Members’ Priorities for SPSSI

Thanks to all the members who filled out the membership survey on SPSSI priorities! Let me use my last presidential column to tell you what we have learned and how we hope to use the information.

More than 500 of you responded to the first survey request. This represents more than a quarter of the members for whom we have email addresses and slightly more than the number who voted in the last SPSSI election. More than 400 members completed the entire survey. If you are not among them, it is not too late. If you do not have an email message from spsimembershipsurvey@gmail.com with a link to the survey, write me at beth.shinn@nyu.edu, and I will make sure you get a link.

The demographic characteristics of respondents appear reasonably representative of our membership: 59% were female; 80% identified as white/non Hispanic, 10% as Hispanic/Latino, 8% as Asian/Pacific Islander, 5% as Black/African American, and 1% as American Indian/Alaskan Native (respondents could select more than one category). Seventy one percent of respondents had a doctoral degree (almost all Ph.D.s), and 29% were students. Seventy-eight percent worked in a college or university. Eighty-four percent earned their highest degree in psychology (and another 5% had a hyphenated degree that included psychology). Of the psychologists, 59% had degrees in social, with clinical, community, developmental, and counseling (in that order) accounting for most of the rest.

The survey asked how important it is for SPSSI to engage in various activities, with the following response options: critical to SPSSI’s mission, important but not essential, and not important. The percentage of respondents rating each activity “critical” is shown in Table 1. Note that only the last two areas were rated “not important” by as many as 10% of respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy at the national level (e.g., to influence Congress or federal agencies)</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy at the state and local levels</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy at the international level (e.g., with the United Nations)</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grantmaking and awards</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training (e.g., advocacy or media training)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising and development (e.g., grantwriting)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing a newsletter</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book publishing</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although there was considerable agreement that national advocacy is critical to SPSSI, there was less of a consensus on what to advocate for. Members nominated 118 different issues (out of a list of 131), plus several more that were not on the list, as “a top 5 issue for SPSSI policy action.” The 13 issues garnering votes from at least 20% of respondents (people could choose up to five) are shown in Table 2.
Features

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by Astrid Stuckelberger, SPSSI UN Representative in Geneva
Publications Committee Report
by Ann Beteacourt and Gene Borgida, Co-Chairs/Publication Committee
Diversity in Higher Education:
The Role of Scientific Research in the Law
by Amy E. Smith, San Francisco University
Policy Research and Training at the University of Nevada, Reno
by Monica Miller, University of Nevada, Reno

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Update on the Journal of Social Issues
by Rock Hoyle, JSI Editor-Elect
Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy
by Geoffrey Maryans, ASAP Editor

Awards

2006 Convention Outstanding Poster Awards

Public Policy

Washington Update
by Karen Chen, SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Scholar

Regular Items

New York SPSSI Activities, Fall 2006
by Harold Taoakotian, SPSSI-NY Regional Group Chair
Bulletins

SPSSI Membership Application Form

SPSSI Directory

TABLE 2.
Percentage of 412 Respondents Nominating Issue as a “Top 5 Issue for SPSSI Policy Action”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prejudice and discrimination</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergroup relations</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict resolution</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human rights</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race relations</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and war</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health issues</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to health care</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International issues</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of course, respondents used different strategies for distributing their votes across general and subordinate categories. In choosing priorities to propose to Council for the next couple of years, the Policy Committee will take a much more detailed look at the votes. Other considerations are the timeliness of the issue (e.g., will legislation be coming up soon?), the impact our research is likely to have in the context of other efforts, and members’ interest in working on an issue. We have no problems with interest. Fully 143 SPSSI members indicated that SPSSI could call on them to participate actively (e.g., in a journal issue, policy statement, or congressional briefing), and another 224 said we should ask again next year.

We included such a long and detailed list of topics because we plan to create a searchable database for use by policy makers at the federal, state, and local levels who seek social science expertise. SPSSI members “covered” 120 of the 131 policy areas, with between 1 and 59 people volunteering expertise in each. Two hundred and fifty-two respondents volunteered for inclusion in the database. (Students, in particular, sometimes demurred because they felt they did not have sufficient expertise.) We will set up the database jointly with the Society for Community Research and Action (Division 27 of APA) and hope that their members will be able to fill in some of the areas that SPSSI members know less about. Depending on both logistical issues and use of the database, we may extend it to other APA divisions and societies, particularly the Divisions for Social Justice.

Another goal of the survey was to involve SPSSI members more fully in the work of the organization. The response here was overwhelming: 61 members expressed interest in elected governance roles, and 177 offered to serve on one or more committees. More than 50 people volunteered for each of the following committees: Dissertation Award, Grants-in-Aid, and Diversity. The only role, out of 37, for which no one volunteered was SPSSI President, from which I conclude that you are all smarter than I. The only down-side of this tremendous outpouring of volunteers is that we will not be able to involve everyone in a committee or elected role this year who offered to participate, but we do hope to involve all of you in the future.

I am in awe of the energy and commitment SPSSI members showed in this survey, as I have been in awe all year of the dedication of the more than 100 people who served on Council or on one of SPSSI’s many committees. Special thanks go to Andrea Solarz and Shari Miles who developed the membership survey on behalf of the Policy Committee, which was co-chaired this year by Maureen O’Connor and Meg Bond, to all the Policy Committee and Council members who commented on survey drafts, and to everyone who completed the survey. You have created a marvelous resource for SPSSI!
Editor’s Column

By Richard L. Wiener, 
Editor of the Forward

This edition of the Forward looks back on the SPSSI 2006 conference that was held in Long Beach and forward to the APA conference in New Orleans (August 2006). It contains the regular features (SPSSI officer columns, the Rookie, and society announcements), as well as a feature article on affirmative action policy research (Amy Smith, J.D., Ph.D.) and a description of policy training and research at the University of Nevada, Reno (Monica Miller, J.D., Ph.D.). The newsletter also features a question-and-answer page describing the new SPSSI journals and book series. I hope that you enjoy this edition of the Forward and that you will take notice of the calls for papers and participation for upcoming conferences. Please send any comments or suggestions to either Rich Wiener (rwiener2@unl.edu) or my graduate assistant for the newsletter, Erin Richter (erichtel@bigred.unl.edu).

Administrative Restructuring

By Daniel Perlman
SPSSI Secretary/Treasurer

From my perspective as Secretary-Treasurer, the major event during the past six months has been the hiring of an organizational consultant, Tari Hanneman, to review the operation of SPSSI’s Central Office. In this column, which ends my term as SPSSI’s Secretary-Treasurer, I want to focus on her report.

The Organizational Consultant’s Report

When SPSSI moved to Washington in 2001, the SPSSI Central Office went through a total change of staff. Yet even after what seems like a reasonable period of adjustment to this transition, the Office has continued to experience stressful challenges. The Office’s administrative support to SPSSI’s regular and governance members has not been at as consistently high a level as SPSSI officers feel is optimal. Furthermore, the press of administrative matters has infringed upon the time the Central Office staff has been able to devote to SPSSI’s policy and knowledge utilization initiatives. After five years of trying to operate the Central Office in Washington effectively, SPSSI Council invited a consultant to reflect on the operation of the office and to consider how SPSSI governance members relate to the Central Office.

