James Downing
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and
Professor of Psychology
Sul Ross State University
Campus Box C-88, Alpine, TX 79832
432-837-8368
jdowning@sulross.edu

Last updated: August, 2026

EDUCATION:

M.Ed., Education Counseling. December 2018, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas

Ph.D., Psychology. August 1991, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

M.A., Psychology. August 1989, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

B.S., Psychology. May 1986, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

B.S., Marketing. May 1986, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS:

Adjunct Faculty. University of Rijeka, Department of Psychology, May, 2026-June, 2026.

Fulbright Lecturer in Psychology. The University of Rijeka, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Psychology, September, 2024-June, 2025.

Professor of Psychology. Sul Ross State University, Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences, September, 2004-present.

Dean. Sul Ross State University, College of Arts and Sciences, February 2015-August 2021.

Interim Dean. Sul Ross State University, College of Arts and Sciences, November, 2013-August, 2014.

Department Chair. Sul Ross State University, Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences, August, 2006-February, 2015.

Adjunct Faculty. University of Rijeka, Department of Psychology, May, 2004-June, 2004, May, 2005-June-2005, May, 2006-June-2006, May, 2007-June-2007, and May, 2008-June, 2008.

Fulbright Lecturer in Psychology. The University of Rijeka, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Psychology, September, 2002-June, 2003.

Associate Professor of Psychology. Sul Ross State University, Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences, September, 1998-August 2004.

Director of Institutional Effectiveness. Sul Ross State University, March, 1996-August, 1998.

Assistant Professor of Psychology. Sul Ross State University, Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences, September, 1992-August, 1998.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology. University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. Department of Psychology, August, 1991-July, 1992.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

American Counseling Association, 2021-pres.
American Psychological Association, 1991-present
American Psychological Association-Division of the Teaching of Psychology, 1992-pres.
Association for the Development of the Person-Centered Approach, 2000-present
The Center for the Study of the Person, 2015-present
Member of International Advisory Board, The Center for the Studies of the Person, 2015-present.
The International Society of Political Psychology, 2003-present
Psi Chi, The National Honor Society for Psychology, 1997-present
The Society for Personality and Social Psychology, 1992-present
Texas Counseling Association, 2021-present
World Association for Person-Centered and Experiential Psychotherapies and Counseling, 2016-present.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS:

Licensed Professional Counselor-License Number 84651-State of Texas
Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Trained (EMDR)-May 2023

HONORS, AWARDS, AND LISTINGS:

Selected as a Fulbright Award Recipient to be a Lecturer in Psychology, University of Rijeka, Croatia, 2024-2025.

Selected as a Fulbright Award Recipient to be a Lecturer in Psychology, University of Rijeka, Croatia, 2002-2003.

PUBLICATIONS:

Judd, C. M., and Downing, J. W. (1995). Stereotypic accuracy in judgments of the political positions of groups and individuals. Pages 65-89 *In*: M. Lodge and K. M. McGraw (eds.), *Political Judgment: Structure and Process*. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, MI.

Downing, J. W., Judd, C. M., & Brauer, M. (1992). Effects of repeated attitude expressions on response latency and extremity. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 63:17-29.

Judd, C. M., Drake, R. A., Downing, J. W., & Krosnick, J. A. (1991). Some dynamic properties of attitude structure: Context induced response facilitation and polarization. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 60:193-202.

Judd, C. M., and Downing, J. W. (1990). Political expertise and the development of attitude consistency. *Social Cognition*, 8:104-124.

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

Downing, J. W. "Bridging divides: Engaging modern populism and neo-fascism through a Person-Centered Lens of a Rogerian political psychology." February 2025, Invited keynote lecture to the Psychology Days Conference of the Psychology Department at the University of Rijeka, Croatia.

Downing, J. W. "Mindfulness for Healthy Aging." January 2025, Invited presentation to the College of the Third Age, the Psychology Department at University of Rijeka, Croatia.

Downing, J. W. "The political psychology of voting." December 2024, Invited presentation to the Psychology Department at the University of Rijeka.

Downing, J. W. "Carol Rogers' Person-Centered Approach: A dive into a humanistic theory. October 2024, Invited presentation to the Psychology Department at the University of Rijeka.

Downing, J. W. "The PCA and Social Psychology: Points of Contact, Collaboration, and Growth." Carl Rogers Conference, September 2020, Zoom conference originating from Moscow, Russia. (Invited Presentation).

