Evidence-Based Social Policy: Can Psychologists Go It Alone?

By Alice Eagly, SPSSI President

In a recent op-ed in the *New York Times* (Jan 23, 2015), Justin Wolfers discussed the dominance of economists in public policy discussions. He noted that expert opinion invoked by government and other policy makers usually comes from economists, with sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists, and psychologists having relatively little voice. It is true, for example, that the President has a Council of Economic Advisors but no councils from other academic disciplines. Recently, however, the White House staff added a Social and Behavioral Sciences Team that is charged with bringing knowledge forward from a wider range of sciences to foster evidence-based policy. Surely this approach should prove useful in addressing issues such as immigration, health disparities, unemployment, and educational reform.

This new governmental focus promises increased visibility of psychology’s public policy profile. Certainly, many psychologists, on their part, believe that psychology has much to offer that is not being heard. To take advantage of emerging opportunities to gain a public voice, psychologists certainly should work harder to spread the word about our policy-
SOCIETY FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF SOCIAL ISSUES

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Editor’s Note

By Janice R. Adelman,
Forward Editor

It’s spring time again here in the Northern hemisphere of the world. I recently overheard someone say that everything erupts in the spring—new life emerges from the depths of hibernation; long-suppressed feelings of disappointment and anger bubble forth from the darkness. It was a poignant reminder that everything is chaotic and simplistic all at once. As we hear in the news about riots, holy wars, natural disasters, and calls for justice around the world, I invite you to pause and notice not just the pain that spring may bring, but the beauty as well: the blooming flowers, the green-leaved trees, the gentle breeze. Then come back and remember what drives you to do the work you do. For most of us in SPSSI, that drive is the desire to help others with our knowledge and understanding of psychological phenomena. In this issue, we offer you a glimpse of this: President Alice Eagly hits a chord with her column on evidence-based social policy and ways in which we psychologists can help contribute. Dr. Miriam Vega writes about psychology’s presence at the UN (p. 14); Dr. Amir François writes about psychology’s role in the Baltimore riots (p. 15); and Dr. Alicia Nordstrom writes about bringing social justice to the psychology classroom (p. 27), enabling a new generation of psychologists’ voices to be heard in our communities.

Yes, it’s spring time—everything is coming back to life. This also means that summer is just around the corner, and, with it comes a new SPSSI endeavor: a yearly summer conference. The policy-focused event (see pp. 11–12) is going to be SPSSI-fabulous. We hope to see you there joining in the conversation. In the meantime, happy newsletter reading!

—Janice R. Adelman
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relevant research. SPSSI has this mission at the top of its current agenda. But working harder is not enough.

To become more effective, we psychologists should think more deeply about where our expertise best fits into the task of solving societal problems. I maintain that psychologists, and especially SPSSI members, have been much better at identifying problems than solving them. For example, we document discrimination faced by many individuals and social groups and often reveal the psychological mechanisms that enable discrimination. We also look for solutions but generally frame potential solutions in terms of individual psychology. Yet, solving societal problems requires that psychologists reach beyond their traditional focus on the individual and view problems as thoroughly embedded in the societal context that is the prime focus of the other social science disciplines.

To illustrate this assessment, I ask you to consider research in one area: stereotyping and prejudice, which has been a major focus of social psychology since its beginnings. Social psychologists have demonstrated the existence of stereotypes about many social groups. The classic focus on ethnic and nationality stereotypes gradually shifted to stereotypes about groups identified by race, gender, and social class. From an initial emphasis on explicit stereotypes, research expanded to include the study of less conscious, more implicit stereotypes. Over many decades, psychological research has demonstrated the negative effects that can follow from stereotyping. Stereotypes, for instance, can result in misjudgments of individuals who are assimilated to group stereotypes and therefore lose opportunities to which they may be entitled based on their individual qualifications. Unfavorable stereotypes can damage the performance of members of groups whose stereotype carries the expectation of low performance. Also, backlash can be directed to individuals who violate stereotypes, for example, by being more assertive than their group’s stereotype allows. In general, the message from social psychology is that stereotypes underlie multiple forms of prejudice and discrimination.

A commitment to social justice draws psychologists to the task of alleviating the harm done by stereotyping. As psychologists, we are prone to look for remedies in the psychology of the individual who engages in stereotyping. Many elegant experiments have traced the psychological processes by which stereotyping occurs and affects judgments and behaviors. The progressive mandate is to stop these processes before they produce unfair actions. Research suggests that individuals can indeed control stereotyping under some conditions, but suppressing stereotypes over longer periods of time is difficult and can even cause them to rebound. People can refrain from acting on their stereotypes, but restraint can be foiled when people lack conscious awareness of them.

How else can psychologists contribute? Focusing outward on the social context within which groups exist can reveal the informational sources of group stereotypes. As Anne Koenig and I have argued (JPSP, 2014), groups are differently distributed into social roles, and, as a consequence, group members are often observed carrying out certain types of behaviors. When people share these observations and infer traits from continued next page...
these role behaviors, the stereotypes that form can pervade the culture. Can this process be stopped? Not really. It is inherent in human cognition that individuals categorize people, as well as things, and form concepts based on what they observe is usually associated with these categories. And, in relation to the categorization of people, the stereotypes that result certainly can have negative effects, depending on their content.

In looking to the societal context to find out why stereotypes have certain content, psychologists should focus on people’s observations in their everyday lives. Some groups, such as women, are disproportionately observed in communally demanding roles while other groups, such as white men, in agentically demanding roles. But why do groups come to occupy different roles? The answers to this question are mainly in the domain of other social sciences. And how about changing the roles that groups usually occupy? An understanding of the socioeconomic and cultural forces that can prevent changes in social roles comes mainly from these other disciplines as well.

Also, political scientists can illuminate the feasibility of policy initiatives that can remove barriers to new roles. For example, initiatives such as affirmative action and quotas are politically acceptable in some nations but not others.

Because individuals are the agents of social change, psychologists can indeed explicate the microprocesses that enable it—that is, the attitudes and motivations that underlie group-level processes. Moreover, social psychologists help to understand the ways that immediate social contexts can protect or weaken the individual striving that can contribute to social change. Yet, this psychological knowledge does not lead to effective social policy unless it is coordinated with the societal knowledge embedded in the other social sciences. Similarly, knowledge from the other social sciences does not produce effective social policy unless it is based on correct assumptions about human psychology.

Effective evidence-based policy requires that social and behavioral scientists work across disciplinary boundaries. Before we psychologists communicate our messages outward to policy makers, we should pause to examine the socioeconomic, political, and cultural context of what we propose. And we should offer up our psychological expertise to social scientists who attempt to shape public policy from the perspective of disciplines that have a more molar focus. Working together we can make a difference.

