The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) is an association of approximately 3000 psychologists, allied scientists, and others interested in the application of research on the psychological aspects of important social issues to public policy solutions.

**President’s Column**

*By Susan Clayton, SPSSI President*

SPSSI is not just a loose association of like-minded psychologists; it’s an organization structured to advance our mission of applying psychological research to address social issues. Its “products” include not only a number of distinguished publications but also conferences, policy statements, congressional briefings, and so on. Becoming SPSSI president suggested to me that I need to become more familiar with the internal workings and organizational processes that deliver these outcomes, and I was delighted to find that it is the opposite of visiting a sausage factory. The more I know about the processes and people that are responsible for the things SPSSI produces, the more impressed I am by how smoothly things run and by the dedication of those who run them, both the paid staff and the many volunteers who are committed to expressing their values through their work with SPSSI.

I bring up the organizational nature of SPSSI because it illustrates a few key SPSSI principles. One is that good things don’t just happen, and good intentions are not enough. Good things happen – from the SPSSI office to the international level – because specific people take specific actions in a context that allows them the resources they need to succeed. Policy changes that will ameliorate some of the problems we care about, like prejudice, poverty, and conflict, require people to care, but they...
Editor’s Note
By Janice R. Adelman,
Forward Editor

It is with both pleasure and sadness that I present my final issue as editor of Forward. SPSSI is an organization that I am proud to be a part of. It’s been a distinct honor to serve as the newsletter editor these last three years. When I spoke with Maureen O’Connor and accepted the position (with a little fear and a lot of excitement), I did not know that I would experience such life events as moving to two different states, holding three different jobs, getting married, and having a baby during my term. With each event in my life, I felt a renewed connection to the various social issues that SPSSI promotes. Reading about the many member accomplishments and SPSSI events during this time has been an inspiration. Speaking of which, I think you will enjoy hearing in this issue about the various goings-on in DC (pp. 5–10), at the UN (pp. 11–13), in the field of social psychology in Iran (pp. 14–18), what upcoming SPSSI conferences have in store (pp. 40–41), and much more.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Central Office and on Council for supporting me in this editor role, particularly Susan Dudley, Anila Balkissoon, and especially Brad Sickels. And, I’d like to thank all of the members who have contributed articles to the newsletter! Lastly, I’d like to extend a warm welcome to the next editor, Melissa Bayne. I look forward to continuing to read about all things SPSSI in the newsletter. As editor, I’ve come to better appreciate the important role this newsletter plays in connecting SPSSI members with the organization and with each other. So thank you for supporting and staying connected with SPSSI, and thanks for reading!

With best wishes for a happy holiday season, and a fabulous new year(s) to come!

—Janice R. Adelman
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also require people to inform themselves and to act. SPSSI has a distinctive role in providing the research-based information to not only motivate but also enable action. We need to think about how the sausage gets made: how the appropriate information gets to the appropriate people.

A second key principle is interdependence. As a professional society we function not simply as a collection of individuals but as an interdependent network of people who occupy different roles, each necessary to advance our objectives. This can be a difficult lesson to learn for people who have been trained in a very individuating graduate program, where the emphasis is typically on each person’s individual contribution and unique ideas. Advancing SPSSI’s goals requires us to consider not only what we can each contribute but also what other people can contribute that we can’t, and then to figure out how to bring those people on board. This means reaching out to psychologists and social scientists from underrepresented groups who enhance our diversity and bring new knowledge and understandings. It may also mean trying to involve people with different political perspectives. Importantly for SPSSI, it means working with people who are not social scientists but whose knowledge, influence, or expertise is necessary to get the best policies implemented. We need to think about the best ways to interact with people from a variety of different roles.

The final principle is the need to consider multiple scales. SPSSI takes psychological research that may have been conducted on a few dozen college students, and considers the implications for society. (I don’t mean to imply that the link is direct; of course we consider the quality of the research, and typically wait until a body of evidence has accumulated!) We also take public policies and consider their implications for individuals. The point is that we are used to transitions of scale, moving things from one level to another. We need to highlight this as we consider the relationship between individual behavior and social policy, and between individual and societal well-being.

Let me illustrate these principles with the example of climate change. The potential contributions of psychologists are often overlooked, in part because the behavior of individuals is often seen as irrelevant to processes that occur at a global scale. But we know that individual behavior matters. However, for our research on individuals to have influence, we need to find ways to interact and communicate with researchers from other disciplines as well as with policymakers. We have an important part of the answer, but we certainly don’t have the whole answer.

Finally, one specific thing we need to do is to get the right information to the right people. And here is where the well-oiled SPSSI organization can help. I’ll be working this year with SPSSI’s new policy director, Sarah Mancoll, and with a number of motivated SPSSI volunteers, to think about ways to get psychological research about climate change into the hands of...
those who can do something with it: policymakers, conservation scientists, and community groups working at a local level, among others. It’s my hope that we can develop an approach that could be usefully applied to other social issues as well. If you have ideas or want to be involved, please contact me!

—Susan Clayton
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Secretary/Treasurer Update
By Rich Wiener, SPSSI Secretary/Treasurer

I am very pleased to be starting my first year as the SPSSI Secretary/Treasurer! Up until now, I have been involved in SPSSI in a variety of capacities including serving on Council, chairing the Courtwatch committee and editing the Forward, but serving as the S/T is a whole new level of involvement that offers many more opportunities to advance our research and policy agenda. In this column I want to introduce myself to those who don’t know me, discuss my own ideas for the SPSSI S/T, and end with a couple of observations.

First, for those who don’t know me, I am a professor in the Law/Psychology program at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln and have been for the last 13 years. Before that I was chair of the psychology department at Baruch College in Manhattan and I was on the Experimental Psychology Faculty at Saint Louis University. My research interest is to understand law and policy from a social cognitive point of view. I have conducted research in the past on the death penalty, sexual harassment, age discrimination, housing discrimination and most recently on legal decision making in the criminal justice system. I try to infuse all my applied research with social psychological or decision making theory.

As I start my first year as SPSSI S/T, I see two important and related issues that I want to spend some time working on: increasing SPSSI visibility (and membership) among newly minted psychologists and focusing some of our research and advocacy work on the local issues of law and policy. I think the two are closely related because the way that we are going to interest newer PhDs in our organization is by focusing their attention on policy and related research in which they can participate and have an impact in applied and basic psychology. I have spent much of my career focused on issues at the local and state levels, which I find very satisfying and which sometimes allows me to make a difference in the policy arena. As many of us who work in this area know, trying to influence policy at the national level can be frustrating and not always accessible to those in the early stages of their careers.

These ideas led me, the former SPSSI policy director, Gabe Twose, and the SPSSI policy committee to propose to Council that we facilitate SPSSI sponsored local/state level working groups, by funding up to 3 local to state level policy groups to review existing research, conduct additional research as needed and offer the findings to local and state level policy makers to assist them in data driven decision making. To be eligible for a $2000 award, a group needed to show that it consisted of a minimum of 5 social
scientists who live in the same jurisdiction and were working on the same issue broadly defined. The proposal needed to compellingly demonstrate to the review committee that the members were interested in the policy applications of psychological science and other social science research. The review committee gave special consideration to groups that involved new PhDs embarking on careers in policy research. We received 6 proposals and recommended three for funding. The titles of the funded proposals and the P.I.’s for each are:

- Shared Worlds Project (2015) – Achu Johnson Alexander at Clark University
- Understanding Policy Implementation – Eric Mankowski at Portland State University
- Community Policing Reform Project – Michele Wittig at California State University/Northridge

Congratulations to all involved with these projects! I am very excited about each of them and look forward to seeing their work reported at the upcoming SPSSI conferences. We hope to continue this initiative in the future.

Part of the reason that I am excited about my new role at SPSSI is because of my observation that our Central Office runs our organization so smoothly. I am very impressed with the staff who “keep the trains running on time” while also contributing to our very important applied psychology mission. The Central Office staff make it possible for the rest of us to focus our creative energies on policy research and advocacy. A special thanks to all of them for their relentless hard work. So, if you have any other ideas about ways to involve new and younger SPSSI members in policy work or any other ideas about what the SPSSI S/T should be doing, please send them my way! I happily look forward to serving SPSSI over the next three years as Secretary/Treasurer.

—Rich Wiener
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From the Executive Director: Longevity and Transitions at SPSSI Central Office

By Susan Dudley, SPSSI Executive Director

Transitions among the SPSSI Central Office permanent staff -- like the one we’ve made in November, with the departure of our Policy Director, Gabe Twose, and the arrival of Sarah Mancoll to take up the responsibilities of that position -- make big news for us here in the Washington office. While they may not be as visible from the outside, they’re no less important for all of our membership. Saying goodbye to Gabe (who we hate to lose) and welcoming Sarah (who we’re equally excited to gain) has given me an opportunity to reflect on the nature of personnel transitions in general and on this transition in particular.

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With five full-time employees, SPSSI has been extremely lucky over the last decade to have developed a strong and loyal staff. In a city where turnover in the nonprofit sector tends to be high, our three longest-serving employees have accrued a combined total of 24.5 years with us! The accuracy and efficiency of the administration of the Society’s programs and business affairs benefit significantly from the depth of experience and institutional knowledge that this longevity represents.

At the same time, we recognize that we also benefit greatly when we’re able to welcome new faces to the Central Office team. With the addition of the new Communications Director position to the permanent staff in 2014 (not to mention the arrival every summer of a new Dalmas Taylor Summer Minority Policy Fellow and every fall of a new James Marshall Public Policy Fellow) new opportunities arise to incorporate fresh ideas and perspectives that help us expand our horizons and strengthen our ability to support SPSSI’s goals. (See articles by Steve Newell on p. 8, Kyndra Cleveland on p. 10, and Anasuya Ray on p. 32).

All this leads me to the happy task of introducing our new Policy Director, Sarah Mancoll, who joined the permanent staff in November. Those SPSSI members who are also members of the Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD) will know Sarah from her six years working as their Senior Associate for Policy and Communications. Sarah brings important experience to her new position with SPSSI, having worked previously on a range of issues, including: expanding high quality early care and learning, supporting children and families in disaster contexts, and creating safer school environments for LGBTQ students. With a bachelor’s degree in human development from Cornell University and a master’s degree in social policy and planning from the London School of Economics and Political Science, Sarah is eager to expand her portfolio to include the broad range of social issues of interest to our members and to continue to develop opportunities for them to share relevant social science data with advocates and policymakers. She’s made an impressive start already! (See Sarah’s article on p. 7).

