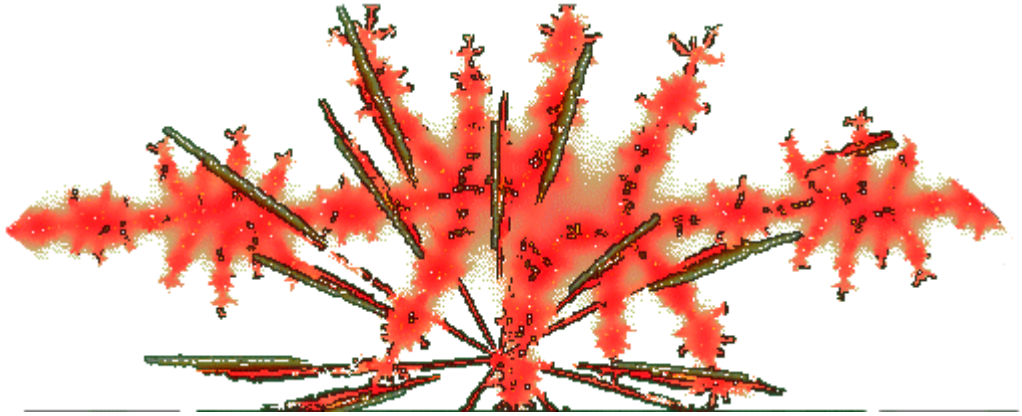
Call for Papers:
Special Issue of *Nonlinear Dynamics, Psychology, and Life Sciences* on Clinical Psychology



NDPLS is actively searching for manuscripts for a special issue to be entitled, "Nonlinear Dynamical Systems and Clinical Psychology"

Nowhere in clinical psychology is the science-practice gap more visible than in the field of psychotherapy. Since 1952, when Hans Eysenck first challenged the efficacy of psychotherapy, the newly developed "scientist-practitioner" model of Clinical Psychology has responded with perhaps the most rigorous scientific testing of any approach to intervention that has been seen in the history of healthcare. Now 65 years later, the efficacy of psychotherapy is settled science. Ironically, however, the field has made very little progress in understanding the process of psychotherapy, the causes of psychopathology, or the processes underlying psychological resilience. As such, one of the best validated interventions in health care suffers from a lack of scientifically grounded theory of psychological change. Without such a theoretical grounding, the field remains incapable of such basic functions as: explaining outcomes, developing more effective techniques, and providing a common framework for training clinicians. Similarly, the lack of general theory in psychopathology or resilience leads to never-ending debates among proponents of various etiological micro-theories, battling one another for the "truth" across the biological, psychological and social spectra.

Over the past decade, there has been an emerging movement of clinical scientists who suspect that the major barrier is in the underlying theory and methods of traditional, linear research. The traditional medical model, guided by reductionism and linear research design is well-suited to the question of psychotherapy efficacy. However, after 65 years of stagnation, it appears very poorly suited to understanding psychotherapy process. Psychological processes are inherently multivariate, complex, and dynamical. To understand and enhance the processes that underlie psychological health and healing, perhaps the field may benefit from models and methods capable of capturing such processes as they actually unfold in time. This special issue is aimed at gathering together the latest developments in this work, and will consider the broad array of topics applying nonlinear dynamical systems to psychotherapy process, psychopathology and psychological resilience. Similarly, papers may involve simulations, empirical data analysis, reviews of key topics, or practical applications. Some more specific topics that are of particular interest include: (1) Symptom network models of diagnosis and response to treatment; (2). Phase transition, Markov transitions, differential equation, and synergetic models of psychotherapeutic process; (3). Synchronization and other emergent processes within the therapeutic relationship; and (4) Integration of various approaches to psychotherapy using nonlinear dynamical systems concepts.

The purview of the journal is critical to the inclusion of articles: *Nonlinear Dynamics, Psychology, and Life Sciences* publishes papers that augment the fundamental ways we understand, describe, model, and predict nonlinear phenomena in psychology and the life and social sciences. One or more of the following nonlinear concepts must be an explicit part of the exposition: attractors, bifurcations, chaos, fractals, solitons, catastrophes, self-organizing processes, cellular automata, genetic algorithms and related evolutionary processes, neural networks, and agent-based models. The broad mixture of the disciplines represented here indicates that many bodies of knowledge share common principles. By juxtaposing developments in different fields within the life and social sciences, the scientific communities may obtain fresh perspectives on those common principles and their implications. Because the journal is multidisciplinary in scope, each article should constructed for understanding by a broad readership.

NDPLS is published quarterly by the Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology & Life Sciences. Articles will be reviewed by two or more experts in the relevant field. Additional information for the preparation of articles for submission can be found on the journal's web site: www.societyforchaostheory.org/ndpls/ . The project is planned on the following schedule:

- Full-text papers need to arrive by January 31, 2018. Please send the manuscripts to the editor in chief and the special issue editor by e-mail (addresses below).
- Manuscripts should be prepared in APA style. Key style points and small variations that are specific to the journal can be found in the Instructions for Authors on the journal web site: www.societyforchaostheory.org/ndpls/author_instructions/
- Reviews will be completed by March 31, 2018 or sooner to the extent possible.
- Revisions and final edits should be received by May 31, 2018.
- Publication in October, 2018.

We look forward to receiving your abstracts and papers. If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to ask the special issue editor.

Sincerely,

David Pincus, Ph.D., pincus@chapman.edu, Special Issue Editor
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NDPLS Editor in Chief

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