

**Discipline or Program Initiatives for Improving Teaching and Curricula:
Developing and Sharing Innovations and Solutions**

History of Psychology Symposium

Final Report

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Summary of Accomplishments

On Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10, 2003, seventeen faculty members from fourteen campuses of the California State University system met in San Marcos for the History of Psychology Symposium (please see the attached list). Included among these faculty members were senior full and associate tenured professors, assistant professors, and lecturers. Some of these faculty members had taught the history of psychology course only once or twice, while others had taught the course for many years. Our courses ranged from lower division lecture courses to graduate level seminars (please see attached list). As anticipated, none of these faculty members had been trained in history.

As shown on the attached agenda, we spent our meetings learning from solutions and innovations on other campuses, developing more effective instructional approaches, building on the successes of other colleagues, and sharing best practices among participants. The goals of this symposium were to facilitate the transmission of information about resources and teaching strategies from experienced faculty to newer faculty and to explore ways to broaden the material presented in the course to make our courses more culturally inclusive, facilitate the development of more interdisciplinary approaches, allow us to teach more than the history of only behaviorist and experimental psychology, and provide greater recognition of the impact of broad social forces on the history of ideas.

Following is a list of the outcomes from this symposium.

Objective:

- 1) Encourage new faculty and improve instruction by allowing us to

- identify recurring problems and issues in teaching this course
- share successful strategies and solutions for addressing these problems
- discuss resources, exercises, instructional approaches, and best practices

We began our discussion by identifying recurring problems (please see attached list). Then, throughout our meetings our discussion focused on solutions for these problems. In evaluating the symposium, several faculty members remarked that they would be making significant changes to their instructional approaches in response to information presented in these meetings.

Objective:

- 2) Ensure that this course remains an important part of our curricula by giving us time to
 - compare perspectives on the place of this course in the major
 - provide a forum for consideration of issues such as how changes in epistemology have influenced the history of science
 - learn about scholarship in the history of science and psychology

The place of the course in our curricula was addressed first by distributing a list of course descriptions on all CSU campuses (please see attached). We are also developing a statement of purpose to encourage the teaching of this course on all campuses. When complete, the statement will be posted on the symposium web site. Fred Newton at San Bernardino is coordinating the development of this statement. The objective to learn about scholarship in the history of science and psychology was met by our dinner speaker, Dr. Deborah Coon, who spoke titled "*Of Boundaries and Borderlands: American Experimental Psychology and Spiritualism, 1880-1920*".

We also enjoyed a lively and very educational question and answer session after the talk.

Objective:

- 3) Engage faculty in on-going dialog and networking

- develop an electronic list for continued collaboration between participants
- send each participant home with a package of material designed to contribute to improved teaching

A History of Psychology Symposium web site has been developed and can be viewed at www.csusm.edu/ps/. This site contains syllabi, resources, links to related sites, contact information, and a place for discussions. We welcome suggestions on how to make the availability of this site known to other faculty, especially new faculty, as a resource. This site will be maintained for the next year by Dave Campbell at Humboldt and Kevin Volkan at Channel Islands. Each symposium participant was also provided with a folder containing copies of handouts about innovative teaching techniques from each of the presenters.

Objective:

- 4) If appropriate, we would disseminate the results of our efforts in the following ways
 - publish the results in internal CSU publications
 - present the results to regional and national professional meetings including the Western Psychological Association (WPA) and American Psychological Association.
 - publish the results in appropriate scholarly journals

Tasha Howe at Humboldt is coordinating our collaborative efforts to write an article to report the results of the symposium. When complete, this report will also be posted on our web site. In addition, we discussed the possibility of reporting our symposium and/or meeting again next year at WPA.

Next Steps

For the next year we will maintain the web site and engage in continuing dialog. The second most common comment made in evaluating the symposium (after how valuable the

symposium was) was that the meeting was not long enough to really address many of the issues that were raised. We were not able to include as much information as we had hoped about how to include cross-cultural information and historical context, for example. Looking over the list of problems we identified at the beginning of the symposium, we probably were able to address about half of them in the time available. We unanimously agreed at the close of the symposium that we would like to find a way to meet again next year to continue this important work. Diane Henschel and Lisa Gray-Shellburg, both at Dominguez Hills, volunteered to organize a second History of Psychology Symposium next year, location and details to be arranged.

Expenditures

<u>Item</u>	<u>Awarded</u>	<u>Actual Match</u>	<u>Actual Spent</u>
Personnel			
Adjunct Replacement for Project Coordinator	\$ 4,362		\$ 4,362
Student Assistant	800		800
Travel			
Airfare, Mileage, Lodging	6,908		4,328.84
Meals		785	785
Consulting			
Speaker	250		250
Supplies			
Conference Materials	50		50
Copying & Postage	25		25
Technology			
Develop Website	<u>845</u>	<u> </u>	<u>844.42</u>
Total Cost	\$13,240	\$ 785	\$11,445.26

Total Grant Funds Expended: \$10,660.26

Grant Funds Not Expended: \$2,579.74