And closing the loop on our policy program transition, I want to take one more opportunity, on behalf of all of SPSSI’s members, to send good wishes to Gabe, who is now serving as Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer for the Public Interest Directorate at APA. This is certainly good news for APA! Many of our members have met and worked directly with Gabe over the past 2 ½ years, and many more followed his reports here in the Forward to learn about the wide array of ambitious projects that he’s worked with the Policy Committee to spearhead. We owe him a big thank-you for his efforts on our behalf!

Looking forward, we envision yet another year of exponential growth in our policy program with Sarah’s expert assistance and creative guidance, as we continue our efforts to involve our members in ensuring that science informs the policy making processes in DC, in the States, and in the UK. (See articles by Rich Weiner, p. 33 and by the SPSSI-UK Steering Committee, p. 25).

—Susan Dudley
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I’ve enjoyed an exciting start to my work here at SPSSI. A big part of what drew me to SPSSI was its emphasis on not only advancing science but using that science to inform public policy and, more broadly, public understanding. I came to SPSSI after serving as the Senior Associate for Policy and Communications at the Society for Research in Child Development, an internationally focused and multidisciplinary scholarly association that also focuses heavily on translating science for non-scientific audiences and fostering the conduct of policy-relevant research. Through congressional briefings, issue coalitions, and policy publications, I worked to build connections between scientists, policymakers, and “knowledge brokers” (including nonprofits, associations, advocacy groups, and the like) so that the science of child development could help answer questions such as “How can we better support children and families when natural disasters strike?” or “What does high quality publicly funded pre-k look like?”

Giving Psychology Away…

on Capitol Hill

The theme of SPSSI’s 2016 conference in Minneapolis is “Giving Psychology Away.” “Giving psychology away” is my job in a nutshell. About a week after beginning my position as the new Policy Director, I had the pleasure of helping SPSSI host the last of our 2015 Congressional Lunch Seminars on Capitol Hill. This seminar, “Psychological Findings on Sexual Violence on Campus,” featured a talk by Dr. Jacquelyn (Jackie) White of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Before an audience of over 100 congressional staffers and policy professionals from a variety of federal agencies and nonprofits, Jackie described what we know about sexual violence on campus, what we don’t yet know, and what data collection, prevention, intervention, and policy changes are needed to better address the problem. Jackie’s full presentation is posted on our SPSSI YouTube channel.

Jackie began her presentation by defining sexual assault and outlining what the research tells us about victims and perpetrators. She also talked about how common sexual assault is and some of the consequences faced by victims, perpetrators, and higher education institutions. She spoke about the harms associated with reporting (e.g., humiliation, retaliation); the associations between sexual assault and alcohol use, peer norms, and membership on athletic teams or in fraternities; and the patterns of sexual assault and perpetration across adolescence, college, and the lifetime. In addition to evidence-based prevention, intervention, and treatment programs, Jackie emphasized the need for valid and reliable campus climate surveys so that campuses can better understand and respond to the unique needs of the people they serve. In this context, she described the campus climate survey developed by ACR3, the Administrator Research Campus Climate Consortium. This consortium—comprised of sexual assault and harassment researchers, Title IX coordinators, student affairs...
professionals, campus advocates, students, and campus law enforcement—came together to create a free and scientifically sound campus climate survey. Having been pilot-tested on four campuses in the fall of 2015, the survey is now being picked up for implementation across the U.S.

Jackie’s work with ARC3 came in direct response to Not Alone, the first report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault, which called on universities to carry out campus climate surveys, to implement evidence-based prevention programs, to effectively respond to assault when it does occur, and to increase transparency and improve enforcement. This work also comes at a critical time because both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have introduced legislation that aims to address sexual assault on campus. As part of her visit to Washington, Jackie met with the office of Senator Claire McCaskill, who introduced the bipartisan Campus Accountability & Safety Act. Jackie also met with the offices of her North Carolina lawmakers, including Congresswoman Virginia Foxx, who chaired a September hearing on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Assault on College Campuses.

**Giving Psychology Away…in 2016**

After wrapping up a successful 2015 Congressional Lunch Seminar series—which also included seminars on the psychology of immigration to the United States (Dr. Dina Birman, University of Miami), engaging the public in climate change action (Dr. Janet Swim, Pennsylvania State University), and biased policing (Dr. Jack Glaser, University of California, Berkeley)—I am looking forward to working with SPSSI’s Policy Committee to map out a Congressional Seminar Series for 2016. We will also be looking to develop engaging policy content for the 2016 SPSSI conference in Minneapolis, and will be exploring ideas for following up on and continuing SPSSI’s Legislative Engagement Days.

I am deeply thankful to Dr. Gabriel (Gabe) Twose, my predecessor, who is now the Senior Legislative and Public Affairs Officer with the American Psychological Association and who is managing the APA’s human rights and economic inequality portfolio. I look forward to continuing the excellent programs he initiated and built up, and I look forward to piloting some new initiatives. As you consider your own research and your interest in connecting that research to timely policy questions, please reach out to me. I can be reached via email or by calling (202) 675-6902. I look forward to working with you and getting the research insights and expertise of SPSSI members into the hands of policymakers!

—Sarah Mancoll
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**Marshall Fellow Report**

By Steve Newell, James Marshall Fellow

Since September, I have been fortunate enough to serve as SPSSI’s James Marshall Fellow in the Office of Senator Bernie Sanders. Within minutes of my first day at work, I was sitting a few feet from Senator Elizabeth Warren in a meeting of the continued next page...
Committee for Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions. I met with leading experts across a broad range of health issues representing both the most influential think-tanks and the smallest professional organizations. A few weeks ago, I spent an afternoon speaking with Congressman John Lewis about his experience in the Civil Rights Movement and issues involving race in America today. Many times I witnessed Senator Sanders passionately defending our moral obligation to address social inequities, ranging from disparities in wealth to environmental justice. From each of these experiences, and more, I am awestruck by the opportunity SPSSI has provided.

In my time working in Senator Sanders’ personal office and with his staff on the Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, I have worked on speeches, talking points, informational memos, and helped author pending legislation addressing many of the greatest challenges our country faces. Throughout each task, I relied on my training in psychology and the knowledge I gained from working with so many brilliant researchers during my graduate school experience. From my work in Congress, I recognize the necessity of psychology in the policy domain more than ever. Despite the cynicism directed toward policymakers at times, many policymakers utilize scientific evidence extensively in crafting legislation. In Senator Sanders’ office, and in many others on Capitol Hill, psychological science is an invaluable guide for policy.

Importantly, psychologists have an integral role to play in government and public policy. From my time working in the Senate, it is difficult to overstate how much congressional representatives care about their constituents’ comments. Psychologists at every university should engage with their lawmakers, sharing insights from their research and expressing their recommendations on policy matters. Senator Sanders frequently calls for a political revolution. He calls for people all over America to become involved in the political process, making their voices heard at all levels of the government and at all stages of the policy process. I agree with his call and think the engagement of psychologists is essential for addressing social issues. For example, in the last week, every office on Capitol Hill has received innumerable calls about the Syrian refugee crisis. How many of those calls have come from psychologists? How many of those calls have come from psychologists with expertise on intergroup relations, prejudice, or discrimination? Policymakers need to hear psychologists’ voices. The public needs to hear psychologists’ voices and the science underlying social issues. Publishing articles alone won’t solve the humanitarian crisis and help this vulnerable population. Citation counts won’t solve the issue or help resettle the refugees either. For issues such as this, psychologists should ensure that they are among the most prominent voices speaking directly to both policymakers and the public.

Political engagement is necessary for all psychologists, even those with little interest in translating their work into policy. Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1806, also known as the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015. The bill proposed a 55% reduction in funding for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation, a vital source of funding for psychological research. As others
facing similar funding reductions have stated, “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.” Psychologists must be at the table, communicating to policymakers the value of the work being done in departments across the country and informing policymakers on the science underlying real-world issues. In many cases, psychologists have simply not done a sufficient job informing the public or policymakers across the country about psychological science. Although many offices value psychological science highly, many others are completely unaware of its value. Over the years I have spoken with congressional staffers, many have been shocked when I explain that I never have, nor ever will, have clients. Likewise, those same staffers are often surprised at the breadth of insight psychologists can provide about intergroup relations, health, and a litany of other topics. For policymakers to properly invest in and support our science, they must understand the various dimensions and contributions of the field.

In short, if you value the science of psychology, you must be involved in the political process. Only by doing that can we ensure that policymakers continue to invest in the field and heed its insight into some of the most pressing issues facing our country today. I would encourage every psychologist to contact their local, state, and federal representatives to provide information on their work and offer their expertise. For psychology to meet its full potential, as SPSSI eloquently states, we must focus on giving psychology away.

—Steve Newell
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Dalmas Taylor Report
By Kyndra C. Cleveland, 2015 Dalmas Taylor Fellow

As a doctoral candidate seeking to make positive changes in the lives of maltreated children and their families, the SPSSI Dalmas Taylor Minority Fellowship provided me with an invaluable opportunity to cultivate new skills in effectively using research to influence practice and policy. The fellowship, in memoriam of former SPSSI president Dr. Dalmas Taylor, creates an opportunity for a graduate student to spend the summer in Washington, D.C. and to engage in public policy issues that can be informed by science. Through my participation in the fellowship, I gained exposure to the federal legislative process, including, of importance, how and when I can use psychological research to inform this process.

During my tenure as the Dalmas Taylor Fellow, I was engaged in a broad array of activities that allowed me to learn about policy from multiple perspectives. At a very pragmatic level, I was able to personally speak with legislative staff about my dissertation research concerning increasing parental engagement in the child welfare system to ultimately foster reunification of biological families and reduce the number of children who are placed in out-of-home care. In addition, I attended legislative hearings, briefings, and mark-ups of bills designed to improve the juvenile justice system.

