

# Society *for* Qualitative Inquiry *in* Psychology



## Letter from the President

Heidi Levitt, Ph.D. University of Massachusetts Boston



What a wonderful year it has been! At the conference, I was reflecting upon highlights in my career as a qualitative researcher. Being a qualitative researcher has seemed like a magical ticket that has allowed me to talk and learn from people who have had experiences that are compelling to me and to gain deeper understanding. These have ranged - across Tibetan Buddhist monks, LGBTQ and intersectional communities, and psychotherapy clients and expert therapists. This research has changed who I am, how I see the world, and how I understand my work. Being your President has been another peak experience. Over the year, we have been growing as a section and growing in our number of initiatives and actions. Seeing all of the enthusiasm in SQIP and the ways we collectively are advancing our field has been thrilling. I'd like to take this moment to share with you some of our achievements as I reflect back on our year.

Our annual conference this year was at Duquesne University in May and was a resounding success. Thanks so much to Duquesne University and Dr. Leswin Laubscher as well as to our host committee co-chairs, Drs. Elizabeth Fein and Lori Koelsch, and to Dr. Linda McMullen, who served as conference program co-chair with me, and to all the members on these committees. We had our first pre-conference workshop, which was a rich experience of conversation and data analysis, run by the distinguished phenomenologist Dr. Frederick Wertz...

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### Save the Date!

**August 9 - 12, 2018:  
San Francisco, CA, USA**

Registration is now open for psychology's premier learning and networking event! For registration information and further details regarding the upcoming **American Psychological Association's 2018 Conference** in San Francisco, CA please visit: the registration website at: <http://convention.apa.org/>

**Read on for more details under "Looking Ahead to APA 2018!"**

**Letter from the President  
continued on Pages 4 and 5.**

## Recapping SQIP Conference 2018

Please see some of the highlights from 2018's SQIP Conference at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA!

Elizabeth Fein, Ph.D. Duquesne University

Thanks to all who attended our fifth annual Society for Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology Annual Conference! This year's conference took place at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, co-sponsored by Duquesne University and the Department of Psychology, with generous support from Fielding Graduate University. We were also joined by a representative from QSR International, sharing information about the NVivo qualitative software package.

Sunday afternoon, Frederick J. Wertz started off the event with a well-attended Pre-Conference Workshop on *Doing Phenomenological Analysis in Psychology*. After the workshop, about twenty-five of us journeyed under a tunnel and over a bridge to our Sunday Night Social at Streets on Carson, a local restaurant serving "street food" from around the world.

Monday morning, Leswin Laubscher, Chair of the Duquesne Psychology Department, led the opening plenary session, "*The History of Duquesne in the Development of a Qualitative Psychology*".



Leswin Laubscher delivers the Opening Plenary, "*The History of Duquesne in the Development of a Qualitative Psychology*", while co-panelists Robert Romanyshyn, Nisha Gupta, Jayme Jenkins, and Sugandh Dixit listen and prepare to present.

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*"See you next year!"*

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Lillian Grate, Eva Simms, Sandra Quiñones, Stephanie M. Romero, Robert Bowden, and Matthew Walsh, co-panelists on the Tuesday morning Plenary Session, discuss Community Engaged Teaching and Research.

**See pages 5 and 6 for more on SQIP 2018!**

He was joined by Duquesne students and faculty past, present and future: Robert Romanyshyn, Nisha Gupta, Sugandh Dixit, and Jayme Jenkins. A number of exciting symposia and paper sessions followed, focusing on a diverse range of topics. (The program is posted on our website at <http://qualpsy.org/events/2018-conference/sqip-2018-conference-program>). Participants ranging from undergraduates to senior scholars also displayed posters during our Poster Session. In the afternoon, Martin Packer, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of the Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, gave a lively and provocative keynote address: "*Qualitative Inquiry: To Be and How to Be, That is the Question*". More paper sessions, symposia and Conversation Hours followed, and the day wrapped up with a reception featuring live music from local musicians playing tunes from our surrounding Appalachian region. (We are told that SQIP'ers, eager to keep talking, stayed until the close of several Pittsburgh bars following the reception).

Nonetheless, things started up bright and early the next day with a second Plenary Session on Community-Engaged Teaching and Research, in which academics and community partners co-presented on the challenges and benefits of their collaborations. At lunch, various Task Forces and Committees met to discuss ongoing SQIP initiatives. After several more symposia and paper sessions, the event concluded on Tuesday evening, and attendees headed back to their homes all over the world. See you next year!

