

A Proposal of the Special Issue “A Social Psychology of Leisure 2.0”

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The purpose of this proposed special issue “A Social Psychology of Leisure 2.0” is to showcase cutting-edge and forward-thinking exemplars of social-psychological studies of leisure, parks, recreation, tourism, and sport, and to re-imagine the roles of this sub-discipline within the wider leisure scholarship.

The social psychology of leisure (SPL) was a predominant research framework in the 1970s and 80s, as exemplified by seminal publications by the “pioneers” of SPL, such as Seppo E. Iso-Ahola’s (1980) *The Social Psychology of Leisure and Recreation* and John Neulinger’s (1981) *The Psychology of Leisure*. Since then, Roger C. Mannell, Douglas A. Kleiber, and Gordon J. Walker, for example, have maintained SPL’s place as a distinct sub-discipline and research paradigm within the broader leisure literature (Kleiber, Walker, & Mannell, 2011; Mannell & Kleiber, 1997). Besides these scholars, SPL has been enriched by numerous scholars that represent diverse viewpoints (e.g., women’s leisure, adolescents, youth) such as Drs. Lynn Barnett-Morris (e.g., Barnett, 2011), Linda Caldwell (e.g., Caldwell, Darling, Payne, & Dowdy, 1999), Karla Henderson (see Henderson, 2011), and Susan Shaw (e.g., Shaw, 1985). Further, scholars themselves from diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds moved the field forward with their cutting-edge research on topics such as access and equity in parks and recreation, constraints and stress-coping among diverse segments of the populations (e.g., indigenous, Hispanic/Latino, African-American /Black populations (e.g., Floyd & Gramann, 1993; Gómez, 2006; Iwasaki & Mannell, 2000).

Yet, over the last couple of decades, the focus in our field may have leaned toward critical sociology as indicated by special issues topics such as feminism (Fullagar, Rich, Pavlidis, & van Ingen, 2017; Parry & Fullagar, 2013), social justice (Mowatt & Schmalz, 2014; Steward, 2014), and post-humanism (Berbary, Grimwood, & Kumm, 2017) in the *Journal of Leisure Research* and *Leisure Sciences*. Although leisure studies, in general, has greatly benefitted from these critical approaches to leisure research, this shift may indicate that SPL studies have been devalued as “uncritical” or “positivistic” and SPL practitioners have lost their voices in the field. However, as a field, we seek “paradigm proliferation” (Parry, Johnson, & Stewart, 2013, p. 84) and “embrace the interdisciplinary nature of leisure” (Payne, Schmalz, & Janke, 2018, p. 5). We assert the field of leisure studies can survive and flourish when multiple theoretical and disciplinary perspectives co-exist alongside one another. To that end, we believe this special issue is timely to highlight and reinvent SPL. Hence the title of this special issue is A Social Psychology of Leisure 2.0.

In contrast, SPL has expanded to researchers outside of North America and leisure studies. For example, Mannell and Kleiber’s (1997) *A Social Psychology of Leisure* was translated into Japanese (Hayami, 2004) while its second edition by Kleiber et al. (2011) was

translated into Mandarin (Chen, 2014). Numerous studies grounded in SPL have been presented at international and non-Western leisure conferences such as World Leisure Congress, Research Committee 13 Sociology of Leisure in the International Sociological Association, and the Japanese Society of Lifelong Sports. Scholars in psychology and the sub-discipline of positive psychology have become increasingly interested in SPL (e.g., de Bloom, Rantanen, Tement, & Kinnunen, 2018; Freire, 2013; Kuykendall, Tay, & Ng, 2015; Newman, Tay, & Diener, 2014). The recent special issue in *The Journal of Positive Psychology* devoted to leisure (Schmalz & Pury, 2018) attracted much interdisciplinary work from leisure studies, psychology, human development and family studies, and agriculture. As these are exciting cases of SPL adoption, they may also pose issues. For example, some international scholars may find that SPL theories, methods, and even languages used in the West do not readily translate into their unique cultural contexts (see Ito & Walker, 2014). Positive psychologists of leisure may not be fully aware of the rich history of SPL (e.g., Iso-Ahola, 1980; Kleiber et al., 2011; Neulinger, 1981). Therefore, we need the space to share culturally diverse and multidisciplinary perspectives on SPL, given that an intersection of cultural and positive psychological perspectives has also emerged in SPL research (e.g., *ikigai* as an eudaimonic aspect of well-being in Japan; Kono, Walker, Ito, & Hagi, in press). This proposed special issue offers the space to showcase cutting-edge and forward-thinking exemplars of socio-psychological studies of leisure, parks, recreation, tourism, and sport, and to re-imagine the roles of this sub-discipline within the wider leisure scholarship. Our emphasis on international and interdisciplinary aspects of leisure is in harmony with the new directions of the *Journal of Leisure Research* 2.0 (Payne et al., 2018).

