The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues presents
a Congressional Lunch Seminar Series

PSYCHOLOGICAL INSIGHTS INTO LEGISLATIVE ISSUES
In conjunction with the Honorable Jim McGovern

This series of seminars (lunch provided) will shed light on the psychological components of several currently debated policy issues. The meetings will equip staffers and Members of Congress with the necessary psychological knowledge to provide scientific, empirically supported arguments in such debates. Each seminar will feature a prominent, nationally renowned psychological researcher with particular expertise on a topic of interest. Previous topics include prejudice, poverty, and women in STEM fields.

Who cares about human rights? The psychology of human rights support

Wednesday, October 8, 12:00 – 1:15 pm, 2168 Rayburn

Representative Jim McGovern, D-MA, 2nd District
Sam McFarland, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Western Kentucky University

Human rights are internationally recognized standards governing the rights of all individuals. But do people know or care about them? And does it matter whether the U.S. supports human rights or acts strictly on its own self-interests? Representative McGovern will explain the importance of human rights, before Dr. McFarland presents data showing what people around the world understand to be human rights, and the extent to which they endorse them. He will explain how countries’ historical and religious cultures affect which specific rights its people most support, and will show how Americans’ personalities, values, and ideology affect what they want the U.S. government to do to advance human rights.

Dr. McFarland has taught human rights for 20 years and has conducted extensive research on individual differences in support for human rights. He has recently written a basic human rights primer, Human Rights 101: A Brief College-Level Overview, available for free online.

Space is limited, so please RSVP to SPSSI policy director Dr. Gabriel Twose (gtwose@spssi.org) by October 7, 2014 to confirm your attendance.