I also spent a great deal of time working at the American Psychological Association where I was able to provide...
recommendations on draft bills; write fact sheets and reports on current issues facing women and children in the criminal and juvenile justice systems; and attend roundtable meetings concerning how to work collaboratively with coalitions and organizations to promote public health and well-being. In addition, I worked at the SPSSI central office where I had the opportunity to write a policy brief and participate in SPSSI’s 2015 conference, *A Road Less Traveled: Forging Links between Psychological Science and Social Policy*. At the conference, I was inspired by congressional and academic keynote speakers, and I had an amazing opportunity to network with like-minded researchers who also seek to promote social justice.

Finally, I participated in APA’s Psychology Summer Institute. This intensive week-long seminar connected my fellow participants and me with mentors who work in both academia and practice. It also fostered the development of new skills ranging from learning how to give dinner presentations to learning key aspects that should be addressed when presenting research to policy audiences (e.g., program costs; statistics to justify the need for new programs). The institute concluded with a memorable cruise through the Potomac River!

I am honored to have had the opportunity to be the 2015 Dalmas Taylor Fellow. I have a much clearer concept of how SPSSI fulfills its mission of bringing research to bear on important social and political issues. I also have a better understanding of the great need that policy-makers have for sound scientific research when making decisions that will impact the lives of people around the country. Through this fellowship, the law-making process became less of a distant activity that was for “other” people, and more of a process that I can now actively engage in both at the federal and state levels. My summer in this role has further inspired me to continue to promote social justice, particularly for those who are disproportionately adversely affected by legal systems. The skills I have acquired will aid me in informing policy-makers of the problems that occur in marginalized populations and how science can contribute to solving these problems and fostering the well-being of at-risk populations.

—Kyndra C. Cleveland
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**SPSSI at the UN**

**The Impact of Climate Change on Children’s Health and Wellbeing**

By Rachel Ravich, UN/ SPSSI Representative

Climate change has been linked to many interrelated global challenges: extreme natural phenomena, environmental degradation, water, food and energy insecurity, economic hardship, migration, epidemics, and conflict. Climate change affects everyone’s health and wellbeing. Children, as they grow up and mature, are especially vulnerable. Those children that live in poverty, are displaced, or are separated from their families and communities are the most vulnerable. They...
are disproportionately exposed to excessive physical and psychosocial stressors. Their future increasingly depends on how communities are able to adapt.

On February 10, 2015, SPSSI’s UN/NGO team organized a Side Event for the 53rd UN Commission for Social Development on The Impact of Climate Change on Children’s Health and Wellbeing. The panel discussion brought together representatives of UN Agencies, psychologists, and a psychiatrist to explore adaptation strategies that can promote resilience and support the mental health of children, families, and communities.

Dr. Heikens, UNICEF’s Senior Adviser for Climate and the Environment, spoke about UNICEF initiatives in engaging children in environmental community decisions. He presented UNICEF’s Climate Ambassadors training program in Zambia where children are empowered to act as agents of change and help plan and implement projects that range from combating deforestation to water management and recycling. He showed a film from the 2014 Climate Summit where children from every continent shared their concerns about the effects of Climate Change and their future. He also indicated that although it is widely recognized that during disasters children are extremely vulnerable, experience trauma from loss and displacement, are exposed to health risks from contaminated water and disease outbreaks, and stay away from school, policy discourse makes little reference to them. He emphasized the importance of empowering children to be champions of change.

Ms. Maaike Jansen, of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), emphasized the multiple effects that the improvement of ecosystems has in the social and economic arenas. As a coordinator of sustainable development policy within the UN system she referred to studies by the World Health Organization and others projecting for example the effect of reducing air pollution on preventing premature deaths. She emphasized that although it is hard to determine the direct effects of climate change on health, its effects on life sustaining systems is indisputable; extreme weather in the form of heat waves and floods is resulting in population displacements, lost livelihoods, destroyed infrastructures, and conditions that favor outbreaks of disease. She suggested that there are integrated strategies that can build resilience and that one of the most important contributions of social science research is in the area of motivation that can mobilize pro-environmental action.

Dr. Susan Clayton, SPSSI’s current President, outlined the potential physical, psychological, and social effects of climate change on children and suggested ways in which we can prepare through planning, education and strengthening social connections. She emphasized that climate change is a classic example of intergenerational justice as future generations bear the burden and consequences of actions taken by previous generations. Children are vulnerable to environmental disruptions now, as they grow up and develop, and
in the future. She proposed that climate change presents an opportunity to re-examine social and physical infrastructures, to consider social sustainability and to prioritize children's health and wellbeing. She underscored the importance of long-term planning, establishing infrastructures that encourage adaptation and provide resources to cope when disasters occur, such as alternative sources of food, energy, transportation, access to health care and education. She highlighted the centrality of strengthening social networks and ensuring that nobody is left behind.

Dr. Elizabeth Haase, a psychiatrist and Assistant Clinical Professor at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City, discussed mental health issues and proposed group and community based interventions to reduce anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder related to climate change. She shared her work on an upcoming documentary on children and climate change addressing the question of how one can prepare children now so that they can build resilience for the future. Children are profoundly attached to their physical environment and its potential disruption generates chronic and acute anxiety. She presented psychoeducational strategies that help children cope with fear; she proposed information sharing and action programs that help children build optimism, develop problem solving skills, and build social networks that can serve as sources of support in the future.

Dr. Rachel Ravich, SPSSI UN/NGO Representative moderated the panel discussion. In addition to SPSSI, this event was co-sponsored by the Psychology Coalition at the UN, the NGO Health Committee, the Committee on Children's Rights, and the NGO Committee on the Family. This was the third event that SPSSI has organized at the UN on the Impact of Climate Change.

Environmental protection, together with economic and social development, constitutes one of the dimensions of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda that was adopted unanimously by the 70th United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2015. The agenda's 17 Sustainable Development Goals provide a framework for economic growth that meets health, education, and social needs while safeguarding our natural environment. Protecting the environment by reducing CO2 levels in the atmosphere is also the theme of the upcoming Paris UN Climate Conference, scheduled for November 30 – December 11, 2015.

—Rachel Ravich
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Are you interested in volunteering your expertise at the UN? SPSSI is currently accepting applications for Representatives to the UN. See p. 39 for the call with a description of the position and the application process.
SPSSI’s International Spotlight
Social Issues and Social Psychology in Iran

By Fatemeh Bagherian (Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran), Javad Hatami (Tehran University), & Warren Thorngate (Carleton University, Ottawa)

Introduction by WT
There is far more happening in Iran than nuclear negotiations. Sadly, few of Iran’s other stories make the news. Among those excluded are stories of the rapid development of Iranian social psychology.

I have just visited and lectured in Iran for the 22nd time since 1993, after six years of absence. Small social changes have accumulated since my 21st visit, accelerating after a change of government in 2013. There is more laughter in Iranian streets and homes. Jokes, frequently political, remain a daily staple of Iranians’ emotional diet. Young people are finding new ways to express themselves and adapt to the constraints and demands of daily life. In addition, many of Iran’s social issues are now publicly acknowledged. Included are issues of family dynamics linked to influences of the Internet and international TV, unemployment among educated youth, an aging population, addictions, divorce, the growth of university enrollment among women and its decline among men.

Perhaps because social psychology can address many of these issues, it is now gaining greater acceptance as a topic of study in Iranian universities, attracting more students each year. And thanks to the initiatives of a growing number of Iranian social psychologists, the acceptance is showing tangible results. Here are a few examples.

Associations and Research in Iran by FB
I am happy to report the establishment of the Iranian Association of Social Psychology (IASP) and its journal. Begun in 2002, the IASP now has close to 400 members, one-third of whom teach social psychology in universities across the country. The IASP began publishing the Journal of Research in Social Psychology in 2011 in Farsi with English abstracts. It also cooperates with Payame Noor University (Iran’s largest with close to one million students) in publishing a second journal, Social Cognition, holds monthly meetings, and offers workshops to special groups and the general public on topics ranging from social pathologies and life skills to traffic congestion.

I am also happy to announce the re-establishment of the Social Psychology Research Center at Shahid Beheshti University in 2014, the first of its kind in Iran. I serve as its...
director. The Centre now conducts research on several social issues, including studies of child abuse, helping behavior, gender biases, student cheating, ethnic stereotypes, and what makes people happy. The Center also produces videos of social phenomena in Iran for use in university courses.

Social Cognition in Iran by JH

I am the director of Iran’s first Social Cognition Laboratory, located in the Psychology Department at Tehran University. Research in the lab currently focuses on the social and cognitive factors related to moral judgment and moral decision making, trying to understand how the mind represents morality and immorality. My students and I are also interested in studying cultural differences in moral cognition, especially the differences and similarities between Iranians and people from Western cultures in their patterns of moral judgments. We are currently constructing a bilingual website for our lab.

I am also involved in another social psychology project: The establishment of Iran’s first PhD program in social cognition. The program has been created by Iran’s prestigious Institute for Cognitive Sciences Studies at its new campus in Pardis New City, about 30 km east of central Tehran. It will soon accept its first cohort of students and begin courses in the Fall of 2015.

Conclusion by WT

It is, I think, remarkable that these initiatives to promote social psychology and its applications to social issues have begun. As with most new academic initiatives, it has taken the dedicated efforts of many Iranian colleagues to give social psychology a presence in their country. It is gratifying to see the fruits of their labors.

Challenges remain. Iran, for example, has no research funding agencies as we know them in the West. Research money is scarce and, when grants are awarded, they are invariably small. There are often difficulties obtaining recently published articles from abroad. Social psychologists in Iran also face challenges communicating their research to the world. Along with the usual challenges of writing in a second or third language (English), Iranian colleagues must compete with well-funded Western research programs for Western journal space. As a result, many innovative research projects on Iranian social issues remain unknown outside Iran.

Still, most Iranian social psychologists maintain a strong desire to develop research links with the West and to exchange research ideas. They are especially interested in collaborating on social issues research across cultures. If you wish to communicate with any of our Iranian colleagues about their research or about possible research collaboration, please contact any one of us via our email addresses below.

— Warren Thorngate, Fatemeh Bagherian, & Javad Hatami

warren.thorngate@carleton.ca, fatemeh6@gmail.com, & hatamijm@ut.ac.ir
SPSSI’s International Spotlight

Spotlight on Fatemeh Bagherian, PhD

How long have you been a SPSSI member?
About 3 years.