The consultant reviewed documents, conducted interviews with members involved in SPSSI’s governance (e.g., Council members, committee chairs, etc.), and visited the Central Office to observe and talk with staff. Based on this information, the consultant offered various observations. While she found strong support among SPSSI leaders for SPSSI to maintain and strengthen its work in the policy arena, she noted a lack of clear priorities and well-defined roles and responsibilities. She also observed inefficient work processes that “overburden staff, often leaving members and volunteer leaders without the support they need to carry out their responsibilities.”

To enhance SPSSI’s operations, the consultant offered 18 recommendations clustered in four areas: (a) organizational staffing; (b) clarification of roles, responsibilities, and priorities; (c) ways of creating greater efficiencies and oversight; and (d) better use of technology to improve efficiencies. In the staffing area, the consultant has recommended that SPSSI have an administrative director and a full- or part-time senior policy person. The administrative director will be responsible for overseeing all administrative functions and general operations of the SPSSI Central Office; the senior policy person will be responsible for overseeing and coordinating all of SPSSI’s public policy activities.

The consultant envisions the SPSSI administrative staff adding an administrative assistant (possibly part-time) and a staff member charged with membership and awards processing.

The consultant also recommended against custom-built computer applications, suggesting instead that SPSSI do an information technology (IT) audit, make greater use of commercially available software, and eliminate the SPSSI IT (webmaster) position.

To create greater organizational clarity, the consultant recommended updating SPSSI’s administrative handbook, improved orientation of new governance members, and annually establishing measurable, attainable goals. For greater efficiency and control, the consultant advised creating a calendar of activities and deadlines, assessing the current committee structure, developing and adopting a better procurement system, and streamlining administrative procedures for processing memberships and awards.

SPSSI Council has authorized key steps to move forward with these recommendations. SPSSI’s current Executive Director, Shari

...continued on page 4
Miles, has been invited to remain with SPSSI in the policy role at least until the end of her contract in 2007. SPSSI has established a search committee, which Sally Shumaker and I will co-chair, to find an administrative director. (Let Sally (sshumake@wfu.edu) or me (d.perlm@ub.ca) know if you have candidates for this position.) Council has also authorized an IT audit, now underway. Other activities recommended by the consultant are also already being implemented (e.g., simplifying the membership application process and updating the Administrative Handbook).

A Secretary-Treasurer’s Outgoing Reflections

Because I have served as SPSSI’s Secretary-Treasurer for two terms (2000–2006), this is my farewell column. Thus, it seems an opportune time to reflect on the past six years and the progress I think SPSSI has made during that time. From my vantage point, the biggest event in SPSSI’s development during this period was the decision to move the Society’s office from Ann Arbor to Washington, DC. In conjunction with this move, SPSSI purchased and renovated a Washington house to use as SPSSI’s headquarters. These decisions proved more challenging and expensive than SPSSI’s leadership initially anticipated. Nonetheless, in relocating to Washington, I think SPSSI has moved forward substantially in the policy area. In this sense, I think the decision was a good one. SPSSI’s ownership of this property has contributed, at least in small ways, to the redevelopment of the neighborhood and is now proving to be beneficial from an economic perspective.

With SPSSI’s relocation from Ann Arbor to Washington, I detect subtle changes in the nature of the way the Society operates. SPSSI has had to examine, perhaps unconsciously, whether it wants to operate on a more informal basis of trust or on a more businesslike, contractual basis. I see a shift toward more formality. There has been more effort to assign Council members oversight responsibilities for SPSSI committees. However, I believe the role of SPSSI’s Executive Committee has become more influential in the Society over the past six years, creating within Council two levels of participation.

SPSSI’s governance group has also had to learn how to relate to an executive director. Having a larger staff headed by a professional has allowed the Society to increase its expectations of what the Central Office will accomplish. Some organizations in Washington and elsewhere collect money from members/patrons but leave it to the paid staff to do virtually all the organization’s work. I am pleased that SPSSI remains an organization in which the energies and commitment of members are crucial to the Society’s accomplishments.

The Secretary-Treasurer oversees membership. I am saddened that during my two terms membership has sagged from more than 3,000 members in June 2000 to fewer than 2,500 at present. Other psychological associations also face this drift (e.g., APA and its divisions). I am delighted that Ann Bettencourt is spearheading efforts to connect with potential members who might appreciate belonging to SPSSI.

Turning to SPSSI’s general financial state, I am reminded of the story of the exchange between a CEO and his firm’s accountant:

CEO: “How are we doing?”
Accountant: “How would you like to be doing?”

For the most part, during my terms, SPSSI has been in benign territory but it has hit a couple of pockets of financial turbulence. In five of the six years during which I was Secretary-Treasurer, SPSSI operated in the black. When I assumed the position in 2000, SPSSI had a total fund balance of $1.8 million. By the end of 2005, that figure had increased to $2.5 million. The late 1990s were a very strong period financially for SPSSI. During my terms, SPSSI’s annual expenses, especially its Central Office expenses, increased substantially. They did so at a more rapid rate than SPSSI income. Although SPSSI’s total assets increased during my terms, the annual income derived from endowed funds (e.g., the Marshall Fund) is not keeping pace with increases in the annual costs of the activities those funds are designed to support.

Looking ahead, there are some bright spots on the horizon (e.g., SPSSI will gain control of the Elonen Trust in 2007 and has new publishing ventures coming online). Nonetheless, for some time, SPSSI has been overly dependent on one source of income, revenue from its journals. Declines in revenues from SPSSI’s journals would have a major impact on the Society’s financial situation. The transition to a new office structure is likely to create additional one-time and recurring expenses in the coming year. SPSSI now has less of a margin for error and less freedom to innovate without cutting back than it did in the late 1990s. Nonetheless, by most measures, it is fair to say that SPSSI’s finances did well during the past six years.

It has been a pleasure for me to serve as SPSSI’s Secretary-Treasurer. I owe thanks to many people for helping me in this role, including SPSSI Secretary-Treasurers (especially Geoff Maruyama) who sagely guided SPSSI’s finances in the past, members of Council, the Presidents with whom I have worked closely (Jenny Crocker, Geoff Maruyama, Lou Penner, James Jones, Kay Deaux, and Beth Shinn), SPSSI’s dedicated staff (especially Michelle Angus, Shari Miles, and Sougata Roy), and former SPSSI Administrative Associate Ann Waldrop, who set up the informative fiscal system that has been in place during my terms.

As my terms as Secretary-Treasurer end, I am delighted that Sally Shumaker is succeeding me. She brings a terrific combination of knowledge of SPSSI and leadership ability. I wish her personally and SPSSI’s finances the very best in the period ahead. I am honored to have been voted SPSSI’s President-elect and look forward to serving in that role.

