

GRADUATE PROGRAM in SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Department of Sociology

The Graduate Program in Social Psychology focuses on the reciprocal relationship between the individual and society. The objective of the Social Psychology program is to give interested students a solid background in general social psychology with a special emphasis on the issues and substantive topics associated with the sociological social psychological perspective. Although the program emphasizes that all social psychology students should develop solid theoretical knowledge and research techniques, the guiding principle of the program is flexibility. One of the strengths of social psychology is the scope of topics within its purview, and one of the strengths of the social psychology program is the willingness of faculty to guide students in the selection of coursework which is most compatible with their own interests. Aside from employment in universities or other agencies of higher education, graduates of the Social Psychology program will have valuable skills related to such diverse areas as public opinion, mass communications, consumer behavior and public health. All graduate students in the social psychology program are encouraged to develop a professional orientation toward research and publication through direct involvement in the activities of the faculty.

Program Requirements

Students choosing a major or minor in this program are responsible for meeting the general degree requirements described in the Graduate Catalog and those set forth in the Department of Sociology's [Graduate Student Handbook](#). In addition, students in the Graduate Program in Social Psychology must satisfy the following specific requirements:

- 1) **All students in the Social Psychology program** are required to take SOC 650 (Proseminar in Social Psychology). The Proseminar in Social Psychology introduces the principal theoretical perspectives in the discipline, including the various schools of symbolic interactionism, social structure and personality, cognitive theories, and exchange theory. Prominent issues in social psychology, such as the nature of the self and the self-concept, psychological versus sociological social psychology, the paradigmatic crisis, and the problems of attitude and behavior consistency are also introduced in this course.
- 2) **MA students majoring in Social Psychology** must satisfactorily complete SOC 650 and at least **two** additional courses from the core curriculum.

- 3) **PhD students minoring in Social Psychology** must satisfactorily complete SOC 650 and **three** additional courses from the core curriculum.
- 4) **PhD students majoring in Social Psychology** must satisfactorily complete SOC 650 (Proseminar) and at least **four** additional courses from the core curriculum.

The Core Curriculum in Social Psychology

- SOC 647: Sociology of Mental Illness
- SOC 650: Proseminar in Social Psychology
- SOC 653: Social Psychology of the Marital Dyad
- SOC 680: Selected Topics* (i.e., Adolescence)
- SOC 738: Race and Ethnic Relations
- SOC 750: Advanced Social Psychology (Theory)
- SOC 753: Socialization

*Temporary number; proposals for permanent numbers in progress.

Students are encouraged to take as many other courses from the core curriculum as is consistent with their own professional goals and development. Furthermore, all students entering the program in Social Psychology are encouraged to enroll in Sociology 685 and 785 (Readings in Sociology) with a faculty member in the area of social psychology as a means of pursuing topics that are not routinely covered in existing seminars. Students should note that only a limited number of credit hours of independent study work can apply to the minimum degree requirements. Students should consult the Department of Sociology's Graduate Student Handbook for specific information on this limitation.

Comprehensive Examination Requirements

All PhD students are required to satisfactorily pass a written preliminary examination. The examination will cover major schools of thought in social psychology, methodological issues unique to social psychology, prominent problems and issues in social psychology, as well as the current research in the leading social psychological journals. It is expected that all graduate students in social psychology will be familiar with relevant articles appearing in current issues of American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Social Forces, Social Problems, Social Psychology Quarterly, Sociology of Education, and Symbolic Interactionism. Knowledge of relevant articles in additional journals, such as Public Opinion Quarterly and in those published by the American Psychological Association (e.g., Journal of Personality and Social Psychology) is strongly encouraged.

A 3.0 grade point average is necessary in order to qualify to take a preliminary examination. When preparing for an examination in Social Psychology, students are encouraged to talk with the faculty in order to obtain a measure of their expectations

and some guidance as to the kind of questions they will be asked. As stated in the Graduate Student Handbook, students have a right to this information, and faculty have a responsibility to provide it.

Students should assume that all written examinations will cover the amount and quality of material appropriate for their respective levels of study.

Examination Format

PhD Students (Major). Doctoral students majoring in Social Psychology must satisfactorily complete an eight-hour preliminary examination. The exam consists of two four-hour sections. The first section focuses on major theoretical orientations, and the second section emphasizes more specific issues and topics and may require application of the various theoretical orientations.

Summary

The Department of Sociology at Bowling Green State University offers a PhD program with social psychology as either a minor or major area. The social psychology program, emphasizes flexibility and coursework tailored to meet the needs and interests of our students. Nevertheless, all students are encouraged to select additional courses from the core curriculum in social psychology as is consistent with their own professional goals and development. In short, each student must accept responsibility for designing a course of study that will best serve his or her professional goals. The Department of Sociology's faculty in Social Psychology will make every reasonable effort to insure students will meet all degree requirements and emerge as well-qualified professionals. The Social Psychology faculty believes that this program is a challenging opportunity for able, motivated students.

Social Psychology Faculty

- I-Fen Lin, Professor
PhD 1997--University of Wisconsin-Madison
Distributive and Procedural Justice; Survey Research Methods
- Monica A. Longmore, Professor
PhD 1991--Washington State University
Symbolic Interaction; Self-Concept; Equity Theory; Family Sociology
- Kei Nomaguchi, Associate Professor
PhD 2003—University of Maryland
Role Theories; Family Sociology; Stress and Well-Being; Socialization; Life Course; Gender

- Gary Oates, Associate Professor
PhD 1993—University of Maryland
Social Psychology of Race; Quantitative Methods