Please describe your current research focus/efforts.
I am currently working on attitudes/biases among different groups such as ethnic groups and gender, and on child abuse, what makes people happy.

What are some of the social issues that are important in your country/region of the world?
Poverty, addiction, aging people, public trust.

How do you bring SPSSI’s principles and mission to your work/country?
I am trying to work in cooperation with policy makers and NGOs in applying social psychology theories to remove or reduce social problems.

What do you feel is the best way to advance the psychological study of social issues?
Through international activities of SPSSI such as seminars, joint research, translate new books in social issues; offer small research grants to colleagues in the developing world.

What do you like to do when you are not working to advance the psychological study of social issues?
I translate articles in social psychology, social issues, and social cognition; teach courses in social psychology, make documentaries of

What is your favorite psychology book?
Robert Chialdini’s Influence; Warren Thorngate’s Judging Merit, and Bruner’s Actual Mind, Possible Worlds.

What is your favorite non-psychology book?
Molana’s poems.

— fatemeh6@gmail.com

Spotlight on Javad Hatami, PhD

How long have you been a SPSSI member?
Not yet a member, but I want to be.

Please describe your current research focus/efforts.
Moral decision making.

What are some of the social issues that are important in your country/region of the world?
people’s social behavior; offer workshops on APA format and social skills.

continued next page...
Balancing traditional values with a modern lifestyle/ air pollution/ Prevalence of youth access to illegal drugs/ and insecurity in neighboring countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

**How do you bring SPSSI’s principles and mission to your work/country?**
I will try to introduce SPSSI to my colleagues and students.

**What do you feel is the best way to advance the psychological study of social issues?**
Holding international workshops on social psychology in my country/ facilitate the exchange of information and experiences between social psychology experts in eastern and western countries.

**What do you like to do when you are not working to advance the psychological study of social issues?**
I am a consultant for youth, children, and family television programs in Iran. I help and advise TV producers in these fields.

**What is your favorite psychology book?**
*Divan-e- Hafez*, Poems of Persian poet Hafez; Skinner’s *Beyond Freedom and Dignity*.

**What is your favorite non-psychology book?**
*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, by Milan Kundera.

— hatamijm@ut.ac.ir

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**Spotlight on Warren Thorngate, PhD**

**How long have you been a SPSSI member?**
About 30 years; I’m currently a member of SPSSI’s Internationalization Committee.

**Please describe your current research focus/efforts.**
Studying social issues as problem ecologies, and developing research methods to document problem ecologies.

continued next page...
What are some of the social issues that are important in your country/region of the world?
Immigration and refugee settlement; aboriginal poverty, assistance for an aging population.

How do you bring SPSSI’s principles and mission to your work/country?
Working with policy makers and political actors to generate, choose and implement alternative solutions to social problems.

What do you feel is the best way to advance the psychological study of social issues?
Expand the international activities of SPSSI; offer small research grants to colleagues in the developing world.

What do you like to do when you are not working to advance the psychological study of social issues?
I offer writing workshops to international students, teach research workshops in Poland and Iran, and work on the town council advisory committee to promote arts and culture in my community of Almonte, Ontario.

What is your favorite psychology book?
William James’ *Psychology; Bruner’s Acts of Meaning.*

What is your favorite non-psychology book?
Postman’s *Amusing Ourselves to Death.*

— warren.thorngate@carleton.ca

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**GIVE THE GIFT OF SPSSI MEMBERSHIP FOR $10!**

SPSSI values its members! If you know someone who isn’t a part of SPSSI, but should be, consider spreading the love with a gift membership. If you, yourself, are not yet a member, visit the [SPSSI membership page](#) today to learn how to become one for as little as $25 for student members, or $40 for first-year members.

SPSSI members receive access to SPSSI’s journals (*JSI, ASAP,* and *SIPR*) and newsletter (*Forward,* including the Graduate Student newsletter, *Rookie*). Members also receive discounts on SPSSI conference registration and books published by Wiley. And, as a dues-paying SPSSI member, you will meet the first eligibility requirement of all SPSSI awards. Complete the [online form](#) today.

If you prefer to pay membership dues “offline,” you may download the [printable form](#) and send a check for payment to SPSSI, 208 I (“Eye”) Street, NE, Washington DC 20002-4340. Checks must be made payable to SPSSI and be in US dollars. We cannot accept international checks.

Questions about membership? Call +1-202-675-6956 or contact our Membership Manager, [Brad Sickels](#).
I write to you from sunny Fort Collins, Colorado, where the snow-capped Rocky Mountains—visible from the Colorado State University campus—are a sure sign that winter is coming. This time of year means scrambling towards finals week before pausing to enjoy the hard-earned, collective deep breath of holiday break. As the semester comes to a close, we take another step forward along our academic paths and look ahead to new adventures awaiting us in 2016.

What will the new year hold? For many of us, in the United States, we will elect a new president. Some of us will propose or defend our degree-earning Master’s or Ph.D. projects. And, as is characteristic of graduate school, all of us will undergo the highs and lows of new experiences, challenges, and opportunities.

As Chair of the SPSSI Graduate Student Committee (GSC), my goal for the coming year is to represent SPSSI graduate student members in a way that meets our specific needs, while providing opportunities for increased engagement—not only with SPSSI as an organization, but with each other. Meeting this goal for the 2015-2016 year will be a collaborative effort, together with your newly-elected GSC:

- **Kristen Hackett**, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York: Chair-Elect
- **Julia Tran**, Clark University: Member-at-Large (MAL) Communications Focus
- **Angela Robinson**, University of California, Irvine: MAL Academic Focus
- **Rashmi Nair**, Clark University: MAL Policy and Applied Work Focus
- **Ashley Weinberg**, San Diego State University: MAL Membership Coordinator

Since September, the GSC has been enthusiastically working to brainstorm, plan, and initiate diverse projects in the service of graduate student members. Earlier this month, we worked together to prepare, announce, and coordinate a number of symposium topics for graduate student collaboration and submission to the SPSSI 2016 summer conference. Over the coming year, please be on the lookout for additional announcements, resources, and opportunities.

Projects in the early stages of development include: Julia Tran’s innovative initiative to showcase graduate student research in the newsletter and through social media; Angela Robinson’s valuable opportunities for skill-building and professional development through webinars and conference events; Rashmi Nair’s vital and informative resource for graduate students seeking policy-focused and applied careers; Ashley Weinberg’s essential tool for SPSSI graduate students to establish networks based on shared geographic region and research interests. The GSC Chair-Elect, Kristen Hackett, and I will be working diligently to move these projects forward and to offer additional opportunities for graduate student engagement, including a peer-based mentoring program, social and professional networking events, and student-relevant conference programming.

If you have suggestions for GSC priorities over the coming year, or simply want to become more involved with SPSSI, please reach out to me. And, as winter looms, please remember that the SPSSI 2016 summer conference will be here before we know it! I look forward to meeting you there.

—Carlie D. Trott, GSC Chair
Letter from the Editor
Julia Tran, Clark University

As the editor of *The Rookie*, my goal for this issue is to showcase the wonderful research that are being conducted by graduate student researchers in our community. I hope that you’ll find these thought-provoking and inspiring. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at spssi.rookie@gmail.com.

Cheers,
Julia Tran

Student Spotlight
SPSSI Grants-In-Aid Award Recipient

Katie Lee Salis
Stony Brook University, Clinical Psychology

Testosterone, Cortisol and Intimate Partner Violence: Testing a Dual Hormone Hypothesis

*First, could you tell us a bit about your general research interests?*

I am interested in the prediction, correlates and prevention of aggressive behavior. Although most of my work has been specific to intimate partner violence, I have also done work with general aggression and conduct disorder in children. Most recently, I have been interested in the hormonal correlates and biological markers of aggression.

*How did you first become interested in that area of research?*

My interest developed from working with my advisor, Dr. K. Daniel O’Leary. Dr. O’Leary is one of the top experts in intimate partner violence. His excellent mentoring was integral in helping me to develop and foster my own specific questions and interests within the field. I think part of this comes from his flexible style, which included allowing my interests to guide my clinical and research training (instead of telling me what I had to do!).

*What are the goals of your GIA award project and how do they align with the goals of SPSSI?*

Aggression and interpersonal violence are major societal and public concerns. Although risk factors for the prediction of physical aggression have been identified, researchers are only beginning to understand the intricacies of using hormones as biomarkers. The goal of the current study was to contribute to the literature on risk and predictive factors related to aggressive psychopathology. Hopefully this work will eventually help to identify ways to target prevention and intervention efforts at those who need them most. SPSSI's involvement with the Violence Against Women Act and stated goals about interpersonal violence align well with my work. I am so happy to be working alongside SPSSI on this important issue!

*continued next page...*
At what stage are you in the project and how has the GIA award helped you get to this stage?

I am in the writing stage of this project, which will serve as my dissertation. The award was essential in that it helped to fund the analysis of testosterone and cortisol from saliva samples provided by the participants.

What are your preliminary findings and their implications (or potential implications)?

Findings from this project suggest that trait-aggression moderates the relationship between the ratio of testosterone to cortisol (T/C) and intimate partner violence. We hope that this research helps to clarify some of the inconsistencies in the existing literature on hormones and aggression. Further, there is the potential that with future research, we may be able to use this hormonal biological marker as a treatment moderator, screening tool, or even as a measure of treatment success. We are currently planning follow-up studies and look forward to further exploration of this topic!

—Katherine.Salis@Stonybrook.edu

The National Center for Education Statistics (2014) reported that academic achievement for children in the United States has increased since the 1970s across races. However, the data also indicate that Black American students continue to score lower than their White counterparts across age groups and socioeconomic classes. Psychological research implicates various underlying causes such as stereotype threat in this academic gap.

**Stereotype Threats**

Stereotype threats are the psychological discomfort caused by the awareness of negative stereotypes toward one’s social group and are expressed in various behaviors (McGlone & Aronson, 2007). Alter et al. (2010) demonstrated the effects of stereotype threat in Black American children. They found that Black Americans tended to perform poorly on a mathematics test after a stereotype threat was minimally invoked (e.g. simply reporting race before the test).