Principles for Promoting Social Change

by Neil Wollman, Margaret Lobenstein, Maria Foderaro, & Stephen Stose

Reminder

SPSSI’s booklet is available on the Web at:
www.spssi.org/ppsc.html

Those who do not have access to
the Internet may request a copy
from SPSSI at 202/675-6956.
Booklets are $2.00 each.
Allow 2 weeks for delivery.
Update on the Journal of Social Issues

By Rick H. Hoyle

The set of issues that will comprise Volume 62 of JSI is now complete. Look for Nagda, Tropp, and Paluck’s issue on prejudice reduction to arrive soon and for Bottoms and Quas’s issue on child maltreatment to appear later in the year. I want to thank these issue editors for accelerating the development of their issues in order to keep publication on schedule. Thanks also to JSI board members for their prompt handling of editorial duties associated with these issues as well as for their ongoing contributions to a significant number of issues currently in development.


Status of JSI Issues

REMAINING ISSUES FOR 2006
- Emerging Directions in Child Maltreatment Research: Perspectives on Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy - Bette L. Bottoms & Jodi A. Quas

ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENT
- Intergenerational Relations: Theory, Research, and Policy - Toni C. Antonucci & James S. Jackson
- Emotional Climates, Human Security, and Cultures of Peace - Joseph de Rivera & Dario Paez
- International Perspectives on Political Socialization and Gender - Hans Peter Kuhn, Angela Ittel, Connie Flanagan, & Lonnie Sherrod
- Off-Diagonal Pathways through Education - Stephen C. Peck, Leon Feinstein, & Jacqueline S. Eccles
- Young People’s Perspectives on the Rights of the Child: Implications for Theory, Research, and Practice - Martin D. Ruck & Stacey S. Horn
- International Perspectives on Homelessness - Paul A. Toro
- Human Behavior and Environmental Sustainability - Charles Vlek & Linda Stag
- Ethnic Prejudice and Discrimination in Europe - Andreas Zick, Thomas F. Pettigrew, & Ulrich Wagner

In addition, the board has approved four promising preliminary proposals for further development. We expect formal proposals from the prospective editors within the next three months.

The status of all JSI issues in development, as well as contact information for issue editors, is posted on the Web at http://www.spssi.org/jsi_issueinfo.html. Also posted is information about developing a proposal for an issue of JSI. If you are considering proposing an issue and, after consulting information posted on the Web, still have questions about the process or the viability of a particular topic, please get in touch with me by email (rhoyle@duke.edu). If you are not prepared to edit an issue but have in mind one or more topics that JSI might feature, please also share your thoughts with me in an email message.

Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP)

By Geoffrey Maruyama
ASAP Editor

This has been a busy year for Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP). During the transition to my editorship, we solicited papers on the psychological aspects of the hurricanes that ravaged the Gulf Coast. Janet Ruscher from Tulane University in New Orleans is co-editing a special section of ASAP on that topic. Although the special issue will not be ready in time for APA, it should be in place not long after that, and a table of contents should be available before the conference. Because some papers are still in the “revise and resubmit” stage, the final number of papers in the special issue (not counting an introductory article from Janet) will be between 9 and 11, selected from a pool of 25 submissions.

In addition to the Katrina/Rita hurricane articles, ASAP has two articles in Volume 6 that Rhoda Unger, the previous editor, accepted, along with a number of book reviews produced by her book review editor, Kevin Lanning. ASAP also will publish a version of the SPSSI statement endorsed by Council, “Psychologists and the Use of Torture in Interrogations,” produced for SPSSI by Mark Costanzo, Ellen Gerrity, and M. Brinton Lykes. The plan is to invite comment pieces to complement that paper.

With regard to the regular open submission process, ASAP has now received 34 submissions. As of this writing, those under consideration are still in the review process, with no definite acceptances. One of the biggest challenges I have faced as a new editor has been developing competencies in my editorial board across the broad array of topics about which ASAP has received papers. Papers have been submitted to ASAP from Asia, Africa, Europe, and Australia on many topics far from the typical SPSSI agenda (e.g., prejudice, peace, and poverty). I believe that this diversity of submissions reflects two features: first, the pervasiveness of the Internet, which makes the journal visible, and second, the lack of cost to submitting authors, since ASAP does not charge for submissions and accepts them electronically. Once I have a year’s worth of submissions to reflect upon, I will determine whether I need to sharpen the submission guidelines or narrow the scope of papers that are encouraged.

At this point, I have a diverse group of potential reviewers (although I still would welcome more) to complement the editorial board, so I will be better able to direct submissions to potential reviewers, and turnaround time should be dropping.
During the past few months, I have seen my share of legislative successes and disappointments. The following are some of my recent policy efforts, along with updates on some of my issues of concentration. With my fellowship nearing its end, I conclude with some final thoughts.

**HIV/AIDS.** During late spring 2006, reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act once again became a top priority for health legislators. On May 17, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) marked up legislation (S. 2823) to reauthorize the Act. I continue to advocate extensively for the mental health and substance abuse needs of people with HIV/AIDS. My lobbying efforts have been met with mixed success. Several APA recommendations were incorporated into the new legislation. In particular, mental health and substance abuse services were included as core medical services, the main care and treatment services for CARE Act recipients. However, many Ryan White CARE Act stakeholders, including APA, do not fully support this measure because inadequate funding levels and other problematic issues. Nonetheless, I continue to work on this legislation as it moves through Congress.

**Hate Crimes**
Unfortunately, updates on hate crimes legislation are less encouraging. In March, I helped draft and send to Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, an APA letter urging him to introduce S. 1145, the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA) as an amendment to the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (S.1086). In September 2005, the House version of the hate crime legislation, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act (H.R. 2662), passed as an amendment to the Children’s Safety Act (H.R. 3132). Unfortunately, S.1086 moved through the Senate without the hate crimes language. In addition, the House passed another version of the Children’s Safety Act that excluded the hate crimes language. Despite these setbacks, the hate crimes coalition continues to move forward, and we are currently trying to garner more co-sponsors for the hate crimes bills.

More recently, in June, both SPSSI and APA signed onto a hate crimes coalition letter to the FBI, which included our recommended changes to the current hate crime incident report form. For example, we suggested that the incident report form require more information about the crime. For example, the incident report form for other crimes asks for the age and gender of the perpetrator and victim; however, such information is not required in the hate crime incident report form.

**Immigration**
On April 27, I gave a presentation on behalf of SPSSI for a conference for New England grantees funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Planning. The conference theme was immigrant women and reproductive health, a topic similar to my November 2005 SPSSI Congressional briefing. The conference coordinator, who found information about my briefing through SPSSI’s website, asked me to discuss past, current, and pending policies affecting immigrant women and their reproductive health. It was a well-received presentation with about 100 attendees.

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, signed into law earlier this year, includes a provision requiring all citizens applying for or renewing their Medicaid coverage after June 30, 2006, to show proof of citizenship. Prior to DRA’s passage, state Medicaid programs could determine citizenship by allowing applications to attest in writing that they are citizens. This new citizenship documentation requirement could delay or deny Medicaid coverage for an estimated 2 million individuals. Many vulnerable groups likely to be affected include older African Americans from the rural South, who have no birth certificates because they were prohibited from being born in a hospital due to discriminatory practices, and people affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita who lost their documentation during the devastating natural disasters. I have been working with legislators to remove this deleterious provision or at least incorporate more flexibility into this requirement to ensure that people in need of Medicaid are able to enroll for or maintain coverage.

