



the
Foundation for
Psycho-Cultural
Research



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

The Foundation for Psycho-cultural Research: Home

THE FOUNDATION FOR PSYCHO-CULTURAL RESEARCH A non-profit corporation (501.C-3), founded in Dec 1999, for the purpose of supporting and advancing interdisciplinary research projects and scholarship at the intersection of psychology, culture, neuroscience and psychiatry.

The FPR Goals

- Change the culture of research by funding programs and scholars who attempt to link levels of analysis;
- Increase the degree to which research on human health, development, and well-being integrates psycho-cultural and neurobiological influences;
- Strengthen the theoretical and methodological tools required to facilitate the integration of psycho-cultural and neuroscientific measures and constructs;
- Increase the visibility of such integrative research, both within the academy, and outside;
- Train the next generation of scientists capable of conducting research that integrates psycho-cultural and neuroscientific influences;
- Increase the public awareness of the importance of such integrative research

Our mission is to support and advance interdisciplinary research projects and scholarship at the intersection of psychology, culture, neuroscience and psychiatry, with an emphasis on psycho-cultural factors as central, not peripheral.

The FPR was founded in 2000 by a gift from Robert Lemelson, Ph.D.



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

FPR: Mission

■ [Mission](#) ■ [Strategy](#) ■ [Founders](#)

Our mission is to support and advance interdisciplinary research projects and scholarship at the intersection of psychology, culture, neuroscience and psychiatry, with an emphasis on psycho-cultural factors as central, not peripheral.

At the theoretical, conceptual level:

Increase the quantity and quality of research that integrates psycho-cultural factors and neurosciences.

At the concrete, topical level:

Support programs and scholarly efforts that provide models of integrative cultural and neuroscientific research.

First 3-year topical focus:

The cultural, neurobiological, and mental health determinants and consequences of **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)** and other anxiety disorders.

Examples of possible future research foci:

- Neuralization of social experience.
- Political, cultural and neurobiological effects of poverty.
- Subjective experience and consciousness.
- Cultural perspectives on neuropsychiatric disorders.
- Neurotransmitter systems and their relation to culture, mental illness, deviancy and normality.

The FPR is a non-profit corporation (501.c-3).

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Foundation for
Psycho-Cultural
Research



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Psycho-Cultural
Research



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

FPR: Strategy

■ Mission ■ Strategy ■ Founders

In our strategy FPR seeks to do the following:

- Highlight, support, and build on, examples of integrative research and training programs that can serve as models;
- Nurture new, young investigators trained in interdisciplinary environments to help them through the 'gap period' between graduate school and their first positions;
- Support existing, or create new, training programs capable of exposing students and fellows to an environment in which these integrative research approaches are the norm, and which instill in them the motivation and means for conducting high quality research;
- Create and support opportunities for foreign students to study relevant interdisciplinary research methods;
- Support neuroscientists to collaborate with psycho-cultural researchers; and;
- Develop a national & international network of scholars with an interest in the Foundation's mission.



the
Foundation for
Psycho-Cultural
Research



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

FPR: Board and Founder

▪ Mission ▪ Strategy ▪ Founders

The FPR Board

[Click here](#) to view the the current list of FPR Board Members and Advisors.

Founder

The FPR was founded in 2000 by a gift from Robert Lemelson, Ph.D.

Dr. Lemelson is an anthropologist who received his M.A. from the University of Chicago, and Ph.D. from the Dept. of Anthropology, UCLA. He is currently visiting Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology at UCLA. He was a Fullbright scholar in Indonesia in 1996-1997, has worked for the World Health Organization, and is additionally trained as a clinical psychologist. His area of speciality is Southeast-Asian Studies, psychological anthropology and transcultural psychiatry. He is currently finishing a documentary based on his research in Indonesia



Rob (center/top) and film crew in Bali, 2000.

He is also currently a director of [The Lemelson Foundation](#), a family foundation whose mission is to promote innovation and invention in American society.



FPR



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

The FPR: Directors & Advisors

▪ [Return to Founders](#)

Board of Directors:

Robert Lemelson, Ph.D., President
Susan Marie Morse, M.A., M.Arch., Secretary
Marvin Karno, M.D., Member
Douglas Hollan, Ph.D., Member
Beate Ritz, M.D., Ph.D., Member

Board of Advisors:

Our current Board of Advisor members, composed of UCLA faculty, are:

Marvin Karno, M.D.,
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Member of the FPR Board of Directors and the Advisory Board.
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Douglas Hollan, Ph.D.,
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Senior Instructor, Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute;
Editor of Book Series, Society for Psychological Anthropology;
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Research



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Foundation for
Psycho-Cultural
Research



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

FPR: Topical Focus

▪ [Current Topical Focus](#) ▪ [Programs](#) ▪ [Funding](#)

Our program and funding criteria are based on a 3 year topical focus.