**In-Group Epithets and Stereotype Threats**

While stereotype threat research is abundant (e.g., Armenta, 2010; Ganley et al., 2013; Nadler & Clark, 2011), researchers have overlooked how in-group mechanisms (specifically refurbished epithets) interact with the activation of stereotype threats. Contemporary social norms in the United States prohibit negative epithets in intergroup contexts; however, minority groups have utilized variations (contextual and phonological) of historically negative epithets as in-group terms in an attempt to depower the word and reduce its negative social and psychological impacts. (Rahman, 2012). For instance, Black Americans refurbished the N-word as an in-
Hello! I am Chair-Elect of SPSSI’s Graduate Student Committee this year; to be Chair in the following year. I am also in my fifth year of doctoral studies in the Environmental Psychology Program. In general, my research focuses on issues of social (in)justice, (in)equitable resource distribution, and the underlying (un)equal power relations.

In this vein, my research has touched on issues of homelessness and housing policy, equitable urban development, the economic restructuring of the 1970’s and the rise of neoliberalism, and democratic practice and political participation. In my approach to research, I strive to understand and explain the human experience in relation to broader policy, political and political economic environments in an effort to develop a holistic and contextual elaboration of the phenomenon under investigation, as well as cultivate a perspective that can speak back to and inform future policy decisions.

My dissertation work aims to examine and document the narratives of students attending university in two international cities on either side of the Atlantic as these young adults attempt to pursue a stable life amidst anxiety-inducing conditions brought on by important restructurings of the national and global economies. Said another way, this projects asks how do trends of rising income inequality, high rates of un- and under-

Kristen Hackett  
Graduate Center of the City of New York
employment among young adults, and a business- and profit-centric economy become embodied by young adults today and inform everyday decisions, such as what major to choose, how to prioritize time (both on an everyday basis and across one’s life span) and how to pursue a stable future? Beyond elaborating an understanding of the socio-material conditions that characterize and inform the lives of these young adults, I am interested in considering the consequences of these developments for our communities, societies, and democratic health.

Increasingly, research suggests that there is an important relationship between economic anxiety and political participation, including work I carried out for my MA thesis (outlined more below). Thus, if trends persist in the direction of economic anxiety for the masses, what are the societal consequences? This study is based in critical and feminist epistemologies, and thus an underlying ambition of this research is to take these narratives as a starting point from which to interrogate and speak back to these changes in our economies.

This research direction grows out of my MA thesis, which elaborated a deeply contextualized understanding of youth political participation and considered their everyday political negotiations in relation to changing socio-material conditions and the broader political economy of today. A larger endeavor of this research is to give weight to youth voices and political behavior in such a way that solutions that refract on the larger political and political economic system rather than on young people themselves can be derived.

—hackettka@gmail.com

Angela Robinson
University of California, Irvine

Hello SPSSI members! My name is Angela Robinson and I am a Member-at-Large (Academic Focus) on this year’s GSC. I am currently a first-year social psychology PhD student. Since moving here three months ago, I’ve spent my weekends exploring all that my new home state has to offer, particularly the beaches and burritos. The sunshine and warm weather have been a welcome change from my native Chicago!

Before starting my PhD program, I spent three years living in New Zealand. Living overseas meant many little adjustments. I learned to love black tea with milk. I didn’t learn to love the weather—New Zealand isn’t tropical like many people think—but I learned to accept that a frigid, windy day is simply called “fresh.” There were some salient differences too, particularly regarding different roles fulfilled by certain groups in society. For example, New Zealand police do not carry guns, and interactions between citizens and police are often conversational and friendly. I had the opportunity to conduct research on domestic violence prevention in conjunction with the New Zealand Police’s Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Affairs Team. This research documented some of the approaches that immigrant communities use to make prevention programs more accessible and inclusive. New Zealand is small, so even early stage researchers can make a big impact, and some of my findings have been circulated to high-ranking officials at the New Zealand Police. This inspired me to continue making it a priority to incorporate policy aims into my program of research.

Broadly, my current research aims to identify the factors that facilitate access to social programs and other resources. My past research has investigated how gender, ethnicity, and cultural identities relate to

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unequal access to political power and social services. Some of my current work examines how beliefs about social mobility relate to beliefs about the underlying causes of social class differences. I am examining how these two sets of beliefs shape support for social services as well as cross-class interpersonal interactions. I am interested in what psychological research can contribute to the development of policy proposals that facilitate inclusion and reduce inequality for those most impacted by systemic barriers.

—angelarr@uci.edu

Meet Your 2015-16 GSC Officers!

Chair
Carlie D. Trott
Colorado State University

Chair-Elect
Kristen Hackett
Graduate Center of the City of New York

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Academic Focus
Angela Robinson
University of California, Irvine

Policy & Applied Work Focus
Rashmi Nair
Clark University

Communications Focus
Julia Tran
Clark University

Membership Coordinator
Ashley Weinberg
San Diego State University

Be sure to visit the updated SPSSI Graduate Student Committee website with information on funding opportunities, career preparation, and ways to increase your involvement with SPSSI.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Email us at gradstudents@spssi.org

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SPSSI-UK

Internationalizing SPSSI Starting in the United Kingdom

By SPSSI-UK Steering Committee

SPSSI is an international society, but SPSSI’s expertise and influence has largely been oriented towards North America and with only 10% international members, the majority of members are from the United States.

At SPSSI’s council meeting in June 2015 Dominic Abrams (Former SPSSI President and Professor at the University of Kent, UK) and Natasha Ann Brigham (Former Intern at SPSSI’s Central Office and Social Researcher at London School of Economics and Political Science, UK) proposed developing SPSSI’s activities to better target and encompass the international psychology community. The Council expressed strong support for the internationalization initiative. SPSSI is therefore pursuing this goal by supporting the development of a UK-based initiative, namely SPSSI-UK. SPSSI-UK is considered an important step towards seeing whether the SPSSI model can be further internationalized.

Aims of SPSSI-UK

SPSSI-UK’s main goal is to increase the impact of social and behavioral science beyond academia and to inform public policy and debate in the UK. More specifically, SPSSI-UK aims to:

- Encourage public education and evidence-based policy making, and producing coordinated and timely responses to social issues affecting the UK.
- Challenge contemporary issues that extend beyond national borders or have no national boundaries.

SPSSI-UK is collaborating closely with SPSSI’s Internationalization Committee and Executive Committee and will develop in accordance with SPSSI’s identity, aims and values.

Who is Taking Part?

The foundation of SPSSI-UK is being led by a Steering Committee (alphabetically):
Dominic Abrams (University of Kent, Chair of the committee); Natasha Ann Brigham (LSE, Project Manager); Rupert Brown (University of Sussex); Katy Greenland (Cardiff University); Miles Hewstone (University of Oxford); Caroline Howarth (LSE); Tony Manstead (Cardiff University); Georgina Randsley de Moura (University of Kent); Rhiannon Turner (Queen’s University Belfast); Hanna Zagefka (Royal Holloway, University of London).

The Steering Committee is supported by a ‘Development Group’ - a wider group of academics and interested policy experts who can help in several ways. These include; evaluating initiatives and contributing to / commenting on documents, proposing and commenting on topics for events and

continued next page...
activities. The Development Group can also help develop and promote SPSSI-UK more generally by sharing awareness of SPSSI-UK, encouraging colleagues and students to join SPSSI and participate in SPSSI-UK, as well as making use of SPSSI’s resources to maximize the policy-impact of members’ work.

Activities

SPSSI-UK is currently developing 3 policy-focused conferences in different regions of the United Kingdom. These meetings will be partly sponsored by SPSSI. The first will be hosted at the University of Kent (19th of July, 2016), the second at Cardiff University (30th of August, 2016), and the third at Queen’s University Belfast (date yet to be decided). These events serve as the official launch of SPSSI-UK and will gather social scientists and policy specialists who share a common interest in linking theory and practice to address important social issues.

SPSSI-UK is also developing structures and strategies that will help bring social psychology research to bear on public policy in the UK. For instance, we are working on a framework that will allow us to efficiently and successfully manage policy initiatives and coordinate opportunities for SPSSI members to share their expertise with policy makers in the UK.

Getting Involved With SPSSI-UK

If you are interested in joining the Development Group or supporting SPSSI-UK in other ways, such as launching or running activities or having SPSSI-UK link with activities that are already being planned, please contact Natasha Ann Brigham via email.

The University of Kent is sponsoring 10 graduate memberships of SPSSI and we would encourage our other UK colleagues to do likewise because a key goal is to involve new researchers as early as possible.

We will shortly be setting up a SPSSI-UK weblink which will autodirect to the relevant tab on SPSSI’s webpage. Be sure to visit the page and stay tuned for updates and further information.

—SPSSI-UK Steering Committee

NaBrigham@spssi.org

APA Council of Representatives Report

By Wendy R. Williams & Kim A. Case, SPSSI (Div 9) Representatives

The American Psychological Association (APA) Council of Representatives (COR) met on August 5, 2015 and August 7, 2015 during the annual convention in Toronto, Ontario. As many of you are aware, this meeting was critically important in the wake of the Hoffman Report as an opportunity for COR to process together the revelations within the report as well as begin to work on action items stemming from the report.

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Hoffman Report and Actions Council Undertook related to the Hoffman Report

Q&A with Mr. Hoffman.
COR felt it necessary to hear directly from Mr. Hoffman. Despite the fact that this was not included in the contract with Mr. Hoffman, he consented to this request, but required that it occur in Executive Session. Although many members of COR felt that this went directly against the need for transparency, COR decided they would rather hear from Mr. Hoffman under his conditions than to not have the opportunity to hear from him at all. Thus, at the beginning of COR’s meeting, Mr. Hoffman gave Council 90 minutes of time to both describe their process as well as to answer COR’s questions raised about their process. For those interested in a more detailed reporting of the questions he answered, please contact your COR reps directly; however, overall COR members felt that the decision to hear directly from Mr. Hoffman was useful in contextualizing the report, and many felt that this context helped COR to focus clearly on its work for this session. Specifically, COR focused on three top priorities out of the many issues raised in the report: 1) Clearly articulating APA’s stance against psychologists’ participating in torture, 2) Revising our ethics process, and 3) Strengthening our conflict of interest guidelines.

New Business Item 23b.
After much discussion, Council voted to pass the Implementation of the 2008 membership vote to remove psychologists from all settings that operate outside of international law. This motion passed with only one dissenting vote. This is an important action by Council in the wake of the Hoffman Report so that it is clear where the APA stands on the use of torture. The text of this motion can be found on APA’s website.