**Thank You and Next Steps**
As many of you know, my fellowship ends in August. First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone, in particular Shari Miles, SPSSI Central Office, the APA Public Policy Office, and my oversight committee, all of whom made my experience a truly fulfilling and eye-opening one. This opportunity broadened my understanding and appreciation of public policy work. In fact, I have decided to hone my policy skills even further. Starting in September, I will be working at the Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor as an AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) Diplomacy Fellow. I look forward to this new and exciting endeavor. Even though my term as the Marshall scholar is ending, I will continue my involvement in SPSSI’s policy initiatives. Thank you for all your support.
A Note from the President-Elect

By Irene Hanson Frieze

I am delighted to be writing my first column as your incoming President. Beth Shinn will officially pass the torch on September 1, but in actuality, I will be taking over the duties of President on August 1. (Beth is leaving the country for her sabbatical year in Germany for the fall and will return to Berkeley in the spring.) She has done a wonderful job and will be a hard act to follow.

One of the first issues that I will address is a reorganization of our Central Office. On the advice of an external consultant, whom we asked to evaluate our Central Office functions, SPSSI Council has decided to add an additional full-time staff member who will direct the day-to-day management of the Central Office. We are now interviewing candidates for this position.

Once we fill this new position, our current Administrative Director, Shari Miles, will be able to devote all her time to the very important policy work that she was originally hired to do. We are also initiating an audit of our computer systems in an attempt to upgrade these systems to better serve our members. This ultimately should result in a better design of our Web pages and additional use of the Web for membership renewals and other functions. I have been revising our Administrative Handbook, which explains our committees and awards. This information should help with the transitions and benefit all our members.

All of this reorganization will take a few months. Once we are finished, we hope to once again have a smoothly running Central Office and to direct more efforts toward policy initiatives. As Beth notes in her column, our membership sees policy work as a high priority for SPSSI. One of the reasons we decided to move the Central Office to Washington, DC, was to be closer to national policy makers. Our present organization has not yet allowed us to take full advantage of this move. If you have questions or comments about the reorganization process, or any personal or professional concerns about SPSSI issues, please feel free to contact me at frieze@pitt.edu.

Along with the reorganization of our Central Office, we are initiating several new publications. In addition to the Journal of Social Issues and ASAP, we will also publish the first issue of a new Social Issues and Policy Review journal, under the editorship of Vicki Esses and Jack Dovidio. All these journals will come to you automatically, as a benefit of your SPSSI membership. Two new book series are also planned, and we will provide more information about them as they are finalized.

I recently returned from a wonderful SPSSI conference in Long Beach, California, our largest conference ever. It was exciting to see the energy there. Many students and young professionals attended, as well as long-time SPSSI members. We owe special thanks to the local organizers, Shana Levin and Allen M. Omoto, and to the program co-chairs, Sheri Levy and Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton. We are working to finalize plans for the 2008 conference and to find a location for a 2010 conference.

One of my new initiatives as President is a joint task force with Division 35 on Teaching Resources for Including Social Class in the Psychology Curriculum. The task force will be chaired by Bernice Lott (blott@uri.edu) and Heather Bullock (hbullock@ucsc.edu). Let them know if you would like to work on this project or if you have suggestions.

I am very much looking forward to this coming year as your President. Please feel free to contact me about any ideas you have relating to SPSSI.

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Sustaining Membership

This membership category is available to all current and new members. For a one time dues payment of $1,500, members will receive all benefits and voting rights and enjoy exemption from paying dues for the duration of their membership. **Sign up now and become a sustaining member!**

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Invitation to Join the Institute for Action Against Hate and Call for Papers

By Jim Mohr

Assistant Director, Gonzaga University
Institute for Action against Hate

The Institute for Action Against Hate at Gonzaga University is the only academic organization dedicated to the establishment of the interdisciplinary field of Hate Studies. Hate Studies is broadly defined as “inquires into the human capacity to define and then dehumanize or demonize an ‘other,’ and the processes which inform and give expression to, or can curtail, control or combat that capacity.” The Institute publishes the Journal of Hate Studies, and maintains a database of syllabi, sources, and other resources for those interested in the field (including information about faculty mentoring).

For more information about IAAH, to become more involved in Hate Studies, or to submit to the Journal of Hate Studies, please go to the Institute's webpage at: http://www.gonzaga.edu/againsthate/ or email againsthate@gonzaga.edu.
Update on the Divisions for Social Justice

By Susan Clayton
SPSSI Council Member and SPSSI Representative to the Divisions for Social Justice

The Divisions for Social Justice (DSJ) constitute a voluntary association of 10 APA divisions, which attempts to promote social justice programming at the APA convention and social justice policies within the APA as a whole. This spring, DSJ members have focused on psychologists’ involvement in interrogations, particularly at Guantanamo Bay. The APA position on this issue has received a lot of attention, in part because it is perceived as somewhat equivocal. Although the APA has steadfastly come out in opposition to torture, it has been less clear about whether or not its members can provide advice or support in interrogations, citing a responsibility to help protect society from future acts of terror.

DSJ members have been working to resolve an ambiguity in the APA Ethics Code, which does not fully clarify psychologists’ responsibility to uphold basic human rights. The DSJ supports adding the protection of basic human rights as a more universal criterion to the ethics code. Steve Behnke (APA Ethics Director) and Olivia Moorehead-Slaughter (Chair of the APA Ethics Committee) asked the DSJ divisions for help in defining basic human rights. DSJ Chair Neil Altman wrote a letter in response, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He also contributed a letter to the June APA Monitor recommending the revision of Ethical Principle 1.02 and supporting an independent investigation of media allegations of psychological support in torture and/or cruel and inhuman treatment.

DSJ representatives to APA Council have also worked to draft a resolution that would update, strengthen, and replace the 1986 Human Rights Resolution Against Torture. Linda Woolf, President of Division 48, played a key role in drafting it. DSJ members of COR signed on as co-sponsors. The resolution will go to Council as a new business item at its August meeting.

DSJ has important programming lined up for APA. Steve Behnke and Olivia Moorehead-Slaughter will contribute presentations to a two-hour panel on issues of torture and interrogation, as will Bernice Lott, Brad Olson, and Shara Sand. Bob Geffner, President of the Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma, will moderate. An hour of small group discussions revolving around peace and conflict resolution will follow.

Note: Allen Omoto will be taking over as SPSSI’s representative to the DSJ following the APA convention in August.

SPSSI Members Converge on New Orleans

By Kevin Lanning (lanning@fau.edu) and Markus Kemmelmeier (markus@unr.edu)
APA 2006 Program Chairs

The Crescent City, home of Dixieland Jazz, Cajun Cuisine, and Mardi Gras revelry, has an economy based largely on tourism, including convention tourism. In light of the economic and social devastation that was visited upon the city by Hurricane Katrina one year ago, we are encouraged that APA has done its part by keeping its commitment to hold its 2006 Convention in New Orleans.