Current Topical Focus:

The cultural, neurobiological, and mental health determinants and consequences of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other anxiety disorders.

Examples of Possible Future Research Foci:

- Neuralization of social experience.
- Political, cultural and neurobiological effects of poverty.
- Subjective experience and consciousness.
- Cultural perspectives on neuropsychiatric disorders.
- Neurotransmitter systems and their relation to culture, mental illness, deviancy and normality.

There will be an international symposium at the end of three-year topical cycle, bringing together grantees of the Foundation, scholars and the general public with an interest in the topical focus.

Proceedings of the Symposium, and the results of the grantee's research, will be published.



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

FPR: Programs

■ [Current Topical Focus](#) ■ [Programs](#) ■ [Funding](#)

Our program includes fellowship and grants, to both graduate students, post-docs and faculty; lecture series; annual workshop and symposia; publications, and national/ international network development, which are all based on a 3 year topical focus. Our current topical focus is on Post Traumatic Stress and Resilience.

The following are specific programs that the Foundation supports initially:

At University of California at Los Angeles:

The [FPR-UCLA Center for the study of Culture, Brain and Development](#) has been established in 2002. It is an interdisciplinary research and training center to:

- Create a distinguished visiting scholar/lecture series;
- Support graduate students and fellows with training grants to work with researchers;
- Fund a weekly seminar and monthly lecture series.

At Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts:

Planning is underway to develop an interdisciplinary FPR-Hampshire Program in Culture, Psychology and Brain Sciences to:

- develop a cross-school curriculum linking culture, psychology, and brain studies;
- support undergraduate students and faculty collaborative research;
- create series of colloquia and conferences.



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

FPR: Funding

■ [Programs](#) ■ [Current Topical Focus](#) ■ [Funding](#)

The following are specific activities that the Foundation supports initially:

National Workshops:

An annual meeting, on the topical focus of the FPR, of Anthropologists, Psychologists and Neuroscientists with an interest in interdisciplinary collaboration and have been pursuing research at the interface of the Social and Brain Sciences.

The FPR held its [inaugural workshop](#) on June 28 - July 1, 2001 in Ojai, CA. Thirty-two distinguished participants were invited to the symposium and exchanged ideas on new research on culture - brain interactions.

The second workshop is being planned for June 13-16, 2002 in Ojai at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa resort. The main topic for this workshop will be a multi-level perspective on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), exploring the impact of social experience on the brain.

International Symposium:

There will be an international symposium at the end of three-year topical cycle, bringing together grantees of the Foundation, scholars and the general public with an interest in the topical focus.

Proceedings of the Symposium, and the results of the grantee's research, will be published.

Save the date:

An FPR-UCLA international conference entitled **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Biological, Clinical and Cultural Approaches to Trauma's Effects** is scheduled for December 12-15, 2002. As a collaborative project with the University of California at Los Angeles, the [conference](#) will take place at UCLA. The conference is geared to academics and professionals in the applied mental health and public health and policy sectors, including anthropologists, sociologists, clinicians, clinical researchers, and neuroscientists, as well as the general public.

- December 12, 2002 : Key Note Speaker Evening
- December 13-15, 2002: Interdisciplinary Symposium

Graduate Fellowships:

A Limited number of [Doctoral](#) and [Post-Doctoral](#) Fellowship for interdisciplinary research in Culture, Neuroscience and Psychiatry, on the current topical focus ('Interdisciplinary Approach to Post Traumatic Stress and Resilience'). Candidates must be enrolled at an accredited US university or institution.

Grants to foreign graduate students and scholars, particularly from the developing world, to study at a U.S. institution (see the doctoral and Postdoctoral fellowships section)

Publications:

Proceedings, results and follow-ups of the Symposium, as well as the result of the grantee's research will be published.



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

FPR: Calendar of Events

▪ [Calendar](#) ▪ [Workshops](#) ▪ [Conference](#) ▪ [Exhibit/Expo Booth](#)

Upcoming events from the FPR and its funded programs:

FPR Workshop and conference:

The second FPR workshop on Brain, Mind and Culture:

June 13-16, 2002 at Ojai Valley Inn Resort & Spa in Ojai.

In line with the current topical focus, the focus for this workshop will be on Post Traumatic Stress and Resilience.