Motions related to APA Ethics.
Council voted to establish a blue ribbon panel to evaluate and recommend changes to the APA Ethics process (e.g., the possibility of a Chief Ethics Officer, the relationship between the ethics education role to the ethics adjudication function, review the efficacy and utility of the “limited investigation” adjudication process, etc).

Conflict of Interest Statement.
Council voted to create virtually the development of a statement of principles regarding conflict of interest to be signed by Boards, Committees, task force and Council members doing business on behalf of APA on an annual basis, which will be finalized at the February Council meeting.

In addition to work related to the Hoffman Report, COR had a full agenda of other preexisting business. Although time was limited to address these additional business items, COR did take the following actions that may be of interest to SPSSI members:

Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) People
Given the prejudice that TGNC people face, and the mental health consequences of this discriminatory treatment, it is important that TGNC people have access to trans-affirmative mental and physical healthcare. In particular, in a survey of continued next page...
psychologists and graduate students the APA Task Force on Gender Identity and Gender Variance (2009) found that less than 30% of respondents reported familiarity with issues that TGNC people experience. Thus, these Guidelines provide an important resource for practitioners to break down barriers for all individuals to experience respect, awareness, and support of their identities and life experiences.

**National Ethnic Minority Association Delegates Attendance at Council Meetings**

COR passed a motion to continue to invite the four Ethnic Minority Psychological Associations (Asian American Psychological Association, Association of Black Psychologists, Society of Indian Psychologists, and National Latino/a Psychological Association), and to fully fund these delegates to attend and participate in COR meetings for an additional three years (the longest amount of time that COR is allowed to make budgetary decisions). Given that these delegates provide invaluable comments and have made rich contributions to the deliberations of COR, this is an important continuing use of budgetary allocations.

### Template for Bylaws Amendments Ballots

In response to concerns over recent failures of proposed bylaws amendments (e.g., to seat the Ethnic Minority Associations rather than continue to fund them on three year increments), COR proposed a new three-year trial template for bylaws statements, which includes an evaluation of this trial period to determine whether the proposed changes lead to more informed decisions by the membership. In particular, this motion uses three individuals to craft the pro-con statement (rather than one individual) in order to provide more balanced and factually correct statements. It adds an explanatory paragraph to the motion to restate the motion in lay terms to facilitate understanding and implications of the language of the motion. Finally, the specific numbers on COR votes in favor/against will now be added to inform the membership about the degree to which the motion was approved by Council (e.g., barely 2/3rds versus overwhelmingly/unanimously). This motion passed and we look forward to reporting the results of this trial period so that we can better determine why some bylaw amendments pass and others do not.

### Amicus Curiae Briefs

APA has joined a number of amicus curiae briefs that may be of interest to SPSSI members. The first is *San Francisco v. Sheehan* in which APA took the position on behalf of Sheehan “that the ADA applies to (at least some) arrests of armed intellectually disabled individuals, and explains that as an empirical matter, making reasonable accommodations in such circumstances is entirely feasible”. The second is *MBK Management Corp. v. Burdick* in which APA informed the court of the data showing no greater risk of mental health repercussions for women having “a single, legal, first-trimester abortion of an unplanned pregnancy” than for women who ultimately deliver an unplanned pregnancy. In addition, APA has joined a number of briefs in federal courts continued next page...
SOCIETY FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF SOCIAL ISSUES

affirming the right of same sex couples to marry (follow the link and scroll to Sexual Orientation (Discrimination), Marriage).

Taskforce on Violent Video Games
Council voted to receive the report of the Taskforce on Violent Video Games and to approve the Resolution on Violent Video Games.

Finally, COR continues to work on both the issues raised by the Hoffman Report and the regular business of the APA between our face-to-face sessions, and we look forward to bringing you more news after our next meeting in February. In the meantime, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please contact Wendy or Kim directly.

—Wendy R. Williams & Kim A. Case
Wendy_Williams@berea.edu & caseki@uhcl.edu

Analyses of Social Issues & Public Policy (ASAP)

By Heather Bullock, ASAP Editor

Greetings! With 2016 just a few short days away, this is an ideal time for reflection and appreciation. It has been a busy, productive fall (and year!) at ASAP. I am very grateful for our hardworking Editorial Board’s expertise and guidance, and I am delighted to welcome two new members, Kerth O’Brien, Portland State University and Joan Ostrove, Macalester College. On behalf of all of us at ASAP, we thank you for sharing your cutting-edge research with us. Please keep sending your scholarship our way! We are also thankful for the many reviewers who have generously shared their expertise with us throughout the past year.

This is a terrific time to check out ASAP! Volume 15 (2015) can be found at Wiley’s online library. The breadth of methodologies and topics covered will impress you – from SPSSI’s research summary on media violence to meanings of intimacy among heterosexual and same-sex couples to the relationship of right-wing authoritarianism and social dominance to external group conflict to motivations for punishing someone who violates HIV nondisclosure laws. Browse the 2015 volume and you will also find insightful commentary, and book reviews to inform your winter reading list.

Additionally, a number of new articles are available on early view:

The Prototypicality of Genocide: Implications for International Intervention by Lucas B. Mazur and Johanna Ray Vollhardt

“You Can’t Give a Syringe with Unity”: Rwandan Responses to the Government’s Single Recategorization Policies by Sigrun Marie Moss and Johanna Ray Vollhardt

Relevance to Psychology of Beliefs about Socialism: Some New Research Questions by Bernice Lott

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Firearm Availability and Violent Death: The Need for a Culture Change in Attitudes toward Guns by Wolfgang Stroebe

Epistemic Factors in Selective Exposure and Political Misperceptions on the Right and Left by Patrick C. Meirick and Elena Bessarabova

Too Rich For Diversity: Socioeconomic Status Influences Multifaceted Person Perception of Latino Targets by Danielle M. Young, Diana T. Sanchez and Leigh S. Wilton

Exploring Links between Women’s Business Ownership and Empowerment among Maasai Women in Tanzania by Anjali Dutt, Shelly Grabe and Marina Castro

You will also find Megan Beurskens’ book review of Arresting Citizenship: The Democratic Consequences of American Crime Control (Lerman & Weaver, 2014).

I encourage you to check the early view site frequently as new articles are added often.

ASAP is a premier outlet for timely, applied policy-driven research, and we welcome your ideas, input, and manuscripts! If you have ideas for an article or special section, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you!

—Heather Bullock
hbullock@ucsc.edu

Journal of Social Issues

By Ann Bettencourt, JSI Editor

As you can see, we have a number of issues under review and in preparation. I encourage you to submit a proposal for consideration in JSI. The JSI Editorial and SPSSI Central Office teams continue to collaborate to feature JSI articles and issues. We promote each issue via press releases and social media outlets, including a blog in Psychology Today. Also, we encourage Issue Editors and Authors to create a video abstract describing their issue. Finally, we solicit the names of colleagues that are likely to be interested in each issue and send them the table of contents for the issue. Wiley also continues to help us promote JSI issues; they will be featuring some issues in their newsletter as well as through a new JSI specific app.

Please look for our first issue of 2016, Ageism: Health and Employment Contexts, which will be published in March.

Completed 2015 Issues

At the Crossroads of Intergroup Relations & Interpersonal Relations: Interethnic Marriage in the U.S.
Issue Editors: Stanley O. Gaines, Eddie M. Clark, & Stephanie E. Afful

Resisting and Confronting Disadvantage: From Individual Coping to Societal Change
Issue Editors: Katherine Stroebe & Soledad de Lemus

Issue Editors: Andrea Hunter & Abigail Stewart

continued next page...
Media Representations of Race and Ethnicity: Implications for Identity, Intergroup Relations, & Public Policy

Submitted & Planned 2016 Issues

Ageism: Health and Employment Contexts

Issue Editors: Sheri R. Levy, Jamie L. Macdonald, & Todd Nelson

Understanding Activism

Issue Editors: Craig McGarty, Anna Kende, & Nicola Curtin

Proactive Behavior Across Group Boundaries: Seeking and Maintaining Positive Interactions with Outgroup Members

Issue Editors: Birte Siem, Stefan Stürmer, & Todd Pittinsky

Sexual and Gender Minority Health Disparities: Translating Stigma and Intergroup Relations Research

Issue Editors: Stacey L. Williams & Abbey Mann

Issues in Development

Inequality: Opportunity and Mobility

Issue Editors: Allan Ornstein & Norman Eng

From Trayvon Martin to Michael Brown and Beyond: What Psychological Research Can Say About the Shootings of Unarmed Minorities

Issue Editors: Kristin Nicole Dukes, Kimberly Barsamian Kahn, & Samuel R. Sommers

Identity Concealment: A Multilevel Perspective on Causes and Consequences

Issue Editors: Jonathan Cook & Diane Quinn

Weight Bias: Social, Policy, and Legal Implications

Issue Editors: Twila Wingrove, Lindsey Wylie, & Evelyn Maeder

The Great Recession and Social Class Divides

Issue Editors: Susan Fiske & Miguel Moya

Social Psychological Perspectives on Contemporary Inequality

Issue Editors: Jennifer Sheehy-Skeffington, Sarah Jay, & Orla Muldoon

I hope that you will consider the possibility of generating a preliminary proposal based on your and your colleagues’ work. Please feel free to contact me about any ideas you may have for an issue.

—Ann Bettencourt
Bettencourta@Missouri.edu

Connect with SPSSI online!

SPSSI has multiple online outlets. Be sure and check out what you’re missing in these places:
My tenure as a James Marshall SPSSI/AAAS Fellow began on September 2, 2014 and concluded on June 30, 2015. I was placed in the office of Senator Bernard Sanders as his foreign policy legislative fellow. My primary role was to advise the Senator and his staffers on issues related to U.S foreign policy, international relation, and impact of conflicts, especially in the Middle East and South Asia, as they related to U.S national interests. Additionally, I also worked on other relevant policy areas, including immigration and defense.