At press time, the convention lies ahead of us; as you read this, it is likely to have passed. What follows, then, is a hopeful “retrospective” of our upcoming meeting of August 10 – 13.

Fair skies and pleasant weather greeted SPSSI members at the 2006 APA Convention in New Orleans. Convention attendees were busy, not only with the convention program, but also with strenuous volunteer work in the Lower 9th Ward with the grassroots organization Common Ground Relief. (Those who were unable to help out in person but would still like to contribute may want to visit commongroundrelief.org to learn about additional opportunities.) Despite the sedative effects of physical labor and large servings of gumbo, jambalaya and Bananas Foster, convention symposia proved to be lively and well-attended affairs. As befits the breadth of SPSSI, symposia were wide-ranging, including, for example, presentations on coalition building, acculturation, and political psychology; workshops on Holocaust studies and mentoring women; and a longitudinal study of personality in film.

Interdivisional collaborations included a well-attended social hour with Division 9, a conversation hour with the Divisions for Social Justice, and a cross-cutting symposium on natural and social disasters. Perhaps the most visible common denominator across these sessions was the scintillating discussion that followed each of them, which, we anticipate, will lead to conceptually rich and socially consequential empirical study in the years to come – particularly by the many graduate student SPSSIers in attendance.

We want to thank all of those who attended, and we look forward to seeing you again next year.
New York SPSSI Activities, Fall 2006

By Harold Takooshian
SPSSI New York Regional Group Chair

The SPSSI-New York regional group held the last of its five spring activities on June 29, when five historians offered a panel on “New York Stories: The power of place in shaping science and practice” at the 2006 conference of CHEIRON in Bronxville, NY (www.people.stu.ca/~cheiron). This was part of an ongoing project by a team of 12 local historians on the fascinating history of psychology and social issues in New York. In fall 2006, SPSSI-NY again hosts a series of activities for its 400 local members, their students and guests. Three of these activities are:

September 5: A gathering on “Psychology and social issues at the United Nations,” from 3-6 pm at Fordham University. All are invited without fee to this third annual gathering of psychologists working with the UN, which will take place the day before the 59th annual NGO Conference at the United Nations. The gathering will include six symposia and a reception attended by many of the psychologists who serve SPSSI, APA, or other groups at the UN.

October 2: World Habitat Day symposium.

November 10: The 18th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research, hosted by St. Francis College in Brooklyn Heights. This afternoon of student and faculty research presentations will be capped by an awards ceremony and gala reception with two distinguished Guests of Honor – Senel Poyrazli (Penn State) and Joseph Ferrari (DePaul).

Proposed papers (300-word abstracts or full papers) are due by 5 pm Friday, October 6, to Conference Chairperson Jennifer Lancaster of St. Francis College, gnycl8@msn.com. Submissions should be in MSWord or RTF format and must include the following information: author name(s) and affiliation(s), address and phone number of key presenter, and name of faculty mentor (if any). Only full papers (not abstracts) are eligible for a student research award.

Plans are also underway for other fall 2006 activities. If you have suggestions or questions, please contact me at 212-636-6393, or takoosh@aol.com.
SPSS1 has consultative status to the United Nations (UN) in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. SPSS1 is also a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO). CONGO is the privileged NGO body for consultation of the UN with civil society and coordinates the work of its NGO members at all UN sites.

During June 29-30, 2006, CONGO and its traditional partners organised a Civil Society Forum in Geneva prior to the meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The High-Level Segment took place at the United Nations in Geneva from July 3-5, 2006. More than 400 NGOs from all over the world participated in the Forum.

The Forum assisted NGOs in consultation with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and other civil society organizations, in influencing the dignitaries’ deliberations at the ECOSOC High-level Segment meeting on the theme:

“Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all...”

The forum was launched with a keynote address by Juan Somavia,2 and was followed by workshops on six main thematic clusters that address important international social issues: 1) the impact of globalization on work, 2) creating an environment conducive for growth and employment, 3) employment for women, youth, and the elderly, 4) human rights and employment for vulnerable groups, 5) employment in rural and urban areas, and 6) new forms of employment.

Recommendations stemming from the workshops on each cluster were presented, discussed, and endorsed in plenary sessions. The full set of final recommendations3 was presented to the ECOSOC High-Level Segment.

As SPSS1’s representative to the UN in Geneva, I was involved in the July 2006 Civil Society Forum in 3 ways:

1) As co-organizer and chair of the lunch panel “Economic Ethos: Is a Universal Basic Income Sufficient for All?” Speakers recommended setting up, on a worldwide basis, safety nets that ensure basic social and material security.

2) As a panellist in the cluster on migration to ensure that a lifelong perspective is included in forum deliberations.

3) As a speaker during an interactive discussion between NGOs and dignitaries of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment (described above). In this discussion, I requested special attention to four social issues:

(i) Recognition of work in the informal sector: “Decent work” is not only relevant to the formal paid sector but also to the informal sector – paid and unpaid (e.g., women’s work and contribution to society).

(ii) Inclusion of the aging of the population: Older persons represent an opportunity for society. On one hand, they are among the most vulnerable groups, but on the other, they contribute to creating employment and decent lives in the community.

(iii) Role of psychology: The concept of “development through work” concerns not only economic and material aspects but also human development aspects. Therefore, the role of psychology should be part of the UN’s work, especially in tense situations such as wars and their aftermath and natural disasters.

(iv) The role of science: In the UN, addressing such issues as decent work, decent lives, and migration is crucial. The architecture and dynamics of the world population has changed, but this is often overlooked. Therefore, a constant reality check is needed to create efficient and coherent policies. Science can offer this reality check.

Points (ii) and (iv) were especially well-received during the deliberations. The points on the importance of psychology and human development (i) also received a very positive response from NGOs present at the meeting.

In conclusion, as we know too well, globalization is taking place in ways that result in unevenly distributed benefits within and among countries. Globalization requires an appropriate international framework that ensures a lifelong perspective on human

1 Its partners include: the NGO Section of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the NGO Liaison Office of the UN Office in Geneva and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

2 Juan Somavia is the Director-General of the International Labor Organization (ILO).


4 For example: International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Human Rights Council, World Trade Organization (WTO), UN Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), etc.
As you may know, we have initiated some exciting new publishing ventures with Blackwell Publishers. These include two new book series and one new journal. Also, we have engaged an impressive set of editors to lead these endeavors. We hope that you will contact them about your scholarly works. The following brief interviews with these editors describe the new publications.

Marilynn B. Brewer (Ohio State University) – Social Issues and Social Interventions

Q1: What is unique about this new book series? The Social Issues and Social Interventions series will be designed to help fill the gap between basic research on social issues and translation into social policy and program interventions. Each book in the series will be an edited volume devoted to a specific social issue–relevant theme, covering related theory, research, and application. Although not all chapters in each volume would be expected to deal directly with interventions or policy implications, the volume as a whole should bridge research and practice.

