

This month we are highlighting our Cultural Neuropsychology SIG founded by Drs. Monica Rivera Mindt, Jennifer Manly, April Thames, and Aparna Dutt. Drs. Thames and Dutt are the co-chairs. We interviewed Dr. April Thames to learn more about the SIG:

Q: What was the motivation for starting this SIG?

A: There is currently no special interest group devoted to addressing scientific research issues within cultural neuropsychology.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish with this group?

A: We hope to be able to establish a foundation for how to conduct scientifically-informed work related to culture, brain and behavior, set standards for journals in terms of reporting requirements with respect to cultural variables that pertain to the study sample, and create a broad based network for students, trainees, and professionals interested in this work.

Q: Tell me a little about the members of your SIG?

A: Members range from graduate students to seasoned neuropsychologists. We also have a solid international representation of our SIG members that include folks from Australia, South Africa, Spain, Argentina, Canada, and Guatemala.

Q: Tell me a little about yourself.

A: I was the first in my family to attend college. I started attending community college in 1997 with the goal of becoming a lawyer. I am an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Psychology at the University of Southern California (USC). My research interests largely involve examining how psychosocial and contextual factors impact cognitive functioning. Specialties include HIV-infection, aging, and drug abuse.

Q: How does a member get involved with this SIG?

A: Please contact one of the SIG chairs (April Thames: adthames@gmail.com; Aparna Dutt: aparnadutt6@gmail.com)