Sage Publications and Information Age Publishing, reduced meeting registration rates, and voting privileges. Joint members share one copy of CCR. You may choose an alternate two-year dues payment option at a reduced rate. Current and new members: please use the following table to choose your dues amount.

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