SOCIETY for SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Neuroscience

August 22–26, 2026

Montreal, Canada

2055 Rue Metcalfe, Centre Mont-Royal
Montréal, Québec

S4SN 2026

Organizing Committee

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Neuroscience! We are delighted to welcome you to Montreal for four days of cutting-edge science, interdisciplinary exchange, and community building. This marks the Society's return to North America and its first time in Montreal.

We have prepared a program spanning single-cell circuits to human social cognition, featuring distinguished invited speakers, two memorial lectures, poster sessions, and networking events throughout the week. Beyond the lecture hall, we hope you'll take some time to enjoy Montreal's summer energy — from Mount Royal to the Old Port and everywhere in between.

Thank you for being part of S4SN 2026. We look forward to the science, the conversations, and the connections this meeting will bring.

Society Leadership

Jennifer Bartz
Chair, Local Organizing Committee
Department of Psychology, McGill University

Weizhe Hong
President, S4SN
Department of Neurobiology, UCLA

Steve Chang
Past President, S4SN
Department of Psychology, Yale University

Elizabeth Hammock
Treasurer
Department of Psychology, Florida State University

DAY 1

Sunday, August 23

8:30–9:30 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Opening Remarks
Weizhe Hong, President, S4SN, UCLA

9:40–10:55 a.m.

Symposium 1

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

Chair: Carolyn Parkinson, UCLA, USA

Neural Mechanisms of Social Homeostasis
Kay Tye, Salk Institute for Biological Sciences, USA

Representations of Social Memory in Ventral CA1 Neurons
Teruhiro Okuyama, The University of Tokyo, Japan

How Fear Transitions Through the Human Brain and Natural Ways to Stop It
Dean Mobbs, California Institute of Technology, USA

10:55–11:20 a.m. *Refreshment Pause — Mont Royal Foyer*

11:20 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Symposium 2

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

From Interacting Brains to Social Worlds: A Multiscale Social Neuroscience of Connection

Chair: Guillaume Dumas, Université de Montréal, Canada

Beyond Inter-Brain Synchrony: A Multiscale Computational Framework for Social Interaction
Guillaume Dumas, Université de Montréal, Canada

Wireless Hyperscanning and Neural Synchrony During Social Support in Free-Moving Macaque Monkeys
Pier Francesco Ferrari, CNRS, France

The Development of Inter-Brain Synchrony from Infancy to Adulthood within Attachment Contexts
Ruth Feldman, Reichman University, Israel

Multi-Person and Multi-Session fNIRS as a Tool for Studying Social Connections Across Generations
Ryssa Moffat, Social Brain Sciences Lab, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

1:00–2:30 p.m. *Lunch & Poster Session — Mont Royal Foyer*

DAY 1

Sunday, August 23

2:30–3:25 p.m.

Larry Young Memorial Lecture

Social Transmission of Song
Richard Mooney, Duke University, USA

3:25–3:35 p.m.

Biobreak

3:35–5:15 p.m.

Symposium 3

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

Chair: Marco Wittmann, UCL, UK

The Primate Social Brain in Context: Discoveries from the Field, Mechanisms from the Laboratory
Michael Platt, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Whole Brain Signatures of Female Social Stress Resilience
Sam Golden, The University of Washington, USA

Differential Encoding of Social Identity, Reward and Context in the Amygdala and Piriform Cortex
Cristina Mazuski, University College London, UK

How Does Traffic-Related Air Pollutants Affect our Brain and Schizotypal Personality Traits?
Bess Lam, Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Hong Kong

5:15–7:00 p.m.

Cocktail & Poster Session (cash bar)
Mont Royal Foyer

DAY 2

Monday, August 24

9:00–10:15 a.m.

Symposium 4

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

Chair: Elizabeth Hammock, Florida State University, USA

Neural Mechanisms Underlying the Protective Effect of Social Support
Dayu Lin, New York Grossman School of Medicine, USA

Anger Management: Long-Term Reprogramming of Aggression Phenotype by Short-Term Neuromodulation of Ventral Premammillary Neurons in the Mouse
Christian Broberger, Stockholm University, Sweden

Vicarious distress across species: From social learning to harm aversion
Valeria Gazzola, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

10:15–10:45 a.m.

Refreshment Pause — Mont Royal Foyer

10:45 a.m.–12:25 p.m.

Symposium 5

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

Dynamic Social Maps in the Medial Prefrontal Cortex: Circuits, Computations, and Cross-Species Insights

Chair: Reesha Patel, Northwestern University, USA

Opponent Prefrontal Neuromodulatory Circuits Enable Flexible Social Choice
Reesha Patel, Northwestern University, USA

Neural Basis of Leader-Follower Dynamics in Cooperative Behavior
Herbert Wu, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, USA

Distinct Encoding of Social Competition by Striatal and Prefrontal Dopamine
Nancy Padilla-Coreano, University of Florida, USA

Learning Who Values Us: A Computational Model of Social Belief Updating
Begüm Babür, University of Southern California, USA

12:25–2:30 p.m.