Downing, J. W. "The PCA and Social Psychology: Points of Contact, Collaboration, and Growth." Carl Rogers Conference, August 2020, Zoom conference originating from San Diego, CA.

Downing, J. W. "Using the Person-Centered Approach and engagement to address a social conflict: 'Open Care' as a response to concealed carry on campus, two years on..." Carl Rogers Conference, January 2019, San Diego, CA.

Downing, J. W. "Using the Person-Centered Approach and engagement to address a social conflict: 'Open Care' as a response to concealed carry on campus." 13th World Conference for Person-Centered and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counseling, July 2018, Vienna, Austria.

Motschnig, R., Warner, M., Cornelius-White, J., Downing, J. W. "Facilitating experiential groups and workshops with international participants: Experiences in encountering cultural and racial diversity." 13th World Conference for Person-

Centered and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counseling, July 2018, Vienna, Austria.

Trotman, A. & Downing, J.W. "Rendering an obscure force: The reification of unfeigned professionalism between two persons of visibly different backgrounds." 13th World Conference for Person-Centered and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counseling, July 2018, Vienna, Austria.

Downing, J. W. "Using the Person-Centered Approach and Engagement to Address a Social Conflict: 'Open Care" as a Response to Concealed Carry on Campus in Texas. Association for the Development of the Person-Centered Approach Conference, July 2017, Chicago, IL.

Downing, J. W. "Using the Person-Centered Approach and Engagement to Address a Social Conflict: 'Open Care" as a Response to Concealed Carry on Campus in Texas. Carl Rogers Conference, January 2017, San Diego, CA.

Downing, J.W. "Using Empathy and the Core Conditions to Address a Social Conflict: A Response to the Concealed Carry on Campus Law in Texas". Carl Rogers Conference, January 2016, San Diego, CA.

Downing, J.W. "The Person-Centered Approach Goes to University: Student-Centered Teaching in Two Cultures, Far West Texas and Coastal Croatia". Carl Rogers Conference, January 2015, San Diego, CA.

Downing, J. W., Escallon, A., Motschnig, R., & M. dos Santos, A. Carl Rogers in the classroom: University-Level education and the person-centered approach (PCA). Presentation at the 2014 Carl Rogers Birthday Conference Sponsored by the Center for the Studies of the Person, San Diego, California, January 2014.

Downing, J. W., Escallon, A., Motschnig, R., & M. dos Santos, A. Carl Rogers in the classroom: University-Level education and the PCA – part 2: Focus on encounter groups. Presentation at the 2014 Carl Rogers Birthday Conference Sponsored by the Center for the Studies of the Person, San Diego, California, January 2014.

Downing, J. W. From a burr under the saddle to a flower in the desert: Anti-Authoritarianism in political psychology and higher education. Presentation at the 2013 Arts and Sciences Spring Lecture at Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, April 2013

Downing, J. W. The basic encounter group in person-centered education: Brief and longer-term encounter groups and their use at the university level. Presentation at the meeting of the Association for the Development of the Person-Centered Approach, Rochester, New York, June 2010.

Downing, J. W. Person-Centered education at the university level in two cultures: Far West Texas and Croatia. Presentation at the meeting of the Association for the Development of the Person-Centered Approach, New York, New York, July 2007.

Downing, J. W. Investigating attitude consistency and structure: Problems and solutions in measurement. Presentation at the 15th Psychology Days Conference at the University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia, May 2006.

Downing, J. W. & Bockes, T. C. Right-Wing authoritarianism in West Texas: Initial observations. Presentation at the meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association, San Antonio, Texas, May 1996.

Downing, J. W. Accuracy of Initial political impressions. Paper presented at the meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, Illinois, May 1992.

TEACHING INTERESTS:

Undergraduate Courses Taught:
Introduction to Psychology
Introductory Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences
Introduction to Social Psychology
Abnormal Behavior
Experimental Psychology
Social Attitudes
Community Experience in Psychology
History of Psychology
Honors Introduction to Psychology
Person-Centered Psychology
Special Topics: Death, Dying, and Bereavement
Special Topics: Political Psychology
Special Topics: Encountering the Person
Special Topics: Humanistic and Existential Psychology
Special Topics: Psychology of the Movies

Graduate Courses Taught:
Advanced Statistics
Advanced Research Methods
Survey of Social and Personality Psychology
History and Systems of Psychology
Person-Centered Theory and Practice