In this position, I learned tremendous amounts on the U.S political process, stages and complexities of policy formulation, and connections between scientific research and public policy. The most useful skills that I developed during my time as a Marshall fellow was adapting my research to fit within a framework suitable for policy audiences away from academic terminology, and writing brief memos reflecting the core argument. Additionally, the opportunities for professional development—starting with orientation and continuing through mentoring—that I received from AAAS and SPSSI were invaluable to enrich myself as a professional focused on translating scientific research for policymakers. In this regard, I would like to make a special mention of the SPSSI DC office for the support they provided during my tenure as a Marshall fellow, for which I am truly grateful.

Out of my Marshall Fellowship, I am currently working as Special Assistant for the Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations. For my Ph.D., I studied everyday violence and collective memory of the Afghan conflict, so this position allows me to bring my research expertise into practical policy processes and speech writing at the highest level. In my role at the UN, I have written speeches for both UN General Assembly (UNGA) plenary meetings and UN Security Council debates. Notably, I also wrote the speech read by Afghanistan’s CEO Dr. Abdullah at the 70th session of UNGA. Working for the UN Afghanistan Mission, I have gained valuable insights into the functioning of the UN, a seminal institution wielding its influence through development, diplomacy, and negotiations to promote security and social stability on a global scale. My policy experience on Capitol Hill as an AAAS/SPSSI fellow has been incredibly helpful in my new role, by helping me to bring social science research to the forefront to guide policy decisions, while I continue to develop my analytical and writing skills that are more appropriate for a non-scientific policymaking audience at the UN.

I would like to thank SPSSI for providing me with the Marshall Fellowship which can only be categorized as a once in a lifetime opportunity, one that has truly defined my career. My year in DC was the best in my life and the experience I gained in Senator Sanders’ office will stay with me forever, and hopefully bring exciting new opportunities in the future.

I look forward to remaining connected with SPSSI throughout my career and to contribute to the SPSSI community in meaningful ways.

—Anasuya Ray
anasuya.ms04@gmail.com
I spent Monday June 22, after the SPSSI summer conference, “The Road Less Travelled: Forging Links between Psychological Science and Social Policy”, walking around Capitol Hill visiting congressional staff telling them all about everything that social science had to offer to policy makers. I must admit I was apprehensive at first about knocking on the doors of Congress and introducing myself to staffers and maybe even a Congresswoman or Congressman, or a Senator and talking about my work in psychology. I am no stranger to talking with local and state representative but I had never knocked on Congressional doors before. But I have to say, at the end of the day that this was a truly valuable experience that I recommend for all applied researchers. It was, to say the least, an eye opener.

The day started out with a training session that SPSSI, SPSP, and AP/LS conjointly sponsored. The morning included three presenters, talking about the do’s and don’ts of lobbying on Capitol Hill (Christopher Kush, CEO, Soapbox Consulting), the experience of talking to staffers and policy makers in Congress (Wendy Naus, Executive Director, Consortium of Social Science Associations) and the nuts and bolts of what to expect when meeting with policy makers (Irina Feygina, Former APA/AAAS Congressional Fellow). After lunch we set out in pairs (I met and worked with Laura Van Berkel from University of Kansas) to meet with our representatives and inform them about SPSSI and all the valuable information that social science research could contribute to the policy process. Laura and I mostly spoke with staffers, telling them about the work of our fellow psychological researchers, the valuable asset that SPSSI represented -- so close and always available for them to call upon, and tell them a little bit of our own work.

Not only did I enjoy the experience but I learned a great deal about the policy process from a bottom up perspective. Most people that I talked with about my research in criminal justice were interested in what I had to say. They were not as interested in my law and psychology work in discrimination but still listened with polite and attentive ears. Staffers assured me that they would convey the information to the Congresswomen and men that they served and indeed Congressman Ashford’s office (2nd District, Nebraska) did follow-up with a phone call and a letter. I found it most useful to explain our work to policy makers that did not always agree with the political perspective that SPSSI represents. It is much more challenging to convey the importance of our work to those who look at our work with a skeptical eye but in some ways those are the most important people to reach. I ended my day, hot and tired but feeling a sense of accomplishment after visiting with several staffers and Senator Deb Fisher of Nebraska.

—Rich Wiener
rwiener2@unl.edu
SPSSI in New York

By Harold Takooshian, SPSSI-NY Chair

Since SPSSI formed its New York group in 1984, SPSSI-NY has offered about 10 events per year, where many of the 400 local members and their guests can gather over timely social issues, and local students can learn about the work of SPSSI. Many of these free activities are coordinated with other groups, and are on the SPSSI-NY website.

For the calendar year 2015, SPSSI-NY partnered with the Manhattan Psychological Association (MPA) to arrange an unprecedented 27 activities for members this year. These included 4 symposia, 5 lectures, 7 public forums, 3 conferences, and 3 salutes to deceased colleagues this year: Drs. Rivka Bertisch Meir, Robert W. Rieber, and Richard H. Wexler. Four of these activities focused on the role of psychology at the United Nations. Four of these gatherings focused on “the remarkable history of psychology and social issues in New York City,” sharing the fruits of a 2006 SPSSI mini-grant on this topic. These free SPSSI-NY activities in 2015 were kindly hosted by five institutions: Fordham, Hunter, Saint Francis, St. John’s, and the United Nations. These 27 highly diverse activities, are too numerous to summarize here, except for a few highlights.

History of Psychology in New York City
On June 30, a forum on the "History of psychology in New York City" segued into a joyous salute to the City's pre-eminent psychologist, Jerome Bruner. For two hours, over 75 revelers from as far as Russia celebrated Dr. Bruner's 100th birthday with a large cake and an Italian buffet feast provided by Tino's of Little Italy.

Psychobiography
On October 26, Professor Dinesh Sharma chaired an historic forum on "Psychobiography," featuring Robert and Sarah LeVine (Harvard), Sudhir Kakar (Goa, India), Paul Elovitz (Psychohistory Forum), Joseph Ponterotto (Fordham), Uwe Gielen (St. Francis), Sheila Henderson (Fordham).

SPSSI-NY Annual Conference on Behavioral Research
On November 6, Professor Marisa Cohen chaired the SPSSI-NY 27th Conference on Behavioral Research, which drew over 200 students and faculty for a day of scientific presentations at Saint Francis College.

Stanley Milgram: The Experimenter
On November 10, Fordham hosted an historic forum on "Stanley Milgram: The Experimenter." Professor Milgram’s alumni were among 12 speakers who discussed the legacy of this unique
psychologist. This was in concert with the national release of Michael Almereyda’s film on The Experimenter.

The SPSSI-NY Planning Committee for 2015: Hamid Al-Bayati, Marisa T. Cohen, Elaine P. Congress, Frank Farley, Uwe P. Gielen, Rafael Art Javier, Mark E. Mattson. Helen Rozelman, Lewis Schlossinger, Harold Takooshian (Chair), Suzanne Roff Wexler, Dinesh Sharma, and Henry Solomon. For further information about SPSSI-NY events, please email me.

—Harold Takooshian
takoosh@aol.com

SPSSI Members in the Media

Past SPSSI President Dominic Abrams, PhD (University of Kent) discussed the psychology of extreme group rituals in an article in The Guardian. The UK newspaper also quotes SPSSI member Hazel Markus, PhD, (Stanford University).

SPSSI Fellow Laurence Armand French, PhD (Justiceworks, University of New Hampshire) presented two papers relevant to the recent police brutality and torture issues at the XXXV Congreso Interamericano de Psicología held in Lima, Peru 12-16 July: The Genesis of Institutionalized Racism Among Police in the USA and Contravening Definitions of Torture: Clinical/Legal Challenges to Human Rights.

SPSSI member Angela Bahns, PhD (Wellesley College) and her work on pre-existing negative emotions and prejudice was featured in an op-ed piece in the Miami Herald. The author uses Bahns’ research as one way “to fight police brutality against African-American people” by encouraging police departments to incorporate bias training.

The work of SPSSI member Sapna Cheryan, PhD (University of Washington) was highlighted in the op/ed piece in the New York Times on women in technology. Cheryan’s work shows the depth that cultural stereotypes go in shaping young women’s—and men’s—lives.

SPSSI President Susan Clayton, PhD (College of Wooster) makes a call to everyone—not just scientists and politicians—to start doing something about climate change in a recent op/ed piece on the Paris climate talks—why they matter.

Variety quotes Roxane Cohen Silver, PhD (University of California at Irvine) in an article following the recent Paris terrorist attacks. The magazine also cites Linda Tropp, PhD (University of Massachusetts Amherst) describing how experiencing uncertainty and chaos motivates us to identify with people like us. Tropp was also interviewed on the PBS Newshour where she discussed ways in which we can improve understanding of race relations.

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The Washington Post refers to SPSSI member Peter Ditto, PhD (University of California, Irvine) in an article on political beliefs and refuting data. Ditto points to the social psychology evidence around the role of emotions in reasoning, which both shapes and biases information processing.

SPSSI Council member Jack Glaser, PhD (University of California, Berkeley) was referenced in an article in the Los Angeles Times on California’s new legislation mandating that California law enforcement agencies collect—and make public—data on the racial makeup of all those encountered by police.

A Boston Globe article on whether women will “ever be accepted as the boss” features two SPSSI members! First, Peter Glick, PhD (Lawrence University) and his work on benevolent sexism is discussed. Then, the article turns to Past-President, Alice Eagly, PhD (Northwestern University) and her work on women leaders.

SPSSI member Craig Haney, PhD (University of California, Santa Cruz) was quoted in a USA Today article on the practice of solitary confinement in prison.

BBC news asks if psychology can help solve long-running conflicts. The article provides views from four different intergroup conflict researchers discussing their work, including SPSSI Fellow Miles Hewstone, PhD (Oxford University). Hewstone describes contact theory in the case of Northern Ireland.

SPSSI member Michael McCullough, PhD (University of Miami) was quoted in an article in The Atlantic describing how he has tried to replicate findings on whether oxytocin increases trust.

Three SPSSI members have been elected to the 2015 cohort of AAAS Fellows, in recognition of their contributions to innovation, education, and scientific leadership. Congratulations to David G. Myers, PhD (Hope College), Scott Plous, PhD (Wesleyan University) and Paula R. Skedsvold, PhD (Federation of Association in Behavioral and Brain Sciences). As noted on the AAAS website, “The tradition of electing AAAS Fellows began in 1874 to recognize members for their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.” Plous was also featured in a recent episode of NPR’s Hidden Brain discussing compassion and how to foster it.

