



# Psychology Special Interest Group 2015

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**Purpose.** Use of psychological variables and social processes in system dynamics models can lead to a deeper understanding of a problem's causes and can enhance theory and practice in psychology and other social and behavioral disciplines.

**Membership.** Our SIG members are diverse, with training and expertise in social and behavioral science, mathematics, physics, business management, public health, public relations and marketing, as well psychology. We support members through a variety of initiatives, including: networking, education (presentations, short courses), collaborative modeling projects, and manuscript consultation and review.

**Roundtable/Annual Meeting.** We will provide a brief report on the state of the SIG's membership, reflections on the prior year's activities, and plans for the new year. In addition, we welcome Dr. Alan Gaynor, Associate Professor Emeritus, Boston University School of Education, who will lead a discussion on the use of 'soft variables' in modeling. If possible, please review materials he has provided before our meeting, available via SDS website. All are welcome! **Wed (7/22) from 8:00 – 8:50; William Dawes AB.**

**Conference highlights.** Two presentations, one parallel session and one poster session, at this year's conference are of particular relevance to our SIG:

**Parallel (142):** Decisions and Emotions: Their Impact on the System, chaired by Pascal Gambardella. **Mon (7/20) at 14:30; Ballroom A.**

**Poster (150):** Health and Human Behavior: Individual and Organizational, chaired by David Lounsbury and Nicole Zimmermann. **Tue (7/21) at 10:30; Paul Revere AB).**

**Workshop: Modeling Psychological and Sociological Dynamics.** This is our inaugural presentation of a workshop focused on modeling psychological and sociological dynamics.

Led by Psych SIG Co-Chairs Pascal and David, the session will:

- Demonstrate how to transform a psychological and sociological construct into a variable in a system dynamics model
- Discuss ways to validate both the construct and the model, and
- Provide a roadmap to the literature addressing use of psychological and sociological variables in dynamics models.

The workshop will provide participants with hands-on exercises that apply key concepts. Examples were developed in Vensim and iThink/Stella.

If possible, download the supplementary materials, available via the SDS website, before the workshop after 7/16. **Thurs (7/28) from 13:00 – 14:30 and 15:00 to 16:30; Thomas Paine AB.**

**Co-Chair Contact Information.** For more information or to reach us during the conference, feel free to e-mail us!

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**We Look Forward  
to Meeting You!**