Lunch — offsite; list of local eateries provided at the registration desk
Optional: Hike to Mont Royal Lookout (bring your own lunch) — weather dependent

DAY 2

Monday, August 24

2:30–3:50 p.m.

Early Career Award Lectures

Intro, 30 min talk, 5 min Q&A

Chair: Raymundo Báez Mendoza, German Primate Center, Germany

Neuronal Circuits Regulating Social Preferences
Felix Leroy, Institute of Neuroscience, Alicante, Spain

Neural Mechanisms of Social Structure Learning and Their Behavioural Consequences
Marco Wittmann, University College London, UK

3:50–4:20 p.m.

Biobreak — Mont Royal Foyer

4:20–6:05 p.m.

Symposium 6 — Trainee Short Talks

12 min talks, 3 min Q&A

Chair: Monique Smith, University of California San Diego, USA

Cross-species Organization of Social-semantic Representations in the Prefrontal Cortex
SeungHyun Lee, Massachusetts General Hospital, USA

Tetradic Dynamics of Dyadic Sensorimotor Coordination
Emmanuel Olarewaju, McGill University, Canada

Cortical Processing of Flexible Social Decision-Making Between Individual and Cooperative Effort
Boil Kim, Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea

Distinct Neuromodulatory Contributions to Strategic Decisions in a Competitive Multi-player Game
Timothy Sit & Joanna Aloor, Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, UK

Telling Friends from Foes: Contributions of the Medial Amygdala to Social Memory
Sofiya Zbaranska, University of Toronto, Canada

'Mouse Midwives': Behavioral Mechanisms to Improve Maternal-infant Survival During Difficult Parturition
Violet Ivan, New York University School of Medicine, USA

Dynamic Cortical-subcortical Network Coordination During Social Decision-Making in Mice
Elizabeth Illescas-Huerta, University of Florida, USA

7:00 p.m.

Ghost Tour — Old Montreal (at own cost, prepayment required), 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Social Hour — Chez Victoire, 1453 Mont-Royal Ave. E., mezzanine (food and beverage, pay your way)

DAY 3

Tuesday, August 25

9:00–10:15 a.m.

Symposium 7

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

Chair: Felix Leroy, Institute of Neuroscience, Alicante, Spain

Neurobiology of Social Action Detection in Schooling Fish
Matthew Lovett-Barron, University of California San Diego, USA

Estrogenic Remodeling of Large-Scale Cortical Dynamics During Naturalistic Social Behavior
Annegret Falkner, Princeton Neuroscience Institute, USA

Formalizing Social Intuition: Inter-Brain Alignment Provides a Computational Shortcut to Coordination
Lusha Zhu, Peking University, China

10:15–10:45 a.m. *Refreshment Pause — Mont Royal Foyer*

10:45 a.m.–12:25 p.m.

Symposium 8

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

A Cross-Species Framework for Decoding Affect: Linking Behavior, Brain Dynamics, and Therapeutic Translation

Chair: Benjamin Becker, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Ecologically Valid Neurofunctional Signatures of Human Affect: From Naturalistic fMRI to Clinical Translation for Diagnosis and Rapid Treatment Evaluation
Benjamin Becker, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Decoding Affective States in Mice: Facial Expression, Posture, and Neural Circuit Dynamics in Pain and Depression
Xiao Xiao, Fudan University, China

Causal Analysis of Prefronto-Cingulate Networks in the Marmoset
Christian Michael Wood, University of Cambridge, UK

A Common Connectome-Based Neural Reference Space for Decoding Arousal Across Measures and Task Contexts
Yuan Chang Leong, The University of Chicago, USA

12:25–2:00 p.m. *Lunch & Poster Session — Mont Royal Foyer*

DAY 3

Tuesday, August 25

2:00–2:55 p.m.

John Cacioppo Memorial Lecture

Intro, 40 min talk, 10 min Q&A

Why Some People Save Lives and Others Take Them: Understanding the Roots of Variation in Human Prosociality and Antisociality
Abigail Marsh, Georgetown University, USA

2:55–3:10 p.m. *Refreshment Pause*

3:10–4:50 p.m.

Symposium 9

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

Chair: Siri Leknes, University of Oslo, Norway

How Childhood Social Isolation Causes Social Dysfunction: Deprivation or Mismatch?
Hirofumi Morishita, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA

Cross-Species Comparison of Non-Human Primates Fronto-Parietal Activity Driven by Social Interaction Valence
Maeva Gacoin, The Neuro, McGill University, Canada

Decoding the Mechanism of Tools for Social Connection Across Model Systems
Aza Allsop, Yale University & Howard University, USA

4:30–5:30 p.m. *Poster Session — Mont Royal Foyer*

5:30–6:30 p.m. *Open*

6:30 p.m. **Banquet Dinner**
Pangea, 104 Saint-Paul Street East

DAY 4

Wednesday, August 26

9:00–10:15 a.m.

