



Call for Program Submissions

JPS 2022: Putting Development Back into Evolution

2–4 June 2022

Philadelphia Marriot Old City, 1 Dock Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19106

Robert Lickliter, David Moore, and David Witherington (Organizers)

Peter Marshall (Local Organizing Chair)

As always, we welcome submissions on any topic in developmental science!

Description of Conference Theme:

Development impacts evolutionary processes. The question is how? In much of pre-Darwinian thought, individual development was considered a primary driver of evolutionary change. This view changed radically in the early decades of the 20th century with the advent of neo-Darwinism or the “Modern Synthesis.” With its restriction of inheritance to genetics and its promotion of natural selection as the mechanism of evolutionary change, 20th century evolutionary biology effectively wrote individual development out of the evolutionary picture. In the process, evolutionary biology promoted nativist conceptualizations of normative developmental phenomena by suggesting that these phenomena are merely by-products of natural selection.

The 51st Jean Piaget Society Annual Meeting program focuses on the movement currently underway in both the biological and developmental sciences to re-establish and re-conceptualize the role of individual development in evolutionary theory. The invited program will examine the theoretical and empirical impetus behind recent calls for an “Extended Evolutionary Synthesis,” one concerned with how developmental processes play a role in evolutionary change as well as how evolutionary processes play a role in developmental change. In particular, the invited program will provide a survey of perspectives on whether these recent advances in biology, psychology, and philosophy compel a thoroughgoing revision of evolutionary theory and its applications to human development. Such a revision would place the developmental sciences where they belong: at the center of a theory of the evolution of phenotypes. The resulting change in perspective would have numerous practical consequences for developmental psychology, including encouraging research on developmental processes per se, reinvigorating appreciation of the importance of variability and diversity, and undermining false notions of genetic determinism that have had a number of negative consequences for society.

Plenary Speakers and Topics:

Anne Sophie Meincke (University of Vienna). Re-conceptualizing Development and Evolution in Terms of Process Philosophy

Scott F. Gilbert (Swarthmore College). The Centrality of Developmental Process to Evolutionary Change: A Perspective from Evolutionary Developmental Biology

Denis M. Walsh (University of Toronto). The Organism as an Adaptive Agent of Evolutionary Change

Eva Jablonka (Tel Aviv University and London School of Economics & Political Science). Re-conceptualizing the Traditional Divide between “Biological” and “Cultural” evolution

Invited Symposia:

Rethinking Genetics, Epigenetics, and Inheritance, chaired by David S. Moore (Pitzer College and Claremont Graduate University).

Developmental Psychobiological Systems Theory, chaired by Robert Lickliter (Florida International University).

Historical Links between Developmental and Evolutionary thought, chaired by Jeremy Burman (University of Groningen).

Development within multi-dimensional complex systems: Evolutionary processes, individual development and participation in cultural practices, chaired by Carol Lee (Northwestern University)

The conference will be held in Philadelphia using a face-to-face format. Building on the success of last year's conference, we hope to add some online features that will allow presenters to upload documents, images, videos, etc. to help audience members prepare for in-person presentations.

In this ever-changing world pandemic, circumstances may change, and if they do, we will be sure to keep everyone informed.

Program Proposal Guidelines

Submission Deadline: 15 January 2022

Proposal Submission Information

Proposals need not address the conference theme—we welcome submissions on any topic in developmental science.

We are using an online submission process. To access the online submission forms you need to create an account on the JPS website (member.piaget.org). The account is free. Submissions are also free. Your JPS account will allow you to access your membership status, your conference submissions, and registration forms. If your proposal is accepted, the presenting author (and co-authors who attend) will need to pay the 2022 JPS membership fee and conference registration fee.

General Submission Notes

Full bibliographic references are not required. Tables and figures are not supported in the submission process. If you feel that tables or figures are essential to evaluation of your proposal, please contact Chris Lalonde (webmaster@piaget.org).

Proposals will be accepted in English only. Program Committee decisions will be communicated in February 2022. Details regarding the scheduling of accepted submissions will be communicated in March 2022. The final program will be announced in April 2022. Presenters of all accepted submissions (i.e., first authors) must register for the conference by 1 May 2022 to be included in the program.

Paper Presentations

Paper presentations (15–18 minutes) may be focused on either empirical findings or theoretical analysis. The program review committee will select individual submissions and schedule a series of Paper Sessions that include 3–5 papers on similar topics. These sessions will have a moderator appointed by the program committee. A paper proposal must include a 250-word abstract (for publication in the conference program) and a 1000-word summary (for the program review committee).

Poster Presentations

Poster presentations may be focused on either empirical findings or theoretical analysis. The conference usually holds two poster sessions on separate days. The sessions are organized around broad themes derived from the posters selected for each session. Posters are mounted for display in a high-traffic area for the entire day of the session. Presenting authors need only attend their poster during the official session. A poster proposal must include a 250-word abstract (for publication in the conference program), and a 1000-word summary (for the program review committee).

Symposium Sessions

Symposium proposals (75–90 minutes) should describe 3-4 presentations organized around a single topic. Symposium sessions will have one to two named organizers who may serve as moderator and may include a named discussant who will comment on the presented papers.

A symposium proposal must include a 250-word abstract (for publication in the conference program), and a 1500-word summary (for the program review committee) that describes the overall theme of the session. In addition, each presenter in a symposium session will submit (using the online form) a 250-word abstract describing their presentation (for publication in the conference program).

Discussion Sessions

Discussion Sessions (75–90 minutes) are intended to provide an interactive venue for exploring ideas that bear on the development of knowledge, broadly conceived. They may be formatted as debates, panels, or organized discussions; and may focus on any well-defined topic.

Discussion session submissions must include a 400-word abstract (for publication in the conference program), and a 1500-word summary (for the program review committee) that describes the topic and structure of the session and the role of each of the discussion leaders. In addition, each presenter in a discussion session will submit (using the online form) a 250-word abstract describing their presentation (for publication in the conference program).