Research by SPSSI member Chadly Stern (New York University) was the focus of an article in Pacific Standard on how to stop exaggerating our political differences.

If you or another SPSSI member you know has been in the media, published a great book, or received an award, we want to know! Email us so we can spread the word about SPSSI members’ work!
SPSSI Members’ New Books

The lifelong work of SPSSI Fellow Daniel Bar-Tal, PhD (Tel Aviv University) is celebrated in a newly published book, *The Social Psychology of Intractable Conflicts: Celebrating the Legacy of Daniel Bar-Tal, Volume I*. Working from Bar-Tal’s work on intractable conflict, leading psychologists around the world explore a transferable theory of a specific social-psychological infrastructure to develop a holistic, coherent, and systematic conceptual framework to understand how intractable conflicts erupt and escalate, and how they can be mitigated through peace-building.


Current SPSSI President Susan Clayton, PhD (The College of Wooster) has just had the second edition of her *Conservation Psychology* textbook published.

SPSSI In Memoriam: Ethel Tobach 1921-2015

Long-time SPSSI member Ethel Tobach, PhD passed away this past August in Massachusetts. Born in 1921 in Russia, Tobach and her parents fled to Palestine/Israel when she was two weeks old. At nine months old, her father passed away, at which point Tobach and her mother immigrated to the U.S. Tobach received her BA from Hunter College in 1949, her MA from NYU in 1952, and although already married and hesitantly accepted into the PhD program, she completed her PhD from NYU in 1957. Trained as a comparative psychologist, Tobach spent her career at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Her research and endeavors went beyond comparative psychology and ethology, however, to include such areas as biopsychology of social behavior, genes and gender, peace psychology, combating racism and sexism in psychology, and social justice.

Tobach received the Kurt Lewin Award in 1993 from SPSSI; in 2003 she received the Gold Medal Award for Lifetime Achievement in Psychology in the Public Interest from APA. Tobach’s colleagues refer to her as a “passionate political nudge”, “a socially responsible scientist”, and “a loved character” without fear, but with social justice in her bones. For more on this extraordinary psychologist, please see her profiles in the Jewish Women’s Archive Encyclopedia and Psychology’s Feminist Voices.
Call for Participation: SPSSI-EASP Small Group Meeting

Understanding Hate Crime: Multi-Disciplinary Analyses

University of Connecticut: Storrs July 11-13, 2016
Organisers: Rupert Brown & Mark Walters (Sussex University), Blair T. Johnson & Megan Iacocca (University of Connecticut)

SPSSI or EASP members are invited to submit applications for participation in a Small Group (~24 researchers) Meeting on Hate Crime. The 3-day meeting will finish by lunchtime on 7/13.

Background. The problem of hate crime (bias crime) in many societies is regrettably growing rather than diminishing. In Europe and the US increases over the past two years have been observed, many of these incidents following international ‘trigger events’ including major geopolitical conflicts and/or high profile terrorist attacks. Hate crime is a significant concern to policy-makers and social scientists alike, not least because of the deleterious effects it has on those directly victimized, but also because it is commonly assumed that incidents have harmful indirect impacts on other members of the victim’s identity group and on societal cohesion more generally.

Participants. Given the globalized nature of hate crime, with all its social psychological, political, criminological and legal ramifications, we believe it is imperative that an international and multidisciplinary approach be adopted. We invite behavioral scientists, legal scholars, criminologists and political scientists to take part. We welcome both established researchers and doctoral/postdoctoral scholars as participants.

Format. Most sessions will comprise 30 minute presentations followed by a period of questions and discussion. Some panel discussions will be held in which panel members will have a few minutes to outline a new research agenda or theoretical perspective, followed by a wider discussion amongst participants. Attendees will hear about new hate crime research and will be able to network with leading experts outside of psychology, swap ideas across jurisdictions and between disciplines, and form new research collaborations.

Cost. Thanks to SPSSI/EASP support, we are able to cover the accommodation and subsistence costs of all participants, leaving them only to find travel costs from their own resources. Graduate students, faculty members, and policy makers are all invited to apply for attendance.

To Apply. All applications should include a short synopsis of the applicant’s current affiliation and position, their research experience and interests in hate crime, and a title and short (150 word) abstract of their potential presentation. They should also indicate whether they are members of SPSSI or EASP. Email your application no later than January 31, 2016.

The organisers will select participants with an eye to maximizing the diversity of the meeting.
Apply to be a SPSSI Rep at the UN

Background. SPSSI UN/NGO representatives serve as non-paid volunteers but are eligible for reimbursement of modest transportation and other expenses. They attend monthly UN/SPSSI team meetings (generally on Thursdays) and engage with the Psychology Coalition of NGOs at the United Nations, UN Psychology Day, and substantive NGO Committees. They participate in a variety of UN events, and share information about the priorities of the UN with SPSSI members through reports, newsletter articles and presentations at SPSSI meetings. The appointment is for two years and is renewable. There is a review of the new representative’s work at the end of the first year and continuing reviews occur every two years.

Eligibility. To serve as a SPSSI UN Representative, you must

• be a SPSSI member throughout your term;
• have a doctorate in psychology with research, teaching, and/or practice experience applying psychological science to social issues;
• possess cultural sensitivity, good judgment, and excellent oral and writing skills;
• have the ability to exercise personal initiative and work collaboratively with others who may hold different viewpoints or opinions;
• have experience working in an international context
• reside within a 50 mile commuting radius to the UN Headquarters in New York City.

Apply. Please email a letter detailing your interest, a recent curriculum vitae, samples of your writing and the names of three references with “Application for SPSSI/UN Committee” as the subject line. Application deadline is February 15, 2016 or until the position is filled. Candidates will be interviewed by the UN/SPSSI team as part of the Nomination Process.

Apply to be the next James Marshall Public Policy Fellow

The next appointment for this fellowship will begin September 1, 2016.

Background. The goals of SPSSI’s James Marshall Fellowship in Public Policy are to train early career scientists to 1) contribute to the effective use of scientific knowledge about social issues in the formation of public policy at the federal level; 2) educate the scientific community about how research can contribute to the development of public policy; and 3) establish a more effective liaison between social scientists and various policy-making mechanisms.

Qualifications. The Marshall Fellowship is open to post-doctoral scientists from any discipline relevant to the psychological study of social issues. Applicants must hold a PhD or PsyD before the start of the fellowship and be a member of SPSSI.

Award. The Marshall Fellow is appointed as an independent contractor, paid a stipend of $60,000 per year plus health benefits.

Apply. Applications are accepted online. Please see the SPSSI website for more information and the link to apply. Applications must be received by February 1, 2016. Notification of selection is expected on or around March 15, 2016.

Contact Dr. Susan Dudley, SPSSI’s Executive Director, with any additional questions.
The 2016 Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota explores the theme: “giving psychology away.” What does it mean to “give psychology away?” What is it that we want to give away, and how can we best do that? To whom are we giving psychology? And toward what end? How can our research, pedagogy, and activism be effectively shared with others outside the discipline? We invite you to consider this theme as specifically or broadly as you wish, and to submit work that will help us imagine the myriad ways in which we can give psychology away.

The conference co-chairs anticipate a full and engaging combination of presentations, discussions, poster sessions, organization-related meetings, and social events. Among other things, we look forward to presentations by our Lewin Award winners Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald, SPSSI President Susan Clayton, and the teaching award winners, as well as to sessions and events sponsored by the Diversity Committee and the Early Career Scholars Committee. We are pleased to report that Professor Kim-Pong (Kevin) Tam from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has accepted our invitation to be one of the invited speakers for the 2016 Conference. Professor Tam is primarily interested in using psychological knowledge to promote environmentally responsible actions.

The “Mill City” of Minneapolis, situated on the Mississippi River, has a long history of exporting goods (such as flour, hence its nickname) and is also a site of significant social activism. Those who have already been to Minneapolis know it’s a vibrant and culturally rich city home to many colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota, on whose campus we will be meeting (at the Commons Hotel). If you haven’t yet been, consider this an excellent opportunity to visit. More information about registration will be available online soon.

—Your 2016 Program Chairs,
Joan Ostrove, Christie Manning, & Emily Leskinen
SPSSI-APA 2016 Convention Programming

The Individual in Society: Impacts, Action, and Avenues for Social Change

SPSSI has a long tradition of applying rigorous social science research to real-world issues, and the Division 9 programming at APA aims to integrate insightful findings with emerging issues in Colorado and around the world. As one of two U.S. States to legalize the recreational use of marijuana, what can psychology tell us about the impacts, benefits, and consequences of the legalization of cannabis in Colorado? As the 2nd largest fracking state in the U.S., Colorado is also at the forefront of environmental debates regarding open lands, clean water and air, and social justice. How can we, as psychologists, address the ethical concerns and social impacts of environmental issues? In addition, Colorado may vote next year to become the first state in the nation to institute a tax-funded, single-payer healthcare system. What can psychologists, and especially SPSSI members, contribute to the dialogue regarding socialized healthcare?

We hope that you will join us in addressing these social issues, and more, at the 2016 APA Convention, to be held in Denver, Colorado, August 4-7, 2016.

We hope to have an excellent program with interdivisional appeal and strong representation from our division.

APA Convention Themes will address the following topics, across all Divisions:

1) Social Justice in a Multicultural Society
2) The Circle of Science: Integrating Science, Practice, and Policy
3) Advancing the Ethics of Psychology: Issues and Solutions
4) Cannabis: Concerns, Considerations, & Controversies
5) Targeting the Leading Preventable Causes of Death
6) Educational & Professional Training Issues in Psychology
7) The Future of Psychology: Advancing the Field in a Rapidly Changing World

We look forward to seeing you in Denver!

—Your APA Div 9 2016 Convention Co-Chairs
Brittany Bloodhart (Colorado State University) & Amanda Carrico (University of Colorado)
FORWARD is published three times a year to provide information and comment of interest to members of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. It reaches over 3000 SPSSI members and other professionals interested in our programs. Members represent a wide range of academic and nonacademic settings. Unless stated otherwise, the opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent the official position of the Society.

We welcome submissions of announcements, articles, and letters that are relevant to members of the Society as space permits. For more information, or to make a submission, contact the editor.

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