

APA DIVISION 15 PRESENTS

Newsletter for Educational Psychologists

Spring 2019 Edition



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Edited by Dr. Marcus Johnson

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Message from the President

By Dr. Gale Sinatra

It is hard to believe that I am over halfway through my term as President of Division 15. The time is flying by as the organization has been very busy. Our Program Committee is planning a number of special sessions and events for the Annual APA Convention in Chicago, which is coming up this summer (August 8-11, 2019). My thanks to the 2019 Program Co-Chairs, Panayiota Kendeou and Stephen Aguilar, for their dedicated work managing the program review process.

We've planned several special sessions related to my presidential theme, "*Educational Psychology for a Sustainable and Promising Future*," which emphasizes *Active Stewardship of the Discipline and Increasing Our Impact on Social and Ecological Environments*. First, an early career scholars session will showcase the promising future of Division 15 scholars of color. Two sessions, *Communicating the Science of Learning in a Post-Truth World*, and *Exploring the Connection of Educational Psychology Research and Educational Policy*, will explore how we can leverage our members' research to increase our impact on policy and practice. We are also planning a workshop at APA for those who want to learn more about how to increase the impact of their work on policy and practice (stay tuned for more details).

Division 15's Policy Impact Efforts Bear Fruit

One of our major initiatives this year—which was designed to increase our impact on policy—has come to fruition. Division 15, under the leadership and guidance of the Policy and Practice Committee Co-Chairs, Sharon Nichols and Nancy Perry, has published

its first policy brief. Authored by Ron Astor and Rami Benbenishty, [the brief](#), [accompanying white paper](#), and [podcast](#) (moderated by our own Jeff Greene) on the impact of weapons in schools has reached in excess of 17,000 individuals through downloads and distribution efforts led by our Communication Director, Wade George. It is amazing to see how successful this first effort has been and how much our reach has already expanded. We are thankful to Ron and Rami for sharing their powerful research, to the Policy and Practice Committee leadership and members, and to our Communications Director for making this effort such a success. Look for more policy and practice briefs soon.

We are also working on ways to extend the impact of the Division through two new publication endeavors which will focus on policy and practice. The Publications Committee has been working to develop these new potential publications which could have broad impact.





These efforts take time to get off the ground, but hopefully by next year members will see two new ways to share their work through Division-associated outlets.

Other continuing successes can be seen in our [Podcast Series](#), hosted by Jeff Greene. The new series kicked off with Ron Astor discussing his brief and several more are under development. Our [One Tip series](#), piloted by Serena Shim, has also received abundant positive feedback and remains a succinct source of high-impact guidance for young scholars. Finally, at the end of this month, Division 15 will be hosting a special webinar with Sharon Nichols, entitled “Policy-informed scholarship: Forging a role for psychological research in educational policy.” You may register for this event [here](#), and I encourage all to do so—it is completely free for both members and non-members alike!

See you in Toronto, eh?

For those of you who will be in attendance at AERA next month, be sure to attend the AERA Division C Happy Hour (which Division 15 co-sponsors) to catch up with your Division 15 colleagues in Toronto. The place and time will be announced soon, so stay tuned.

Thanks to all our members for your continued efforts to improve learning and education through Educational Psychology research.

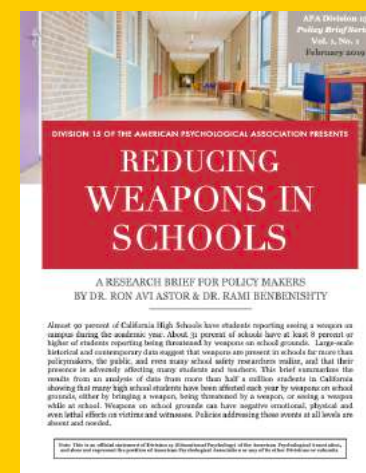
...your president,
Gale Sinatra

Policy Brief: Reducing Weapons in Schools

Division 15 (Educational Psychology) of the American Psychological Association is proud to announce an inaugural policy brief focusing on science-based solutions to weapons and safety in schools. Co-authored by Ron Avi Astor and Rami Benbenishty, this brief offers an important set of evidence-supported policy considerations for decision makers who want to strategize ways to keep students safe using a public health and psychology framework. There is a longer podcast interview with Ron Avi Astor and Jeff Greene, and also a full link to a chapter supporting the policy recommendations with scientific evidence, at the [policy brief's website](#).