Symposium 10

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

Cross-Species Insights into Social Interactions and Communication
Ziv Williams, Harvard University, USA

An Orbitofrontal Circuit Transforms Anxiety into Maladaptive Aggression Across Species
Kun Li, Tsinghua University, China

A Rat Model of Intergroup Conflict Reveals Polarization of Prosocial Behavior
Inbal Ben-Ami Bartal, Tel-Aviv University, Israel

10:15–10:45 a.m.

Refreshment Pause — Mont Royal Foyer

10:45 a.m.–12:25 p.m.

Symposium 11

20 min talks, 5 min Q&A

How Social Behaviours are Shaped by Context and Chemistry: Insights from Studies on Pain, Opioids, Oxytocin, and Drugs of Abuse

Chair: Jennifer Bartz, McGill University, Canada

How Substances Change Human Sociality: Lessons from Psychopharmacology
Siri Leknes, University of Oslo, Norway

Decoding Pain Mediated Shifts in Social Behavior Following Neuropathic Injury in Mice
Carlee Toddes, University of Washington, USA

How Social Context Shapes the Effects of Oxytocin in a Mouse Model of Autism
Julie le Merrer, iBraiN, Université de Tours, Inserm, France

The Neurobiological Basis of Connectedness in Humans
Guro Løseth, University of Oslo, Norway

12:25–12:35 p.m.

Closing Remarks
Weizhe Hong, President, S4SN, UCLA

Social Events

Pre-meeting Social

Saturday, August 22 · 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Le Flâneur Bar, Lounge Area, Le Germain Hotel, 2050 Mansfield

Kick off the meeting early with an informal mixer before the program begins — a chance to reconnect with colleagues and meet new ones. Food and beverage at your own cost.

Cocktail & Poster Session

Sunday, August 23 · 5:15–7:00 p.m.
Mont Royal Foyer, Centre Mont-Royal (cash bar)

Browse the first round of posters over drinks with fellow attendees — science and socializing side by side.

Ghost Tour

Monday, August 24 · 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Old Montreal (at own cost, prepayment required)

Explore the cobblestone streets of Old Montreal after dark on a guided walking tour through the city's history and legends.

Social Hour

Monday, August 24 · 7:00 p.m.
Chez Victoire, 1453 Mont-Royal Ave. E., mezzanine (food and beverage, pay your way)

An informal evening gathering on the Plateau for attendees not joining the Ghost Tour — or for anyone looking to keep the evening going afterward.

Banquet Dinner

Tuesday, August 25 · 6:30 p.m.
Pangea, 104 Saint-Paul Street East, Old Montreal

Celebrate the meeting with a group dinner at Pangea, a bistro and supper club in the heart of Old Montreal.

Getting to Centre Mont-Royal

2055 Rue Metcalfe, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3A 1X7

From Downtown Hotels

Centre Mont-Royal sits in the heart of downtown Montreal — most conference hotels are within a 10–15 minute walk.

From the Airport (YUL – Montréal-Trudeau International Airport)

- **Taxi:** Fixed fare between YUL and downtown Montreal — $49.45 CAD (5:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.) or $56.70 CAD (11:00 p.m.–5:00 a.m.).
- **STM 747 Express Bus:** Connects YUL directly to downtown Montreal; accepts the special YUL fare or a compatible transit pass.
- **Ride-sharing:** Uber operates from YUL — follow signage for the pickup zone outside the terminal.

By Public Transit

- **Metro:** McGill station (Green Line) is about a 5-minute walk; Peel station (Green Line) is about a 7–9 minute walk.
- **Bus:** Lines 24, 410, 420, and 61 all stop within a few minutes' walk of the venue.

Parking

Underground parking is available on-site at Centre Mont-Royal, with additional metered street parking and nearby paid parkades in the surrounding downtown blocks.

While You're in Town

MUTEK Festival

August 25–30, 2026 · Quartier des Spectacles

An internationally renowned festival of electronic music and digital arts, running right through the back half of the conference. Expect performances across multiple indoor and outdoor venues in the Quartier des Spectacles, a short walk from Centre Mont-Royal.

Mount Royal Park

Montreal's iconic hilltop park offers walking trails, a lookout over the city, and green space to unwind between sessions — a scenic (and popular) way to start or end a conference day.

Old Montreal & the Old Port

Cobblestone streets, historic architecture, and riverfront views make Old Montreal worth a wander — particularly around the Banquet Dinner (Pangea) and Ghost Tour evenings, both held in the neighbourhood.

Downtown Terrace Season

Late August is peak terrace season in Montreal — the streets around Centre Mont-Royal, Crescent Street, and the Plateau are full of outdoor dining options for catching up with colleagues after hours.

Check mtl.org for the full, up-to-date city events calendar during the conference dates.

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INSTITUTIONAL SPONSOR

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