



**DISCOVER SDIS**  
san diego independent scholars

## **SCHOLARS NOTEBOOK**

March 2019

### ***ABOUT OUR SPEAKER***

**March 16 at 1:30 pm  
Room 111A,  
Chancellors Complex, UCSD**

### **Beyond Biology: Examining the Social, Structural & Environmental Determinants of Health**

Join us for a lecture on the ways that our lives, health, and wellbeing are influenced by the conditions of our daily lives, our social and physical environment, the systems of inequality in which we all operate, and the cultural values, beliefs, and norms that undergird them. It is hoped that, following the lecture, we will engage in a conversation about these issues, and ways that we can work, both individually and collectively, to create a socially just, culturally rich, and ecologically sustainable society where people of all ages can flourish.



### **Leslie Lewis**

Leslie R Lewis, Ph.D, MPH, is a Continuing Lecturer, and the Director of Urban Health and Equity Initiatives in the Urban Studies and Planning Program at UC San Diego. Dr. Lewis' research interests include the social, environmental, and structural determinants of health, systems of inequality and their health impacts.

Dr. Lewis is deeply invested in fostering the intellectual and emotional growth of her students, as well as in addressing “real world” challenges and injustices across our communities.

Dr. Lewis has received multiple awards for teaching, advising, and promoting sustainability, equity and inclusion over the course of her years in higher education. Most recently, in 2017, she

## (LEWIS BIO CONTINUED)

was honored with three teaching awards: a prestigious Barbara and Paul Saltman Distinguished Teaching Award from the Academic Senate, a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Distinguished Teaching Award, and an Outstanding Professor Award from the UCSD Panhellenic Greek Community.

Lewis received her PhD in Cultural and Psychological Anthropology from UCSD, an MA in Anthropology from UCSD, and a MPH in Community Health Education and Epidemiology from the University of Massachusetts.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee (Alvin Halpern, Dorothy Parker, Edwina Curtis and Jean Renshaw) begins its work in March to fill SDIS Board positions. A preliminary survey shows that candidates are needed for President, Treasurer, Editor of Scholars Notebook, Publicity, and Director at Large. Filling these positions is crucial to SDIS' ability to continue offering great lectures and other activities.

This year for the very first time, our website information will be updated on a monthly basis by a professional website studio instead of by a member volunteer.

## STUDY GROUPS

### Colloquy Café

The February session focused on "altruism", defined as an action taken for the benefit of others without expectation of benefit for oneself, the only reward being a good feeling. The immediate question arose: can efforts to aid a family member be altruistic, or are such deeds considered expectations of the relationship? Most participants opted for the latter.

Altruism involves selflessness, it was agreed, a giving up of something of oneself in order to help another, even if the recipient doesn't know the giver. This can range from philanthropy — donating to a cause— to volunteer work, to helping a stranger cross the street —parting with a

large or small portion of one's time. The question then arose whether altruism is diminished if the giver is identified; is it then less pure? Lively conversation followed regarding wealthy

donors whose frequent generosity always seems to include their names, i.e. "John Doe Bridge", "John and Mary Doe Park" and "John Doe Theater".

One member spoke of the Biblical Good Samaritan whose motive is as pure as his act.

Another participant spoke of Patriotism, an obligation to a larger community, one's country or state, as a type of altruism.

Next month, March 20, the subject of discussion will be "grace"..

*Gerry Horwitz*

## Film

We will meet Wednesday, March 6 at 10 am to watch *Kusama-Infinity*, a 2018 documentary about famed Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. She is famous for her Infinity Mirror Rooms and polka dot style. Despite early mentoring by Georgia O'Keeffe, she experienced decades of obscurity in the 70s and 80s. Today her exhibits receive record numbers of visitors. She has been called the world's favorite living female artist.

Our February film was acclaimed director Pedro Almodovar's *Julieta*. This was his 20<sup>th</sup> feature film and the fifth one that the Film Group has watched.

