

From: **Russell Warne** <RWarne@uvu.edu>

Date: Mon, Oct 1, 2018 at 7:38 PM

Subject: IAEVG speaker invitation revocation

To: suzanne.bultheel@gmail.com <suzanne.bultheel@gmail.com>

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Dear Dr. Bultheel,

I am writing to express my consternation about the decision of IAEVG to revoke the invitation to Dr. Gottfredson to speak at your organization's conference. This is an incredibly short-sighted decision, and it will provide no benefit for your members.

Dr. Gottfredson is a member of an elite club of scientists who has made incredibly important contributions to the literature on personnel selection, intelligence and its social consequences, health disparities, and evolutionary psychology. Most scholars would be lucky to make contributions as important as hers in just one area; for someone to make (single-handedly) contributions in all four is extraordinary.

Even if one disagrees with her, Dr. Gottfredson's articles and talks are astute, well reasoned, entertaining, and enlightening for any audience member that will listen. Dis-inviting Dr. Gottfredson has robbed your members of the opportunity to hear one of the world's most important social scientists. Anybody who speaks in her place at your conference will be (in the words of Shakespeare) ". . . but a walking shadow; a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more." There simply is no replacement for Dr. Gottfredson.

Apart from my admiration for Dr. Gottfredson, I am concerned by the censorious precedent that this sets for your organization. Revoking the invitation to speak merely because someone is considered controversial by some sends the message to your members that there are certain ideas that are not permissible to explore. If you headed an organization devoted to dogma and conformity, then this would be acceptable. But it is not an acceptable course of action for a scientific organization because it means that some ideas are beyond questioning and must be accepted unthinkingly by your members.

I find it telling that none of Dr. Gottfredson's critics who contacted you provided a single rebuttal for any of her ideas. Rather, they smeared her and whispered about vague negative consequences of her ideas--without explaining why those consequences would occur or why they are a result of her research. If Dr. Gottfredson is so wrong in her later scholarly work, why can't any of the individuals who contacted you demonstrate the fallacious nature of her ideas?

I am not a member of your organization, and my displeasure will have no consequence for you. I cannot resign my membership, nor reverse a decision about attending your conference. But the damage you have done through this disinvitation is much larger than my dismay. You have damaged free thought and inquiry in your organization and have shown the world that it is an organization that merely parrots the creeds of political correctness of our time. By censoring Dr. Gottfredson and bowing to political pressure, you have shown that individuals who place the pursuit of truth above all else should not look to your organization for guidance.

-Dr. Russell T. Warne
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My new study in Archives of Scientific Psychology shows that over $\frac{3}{4}$ of introductory psychology textbooks contain factual inaccuracies in their discussion of human intelligence. Nontechnical summary at <https://goo.gl/LsvnCk>. Read the article for free at <http://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/2018-07714-001.pdf>.