

**National Institute on Aging  
Behavioral and Social Research Program**

**Workshop on Social Neuroscience of Aging  
Doubletree Hotel  
Washington, D.C.  
February 7-8, 2007**

**Agenda**

***February 7 (Wednesday)***

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- 8:30 AM**                    **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**  
*Lis Nielsen, National Institute on Aging*
- 9:00 AM**                    **Parsing Socioemotional Behaviors: Directions for Aging Research**
- Goal:** To describe some of the fundamental building blocks of social and emotional behaviors with discussion of current knowledge related to age-related differences or change, and suggestions how to direct aging research on these themes.
- Bob Levenson – (10 min) dimensions of emotional function*  
*Susan Fiske – (10 min) social judgment*  
*Ralph Adolphs – (10 min) social cognition*  
*Todd Heatherton – (10 min) self-concept, motivation, context*
- 10:15 AM**                    **Break**
- 10:45 AM**                    **Multilevel Approaches to Studying Neurobiological Mechanisms and Pathways Involved in Socioemotional Function**
- Goal:** To provide perspectives from a variety of labs with different core areas of expertise on how to advance multi-method studies of social behaviors.
- Sue Carter – (10 min) neuropeptides (humans and animal studies)*  
*Janice Kiecolt-Glaser – (10 min) psychoneuroimmunology and genetics*  
*Todd Heatherton – (10 min) neuroimaging and social psychology*  
*Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg – (10 min) neuroimaging and genetics*  
*Ralph Adolphs – (10 min) lesion studies, eye tracking, neuroimaging*
- 12:15 PM**                    **Lunch**
- 1:15 PM**                    **Psychosocial Stress, Health and Aging:  
Emerging Perspectives on Pathways and Mechanisms**
- Goal:** To highlight new multilevel approaches to studying the biological mechanisms by which psychosocial stress is mediated, with a discussion of both laboratory and natural social stressors, gender differences, and lifecourse perspectives on mechanisms.
- Elissa Epel – (10 min) cellular mechanisms and allostatic load*  
*Shelley Taylor – (10 min) gender-specific motives and mechanisms*

**2:00 PM**

**Loneliness, Social Connectedness and Healthy Aging:  
Emerging Perspectives on Pathways and Mechanisms**

**Goal:** To highlight new multilevel approaches to studying the biological mechanisms by which loneliness, social connectedness and relationship quality influence health, with a discussion of the relationship between these constructs, individual differences, social context effects, and lifecourse perspectives on mechanisms.

*John Cacioppo – (10 min) loneliness: causes and consequences*

*Sue Carter – (10 min) social bonds and attachments*

*Janice Kiecolt-Glaser – (10 min) marriage; caregiving*

**3:00 PM**

**Break**

**3:30 PM**

**Evolution and Development of Social Behaviors:  
Opportunities Presented by Animal Models**

**Goal:** To describe potential contributions of biodemography and naturalistic studies of primates to our understanding of the evolution and development of social behaviors of relevance to aging.

*James Carey - (20 min) biodemography of sociality and lifespan*

*Steve Suomi – (20 min) primate social behaviors*

**4:30 PM**

**Social Behaviors, Social Environments, Genetics and Aging:  
Opportunities in the Study of Human Populations**

**Goal:** To describe methods for studying gene environment interplay over the lifecourse, including opportunities presented by twin studies, with a focus on social behaviors and social environments.

*Matt McGue (20 min) gene environment interplay; age moderation of genetic effects*

*Mike Shanahan – (20 min) integrating genetics with lifecourse perspectives on social behaviors and social environments*

**5:30 PM**

**General Discussion**

**6:00 PM**

**Adjourn**

**6:30 PM**

**Group Dinner**

## **February 8 (Thursday)**

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- 8: 30 AM**                    **Recap and Introduction to Day 2**  
*Lis Nielsen, NIA and Jennifer Harris, Genetics Consultant to BSR*
- 9:00 AM**                    **Measurement of Social Environments and Social Behaviors of Relevance to Aging: Ecologically Valid Methods**  
  
**Goal:** To advance discussion on improved measurement of social behaviors and social environments in laboratory and population-based research on aging.  
  
*Mike Shanahan - (10 min) perspectives from sociology*  
*Steve Suomi - (10 min) perspectives from primate studies*  
*Susan Fiske - (10 min) implicit measures*  
*Bob Levenson - (10 min) dyadic interaction*
- 10:15 AM**                    **Break**
- 10:45 AM**                    **Biomarkers of Social Behaviors: Emotion Regulation, Intimacy, and Bonding**  
  
**Goal:** To explore the potential for novel uses of biomarkers of social behaviors in laboratory and survey research on aging.  
  
*Sue Carter - (10 min) oxytocin and bonding*  
*Linda Waite - (10 min) sexual behavior*  
*John Cacioppo - (10 min) psychophysiology of emotion regulation*
- 11:45 AM**                    **Lab-Survey Partnerships and Other Integrative Approaches: Challenges and Benefits of Trans-disciplinary Collaborations**  
  
**Goal:** To provide examples of creative lab-survey integration for advancing social neuroscience research on aging, including a discussion of challenges and obstacles to progress.  
  
*Linda Waite - (10 min) NSHAP*  
*John Cacioppo - (10 min) CHASRS*  
*Shelley Taylor - (10 min) UCLA Study*
- 12:45 PM**                    **General Discussion and Working Lunch**
- 2:00 PM**                    **Wrap Up and Next Steps**  
*Lis Nielsen, NIA*  
*Jennifer Harris, Genetics Consultant to BSR/NIA*
- 2:30 PM**                    **Adjourn**