

## In Memoriam: Scott O. Lilienfeld (1960–2020)

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APS, SAGE, and the *Clinical Psychological Science* editorial team were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Editor-in-Chief Scott Lilienfeld on September 30, 2020. Scott was the Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology at Emory University, where he had been since 1994, and had been the Editor of *CPS* since 2016. He was a luminary in the field of clinical psychological science, particularly in the domains of psychopathology, psychological diagnosis, evidence-based practice, and personality assessment. He also served as a spokesperson of sorts for the field, especially on topics related to public understanding of psychological science.

As an editor, Scott was respected and renowned for the insight, clarity, and humanity he brought to peer review and publishing activities. During his time as Editor of *CPS*, the journal expanded in scope, popularity, and impact, but he will be remembered by many authors—and APS journals staff—for the consideration and graciousness he offered up at every opportunity.

It is common for authors to respond to decision letters; it is uncommon for them to express deep appreciation and admiration when their manuscripts have been rejected. Yet Scott frequently received these expressions of gratitude. Many claimed that the decision letter they received was the best rejection letter they had ever gotten; even when delivering bad news, Scott was always constructive, insightful, and encouraging. To him, serving as Editor was more than mere gate-keeping: It was also a vehicle for colleagues to work together to improve the state of our science.

Scott had the unique ability to change not only what people think but also how they think. Advocating for strict standards of rigor and evidence and always the skeptic, he was a frequent critic of prevailing “wisdom” that had not been thoroughly tested and verified; Scott was never one to just take psychology’s word for it—and as a result, you could take his. There was no stauncher defender of evidence-based practices, both inside the clinic and in society at large, and of the pursuit of truth above all, however inconvenient. As a result, Scott often chose to step into the fray on controversial issues, including those

that tend to elicit intensely impassioned reactions, to advocate for a science fortified with safeguards against confirmation biases, political allegiances, and the myriad other forces to which humans are inherently susceptible.

A prolific scholar, Scott authored more than 350 publications, having garnered more than 36,000 citations at the time of his death and enlightening a generation of researchers on not only the substance of psychological science but also the process of learning to think scientifically. His highly influential books and articles are required reading in many undergraduate and graduate syllabi; that many of these foundational texts relate to subjects outside his particular areas of research is a testament to his intellectual breadth. A tireless ambassador for the field, he was a true “public intellectual,” writing articles and opinion pieces in the popular press and making media appearances for lay audiences. Beyond his voluminous academic writings were his nonfiction trade books for general audiences, such as *Brainwashed: The Seductive Appeal of Mindless Neuroscience* with coauthor Sally Satel, which was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Science in 2014.

Scott was as active in his service to the field as he was in his scholarly contributions: In addition to his editorship of *CPS*, he held editorial posts at other journals and served on numerous editorial boards and advisory committees. Always generous with his time and devoted to service, he served as President of the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology and the Society for the Scientific Study of Psychopathy. Over the course of his career, he served as an advisor to numerous mentees at all levels of training, both formally and informally. His legacy lives on in his extensive writings, containing both syntheses and critiques of existing knowledge, but even more so in the minds and hearts of his many trainees and the countless others whom he influenced as both a scholar and a compassionate and engaged colleague.

APS will continue to honor his legacy through the Scott O. Lilienfeld Student Travel Award, which recognizes graduate student achievement in clinical psychological science research or theory and provides funding for those students to attend the APS Annual Convention. Additionally, *CPS* will be publishing a special issue that will serve as a tribute to Scott’s scholarly contributions and influence on the field of psychological science. The special issue will feature articles from expert scholars showcasing the importance, diversity, and reach of Scott’s work, and it will be edited by some of his closest collaborators and colleagues: Cory Cobb of the University of Texas at Austin, William O’Donahue of the University of Nevada at Reno, Sally Satel of the American Enterprise Institute, and Steven Lynn of Binghamton University.