FPR-UCLA conference on TRAUMA, CULTURE AND THE BRAIN: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder:

An international FPR-UCLA conference on neurobiological, clinical and cultural responses to trauma is scheduled for December 12-15, 2002 at the University of California at Los Angeles. The conference is geared to academics and professionals in the applied mental health and public health and policy sectors, including anthropologists, sociologists, clinicians, clinical researchers, and neuroscientists, as well as the general public.

- December 12, 2002 : Key Note Speaker Evening
- December 13-15, 2002: Interdisciplinary Symposium

Please check back for further updates.

FPR-UCLA Center for Culture, Brain and Development:

Coming spring quarter, 2002!

Integrative Seminar on Culture, Brain, and Development

Psychology 244
Tuesdays, 12-3
Anthropology Reading Room, 352 Haines Hall.

Biweekly public forum on Culture, Brain, and Development

Every other Tuesday, the seminar will be integrated with a new biweekly public forum on Culture, Brain, and Development

Anthropology Reading Room, 352 Haines Hall. (schedule to be announced later)

FPR Graduate Fellowships:

Applications for [Doctoral](#) and [Postdoctoral](#) fellowships are due on February 15 and August 15.

FPR Booth exhibit:

At the 2002 American Anthropological Association annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21-23, 2002, at the Hyatt Regency.



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

FPR: Workshops

■ [Calendar](#) ■ [Workshops](#) ■ [Conference](#) ■ [Exhibit/Expo Booth](#)

To promote, facilitate, and sustain collaborations among established and distinguished neuroscientists and psycho-cultural researchers, we provide an annual summer forum where leading neuroscientists and social scientists can meet to:

- develop new areas of interdisciplinary research
- strengthen the theoretical and methodological tools required to facilitate integrative
- research on culture and brain interactions.
- explore strategies for promoting and sustaining such research.

The workshops emphasize informal, but intensive conceptual and strategic discussions.

The FPR held its first [inaugural workshop](#) on June 28 - July 1, 2001 in Ojai, CA. Thirty-two distinguished participants were invited to the symposium and exchanged ideas on new research on culture-brain interactions.

The second FPR workshop on Brain, Mind and Culture is being planned for June 13-16, 2002 at the Ojai Valley Inn Resort & Spa in Ojai. The main focus for this workshop will be on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Further information on this workshop will be posted as it is available.

the
Foundation for
Psycho-Cultural
Research



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

The Foundation for Psycho-cultural Research 2001 Inaugural Symposium for New Research on Culture-Brain Interactions

▪ [Return to Workshops](#)

June 28 - July 1, 2001 Ojai Valley Inn & Spa

The FPR held its first annual workshop on June 28 - July 1, 2001 in Ojai, California. The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate the meeting of distinguished scholars and professionals from various academic fields such as Anthropology, Psychology, Psychiatry, Neurosciences, and the Public Health, who are interested in interdisciplinary collaboration and have been pursuing research at the interface of the social and brain sciences.

Thirty-two participants were invited to the symposium in Ojai and exchanged ideas on new research on culture-brain interactions. The three days meeting began with an introductory plenary session, as the participants introduced their own research and interdisciplinary interests. The following breakout sessions discussed six topics as found in the following program, each followed by a plenary session. The symposium ended with a plenary session, addressing emerging issues and potential directions for new interdisciplinary research on interactions between culture and the brain.

Breakout Sessions:

- **Culture and Development**
Moderator: Steve Lopez, Ph.D.
- **Methodological Issues in Cultural/Neuroscience Integration**
Moderator: Beate Ritz, M.D., Ph.D.
- **Culture, Trauma and Neurobiology/Topical 3 yr Focus of The FPR**
Moderator: Marvin Karno, M.D.
- **Cultural Perspectives on Psychiatric Theory and Practice.**
Moderator: Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, Ph.D., M.N., R.N.
- **Cognition, Emotion, Culture and the Brain.**
Moderator: Douglas Hollan, Ph.D.
- **Philosophical Issues Involved in Integrating Cultural and Neuroscientific Levels of Analysis**
Moderator: Carole Browner, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Participants List

Mark Barad, M.D., Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Science, UCLA; Brain Research Institute, UCLA. Mbarad@mednet.ucla.edu	Joel T. Braslow, M.D., Ph.D. Associate Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences and History, UCLA; Director, UCLA Neuroscience History Archive; Jbraslow@ucla.edu
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Beate Ritz, M.D., Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, School of Public Health, UCLA; Member of the FPR Board of Directors and the Advisory Board. britz@ucla.edu	The Late Arthur J. Rubel, Ph.D. Research Professor of Family Medicine and Research Professor of Anthropology, Dept. of Family Medicine and Dept. of Anthropology,University of California at Irvine

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About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



Contact FPR

The Foundation for Psycho-cultural Research and UCLA present An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Trauma, Culture, and the Brain

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Biological, Clinical and Cultural Approaches to Trauma's Effects

Dec. 13-15, 2002

An Interdisciplinary symposium on trauma, culture and the brain jointly sponsored by The Foundation for Psycho-cultural Research and The Brain Research and Neuropsychiatric Institutes and Anxiety Project at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Profound effects of traumatic experiences persist long after the horrifying events themselves. The tragedy of September 11, 2001 testifies to this and underscores the importance of understanding the ways in which trauma shapes and is shaped by our culture and biology. Integrating cultural, clinical, and biological perspectives, UCLA's Brain Research and Neuropsychiatric Institutes, the UCLA Anxiety Project and the Foundation for Psycho-cultural Research (FPR) are cosponsoring an interdisciplinary conference in December 2002 to examine post-traumatic stress disorder and other human responses to traumatic events.

The conference will open on the evening of Thursday, December 12, with a special keynote address.

This three-day symposium will thoroughly examine the human response to trauma in the cultural, clinical, and biological domains. On Day 1, we will examine knowledge about responses to trauma. On Day 2, we will focus on the effect that traumatic events have on development of and future vulnerability to psychopathology. Finally, on Day 3 we will explore therapeutic issues in the treatment of individuals suffering from the effects of trauma. Each day will include presentations from basic scientists, from clinicians and clinical researchers, and from social scientists. In addition, several New York City officials who dealt with the effects of 9/11 will discuss some of the formidable public policy and public health challenges of such disasters. Each day's speakers will also participate in an open roundtable discussion at the end of the day , which will attempt to integrate the perspectives of the different levels of analysis in response to questions from the audience, and from each other. This conference is designed to break down the barriers that traditionally cordon off academic disciplines and to challenge the notion that a single approach can be sufficient to understand the complex human effects of major traumatic experiences. To this end, the conference will include a poster session featuring recent research on trauma, and we encourage scholars at all levels and from all disciplines to submit abstracts.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS:

Robert Lemelson, Ph.D.

President, The Foundation for Psycho-cultural Research
Lecturer, Department of Psychology, UCLA.

Allan Tobin, Ph.D.,

Director, Brain Research Institute, UCLA.

SPEAKERS AND SESSION CHAIRS:

Basic Sciences

Neurobiological aspects of fear, anxiety, and trauma

- Mark Barad, UCLA
- Mark Bouton, University of Vermont
- Michael Davis, Emory University
- Michael Fanselow, UCLA
- Emeran Mayer, UCLA
- Michael Meaney, McGill University
- Gregory Quirk, Ponce School of Medicine
- Stephen Suomi, NICHD

Clinical

Human response to traumatic events and therapeutic issues of trauma-related disorders

- J. Douglas Bremner, Emory University
- Dennis Charney, NIMH
- Edna Foa, University of Pennsylvania
- Mardi Horowitz, UC San Francisco
- David Kinzie, Oregon HSU
- Bessel van der Kolk, The Trauma Center and Boston University
- Charles Marmar, UC San Francisco
- Robert Pynoos, UCLA
- Arie Shalev, Hadassah University
- Rachel Yehuda, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and Bronx Veteran Affairs

Cultural

Trauma's effects across cultures

- James Boehnlein, Oregon HSU
- Bryon Good, Harvard University
- Gilbert Herdt, San Francisco State University
- Alexander Hinton, Rutgers University
- Laurence Kirmayer, McGill University
- Mel Konner, Emory University
- Mark Micale, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- Nancy Scheper-Hughes, UC Berkeley
- Allan Young, McGill University

NYC 9/11 Participants

- Rosemarie O'Keefe (Former Commissioner, NYC Mayor's Community Assistance Unit)
- Richard Sheirer (Former NYC Director of Emergency Management)

POSTER SESSIONS – CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

The conference program will include poster sessions. We invite you to submit an abstract for presentation and inclusion in the abstracts booklet. The deadline for poster registration is July 31, 2002. The deadline for poster abstract submission is October 1, 2002.

MORE INFORMATION:

CME/ University extension accreditation pending.

[Pre-Register now](#) to be notified by email when we start accepting registrations.

CONTACT:

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FPR



About The FPR



Programs & Funding



Events



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