# Student Perspectives

Zenobia S. Morrill. Doctoral Candidate, University of Massachusetts Boston



I am thrilled to be taking on the position of Student Representative within SQIP! As a third-year, Counseling Psychology doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, I learned about SQIP through my mentor, Heidi Levitt. Since then, I became involved in learning about the roles of graduate students in SQIP through Chris Head, who organically pioneered the student rep position in thoughtful, collaborative ways. I look forward to the prospect of building upon the work we've just begun as a graduate student committee to create a community and locate opportunities within qualitative endeavors. It is most exciting to me to connect and learn about the interests that draw so many students to qualitative methodologies.

Recently, I had the chance to meet a number of incredibly passionate students at this year's annual SQIP committee at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Seriously, it was exhilarating to see the diversity of interests and the rich contributions students were bringing to presentations, discussions, and socials. We were able to meet and explore a number of potential opportunities for students to receive support for their research through the SQIP community, such as through project solidarity and collaboration, funding (be sure to check out the SQIP website for student awards through Division 5), and the opportunity to get involved with Wikipedia to disseminate knowledge about qualitative methods. If you're interested in becoming a part of our student community, I encourage you to contact either Chris Head or myself and we can add you to the student listserve ([Zenobia.Morrill001@umb.edu](mailto:Zenobia.Morrill001@umb.edu)).

Finally, in the spirit of conferences, I wanted to acknowledge the upcoming annual APA conference in San Francisco this August! Through reflecting on my experiences, and those of my friends/colleagues, I've compiled some "conferencing" tips for those of you who may be first-time conference goers or who may simply feel overwhelmed at the prospect of attending such a large, national conference (I know I have felt this way before!):

- Download the app ahead of time and strategically utilize the search features to identify presentation topics or presenters of interest to you. There is so much going on simultaneously that it helps to plan ahead of time.

- Find ways to volunteer through divisions you're interested in. This can be an easy way to meet people and show you're committed and willing to contribute. Often, students can receive some form of payment as well.

- There are a number of socials, such as those held by specific divisions or held especially for graduate students. Go to them! This is often a way to get some free food and strike up conversations and/or make connections in an informal setting.

- Many students find that professors are much more approachable than one might expect, particularly if you catch them in smaller, social gatherings and low-key settings. Use this opportunity to introduce yourself, ask questions, and/or express appreciation for someone's work.

- Finally, there tend to be a number of kiosks and tables near the check-in. Explore this area and you may come across some free perks including, but not limited to, free massages, and free cake.

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# Letter from the President

Continued from Page 1...

... Also for the first time, the host committee organized a sold-out Sunday Night Social event that kicked off the conference with a warm welcome (and delicious food!). And, after our Reception, there was a Student Night Out that closed down not just one bar, but two, and then conversation continued in a hotel lounge. It was striking to me how strong the presentations were and how important conversations were occurring throughout the event – considering issues related to how to best support qualitative research and researchers across varied stages, locations, and concerns. Also – the presentations were diverse in terms of the topics – with concentrations of work focused on international and social justice research, qualitative methodologies and approaches, clinical and health focused work, and self- and community-development research. I am already looking forward to the conference next year!

In addition to the conference, SQIP has been engaged in many other initiatives. This year we generated a database of graduate training programs that provide qualitative research training in order to assist undergraduates seeking this training (see <http://qualpsy.org/grad-database/>). We have continued to advance qualitative researchers, by nominating members for APA awards (see <http://www.apadivisions.org/division-5/awards/index.aspx>) and as APA fellows in our Division. Stemming from our *Task Force on Qualitative Methods Education*, a SQIP white paper has been published on the state of education on qualitative research in the U.S. (Rubin, Bell & McClelland, 2017) to assist qualitative researchers, with recommendations for increasing the visibility of qualitative research in curriculum. In addition, we have been involved in advocating for qualitative research with journals through our *Task Force on Resources for Qualitative Research Publications*. Also, our journal, *Qualitative Psychology*, has expanded its number of issues per year – many thanks to its editor, Dr. Ruthellen Josselson (to submit your work see <http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/qua/>).

As well as our task forces, it has been exciting to see our committees thriving. They not only provide a way for you to meet other researchers in a given area, but they promote areas of qualitative research in our field...

Continued on the next page...