Q2: Isn’t all research on social issues already relevant to social policy and interventions? Even among SPSSI members, with our shared mission of encouraging research on social issues, the assumption has generally been that if we do good research about social issues, the relevance of our findings will be self–evident. We have failed to realize that there may often be a disconnect between the questions we address in our research projects and the answers that social policy makers and activists are looking for. In the best of all worlds, understanding should contribute to solving, but the line between the two is not always direct.

Q3: What contribution do you think this book series is likely to make? It is not enough for us to put our findings “out there” and expect policy makers and social change agents to pick them up and use them in the public interest. If we want to have a place at the table when public policy decisions are being made, we need to take the additional steps necessary to bridge the gap between basic research and application in practice. In other words, we have to take some of the initiative in translating our explanations of social events into prescriptions for policy and social interventions. This new series will help to provide a forum for linking social issue–relevant research and social programs.

Mark Snyder (University of Minnesota) – Contemporary Social Issues

Q1: What is unique about this new “Contemporary Social Issues” book series? Since its founding, SPSSI has addressed the social issues of the times. Central to these efforts has been the Lewinian tradition of action-oriented research, in which psychological theories and methods guide research and action addressed to important societal problems. The SPSSI series on “Contemporary Social Issues” is a series of authored works addressed to contemporary social issues facing individuals, groups, communities, and/or society at large.

Q2: Who will the authors of books in the “Contemporary Social Issues” series be? And who are the intended readers? Books in the series will be grounded in their authors’ own programs of research, written to speak to scholars, students, practitioners, and policy makers. I expect that each book will have a “voice” – that of an author rooted in the time–honored SPSSI tradition of research addressed to critically important social issues, and that the books will, at one and the same time, advance the state of knowledge and inform relevant practical application and social policy formulation.

Q3: How long will books in the series be? And how many books do you hope to publish? Books in the “Contemporary Social Issues” series will be between 70,000 and 80,000 words, which translates into approximately 220 printed and bound pages. We hope to publish one or more works each year, and that the books in the “Contemporary Social Issues” series will define their authors, and SPSSI, as the world’s leading experts on social science and social issues.


Q1: What is unique about this new journal? That is, how does it differ from other SPSSI publications and other publications in general? We see this journal as somewhat similar to other review volumes, such as Annual Review of Psychology and particularly Advances in Experimental Social Psychology. Specifically, like papers in Advances in Experimental Social Psychology, articles are intended to provide theoretical and empirical reviews of a topic or program of research. What makes Social Issues and Policy Review (SIPR) unique in the field as a review journal, however, is that its articles are intended to be directly relevant to understanding and addressing social issues and public policy. Articles will need to present strong scholarly foundations and discuss how research and theory can inform social issues and public policy or articulate the implications of social issues and public policy for theory and research. Normally, this evidence will use the authors’ own research as a focus, but broader integrative reviews are also welcome. In addition, articles may be structured to examine how particular programs of research address policy issues or, alternatively, may focus on a particular policy and bring research and theory to bear upon it. Thus, we see SIPR as complementing the other SPSSI
Diversity in Higher Education: 
The Role of Scientific Research in the Law

By Amy E. Smith, J.D., Ph.D. 
San Francisco State University

I recall vividly my first day in law school at the University of Michigan in the fall of 1995, and have since described the welcoming convocation as a defining moment in my academic career. I remember distinctly the dean of the Law School standing before us, listing the characteristics of the incoming class: “In this room today, there are among you individuals from 23 countries, 37 states, several medical doctors, and individuals who speak upwards of five languages...” While the precise numbers escape me today, the message was clear: This was a place that valued difference, and the unique contributions each of us were positioned to make. At the time, I could not have predicted the relevance of that moment to the changing landscape of affirmative action; yet in 2003, the Supreme Court’s determinations in Gratz v. Bollinger and Grutter v. Bollinger (the “University of Michigan cases”) spoke directly to why some individuals had seats in that room and others did not.

These two cases began when several white applicants challenged the admissions policies of one of the University of Michigan’s undergraduate programs (Gratz v. Bollinger) and Law School (Grutter v. Bollinger) after being denied admission in 1995 and 1997, claiming that race-based preferential treatment violated the Constitution. As part of its defense, the University of Michigan argued that it had a “compelling state interest” in diversity, and put forward social scientific evidence to support the idea that a diverse student body produced important educational outcomes.

Along with many other organizations, the American Psychological Association submitted an amicus brief in support of the University, highlighting the work of SPSSI and the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues (Division 45). SPSSI has long played an active role in the development of policies relating to diversity, and the work of our members was central to the amicus brief. In part, the brief described the large body of psychological research supporting the idea that diversity in higher education promotes future productive relationships among groups; it also responded to attacks on the psychological research submitted by the University.

In its 2003 decisions, the Supreme Court upheld the Law School’s admissions policy (Grutter); using a strict scrutiny analysis, the Court found a “compelling governmental interest” in diversity and found that the Law School’s policy was narrowly tailored to meet this interest. In Gratz, the Court held that the undergraduate admissions policies violated the Equal Protection Clause, as well as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 42 U.S.C. §1981, because the policies in question were not narrowly tailored.

Since 2003, affirmative action has continued to face challenges in academia, politics, and the federal courts. Within the academy, varying interpretations of data and social scientific evidence have fueled continuing debates (see, e.g., Gurin, 2001; Sanders, 2004). On the political front, voters in Michigan this November will consider an initiative banning the use of affirmative action policies within the state, much like California’s Proposition 209 and Washington State’s Initiative 200. In the courts, a private institution in Hawaii is currently awaiting a 9th District determination about its admissions policies, which offer preference to students of Native Hawaiian ancestry (see Doe v. Kamehameha Schools, 2005). Distinguishable from the University of Michigan cases because the private school receives no federal funds, the challenge represents further erosion of affirmative action programs.

With policies changing so rapidly and on so many fronts (and with two new Justices now on the Supreme Court), it is difficult to predict the most productive research agenda for addressing these issues, particularly when the Court’s willingness to embrace social scientific evidence is historically ambiguous. The Court in Grutter, for example, acknowledged that “numerous studies show that student body diversity promotes learning outcomes, and better prepares students for an increasingly diverse workforce and society...” (539 U.S. 306, 330, 123 S.Ct. 2325, 2340) and held that “[t]he Law School’s assessment that diversity will, in fact, yield educational benefits is substantiated by respondents and their amici” (Grutter at 328, 2339). The Court elsewhere referred to specific educational benefits, “critical mass,” and “conscious and unconscious race bias” – all likely references, at least in part, to psychological research. On the other hand, dissenters in the case pointed to conflicting social science evidence, and Justice Thomas expressed his skepticism when he stated that “[i]t does not take a social scientist” (Grutter at 360, 2355) to reach certain conclusions.