We encourage all readers to share this brief widely with your constituents. It's important that our national policy be based on sound evidence.

If you have any questions about the contents of this brief, please contact **Ron Astor**. Any questions or ideas for future Division 15 policy briefs should be directed to **Sharon Nichols**, Co-Chair of Division 15's Policy and Practice Committee.



[Read the Brief](#)



[Listen to the Podcast](#)



Free Division 15 Webinar

Thursday, March 28th (12:00-1:00 PM EST)



We are excited to announce a FREE Division 15 webinar, entitled "Policy-informed scholarship: Forging a role for psychological research in educational policy." This event will feature Dr. Sharon L. Nichols and is scheduled for March 28th (12:00 - 1:00 EST). Members and non-members alike are invited to attend!

About the Event: The purpose of this webinar is to lead a discussion of the ways educational psychologists may think about the connections between their scholarship and the educational policy context. This presentation will include a description of "policy-informed" scholarship to help frame the discussion of research and policy. This description includes (a) ideas for creating new psychological research with policy in mind, (b) what researchers might do to translate existing work for policy-makers (e.g., the development of briefs), and (c) how to think about dissemination and impact. The webinar will conclude with a question/answer session to gauge participants' questions about as well as experiences with policy-related scholarship.



About Our Featured Speaker: Sharon L. Nichols is Professor of Educational Psychology at UTSA. She teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in research methods, learning theory, motivation, and development. Dr. Nichols has authored over three dozen books, journal articles and book chapters related to youth development and motivation and educational policy. She is the editor of *Educational policies and youth in the 21st century: Problems, potential, and progress* (Information Age, 2016), and coauthor of *Collateral damage: How high-stakes testing corrupts America's schools* (with D. C. Berliner, Harvard Education Press, 2007). Her current work focuses on the impact of test-based accountability on teachers, their instructional practices, and adolescent motivation and development.

[Register Here](#)



Tell Us About Your AERA Contributions!

Friday April 5 - Tuesday, April 9, 2019 (Toronto, Canada)

As we prepare for AERA's Annual Meeting, we'd like to highlight the contributions of any attending Division 15 members via our annual "Division 15 at AERA" program. We encourage any who will be presenting work to share details via [this form](#).

Please note that all contributions must be received **by March 25** to be included—no exceptions will be made. Prior to the meeting, we will publish these contributions through Division 15's website, social media, and Weekly Digest. If you will be presenting with other members, please coordinate responses so that information is sent only once. You may submit multiple sessions.

If you are attending the conference, we also encourage you to take photos and tweet about the sessions you are attending! Please tag [@APADivision15](#) in tweets and send photos to [Wade George](#) for sharing in Division 15's official outlets!



Response from an *NEP* Reader

by Sherry Cheng, M.A. Experimental Psychology (St. John's University)

In reading Dr. David Berliner's *Evidence Based Change Through Policy and Professional Learning* [found in the Fall 2018 NEP], I found it refreshing and was energized by his description of the challenges and needs for educational psychology research to influence educational policy and practice.

For this, I simply want to say thank you to Dr. Berliner for communicating the value of collaboration across disciplines, a desire to educate others on best practices across disciplines, and inspiring the next generation of educational/learning professionals.

Do you have a response to recent NEP content? Please contact NEP editor, [Marcus Johnson](#), with your response, comment, and/or feedback.



Dissertation Research Grants

2019 Call for Proposals

Division 15 invites graduate students who are members or affiliates of the division to apply for a Dissertation Research Grant. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial support for educational psychology doctoral students preparing to collect their dissertation data. Two grants will be awarded, each including a \$1,000 stipend to be applied toward the student's dissertation research. Public announcement of the grant award winners will be made during the APA convention.

All applications must be submitted no later than July 1, 2019. Those interested will find a formal call and application instructions [here](#).



Call for Mentors & Reviewers

2019 Claire Ellen Weinstein Graduate Seminar

Due to the sizable turnout of doctoral student applicants for the 2019 Claire Ellen Weinstein Graduate Student Seminar, the Graduate Seminar chairs are seeking reviewers to help in the selection process. Students who are selected will meet with distinguished researchers, work with faculty to discuss their dissertation research and professional identity development, and socialize with faculty and soon-to-be colleagues.

For those interested in serving as possible faculty mentors and/or reviewers, please contact [Teya Rutherford](#) and [Lynda Hutchinson](#). The Convention dates are August 8 - 11, 2019.