Pursuant to the above background and justification, this special issue calls for various forms of papers—empirical, theoretical, methodological, conceptual (e.g., potential new models) and review-based—on topics including but not limited to the following:

- New and revised theories of SPL
- Innovative interdisciplinary SPL research where SPL is integrated with, for example, physiology, geography, economics, and/or anthropology
- Systematic, or comprehensive, literature review on key topics within SPL
- Meta-analyses on key topics within SPL
- Critical commentary on SPL's relevance to the wider field of leisure, parks, recreation, tourism, and sports studies
- Philosophical foundations and paradigms for SPL research
- Causality and rigorous research design (e.g., longitudinal and experimental design) for SPL
- Unique data collection methods (e.g., technology-assisted methods such as smartphone, visual data, BIG data) for SPL
- Advanced statistics (e.g., Bayesian, multi-level modeling, rigorous structural equation modeling practice) for SPL
- Qualitative methods and mixed methods for SPL
- Non-Western and cross-cultural studies of SPL
- SPL in diverse contexts (e.g., gender, race and ethnicity, social class, disability, sexuality, age, religion)

- Critical reviews or empirical studies relating to environmental or political relationship of SPL for applied work in recreation and leisure studies, and related disciplines.

Timeline

| Date | Document needed | Editorial tasks |
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| March 10, 2019 | Deadline for 500-word abstracts | Shin, Eiji, and Angela will review abstracts. They will need other reviewers if some abstracts are out of their expertise or written by themselves. |
| Mid-April | Decisions for full-paper invitations will be sent out | Shin will send out these decisions. As we aim for 6-7 papers, we will invite 11-12 papers, assuming that some will not follow through or will be rejected (or don't make it to the production deadlines). |
| October 31 | Deadline for the full-paper submission. | Shin, Eiji, and Angela will lead the double-blind peer review process. They will first go through papers to decide whether they are review-worthy. Then, have an AE for each paper, and each AE will assign at least 2 reviewers. |
| Mid-January, 2020 | Decisions based on the 1 st round of review | <p>Shin, Eiji, and Angela will make decisions based on reviewers' and AEs' recommendations. Send them out to the authors.</p> <p>At this point, Shin, Eiji, and Angela should have a fairly good idea of which papers will be in the final issue. They will start drafting up an introduction paper.</p> |
| Early March | Deadline for revisions | The papers will be reassigned to the same AEs and reviewers (if available). |
| Early April | Decisions based on the 2 nd round of review | For the papers to be accepted, they will be passed to the production. For papers that require "a little more work," they will be returned for another round of review. At this point, we might have to make a decision that some good papers which needs more polishing will have to be dropped from the special issue to a normal issue. The same goes if we |

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| | | have too many good papers (more than 7). |
| Early May | Deadline for the 2 nd revisions | The papers will be reassigned to the same AEs and reviewers (if available). |
| Early June | Decisions based on the 3 rd round of review | Hopefully by this time, all papers are either accepted or rejected. Others should be moved to a normal issue, if the AE and reviewers believe they have strong potentials. Shin, Eiji, and Angela will finish their introduction paper, including references to the papers to be included in the special issue. |
| Early July, 2020 | The special issue is ready to go. | |

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