Even within this context, however, the range of work that can impact affirmative action policy is vast. Since 2003, many psychologists have continued to examine perceptions of affirmative action and its extension into employment and other settings. They also have engaged in cross-cultural work, moving beyond a national framework to examine affirmative action as an international issue. Others have focused on diversity in younger populations, and still others engage in the continued, detailed documentation of the impact and effect of affirmative action in various settings, using multiple methodologies. Regardless of political position, each of these examinations provides an important foundation in the continuing affirmative action debate.

And it seems likely that the debate will continue. Indeed, while I do not share Justice Scalia’s disdain for Grutter’s outcome, I do find persuasive his belief that the University of...
Policy Research and Training at the University of Nevada, Reno

By Monica Miller, J.D. Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Reno

The University of Nevada, Reno Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology offers unique opportunities to study law and policy issues.

The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Social Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno, was developed more than 40 years ago and is one of oldest social psychology programs in the country. The program is unique because its interdisciplinary nature provides students with broader opportunities and exposure (e.g., a greater variety of theories) than traditional social psychology programs. The program represents nine departments, including sociology, criminal justice, and public health. In addition to the rigorous offerings in theory and research methods, students can choose to supplement their coursework with courses that emphasize one of the following optional areas: organizational behavior, social psychology and health, personal and social relationships, or social psychology and law. Choosing one or more emphases allows students to learn how social psychological theory affects these interest areas.

Legal Affiliations

While the focus of the program is on social psychology theory and methods, there are many unique opportunities to learn about the law and policy at UNR. The University is the headquarters of the National Judicial College (NJC) and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). The NJC started more than 40 years ago by the American Bar Association, brings hundreds of trial judges to the campus every year and offers more than 50 courses. The NCJFCJ annually offers training to more than 25,000 judges and other court personnel who work in juvenile and family courts around the country. The presence of these two organizations on campus offers many research and training opportunities for students. A number of students in the Social Psychology program work on joint research projects or have assistantships with NJC and NCJFCJ.

The NJC and NCJFCJ also cooperate with the University to offer two unique degrees. The Judicial Studies program offers both a Masters Degree and a Ph.D. for trial judges. This program has graduated more than 100 judges, two-thirds of whom have published their theses in law reviews or academic journals. (See www.judicialstudies.unr.edu for more details.) This program allows for interaction between Social Psychology students and judges. More recently, the University, the NCJFCJ, and the NJC have developed a masters degree program in Justice Management, designed mainly for other personnel in the justice system.

Many Social Psychology graduate students work as research assistants at the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies. This research and public service arm of the University conducts many research projects dealing with the justice system, allowing the RAs to gain experience with and contacts in various parts of the justice system in Nevada and around the country.

Social Psychology and Law Research

The Grant Sawyer Center has conducted numerous justice-related research projects. One major project dealt with the use of scientific evidence of various kinds in courtrooms. This was the largest study ever conducted of trial judges’ views about science and their understanding of rules of evidence concerning its use in court. (See Gatowski et al. (2001), Law and Human Behavior, 25, 433-458; and Dahir et al. (2005). Psychology, Public Policy and Law, 11, 62-82 for sample reports on this on-going project.) We are currently engaged in a study of law school curriculum dealing with the teaching of science, as well as several other projects in this general area.

The Grant Sawyer Center worked with the NJC and the ABA on one project focusing on assessment of judicial performance, and another on the use of volunteers and volunteer organizations in courts. A recent project with the NCJFCJ dealt with a comparison of different types of family courts in Utah.

More recently, we have established research groups on judicial stress, and are planning a nationwide survey to develop baseline measures of the amount of stress in the Judiciary, consequences of this stress, and ways to alleviate stress among judges. We also have a research group looking at various aspects of the Amber Alert system, including the effectiveness of such programs and their impact on public perceptions about child safety and general attitudes about crime in society.

Students and faculty have recently investigated such topics as: counterfactual thinking and jury decisions; counterfactual thinking and victim reporting; celebrities in the courtroom; apologies in the courtroom; sunk cost in the decision to bring a medical malpractice lawsuit; religion in the courtroom; and regulation of sexual behaviors, pregnancy, and parenting. These research projects have received much interest from other scholars in the field.

Academic Activities

In addition to coursework, students and faculty regularly present at national conferences (e.g., American Psychology-Law Society and SPSSI), publish manuscripts, and apply for grants and fellowships. Numerous students in the program have received grants from government and private funding agencies, which have helped fund their dissertations, research assistantships, and post-doc positions. The program’s Social Psychology Club has allowed students to combine academic and social needs through colloquia (topics have included grant writing and publishing) and various on-campus and off-campus social activities. For more information on the Social Psychology program and any of the emphases available, please see the website (http://www.unr.edu/cla/socpsy).
The 2006 SPSSI conference was a vibrant meeting of scholars, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers interested in social justice and social issues. The conference featured an exciting and diverse collection of poster presentations over the course of two days. Below, we list the six winners of the 2006 Outstanding Poster awards, selected by an independent panel of judges. We recognize and thank Stacey Williams, Chair of the Junior Scholars Development Task Force, for her efforts in organizing the evaluation and selection of the posters for the awards.

AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Leila Dutton-Greene and Murray Straus
University of New Hampshire
“Relationship of Gender Hostility to Status of Women across Nations”

Stephan Mayer, Cynthia Frantz, Emma Bruehlman-Senecal, & Kyffin Dolliver
Oberlin College
“Why is Exposure to Nature Beneficial?”

Chuma Owuamalam & Mark Tarrant
Keele University
“Metastereotype Negativity, Ideology and Willingness to Make Attributions to Discrimination”

Rutgers University, ’Skidmore College, ’University of Arizona, ’University of Colorado
“American Roulette: Reminders of Death Affected the 2004 Presidential Election”

Joanne Smith, Otmar Lipp, Deborah Terry & Cassandra Tellegen
University of Queensland
“The Expression of Intergroup Attitudes: The Impact of Social Context?”

Jennifer Yim
University of Michigan
“Culture, Son Preference, and the Production of Masculinity”

rights and on fairly compensated and safe employment. As SPSSI’s UN representative in Geneva, headquarters of many specialized UN agencies and international organizations, my efforts seek to bring a more human face to development and to effectively and collaboratively address social issues that have no national boundaries. I work with all sectors of the United Nations and other NGOs to guarantee a) that science helps policy makers distinguish facts from fiction and b) that the UN works with nations around the globe to secure basic human rights for all.

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publications in being a nonthematic venue for state-of-the-art and timely reviews of direct relevance to addressing important social issues and policy.

Q2: What are your goals for Social Issues and Policy Review?
Our main goal is to develop a world-class review journal that will be of interest to academics and policy makers alike. The publication is intended to encourage researchers to see and articulate the connections between basic research and policy application. In this way, we see the journal as allowing psychologists to increase their impact on policy and, in line with SPSSI’s mission, apply their knowledge and insights to the critical problems of today’s world.

