

Expanding and Scaling Up Behavioral Science Research on Climate Change

Tony Biglan, Oregon Research Institute, Tiffany Dubuc, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, and Julia Fiebig, ABA Global Initiatives

Wednesday November 20

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Offered at no charge

The overwhelming evidence of the catastrophic consequences of accelerating climate change (IPCC, 2018) calls for effective research focused on how to bring about widespread changes in people's behavior. Despite the fact, that addressing the problem of carbon emissions is almost entirely a matter of changing human behavior, the amount of money being invested in physical science research relevant to climate change is in stark contrast to a much smaller amount of money being invested in behavioral science research. This workshop will provide a thorough and integrated analysis of existing behavioral science research on climate change and teach a functional approach to analysis of human behavior and behavior change. Additionally, we will review the extent to which research is identifying effective and scalable strategies for affecting climate-relevant policy and behavior. We will then describe the kind of experimental research that is most likely to result in scalable change. Finally, we will share the efforts of a Climate Change Task Force for a coalition of behavior science organizations and present a strategic plan for greatly increasing funding for large-interdisciplinary programs of experimental analysis of strategies for affecting climate-relevant policy and behavior. Participants will be invited to join these efforts. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Analyze the behavior analytic research on climate change
2. Identify behavioral strategies for changing behavior related to climate change
3. Identify strategies for conducting interdisciplinary research related to climate change
4. Have opportunity to support and participate in organized efforts to promote and fund interdisciplinary research

Workshop format: Lecture; hands-on activities, and group discussion

Who should attend: All experience levels

About the instructors:



Tony Biglan, Oregon Research Institute

Anthony Biglan, Ph.D. is a Senior Scientist at Oregon Research Institute and the Co-Director of the Promise Neighborhood Research Consortium. He has been conducting research on the development and prevention of child and adolescent problem behavior for the past 30 years. Dr. Biglan's work has included studies of the risk and protective factors associated with tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use; high-risk sexual behavior; and antisocial behavior. He has conducted numerous experimental evaluations of interventions to prevent tobacco use both through school-based programs and community-wide interventions. And, he has evaluated interventions to prevent high-risk sexual behavior, antisocial behavior, and reading failure.



Tiffany Dubuc, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

Tiffany is currently completing Doctoral requirements for a PhD in Applied Behavior Analysis from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Tiffany is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) from Ontario, Canada. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Behavioural Psychology from St. Lawrence College, in Ontario, Canada, then went on to receive her Master's of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis, from Northeastern University in Boston, MA in 2011.



Julia Fiebig, Ball State University, ABA Global Initiatives

Julia Fiebig has over 15 years experience in the field of behavior analysis and has taught and worked in a variety of community and organizational contexts. Her practice and research interests include applications of behavior analysis to sustainability and climate change issues, relational frame theory applied to leadership and organizational change, effective models of consultation, consensus-based community practices, quality service delivery in private and public institutions, and dissemination of behavior analysis to international communities. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.