## General Relativity

The General Relativity Group met on Feb13 to reviewed some of the predictions of the Schwarzschild Geometry (the Spherically Symmetric mass distribution solution to Einstein's Equations), and their verifications. We then discussed chapter 12, Black Holes and their properties. Some lively discussion ensued regarding the Eddington Finkelstein coordinates, which help elucidate some of the properties of black holes both inside and outside the event horizon.

We've seen *All About My Mother*, *Bad Education*, *Talk to Her*, and *Volver*. These four films are considered his best.

*Julieta* was originally planned to be Almodovar's very first English language film and was to star Meryl Streep but that plan was discarded because Almodovar was so uncomfortable with his ability to write and film in English. *Juliet* was inspired by three short stories from the 2004 book *Runaway* by Alice Monro.

*Barbara Heckler*

In particular, Einstein's Equations lead to a special distance from the center of the black hole, called the event horizon, outside of which light can travel toward or away from center, but inside of which light can only travel inward toward the center, so no light can escape. Our next meeting is on March 13 at 10 am at the usual location.

*Alvin Halperm*

## **NEUROSCIENCE**

The next meeting of the Neuroscience Study Group is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 2 PM in my apartment at the Vi. Our reading assignment is the second chapter in Gazzaniga's book "Consciousness is a Instinct" in which he carefully reviews how human dissection corrected previous misconceptions about the human body.

If you have found any current literature about the development of Artificial Intelligence, please bring it for discussion.

*Bea Rose*

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **Just Lunch**

Monday, March 25  
12 noon  
Il Fornaio  
Del Mar Plaza

### **Supper With Scholars**

We are meeting on the first Thursday of each month, at 6 pm. Thus, we will meet next on Thursday, March 7. If you plan to attend, please RSVP, stating whether you are coming alone or bringing friend(s).

We meet at Humphreys La Jolla Restaurant, 3299 Holiday Court. Meals from the menu ([www.humphreyslajolla.com](http://www.humphreyslajolla.com)) are Dutch Treat. Group discussion is based on suggested topics that have particularly interested the attendees in the last month. If possible, we select a question that can be addressed from the viewpoints of various diverse areas of expertise.

*Dave Parker*

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

### **General Meeting**

April 20, 2019

**Richard Halsey**

**Discovering Yourself  
Through Nature**

### **Helen Hawkins Grants**

There have been no grant applications this year.

# SDIS CALENDAR

## **Colloquy Café**

March 20

1:30 pm

At Vi

Contact: Peter Lisbon

[plisbon@san.rr.com](mailto:plisbon@san.rr.com)

## **Just Lunch**

March 25

12 noon

Il Fornaio

Del Mar Plaza

Contact: Barbara Heckler

[bheckler@san.rr.com](mailto:bheckler@san.rr.com)

## **Culture One**

Contact: Sue Rosner

[rosnersue@gmail.com](mailto:rosnersue@gmail.com)

## **Supper with Scholars**

March 7

6 pm

Humphreys

In the Sheraton La Jolla

Contact: Dave Parker

[parkerd1954@gmail.com](mailto:parkerd1954@gmail.com)

## **Film Group**

March 6

10 am

At Barbara's home

Contact: Barbara Heckler

[bheckler@san.rr.com](mailto:bheckler@san.rr.com)

## **General Meetings**

March 16, 2019

April 20, 2019

May 18, 2019

## **General Relativity**

March 13

10 am

At John Alexander's home

Contact: Alvin Halpern

[alvin.halpern@gmail.com](mailto:alvin.halpern@gmail.com)

President

Barbara Heckler

Send information for

SDIS Notebook to [bheckler@san.rr.com](mailto:bheckler@san.rr.com)

## **Neuroscience Group**

March 19

2 pm

At Bea's home at the Vi

Contact: Bea Rose

[beabe@me.com](mailto:beabe@me.com)