Q3: Can you tell us more about the types of articles that you are looking for? Do you have any guidelines for submission of articles?
Works in Social Issues and Policy Review will represent a variety of disciplinary orientations but will all involve perspectives directly relevant to the psychological study of social issues. Papers in SIPR may take various forms. Each will be evaluated individually in terms of relevance to the mission of SIPR, originality, scholarly contribution, and effectiveness of presentation. Papers may be submitted to the editors or be invited. Whether submitted or invited, a paper proposal, which briefly summarizes the content of the piece and explains the relevance of the work to the mission of SIPR, will receive a preliminary review. If this review is favorable, authors will be invited to write a full paper for consideration for publication in SIPR and will be given an appropriate timeline for inclusion in a volume. Full drafts of the manuscripts will again be reviewed. We have a very strong international team of editorial board members, who
SPSSI-EAESP Small Group Meeting
International Perspectives on Immigration

Immigrants and Hosts: Perceptions, Interactions, and Transformations
A Small Group Meeting in Honor of Kenneth Dion
May 31 - June 2, 2007
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Organizers: Victoria Esses (vesses@uwo.ca), Kay Deaux (kdeaux@gc.cuny.edu), Ulrich Wagner (wagner1@staff.uni-marburg.de), Rupert Brown (r.brown@sussex.ac.uk), and Richard Lalonde (lalonde@yorku.ca).

Meeting Focus: This small group meeting aims to develop an integrated psychological agenda for collaborative, cross-national work on immigration. The current movement of people from one country to another is almost unprecedented, with consequences for both host nations and the immigrants themselves. Host nations face challenges in terms of the ethnic, cultural, and social diversity of potential immigrants, and the attitudes in host countries toward immigration, cultural diversity, and particular immigrant groups must be taken into account. From the perspective of the immigrant, ethnic and national identity, experiences of discrimination, and the development of social networks are just some of the issues that need to be addressed. Both sides of this equation will be represented at the meeting. It is also critical to develop a better understanding of both the commonalities and the differences between societies in the immigration process, supporting the importance of an international conference in which perspectives and data can be shared. In addition, this meeting will combine theoretical and empirical presentations by participants with some discussions of the policy implications of our research.

This meeting will be dedicated to Kenneth Dion. Ken was an active researcher in the area of immigration and a dedicated member of both SPSSI and EAESP. He served as a Council member of SPSSI, and at the time of his death was Associate Editor of the European Journal of Social Psychology.

Location and Arrangements: The meeting will be held at the Madison Manor Boutique Hotel in Toronto. Toronto is a vibrant and thriving city and the leading destination for immigrants to Canada. Nearly 75% of the people in Toronto (15 years and older) are either first- or second-generation immigrants, and 100 languages are spoken in the city. No fees will be charged and most meal expenses will be covered. Participants will be responsible for their transportation and hotel costs. Some additional support may be available.

Applications: The meeting will have a maximum of 30 participants. We hope to have a mix of senior and junior scholars (including graduate students) and approximately equal representation of SPSSI and EAESP. Those interested in participating should submit a one-page summary of the work that they would present at the meeting. In addition, please send a brief abstract (100 words or less) that could be included in the conference program, as well as a cover page providing your name, affiliation, contact information, and membership status in SPSSI and/or EAESP. Applications should be sent to Kay Deaux, kdeaux@gc.cuny.edu before November 15, 2006.

Publications Committee Report ................. from page 14

will be involved in the review process. The editors will be responsible for determining if and when a submission is acceptable for publication in SIPR. Works will normally be between 40 and 50 manuscript pages, including title page, abstract (120-140 words), narrative, references, tables, figures, and notes, and must conform to the format and guidelines of the American Psychological Association. Queries should be addressed to: Victoria Esses (vesses@uwo.ca) and John Dovidio (john.dovidio@uconn.edu).

Q4: When does Social Issues and Policy Review begin operation?
We have already initiated operations, and we intend to publish the first volume in 2007. We are currently receiving inquiries and outlines, and we hope to soon receive full manuscripts for review. The volume will appear in traditional format, which all SPSSI members will receive, as well as be available electronically. Thus, articles in SIPR will reach a broad audience and will likely have immediate impact.
Michigan decisions will result in further litigation, a belief underscored by several Justices’ references to re-evaluation of these issues in 25 years. In his predictions about future affirmative action litigation (Gruutter at 349, 2349), Justice Scalia provides us with a roadmap for our own research. Indeed, these future lawsuits will require precisely the types of investigations we as psychologists are best suited to perform. And while Justice Scalia asserts that “I do not look forward to any of these cases,” I would suggest that we, as social scientists, must be forward-looking.

Jennifer Richeson is a social psychologist who studies racial prejudice. She was one of 25 recipients of $500,000 genius awards recently announced by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Jennifer, from Northwestern University has been an active member of SPSSI, currently serving on our Publication Committee. Information about the awards can be found at: <http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLJ8MQKrH/b.2066197/k.3F6D/2006_Overview.htm>.

Congratulations to Jennifer!

MISSION STATEMENT
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

This Society shall be a non-profit body, no part of the net earnings of which shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. It shall be organized and operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The Society’s scientific research shall be carried on and to serve the public interests. In furtherance of the Society’s purposes it shall engage in activities to instruct the public on subjects useful to the individual and beneficial to the community (1) by obtaining, and disseminating to the public factual data regarding social change and other social processes through the promotion and encouragement of psychological research on significant theoretical and practical questions of social life and (2) by promoting and encouraging the application of the findings of such psychological research to the problems of society.
Small Group Meeting on
Social Stigma and Social Disadvantage

Organizers: Manuela Barreto and Naomi Ellemers

This meeting is sponsored by the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology and will focus on recent developments in the examination of social stigma and social disadvantage. Taking the perspective of the stigmatized, the meeting aims at sharing updated knowledge of how social disadvantage is perceived and experienced. In addition, the research discussed in this meeting will examine the strategies available to the stigmatized to deal with social disadvantage, their use and relative success, and the ways in which the stigmatized may unwittingly promote their own disadvantage.

The program will include 14-16 presentations of high profile work in this area. The program will provide ample opportunity for structured discussion and debate to establish a common perspective on the current state of the art, and outline directions for future research and theoretical development. We hope to bring together researchers from Europe as well as non-European researchers.

Call for presentations:
Applications are invited for presentations in this meeting. Please submit an abstract (max. 300 words) with contact details before November 15 to: barreto@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

Applicants who wish to participate in this meeting but do not wish to deliver a presentation are requested to send a short letter in which they describe their main research topic and expertise.

Practical details of the meeting:
The meeting will be held on the 21st and 22nd June 2007, at the Oud-Peilgeest Castle, in The Netherlands, a beautiful seventeenth century estate, with easy access from the airport and by train (www.oudpeilgeest.nl). Besides the conference venue, bar, terrace, sauna, pool, and tennis field, the estate comprises a 25 acre park and four-star hotel accommodation.

Given that we were able to attract funding from various sources, the fees for this meeting will be quite low, covering all meals and accommodation. The precise fees will however only be known at a later stage.
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Gift memberships are a great way to bring in new members. If you know people who would be interested in SPSSI, give them gift memberships. Once they are introduced to SPSSI, they may continue and become active members. This is a great investment in SPSSI's future.
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