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2018 APA Division 5 Award Winners:

Distinguished Contributions to  
Qualitative Inquiry Award:  
Ruthellen Josselson, PhD

Distinguished Contributions to  
Teaching and Mentoring in  
Qualitative Inquiry Award:  
Larry Davidson, PhD

Distinguished Early Career  
Contributions in Qualitative  
Inquiry Awards:  
Jessica Nina Lester, PhD  
Sara McClelland, PhD

Distinguished Dissertations in  
Qualitative Inquiry Award:  
Heidi Mattila, PhD

**Congratulations to All!!!**

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*“As well as our task forces, it has been exciting to see our committees thriving. They not only provide a way for you to meet other researchers in a given area, but they promote areas of qualitative research in our field...”*

Our *International Committee* is networking with qualitative researchers globally and has organized conference events; our *Graduate Student Committee* has coordinated student events and provided representation for students in our section; our *Ethics Committee* has provided input to APA as they reconsider their ethics code and will have a collaborative APA program; and our *Consultancy Committee* is developing a mechanism to help people seeking consultation on qualitative methods for grants or reviewing to locate methodologists. And, as you can see from this newsletter, our *Communications Committee* is spreading the word on SQIP activities and events related to qualitative research to our membership and through the field. You can learn more about these committees on our [website, qualpsy.org!](http://www.qualpsy.org)

In August, I hope to see many of you at the APA convention, where we have a line up of qualitative presentations. Thank you to Dr. Michelle Fine for chairing the qualitative program subcommittee this past year! Please visit the following site at: <http://www.apa.org/convention/program-search.aspx> and search for Division 5 activities, to learn about other SQIP programming! This newsletter also contains a flyer with some important SQIP events at APA. In particular, please attend our **SQIP Business Meeting** on Friday August 10 from 4:00-4:50 in the Moscone Center Room 3000 Level 3 - West Building, which is open to all members. There, you will have the opportunity to meet up with other SQIP members, learn more about our activities, and to welcome in Suzanne Kirschner as our new President. Thank you all for a fabulous year, and I will look forward to continuing serving SQIP as Past-President in the coming year!

*"Thank you all for a fabulous year and I will look forward to continuing serving SQIP as Past-President in the coming year!"*

## More from SQIP 2018 Conference Continued from Page 2!



SQIP attendees journey beneath the Duquesne University campus through the Armstrong Tunnel, on their way to the Sunday Night Social at local restaurant Streets on Carson.

## SQIP 2018 Continued...

From Pages 2 and 5



Martin Packer (above) delivers the Keynote Address: *"Qualitative Inquiry: To Be and How to Be, That is the Question"*.



Host Committee members Susan Goldberg, Jennifer Bradley, and co-chairs Elizabeth Fein and Lori Koelsch prepare to welcome conference attendees .



Linda McMullen (left) presents on Canadian academic psychology as part of the symposium on "Envisioning a Global Community of Qualitative Psychologists: International Perspectives, Challenges and Possibilities"



## Looking Ahead to APA 2018!

If you are attending the APA Conference in San Francisco, August 9 – August 12, we ask that you spread the word to promote the following events using the new

SQIP hashtag on social media! **#QualAPA2018**

**Session Title: 3196 Awards Symposium**

Session Type: Symposium

Date: Sat 08/11 11:00AM - 12:50PM

Division/Sponsor: 5-Quantitative and Qualitative Methods; Co-List: APAGS

Building/Room: Moscone Center/Room 2011 Level 2-West Building

**Session Title: 2267 SQIP Business Meeting (chaired by Heidi Levitt & Scott Churchill)**

Session Type: Business Meeting

Date: Fri 08/10 4:00PM - 4:50PM

Division/Sponsor: 5-Quantitative and Qualitative Methods; Co-List: APAGS, Psi Chi

Building/Room: Moscone Center/Room 3000 Level 3-West Building

**Session Title: 2327 Division 5 Business Meeting (Chaired by Amy Schmit)**

Session Type: Business Meeting

Date: Fri 08/10 5:00PM - 5:50PM

Division/Sponsor: 5-Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Building/Room: Moscone Center/Room 3000 Level 3-West Building

**Session Title: 1221 An Ethics Code in Context---Challenges and Lessons Learned From Social Justice and Community-Based Psychology**

Session Type: Symposium

Date: Thu 08/09 12:00PM - 1:50PM

Division/Sponsor: CPG-Central Programming Group; Co-List: 27, 5, 35, 45, 48

Building/Room: Moscone Center/Room 158 Upper Mezzanine-South Building

**Session Title: 3379 APA Reporting Standards for Quantitative and Qualitative Research---Increasing Transparency**

Session Type: Symposium

Date: Sat 08/11 5:00PM - 5:50PM

Division/Sponsor: 5-Quantitative and Qualitative Methods; Co-List: 15, 23, 24, 32

Building Room: Moscone Center/Room 306 Level Three-South Building

## Society for Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology

For information related to the Society please  
email: [info@qualpsy.org](mailto:info@qualpsy.org).