—Alice Eagly
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SPSSI’s Three Big Experiments

By Blair T. Johnson,
SPSSI Secretary/Treasurer

As I see it, SPSSI is testing three very important experiments, all very big in the sense that they may help SPSSI grow in size and real-world impact, but they come with risks and benefits. The first and longest running is a focus on policy. SPSSI’s move to Washington came with the mission of having a greater impact on policy actions taking...
place on a national level. We have had full-time staffers in the role of policy director for several years now, with Gabe Twose now at the helm. This experiment looks to be succeeding, as judged by several dimensions. First, SPSSI membership seems to have embraced the concept, as judged by the great interest in and success of our policy workshops, which have been very highly rated by their participants. Second, the policy briefings that Gabe has orchestrated have been well attended by Congressional staff members. Third, our James Marshall SPSSI/AAAS Fellows are now working in offices on Capitol Hill. The most recent, Anasuya Ray, is a staffer in Senator Bernard Sanders’ (I, VT) office (see p. 8 for more on Ray’s experience). Fourth, our policy committee, chaired by Jack Glaser, has been amazingly active and productive (see p. 7 for more on the policy committee’s ongoing work). Finally, SPSSI leadership is focused on broader impact, recognizing that policy decisions at a state and local level also matter greatly; moreover, there is a movement afoot to start a European version of SPSSI, which if successful promises to push SPSSI on to the world policy stage. This last point is very preliminary and could well be the next experiment SPSSI attempts. Stay tuned for more news on this front.

The second experiment is to go from our former pattern of conferences every other year (on even-numbered years) to conferences every year. The first of these odd-numbered year conference will take place in Washington DC on June 20-21 (see p. 11 for more details and be sure to register if you haven’t already!). Conference co-chairs Linda Silka and Katya Migacheva (who finished her own Marshall Fellowship, working with the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe last summer) have done an excellent job recruiting symposia, papers, and posters for a conference theme that centers on policy: “A Road Less Traveled: Forging Links between Psychological Science and Social Policy.” Thus, the second experiment is related to the first: We anticipate that quite a large number of congressional staff members will be likely attendees. (Thus, if you are presenting at the conference, make your policy implications crystal clear!) Barring the unforeseen, I believe that this conference has strong potential to run in the black. Thus, this experiment also looks to be going quite well. Next year’s meeting is already slated for Minneapolis, where we have a strong contingent of SPSSI members. My bet is that the annual conference will be a hit.

The third experiment is again related to the other ones, and it concerns the central role of communications. Policy impacts could not happen without communication, and conferences have a central role communicating research and policy news to members and other interested parties. Last year’s SPSSI council recognized that central office staffers do a great deal of communications work for SPSSI and endorsed the concept of adding a new, full-time Communications Director to coordinate this work. David Aronson is the first incumbent in this role. Much of his first year on the job has focused on getting to continued next page...
know the SPSSI membership and finding the best ways to alter current communication strategy. David has helped some SPSSI leaders to generate first-rate op-ed pieces for newspapers, items that address social issues salient at the moment. One successful example was an op-ed written by SPSSI member Jack Glaser that was published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch addressing aspects of police-minority relations in relation to the August shooting that took place in Ferguson, Missouri. SPSSI has just launched a re-designed website that ought to streamline visitors’ experience with SPSSI. In sum, this experiment looks like it will pay off.

Cognizant of the risk attendant to our experiments, at its mid-winter meeting, Council approved the budget for 2015 proposed by Executive Director Susan Dudley. Last year’s budget projected a slight deficit that did not materialize; the current year’s budget projects a larger budget deficit (see Table). The projection is on the conservative side: It purposefully underestimates income and overestimates expenses. Thus, we do not expect to see very much red ink for 2015. Along with my very able Audit and Finance Committee, we also buy into the plan. At minimum, we can say that our “rainy-day” fund is healthy, and it may be that, if we run a deficit, we will not even have to dip into it, as cash-on-hand is sufficient. (That said: Pay your dues! We need you more than ever!)

In conclusion, to the extent that these three experiments succeed, we should see membership increase, meaning greater dues income for SPSSI. SPSSI’s grant programs should draw more and more proposals of higher import to policy. Less directly and more long term, we should see the value

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accorded our publications increase, which will increase SPSSI’s royalties. Next year’s budget might well project in the black. Perhaps most importantly, if these experiments succeed, SPSSI can have a greater impact on our world, ameliorating social issues that trouble it so. These are noble experiments that hinge on the increasing involvement of SPSSI’s membership. Please join in our quest!

—Blair T. Johnson
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**SPSSI Policy Update**

By Gabriel Twose, *SPSSI Policy Director*

2015 is gearing up to be the biggest year yet for SPSSI’s policy activities, not least because of our first policy-focused conference! Needless to say, I’m excited about this development. I’ll let Linda and Katya discuss the conference elsewhere in the newsletter (see p. 11), but I would like to highlight one discussion session organized by the SPSSI policy committee entitled, “SPSSI, public policy, and you: How to get involved.” This will provide some nuts-and-bolts tips on how to get involved in SPSSI’s policy work – it would be great to see you there. Rather than the conference though, I’ll use this column to discuss a few other activities that we have planned for the year.

As you may know, in 2014, we held our first Congressional seminar series sponsored by Representative Jim McGovern. I’m very happy to report that Congressman McGovern also agreed to sponsor a 2015 series, which is now underway. At the time of writing, we have held our first seminar, which focused on the topic of biased policing and racial profiling. Dr. Jack Glaser, chair of SPSSI’s policy committee, joined us in DC and gave a wonderful talk on his profiling research to a full room of congressional staffers, particularly focusing on race-based stereotypes that operate outside of conscious awareness or control. He showed how biased policing undermines police effectiveness, negatively affects communities of color, and causes criminal justice disparities, before presenting a number of evidence-based policy options to combat profiling. Jack also took the opportunity to meet with the offices of Congressman Cardin and Representative Conyers, sponsors of the End Racial Profiling Act in the Senate and House, respectively. He explained to them the psychological underpinnings of profiling, and established himself and SPSSI as valuable resources going forward.

We have a number of other seminars planned with Rep. McGovern, focusing on topics such as immigration and sexual violence on campus, and we’re also thrilled to hold our first Senate-side event. Thanks to our terrific Marshall Fellow, Anasuya Ray, Senator Bernie Sanders will sponsor a seminar on the psychological aspects of climate change. This event will take place in the Capitol Visitor Center in May, so keep an eye out for more information, especially if you’re around DC.

**Legislative Engagement Day.** You may remember that SPSSI co-hosted a 2014 Advocacy Training Day in which participants visited Capitol Hill to advocate for paid family medical leave. Well this year we’ll hold our second such event, this time the Legislative Engagement Day is co-sponsored...
by the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) and the American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS). This event will take place on June 22, directly after the SPSSI conference. Fifty psychologists and graduate students will attend a welcome reception and an advocacy training at the conference itself, before the Legislative Engagement Day on Monday. Participants will spend the morning learning about effective advocacy techniques, before visiting the offices of their Senators and Representatives. They will educate staffers on the value of psychological science to U.S. policy, focusing on topics like the judicial system, climate change, and education.

Reflecting SPSSI members’ tremendous interest in policy engagement, we were forced to close registration for the Legislative Engagement Day after just a week, by which point we had already accumulated 50 participants and a significant wait-list (including from SPSP and AP-LS). This is an exciting time to be involved in the policy aspects of psychological work. The desire for involvement has grown exponentially in the last few years, and I’m confident it will continue to do so. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, or would like to get further involved, please feel free to email me or call me at 202-675-6956. I look forward to hearing from you, and to seeing you at the conference in June!

—Gabriel Twose
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Marshall Fellow Report

By Anasuya Ray, James Marshall Fellow

My tenure as a James Marshall SPSSI/AAAS Fellow started on September 2, 2014. In the past five months, I have gained tremendous insight on the U.S political process, learned about nuances of policy formation, and explored the connections and intersections of scientific research and public policy. My placement at Senator Bernard Sanders’ office (I, VT) has given me the opportunity to work for one of the very few Independent legislators in the Senate, on a portfolio of my choice: foreign policy. Additionally, orientation, mentoring, and professional development programs conducted by AAAS have been pivotal in learning how to effectively engage policymakers on complex sociopolitical issues and frame my expertise in a manner that can be understood and incorporated into policymaking.

As the first SPSSI James Marshall Congressional fellow under the broader AAAS Fellowship program, I am in a unique position to learn from both these organizations. Everyone at the SPSSI DC office has provided me with constant support, advice, and mentorship. They have always been available if I needed consultation or feedback. Even though I haven’t spent a lot of time at SPSSI, they have made me feel a part of the organization and I truly value that. Compared to SPSSI DC office’s small size, AAAS’ huge fellowship program with 150+ incoming fellows in the continued next page...
The orientation was followed by a session at the Library of Congress’ outstanding research body, the Congressional Research Service. This ensured that the Congressional fellows have a thorough knowledge of functioning of different branches of the Government, along with understanding of how the public policymaking process works, in practice, at the U.S. Congressional level.

Conversations with alumni fellows and Hill staffers during networking events at orientation led me to think of my ideal placement. Given my prior work and research on armed conflict, security, and violent extremism, I realized that a foreign policy portfolio would be best for me to further enhance my skills and contribute to the host office in a meaningful way. In the placement week, I tried to find offices who were interested in recruiting for that portfolio. After interviewing with a few offices both on the House and the Senate side, I accepted an offer from Senator Bernard Sanders’ office for the foreign policy, immigration, and social science portfolio. I chose this office for multiple reasons. The office has a history of hosting AAAS fellows every year and Senator Sanders values scientific information to inform and shape his decisions on policy. As a fellow in his office, I am well placed to translate academic research for policy audiences, analyze complex sociopolitical issues, and provide scientific knowledge and skills to support policy development and evaluation. Additionally, Senator Sanders’ position on issues like labor and workplace directly impacts the office culture; it is one of the very few Congressional offices with little hierarchy. Senior staffers are always available for conversations and mentorship. Fellows are given responsibilities equivalent to a full time legislative staff. I have independence in charting out my activities and starting projects that I think would be useful in the future. The emphasis is on carving out a space of my own in a fast-paced Senate office, which I prefer over an environment of little autonomy and strict hierarchy—a reality in many Congressional offices.

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In the role of a legislative fellow, I work closely with the Legislative Director. My work entails advising the Senator and his staffers on issues concerning foreign policy, international relations, and sociopolitical contexts, mostly in the Middle East and South Asia. Additionally, I also work on immigration and other social science related issues. My goal in this position is to scientifically inform policy research, bring social science research to the forefront to guide policy decisions, and develop analytical and writing skills appropriate for a non-scientific policy audience. Since I started working, multiple issues have exploded in the international scene; the rise of ISIS, countering violent extremism and Islamophobia, the drawdown in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and terrorism financing, and Iran’s nuclear program are a few on which I have done position papers, memos, and talking points. I also get to work on upcoming legislation, like the Department of Homeland Security Appropriation bill and the Authorization for Use of Military Force. As part of my responsibilities as the foreign policy fellow, I regularly meet with think tanks and research organizations working on foreign policy to understand the latest field reports and research to explore how it can be used to inform policymaking on the Hill. I also get to meet with constituents from Vermont when they have issues concerning my portfolio areas. Additionally, I have the opportunity to observe how Senate Committees work. The Senator was the Chairperson of Veteran’s Affairs in the last Congress and currently is the Ranking Member of the Budget Committee. Because of his committee responsibilities, personal office staff is expected to take on some committee work from time to time, and I have used this opportunity to learn more about the defense budget and foreign aid. Being in Senator Sanders’ office has allowed me to be at the frontlines to learn about the political process and functioning of a Senate office. While I use my own doctoral research in advising the Senator and his staff on violent conflicts in Middle East and South Asia, I am also exposed to learning procedural details about foreign policy formation and the politics behind it. SPSSI and AAAS’ support and my placement in Senator Sanders’ office have been phenomenal for my own development as a professional. I am extremely fortunate to be a part of the SPSSI/AAAS fellowship and deeply value the support and mentorship I have received until now. Due to the growing onslaught on humanities and social science research funding nationally, there is an increasing need to bring researchers in the realm of public policy who can inform policymakers not only about the importance of social science research but also develop evidence-based policy and practice knowledge. I am hopeful to fulfill this role as a SPSSI/AAAS Congressional fellow and I am delighted to receive the opportunity to do so in Senator Sanders’ office.

—Anasuya Ray
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SPSSI has a re-vamped website!
Check it out at http://www.spssi.org.
Then, drop us a line and let us know what you think about it!
Put June 20th and 21st on your calendar and join us in Washington DC for SPSSI’s most exciting conference yet. SPSSI members are known for doing some of the most innovative and far-reaching research on pressing topics including prejudice and discrimination, climate change, immigration, incarceration, aggression – the list could go on. Yet, this cutting edge research too rarely reaches policy makers and impacts public policy. Often, policies are even designed in ways that are at odds with our most cutting-edge research. At this summer’s conference, we will explore the challenges that underlie efforts to bridge social science and policy and what it takes to make high quality research more impactful on policy. Leading scholars, such as Alice Eagly, James Jackson, and Phil Zimbardo, will share the strategies they have honed to ensure that their research impacts policy, and highlight the challenges inherent in the process.

The conference is designed to stimulate conversation. We have included a mix of session formats including symposia, discussion sessions, individual papers, conversations with senior scholars, and five-minute policy talks designed to capture the attention of busy policy makers. Additionally, poster presentations will be supplemented by science-to-policy briefs, aimed to inform policy-makers of most recent research findings with direct implications to policy. An excellent lineup of graduate student leaders will moderate several of the sessions. We have scheduled sessions to offer more time between talks in order to facilitate opportunities for all of us to talk together about what we are learning and how we plan to use it moving forward. The goal is to stimulate discussion with the hope that new research-policy collaborations will emerge.

There will be something at the conference for everyone: new faculty, graduate students, senior scholars, and policy makers. We will hear from people who are beginning their academic careers and have found ways to design and carry out their research with policy impacts in mind; we will learn from...
senior scholars who have had notable successes in having their research impact policy; we will speak to policy makers who are looking for research that can be useful to the problems they are trying to solve. And we will hear about the questions people have: How do we time our research to impact policy cycles? How do we understand the decision making process that goes into policy making? Do we need to change graduate education to prepare to impact policy? How does our academic field facilitate or complicate meaningful science-policy connections?

We all want our research to make a difference. This conference will help us make progress in thinking about these issues that are part of the grand tradition of SPSSI’s efforts to use psychological research to effect change. You can find more information at the conference website. Please also feel free to email us any questions or comments. We look forward to seeing you in Washington DC in June.

—Linda Silka & Katya Migacheva
Silka@maine.edu & katyamig@rand.org

Don’t Forget to Book Your Hotel!
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001, US

For Reservations:
General Attendees
Student Attendees

We encourage you to join us in DC to participate in and learn from this tremendous opportunity. Space is limited and attendance will be capped at approximately 200 people, so register today!

Featuring Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
in a special opening session. Congressman Norton is in her thirtieth term representing the District of Columbia.
Early Career Scholars Update

By Nicola Curtin & Heather Bullock, ECS Co-Chairs

Happy 2015 everyone! We hope your year is off to an auspicious start. We have several exciting activities in the works. We are planning a series of webinars that explore issues of great interest to SPSSI members. The first webinar described below, will be held in conjunction with the 2015 Summer Conference: A Road Less Traveled: Forging Links Between Psychological Science and Social Policy (see pp. 11–12 for more details on this conference!). We are also looking forward to this small summer conference! We are co-hosting a symposium, “Impacting Policy Early in Your Career: Exploring Diverse Opportunities” as well as a social hour and breakfast. Stay tuned for more information coming soon, and check out the conference schedule online!

We are delighted to announce the selection of the 2015 Michele Alexander Early Career Award for Scholarship and Service (Alexander Award). Established in 2005, the Alexander Award recognizes early career excellence in scholarship as well as in service. This year, three outstanding recipients were selected: Dr. Rezarta Bilali, Dr. Stephenie Chaudoir, and Dr. Sara McClelland. Please see p. 39 for these well-deserved award citations.

We congratulate our three award recipients and all of the nominees for their impressive contributions and representation of the kind of research and service that embodies SPSSI.

We always welcome your ideas and questions—please contact Nicola or Heather!

—Nicola Curtain & Heather Bullock
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Mark Your Calendars for a Special Event!

Forging Links between Psychological Science and Policy in Service of Social Change:
A Webinar Conversation with the Morris Justice Project
Wednesday June 17th at noon

Please RSVP to: SPSSIEarlyCareerScholars@gmail.com

Join us for a conversation with researchers and community members from the Morris Justice Project. We will discuss the challenges and rewards of conducting social justice research in partnership with local communities, from both the perspective of researchers and community members.

The Morris Justice Project is a four-year participatory action research study documenting the consequences of “Broken Windows” policing (including practices like the controversial use of “stop and frisk”) on a 42-block South Bronx neighborhood, six blocks east of Yankee Stadium. Through a presentation of their community-generated data, the research collective of neighborhood residents, City University of New York professors and students will provide a primer on “Broken Windows,” detail the human impact of aggressive policing on residents of color, and describe how participatory research was used as a strategy to mobilize community activism and inform policy change within a larger city-wide police reform movement.
SPSSI at the UN
Ebola Panel Presentation
By Miriam Vega,
UN/SPSSI Representative

The United Nations primarily exists for the betterment of the human condition, and the ostensible role of a SPSSI NGO representative to the United Nations is to raise awareness of how utilizing the insights of psychological science can contribute to the implementation of strategies designed to promote a safer, healthier, and more equitable world. As such we seek to encourage the knowledge-based application of psychological principles through advocacy, research, education, policy, and program development at the United Nations.

Amidst rising concerns about the emerging Ebola epidemic and its potential international impact, Time Magazine named the “Ebola Worker” the 2014 Person of the Year, and SPSSI UN NGO representatives sprung into action to take part in an Ebola task force spearheaded by Dr. Okorodudu, along with the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations, led by Dr. Kurianski, assembling a timely program entitled “Eradicating Stigma and Promoting Psychosocial Well-being, Mental Health and Resilience in the Ebola Epidemic” attended by UN officials and mission representatives.

As a program panelist I spoke on “Applying Psychosocial Lessons Learned from over 30 years of the HIV epidemic to the current Ebola Crisis.” By presenting at this panel, I was able to establish a shared sense of purpose with panelists and mission representatives alike, contextualizing the current Ebola crisis in regards to its parallels with the history of HIV, additionally emphasizing how we cannot forget that HIV is still a global health issue, often obscured by fears of the latest potential global pandemic.

After 30 long years public health practitioners are only now discussing the realistic possibility of reaching a world without AIDS, or that by 2025 there will be no new infections. However, as past UNAIDS director Peter Piot noted: “tackling stigma and discrimination is 1 of 5 key imperatives for success.” We are close to making substantial and decisive gains in combatting the HIV epidemic because of recent biomedical advances such as PrEP, microbicides and the biomedical concept of Treatment as Prevention. Yet, for all the advances that can help in our worldwide efforts, stigma still stands as a major barrier. HIV stigma continues to be part of the discourse at the individual, structural and governing body levels. We must tap into reservoirs of psychosocial research to mitigate the impact of stigma. The psychosocial aspects of stigmatizing diseases such as HIV and Ebola continued next page...
can adversely impact the well-being and disease course of those infected, even potentially leading to increased numbers of deaths by impacting: Testing/Diagnosis; Disclosure; Treatment access and adherence; and Availability of medical support.

While overall HIV incidence rates are decreasing globally, there is now what we may refer to as focal epidemics where key populations such as ethnic minorities, men-who-have sex-with-men, and sex workers are not experiencing these decreases and this is mainly, in part, due to stigma, including institutionalized stigma. Policies at the institutional level can adversely impact how individuals access and find available health care. These hard-learned lessons we from 30 years of the HIV epidemic can be applied to our current Ebola crisis where stigma is playing a key role in the lives of those infected, affected and caregivers including medical personnel.

The point of my panel presentation was that stigma not only reduces the impact of our work to fight the disease, it denigrates those who are suffering and experiencing traumatic loss, and reduces groups to only one thing – a vector of disease. Going forward, a coordinated and transparent approach is needed. After more than 30 years of efforts to curb HIV, let us apply these lessons to our efforts to control the Ebola outbreak. If you are interested in becoming a UN representative for the UN please send an email inquiry.

—Miriam Vega
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SPSSI Diversity
Ensuring Safe Spaces for Dialogue: SPSSI’s Role in Our Current Racial Climate

By Amir François,
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Throughout history, the United States has always been a place where we have tough conversations. From the bold decision to declare independence from Great Britain that founded this nation, to the painful but necessary conversations we are beginning to have about income inequality, our society thrives when intelligent and inclusive debate happens in public forums. The past few years have seen a recent return to prominence of race and equal treatment in the eyes of the law to the mainstream American zeitgeist. After the election of Barack Obama in 2008 the discussion of racial discrimination and prejudice that has been a hallmark of social and political discourse since the founding of our country began to shift to a celebration and presumption that we have finally reached the “post-racial” future we as a nation have been struggling to achieve. With the recent events in the city that I reside, Baltimore, being the latest in a disturbing trend of police violence against Black men, most can see that this dream of racial harmony has yet to be fully realized.

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As we witness protests and rallies from North Carolina to Missouri, I feel that one truth is increasingly obvious: citizens across the country feel a need to share their views, engage with others, and wish to enact some level of change within their local and national communities. While we have shining examples of grassroots engagement, local action, and a growing multi-media conversation sparking debate among national thought-leaders, mixed reactions to the #BlackLivesMatter twitter campaigns and some violent endings to mostly peaceful demonstrations have shown that this national conversation is not meeting the goals of allowing everyone who wishes for the opportunity to actively and meaningfully interact with their fellow citizens. Even well-funded and well-intentioned promotions (e.g., Starbucks’ #RaceTogether campaign) can end in ridicule and ineffectiveness if not paired with the psychological understanding of context and engagement. More conversations and settings that promote and ensure safe, meaningful, and positive dialogue are imperative and needed.

Psychology, in particular intergroup relations and community psychology, has much to offer in the way of creating and sustaining settings for positive interpersonal interaction and dialogue. As SPSSI members we have a unique and expert understanding of human behavior and also occupy leadership positions in research, practice, and policy in local and national organizations and communities. While we may have strong ideas for policies, data that needs to be collected, and practices that law enforcement should implement, our strength and authority lie in studying and analyzing human behavior. Giving decision-makers and advocates information on how environments and settings can be fine-tuned to make sure these complicated and engrossing topics are fairly and openly discussed and lead to positive outcomes should be a major focus of all psychologists committed to this cause.

In particular, Allport’s (1954) optimal conditions for intergroup contact are psychological principles that can be applied to current social settings where we want to create and sustain positive dialogues. Applying decades of intergroup research (see Hurtado, 2005; Pettigrew, 1998; Pettigrew & Tropp, 2011; Sorensen, Nagda, Gurin, & Maxwell, 2009) to creating more safe and open settings can help prepare communities for having painful and tough conversations. Ensuring that participants within these settings 1) share equal status, 2) are committed to the same goals, 3) are given the opportunity and guidance to positively cooperate with each other, 4) and are given support by the leaders and authority of the jurisdiction, are concrete values that we can make certain are present within locations where conversations are currently transpiring or have the potential to become sites of critical dialogue. A SPSSI member that does not specialize in intergroup relations or discrimination can still make sure interactions and planned conversations around her have these four conditions met and can use their awareness of these principles to ask targeted questions of organizers to ensure they are at least acknowledged and dealt in some fashion. A base level of awareness of these principles can help any dialogue, rally, or protest organizer critically examine their intentions...
and aims, leading to a better event and more inclusive discussion.

So many times we can feel that our psychological specialty lies too far from, or our level of knowledge about certain topics is insufficient to engage in timely and immediate environmental change. While having a healthy sense of your talents and knowledge-base is important, I would also argue that no matter your field of psychology or whether you are focused on research, policy, or practice, you can add a meaningful, supportive lens to your world by virtue of your own understanding of human behavior. Racial disparities and discrimination are complex problems that will take time, effort, and political will to truly tackle meaningfully. Helping people talk is a critical first step in this process and I urge all who feel some drive to do something to engage in and help shape the formal and informal dialogues around you.

— Amir François
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References
On April 7th, the first new small group conference series jointly sponsored by SPSSI and SASP was held in Brisbane, Australia on the topic of ‘Collective Harmdoing’, co-organized by Winnifred Louis (The University of Queensland, Australia), Catherine Amiot (Université du Québec a Montréal, Canada), and Emma Thomas (Murdoch University, Australia). The meeting gathered prominent social psychologists, including John Dixon (Open University, UK), Daniel Bar-Tal (Tel-Aviv University, Israel), Jolanda Jetten (UQ, Australia), and Alex Haslam (UQ, Australia). SPSSI President, Alice Eagly, welcomed all of the conference delegates with a video message surrounded by SPSSI Council members. 

The Internationalization Committee (Stefania Paolini in particular) has been the main driver in establishing this new joint conference scheme. It was incredibly exciting for us to see this new endeavor take off with such a strong scientific program. Eighteen presenters drawn from both societies represented research from Australia, the United States, Canada, Israel, Scotland, England, South Africa, the Philippines, and the Netherlands. Sixteen observers attended from Australia, including a range of students and academics from Queensland and interstate. The small group meeting format allowed for not only longer talks but also more discussion time. The mix of intergroup contact researchers, collective action researchers, peace psychologists, and other social psychologists highlighted both the differences and similarities in theoretical and methodological approaches to collective harm-doing. 

In this meeting, we also tested a video-submission and presentation format in which two brave souls provided 10-minute videos that ran during breaks. Following each video was a 5-minute facilitated discussion. In addition, attendees were given the opportunity to provide written feedback to the video-presenting scholars. Given the difficulties that abound in attending international meetings, this format was welcomed by all involved as it allowed those who might not otherwise have been able to participate to have a voice. 

Notably, all of the talks were digitally recorded with plans that all of the meeting videos will be made available on the

continued page 27...
Since this September when I began serving as Chair of SPSSI’s Graduate Student Committee (GSC), I have witnessed many exciting changes within SPSSI, the GSC, and the policy realm in which many of us hope to make a difference. The most noticeable change is that SPSSI is hosting its first annual conference. We hope that this conference will provide students opportunities to interact with each other and more senior psychologists in a smaller, more intimate environment. Look forward to some exciting events from the GSC at this conference!

This is also the first year that GSC members have designated roles to help support SPSSI students. The new positions include members-at-large who focus on academics, applied and policy work, communications, and membership. You can find out more about these positions and who currently serves in these positions on our website. Throughout the year these GSC members will be working hard to create resources and opportunities to support students throughout their graduate careers and as they transition to the job market.

In October we conducted a student membership survey (check out some results from this survey on p. 3). One of the most striking findings was that current SPSSI students plan to apply to a range of jobs after they graduate, including jobs outside of academia. I believe this range is a sign of the changing career market for recent PhDs, and I have made it one of my goals as Chair to support students in these aims. The GSC is currently working on creating resources for students applying for jobs both inside and outside of academia, and we are also working with SPSSI council members in finding ways to support students as they transition into diverse careers. Additionally, for those who indicated in the survey that you wish to get more involved with SPSSI, we are updating our website with information about How to Get More Involved With SPSSI. Check out the many ways to become more involved!

Finally, I wish to touch on the changes happening in the policy world. As a researcher doing work at the intersection of psychology and law, I see increasing opportunities for psychologists to inform the policy changes that are happening in our criminal justice system and police departments. Headway is also being made in policy supporting gay and transgender rights. SPSSI Central Office has been working tirelessly to bring its members’ research to the attention of policymakers working on these and many other issues. As I move into the second half of my term as GSC Chair, I hope to connect students with more opportunities to influence policy.

As the school year progresses the GSC hopes to remain in touch with our student members and provide them with information about influencing policy, teaching, planning their careers, and SPSSI in general.

Have a great semester/quarter/trimester, and I hope to meet many of you in June at this year’s conference.

Letter from the GSC Chair

Joanna Weill, University of California, Santa Cruz
Letter from the Editor
Caitlyn Yantis, University of Illinois at Chicago
I am very excited to have the privilege of disseminating the work of SPSSI graduate students to the larger SPSSI community! This is my first issue of The Rookie as editor and I was truly amazed by the quantity and quality of the submissions. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about ways to improve the Rookie, please send me an email—I want the composition of this publication to reflect SPSSI graduate students as a whole, so I welcome any and all feedback.
I hope you enjoy reading the interesting, policy-oriented work being conducted by your fellow graduate students!

Netanyahu pushes Jewish American’s narrative dissonance to its limits
Ella Ben Hagai, University of California, Santa Cruz
In 2011, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu made news in Israel and throughout the world for receiving 29 standing ovations when speaking to a joint session of the U.S. Congress. In his speech this March, it was not clear whether congressional Democrats or even Vice President Biden would attend the session at which he spoke. Democrats are angry with Netanyahu in part because he didn’t consult with the White House about speaking to Congress. It is also likely that Netanyahu’s intention to frame the White House and Iran talks as a “bad deal” raised the ire of Democrats. This clash between the White House and Netanyahu is significant especially because of its timing—only two weeks before the Israeli elections. Netanyahu’s party was even in the polls with the center-left party headed by Tzipi Livni and Isaac Herzog.

A major reason Democrats can play hard ball with Netanyahu is because Jewish interest groups across the political map have taken a critical stance towards the Israeli leader’s visit. For example, the leftist Jewish Voice for Peace has asked the Democrats in Congress to skip the speech, J-Street started a petition under the heading “Bibi does NOT speak for me!” and even the conservative Anti-Defamation League called on Netanyahu to cancel his speech. The widespread vocal criticism of Netanyahu’s actions is partly due to a growing social movement of U.S. Jews questioning Israel’s treatment of Palestinians.

In our lab we study the socio-psychological mechanisms triggering this growing movement. We are finding that two important values play a role in Jewish American’s attachment to Israel: pursuit of social justice and peace, and the need for Jewish defense and protection. A narrative that frames Israel as wanting to live in peace but having to defend itself from Arab attacks represents Israel as sharing both of these values and thus sustains an attachment between U.S. Jews and Israel. However, as violent images from the Gaza war arrive in the U.S. and as Netanyahu pursues policies of Jewish settlements expansion, young US Jews are having a harder time identifying with Israel, because Israel no longer appears to value the pursuit of peace. Moreover, the success of the pro-Palestinian (BDS) movement that call on student unions to divest from companies associated with the occupation, focuses campus conversations on Palestinian suffering, which increases the dissonance between Israel’s actions and US Jews’ liberal values. To resolve this psychological dissonance many of the young Jewish Americans we study join organizations critical of Israel or invest their time in other causes.

While Netanyahu’s performance of resolve and his alarmist rhetoric may have won him a victory in the Israeli elections, the continued perception of Israel as rejecting peace will lead to an increased schism between Israel and young Jewish Americans.

Contact Ella: ebenhaga@ucsc.edu
First of all, thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s graduate student demographic survey. As busy graduate students, our response rate was 14.6%, with 96 of our members completing the survey in just under two weeks. For those who participated, may “survey karma” serve you in the coming year!

**Student Characteristics.** The vast majority of respondents (90%) were graduate students currently residing in the U.S., followed by 4% in Canada, and the rest in Western Europe (including Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands), Australia, and New Zealand. With regard to gender, 3.1% of respondents identified as transgender, gender queer, or gender variant, 22.9% identified as men, and 69.8% of respondents identified as women (4.1% unknown).

Most respondents (89.6%) indicated that they were enrolled in a PhD or PsyD program, with smaller proportions of respondents in terminal Master’s (MA/MS) or undergraduate programs (3.1% each). Still others were between programs, at the post-bachelor’s or post-Master’s stage, or pursuing a law degree (1% each). Several respondents (5.2%) indicated that they were enrolled in an online university degree program.

**Career Interests.** Of 13 career options (see Figure), respondents indicated an interest in, on average, 4.73 career paths. Just 8.3% of respondents indicated a single career choice, with 27.1% indicating 2-3 career interests, 28.1% indicating 4-5, 24% indicating 6-7, and 12.6% indicating anywhere from 8 to 11 career interests.

**Conclusion.** Once again, thank you to those who participated in this year’s SPSSI graduate student survey. Results show a diversity of interest and experience in terms of education and careers. Although wide-reaching career interests likely arise, in part, from the precarious nature of academic—and let’s face it, most other—employment, such variety is also a testament to the many spaces in which SPSSI graduate students can make a difference.
Hall’s (1904) characterization of adolescence as a time of “storm and stress” resonates for many people. According to negative reinforcement models (Baker, Piper, McCarthy, Majeskie, & Fiore, 2004), frequent affective shifts may be associated with “self-medicating” behaviors used to cope with affective instability. Indeed, previous work suggests that daily affective fluctuations, rather than mean daily affect levels, are linked with increased risk for alcohol use in adolescents (Gottfredson & Hussong, 2013).

Our study explored the effect of daily affective fluctuations on binge eating in adolescents. Like alcohol and illicit drugs, high calorie foods, most commonly consumed during times of stress (Adam & Epel, 2007; Macht & Mueller, 2007), stimulate dopamine systems that provide immediate but temporary relief from negative affective states (Volkow & Wise, 2005). We suspected that overeating behavior may sometimes be motivated by the desire to escape stress in the short-term. We also hypothesized that people with high affective variability would tend to have poorer coping skills, thereby leading to overeating behaviors (Cole, Michel, & Teti, 1994). Studies have found that increased intake of comfort food was the consequence of maladaptive emotion regulation rather than a direct result of negative emotions (Evers, Stok, & de Ridder, 2010). Using self-reported stress as a measure of negative affect, we reasoned that people with greater variability in daily stressors, more so than mean level of stress, would be less equipped to handle stressors adaptively, making them vulnerable to binge eating.

With parental consent, we used school records to recruit 11th and 12th grade students from Wake, Orange, and Durham counties. 51 adolescents reported any binge eating episodes (75% female); these were the cases used for this analysis. Participants were contacted by text message 4-5 times daily over a 3-week period and reported any stressors that had occurred since their last prompt. They also self-reported binge eating. Participants who reported having eaten since the last signal were asked “Did you feel like you could not stop eating even though you were full?”

In line with our prediction, we found that variation in stressors over the course of the day, more so than high levels of daily stress, was associated with an increased likelihood to binge eat, but only for female adolescents. Figure 1 depicts the association between daily variation in stress and the odds of reporting a binge eating episode on that day. Our small sample size makes it difficult to
make definitive claims, particularly regarding male adolescents. Further, we cannot say definitely that variation in stress causes binge eating on a given day; the association may be bidirectional.

References

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**Student Spotlight**

**SPSSI Grants-In-Aid Award Recipients**

**Angela M. Neal**

*University of New Hampshire*

*Department of Psychology*

“*An Investigation of Both Partners’ Perspectives of Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration***

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

My area of social psychological research broadly focuses on the processes that shape the quality of romantic relationships, including factors such as attachment, commitment, jealousy, and aggression.

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

I have always held an interest in developing an awareness of the various cognitive and behavioral processes that occur in relationships, both romantic and otherwise. Understanding these processes can lead to a deeper understanding of relationship dynamics in general, as well as lead to knowledge that could help alleviate specific issues in relationships (e.g., violence).

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

SPSSI has a commitment to applying research to societal problems, and IPV is a pervasive problem within our society. My project will contribute to a better understanding of the social problem of IPV. In order to prevent IPV, the current study will help enhance the understanding of why people perpetrate, and the impact that violence has on victims. Knowing whether or not a disconnect exists between how
perpetrators and victims perceive relationship violence has implications for treatment and prevention. Understanding both perspectives is imperative for effective treatment.

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

I am currently still collecting data for my GIA award project. Because of the methodology of this study, requiring both members of romantic couples to come into the laboratory, participant compensation is a requirement for the project’s success. We have recruited over a hundred couples, and we are going to continue data collection throughout the rest of the year. Without the assistance of the GIA award, I would not have been able to recruit as many couples as are needed for the study.

**What are your findings and their implications?**

In general, romantic couples tend to disagree on the aggression within their relationship. Even when discussing the same incident of aggression, agreement between partners on the specific behaviors and emotions during the incident, as well as the attributions for the aggression, is low. These findings have implications for future research on intimate partner violence (IPV), as well as efforts for intervention. Because agreement is generally low, understanding the perspectives of both partners seems necessary to understanding and treating IPV.

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**Rashmi Nair**

*Clark University*

Department of Psychology

“Minority-Minority Relations in India: From Horizontal Hostility to Solidarity”

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

My research employs both qualitative and quantitative research methods to examine various issues related to the social psychology of members from disadvantaged communities. My past projects have examined topics including the experiences and perceptions of collective victimization among disadvantaged groups (including various minorities in India; Burundian and Nepali-speaking Bhutanese refugees in the U.S). Currently, I focus on two under-researched minorities in India - Muslims and Dalits ("lower"-caste Hindus) - whose relations are tense and risk violent clashes. This project investigates social psychological and structural factors (gender and class) that can explain hostile versus positive relations between these minorities.

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

Growing up, I often wondered why my friends had received their fathers’ last name, while I received my mother’s. It wasn’t until I was ten that I learned about the caste system in India that privileged my mother’s “upper” caste family name, while discriminating against “lower” castes, like my father. Thus, I was given my mother’s last name to protect me from the stigma associated with my father’s caste. My interest in working with minorities and intergroup relations was born from this family background and the stories I was exposed to. These experiences fueled my involvement at the grass-roots level with several non-profit organizations engaged with minorities. This fieldwork strengthened my belief in the need for and importance of research-based practices, which inform my current research interests.
What are the goals of your GIA award project and how do they align with the goals of SPSSI?

My project’s goals are aligned with SPSSI’s in two major ways. My work examines the under-researched relations between Dalits and Muslims in India. This is in alignment with SPSSI’s commitment to encourage novel research that highlights important social issues affecting under-represented groups. Another major intention of my research is to inform public policies, community building interventions and conflict resolution efforts aimed disadvantaged minorities. Given SPSSI’s commitment to translate research into action, these goals are in line with each other.

At what stage are you in the project and how has the GIA award helped you get to this stage?

This project entails two qualitative studies that investigate Dalit-Muslim relations in India. Study 1 focuses on middle-class Dalits and Muslims; study 2 is conducted among lower-income members in the slums. Thus far, I have finished data collection for study 1. Moreover, I have finished a pilot study and begun building rapport with potential participants towards study 2. The GIA award facilitated progress on my project in three ways. First, as I was able to compensate participants’ time, I was able to draw a larger pool of potential participants. Second, this award is supporting a research assistant who is helping me transcribe the interviews. Third, the matching funds I received from Clark University supported my fieldwork towards Study 1.

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

An initial analysis has revealed various social psychological processes underlying minority-minority relations. For example, some Muslims perceived their group to be relatively deprived than other minorities in India. Importantly, these perceptions were linked to public policies, particularly India’s affirmative action policies which support Dalits, but not similarly disadvantaged Muslims. Further, this study shed light on the joint influence of several structural factors on intergroup relations; e.g. I found that gender-based norms restricted women’s mobility and their intergroup contact, particularly among women from lower-income backgrounds. Along with theoretical contributions on an under-researched issue, this study can inform public policies, community-development programs, and conflict-resolution efforts among these minorities.

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Be sure to visit the updated SPSSI Graduate Student Committee website!

The GSC has compiled information on funding opportunities, career preparation, and ways to increase your involvement with SPSSI. Go to: spssi.org → Our Membership → Click on the ‘Students’ link

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Email us at gradstudents@spssi.org
2014-2015 Graduate Student Committee

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conference website within a couple of months. We thank SPSSI and SASP for jointly sponsoring this first small group meeting which allowed for exciting intellectual integration and conviviality. We hope that this new bridge between Australasian and North American social psychology will continue well into the future.

The new SPSSI-SASP joint meeting series aims to facilitate research cross-pollination and training between the two societies by gathering 20-30 senior and junior scholars. If you are interested in organizing a future meeting, please contact either David Livert or Stefania Paolini for further info. Or keep a look out for the next call for proposals!

— Stefania Paolini
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SPSSI in the Classroom

Using Psychology Knowledge in the Classroom to Advance Students’ Cultural Transformation

By Alicia H. Nordstrom,
2015 SPSSI-sponsored speaker at National Institute for Teaching of Psychology

The demographic landscape of the United States is changing rapidly in ways that will shift the balance of majority and minority groups. According to U.S. Census data, Whites comprised 67% of the population in 2005, but this is projected to drop to 47% by 2050. Hispanics, Blacks, and Asians comprised 14%, 13%, and 5% of the population, respectively, in 2005 with the percentage of Hispanics and Asians predicted to double by 2050 (Passel & Cohn, 2008). For decades, educational, corporate, and governmental constituencies have called for higher education to foster globally and cross-culturally competent students that will be competitive in a domestic and international workforce (Gurin, Dey, Hurtado & Gurin, 2002; Hunter, 2004; Jayakumar, 2008). This call has been punctuated by the APA Board of Educational Affairs Task Force on Psychology Major Competencies. The task force revised the APA Guidelines for Undergraduate Education in 2013 (Version 2.0), transferring sociocultural learning outcomes from an independent goal to an embedded feature across the curriculum. This shift reflects priorities advocated by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U, 2012) that higher education emphasize global learning, diversity, and equity to help students “engage the social, civic, and economic challenges of a diverse and unequal world” (para. 1).

Through the sponsorship of SPSSI, I had the pleasure of presenting at the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology conference in Tampa, Florida on Infusing Sociocultural Learning in Psychology Classes. My presentation offered ways that psychology instructors could use

continued next page...
classroom material to facilitate students’ cultural transformation. I highlighted how course-based approaches have shown empirical changes in cultural outcomes for courses such as Psychology of Race and Gender (Case, 2007), Psychology of Prejudice (Kernahan & Davis, 2007; Pettijohn & Walzer, 2008), and Cultural Diversity in Organizations (Probst, 2003). Instructors could also embed transformative learning experiences within their courses by including focused readings, media (e.g., TV shows, films, documentaries), and experiential activities highlighting power dynamics or stigmatized groups. Instructors interested in moving students from merely information exposure into more experiential activism and social change activities could utilize resources such as sample syllabi from the Peace, Conflict, and Violence Studies subfield.

In addition, instructors could leverage specific concepts and principles to integrate sociocultural learning throughout the curriculum. For example, instructors could apply principles of developmental psychology to have students examine their process of racial identity development using Janet Helms’ White Racial Identity Model (Helms, 1990). Instructors could draw from the contact theory (Allport, 1954; Dovidio, Gartner, & Kawakami, 2003) and intergroup relationships (Hewstone & Swart, 2011; Pettigrew & Tropp, 2011) subfield of social psychology to provide deeper explorations of stereotypes and prejudice. In my presentation, I shared an example of The Voices Project (TVP), an experiential assignment that was empirically shown to reduce racism in Introduction to Psychology students (Nordstrom, 2015). In TVP, students worked in pairs to interview a person from a stigmatized social group (e.g., race, ethnicity, religion, social class, sexual orientation, health conditions) and write a memoir of the person’s life from the first-person perspective. The memoirs were integrated into a staged reading program which was performed at the end of the semester. TVP has also been used to reduce stereotypes and prejudice towards individuals with physical disabilities and, more recently, in an international framework to reduce American and British stereotypes. TVP framework has a wealth of applications to a range of subfields within Psychology including personality (e.g., happiness, forgiveness), psychological disorders, police-community relations, social issues, intimate relationships, and health disorders, among others.

As psychology instructors, we have the knowledge and tools at our disposal to create impactful learning experiences that will promote our students’ cultural competence and global citizenship. The challenge is identifying ways to embed these learning experiences into our information-packed courses using pedagogically sound and effective processes. Organizations such as SPSSI and the Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP) offer key resources to guide our teaching so we can prepare students to effectively navigate the culturally complex world awaiting them in their future careers. continued next page...
For more information on The Voices Project, my NITOP presentation, or general resources on teaching for cultural transformation, please visit my website or email me. Also check out other useful resources available on the SPSSI website and the Society for Teaching of Psychology website.

— Alicia H. Nordstrom
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References
Apportionment Ballot
Thanks to our dedicated membership, SPSSI will retain its two seats on the APA COR (with 975 votes). Divisions 3 and 29 lost a seat and Divisions 16, 32 and 43 picked up a seat. California lost their second seat and New York and Pennsylvania maintained their second seat. It is worth noting that less than a hundred votes separated having one seat from having two seats, so we appreciate the votes that you allocate to SPSSI. Truly, your votes do matter, and you make it possible for SPSSI to continue to have a larger voice on the Council than we would otherwise.

SPSSI members in APA Governance
APA would not be able to carry out its mission without dedicated members who volunteer their time to govern the society. In the most recent Board and Committee elections last fall, five SPSSI members were elected to APA governance:

- **Janice Adelman** (Ethics Committee), **Allen Omoto** (Policy and Planning Board), **Pamela Reid** (Publications and Communications Board), **Amanda Clinton** (Committee on International Relations in Psychology), and **BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya** (Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice). If you know these SPSSI members, please give them your congratulations!

**APA Council of Representatives**
February 2015 Meeting

*Early Career Inclusion.* For any early career (less than 10 years since degree) SPSSI members that may be interested in getting more involved, Council approved a change that will require APA boards and committees to have at least one member who is also an early career psychologist. Why not get involved with APA by serving on a national committee or board? This is a great way to learn more about the national organization while bringing SPSSI core values to the APA conversation.

*Divisions for Social Justice.* Although the Divisions for Social Justice (DSJ) had been active in the past, particularly around APA convention planning, they have not been particularly active in the last few years. As a result of conversations with representatives from Divisions 35 and 34, Wendy sent an open call for a lunchtime meeting of anyone interested in reviving the group (as either the DSJ, or to change names to be more inclusive). The lunch was well attended (29 representatives), and the group agreed to continue the conversation via email over the next few months to determine both form and function of the group.

Related, several caucuses (Women’s Caucus, Public Interest, Ethnic Minority, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Concerns) began conversations about having a joint meeting or joint initiatives, also under...
the rubric of “Social Justice.” Both of these are exciting new developments, and we will keep the membership informed about the outcome of these conversations.

**Council Diversity Education.** Council received diversity education on Implicit Bias. First, Council received education about the findings of implicit bias research. In particular, the scholarship of prominent SPSSI members (Jack Dovidio, Sam Gaertner, and Jennifer Eberhardt) was highlighted. Second, Calvin Lai from the Implicit Bias Project at Harvard University presented on the basic psychology underlying implicit bias as well as some demonstrations of implicit bias. Finally, the Council engaged in a discussion of "what can we do?" with reference to taking the information into their professional lives and to influence APA governance. The presentations were well-received by Council and sparked a number of discussions about how Council could also use this information to function in a more socially-just manner.

**Translating Science into Public Policy.** To begin to rededicate Council as the policy making body of APA, Council spent one full day of meetings on learning about, discussing, and making recommendations for three issues related to the theme of Translating Science: advocating for psychology, educating the public about psychology, and translating research. Prior to the meeting, APA asked representatives to submit the top three priorities that they see for psychology in the next 5-10 years. Based on conversation with the SPSSI Council, we submitted the following three items: 1) Re-establish psychology as a science that is taken seriously by policy-makers and the public, including funding it on the same level as other sciences; 2) Resist dangerous trends in higher education around reifying an inequitable multi-tiered system that perpetuates social exclusion of important constituents (e.g., race, ethnicity, social class, gender, disability, sexuality) and which has led to a crisis in available tenure-track positions for PhDs; and 3) Reclaim the moral and ethical nature of psychology, including but not limited to the unequivocal condemnation of torture. At Council, each of the three themes included small group discussion and prioritization of goals and strategies. Due to limited time at the end of Council, we were unable to hear the full reports from each of the three groups. