



Program

- [Addresses](#)
- [Affiliate Meetings & Programs](#)
- [13th Annual APS-STP Teaching Institute](#)
- [Award Addresses](#)
- [Festschrift for James Greeno](#)
- [Plenary Sessions](#)
- [Poster Sessions](#)
- [Special Events](#)
- [Student Events](#)
- [Symposia](#)
- [Talks](#)
- [Theme Programs](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [Browse Program by Day](#)

Information

- [Restaurant Guide](#)
- [Convention Home](#)
- [APS Home](#)

Symposium

**Color Categorization and Naming: Cognitive and Cross-Cultural Investigations**

**Time and Location**

Sunday May 28, 2006, 9:00 AM - 10:20 AM  
Carnegie

[Add to Itinerary](#)

This symposium revisits a classic psychological controversy: The universality of color representation and naming across individuals and cultures. Presentations survey recent advances supported by novel empirical findings and theoretical analyses, delivering a balanced summary of the controversy, including new views that challenge and update the received theory of color categorization.

**Nancy Alvarado** (Chair) [\[E-mail Presenter\]](#)  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

**Terry Regier** [\[E-mail Presenter\]](#)  
University of Chicago  
*Color Language and Cognition: Which Side Are You on, Anyway?*

The debate over color language and cognition has been framed by two opposing views. A “universalist” emphasizes universals in both color naming and color cognition, while a “relativist” emphasizes the influence of language. I will argue that both positions are inadequate in their traditional forms.

**Galina V. Paramei** [\[E-mail Presenter\]](#)  
Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany  
*Are Additional Criteria Needed for Defining ‘Basic’ Color Categories?*

Color terms map semantic categories in perceptual color space. Recent research refines color category membership, showing two distinct blue categories as semantically represented in some languages, and questions established definitions of “basic” and “non-basic” categories. I discuss findings incongruous with established “basicness” criteria, and new criteria for explaining emergent categories.

**Kimberly A. Jameson** [\[E-mail Presenter\]](#)  
University of California, Irvine  
*What Does It Take to Show Robust Color Categories Within and Across Individuals and Languages?*

Color categorization research models categorical representations within and across individuals using specific cognitive constructs. E.g., “focal exemplars” are widely assumed to reflect individuals’ color processing salience. I discuss the empirical validity of such constructs, and the forms of evidence typically used to demonstrate robust categorical representations across individuals and languages.

**Deborah M. Roberson** [\[E-mail Presenter\]](#)  
University of Essex, United Kingdom  
*On the Relationship Between Culture, Thought, and Color Language*

Co-author J. Richard Hanley, University of Essex, United Kingdom. Recent findings argue against a belief in pan-human cognitive universals in color categorization. Nevertheless, some universalists still believe in universal color naming trends and universal ‘focal’ colors. We suggest that cultural relativism can explain most behavioral data more easily than a universalist position and the remainder at least as well.

**Don Dedrick** (Discussant) [\[E-mail Presenter\]](#)  
University of Guelph, Canada

[Go back](#)

