

Presidential Keynote: Patricia Brooks, Ph.D., CUNY Graduate Center

Dr. Patricia Brooks is Professor of Psychology at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York (CUNY), where she directs the Language Learning Laboratory. She completed her PhD studies in Experimental Psychology at New York University, and post-doctoral fellowships at Carnegie Mellon University and Emory University, before joining the CUNY faculty in 1997. Dr. Brooks serves as the Executive Officer of the PhD Program in Psychology. She is the President of the Eastern Psychological Association (2024-2025). She formerly served as the Faculty Advisor of the Graduate Student Teaching Association of the American Psychological Association (2014-2019). Her research interests are in two broad areas: (1) individual differences in language learning and development and (2) effective teaching and learning.

Presidential Invited Keynote: Kristen Gillespie-Lynch, College of Staten Island

Kristen Gillespie-Lynch is a Professor of Developmental and Educational Psychology at the College of Staten Island (CSI) and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is the Director of [CSI's Advanced Certificate Program in Autism](#). When they were still in graduate school, an autistic colleague, Dr. Steven K. Kapp, and Dr. Gillespie-Lynch co-led one of the earlier studies about the neurodiversity movement. One of the key findings from that study was that people on the autism spectrum recognize unique benefits of being autistic but also desire supports to help them adapt. Therefore, she currently conducts participatory autism research, or collaborates with neurodivergent people, to adapt and evaluate programming to improve the lives of autistic people.

Virginia Staudt Sexton Distinguished Lecture: Deborah Tolman, Ph.D., Hunter College

Dr. Deborah L. Tolman is a professor of Women and Gender Studies at Hunter College. She teaches a course on girlhood, "Growing Up Girl," and the senior seminar in Women and Gender Studies. She has published over 60 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and several books and edited volumes, including *Dilemmas of Desire: Teenage Girls Talk about Sexuality* (Harvard, 2002) and *The American Psychological Association Handbook of Sexuality and Psychology* (2015, with Lisa Diamond). Dr. Tolman holds an MS in human

sexuality education (UPenn) and a doctorate in applied developmental psychology (Harvard Graduate School of Education). She is a co-founder (with Lyn Mikel Brown and Dana Edell) of SPARK Movement, an intergenerational initiative supporting intergeneration feminist activism between women and girls.

Behavioral Neuroscience/Learning Keynote: Natalie Tronson, Ph.D., University of Michigan

My research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of learning and memory; the internal and external factors that can lead to changes in memory; and the role of memory dysregulation in psychiatric and neurological disorders including post-traumatic stress disorder, and post-operative cognitive decline. We are particularly intrigued by questions such as “Why do many patients develop post-traumatic stress disorder after heart attack?” and “What causes cognitive and memory decline after surgery?” and “How do normal memories for trauma become pathological in post-traumatic stress disorder?” and “Why are women so much more susceptible to these than males?”

Psi Chi Keynote: Sarit Golub, Ph.D., Hunter College

Dr. Golub is a Social Psychologist with training and experience in public health, and her work seeks to apply social psychological theory and methods to improve health interventions and outcomes. Dr. Golub directs the Hunter Alliance for Research & Translation (HART), whose mission is to translate research findings into practical implications for service and advocacy organizations, accelerating the pace of equitable, just, empirically-based practice. Her research applies social cognitive theories such as stereotype threat, anticipated stigma, cognitive disengagement, and self-discrepancy to the study of health behavior, with a focus on sexual risk-taking and adherence. Dr. Golub’s NIH-funded research applies findings across disciplines (including social psychology, neuropsychology, behavioral economics and decision sciences) to inform new approaches to HIV prevention and care. She collaborates with community-based organizations throughout New York to translate study findings into prevention and care for vulnerable populations.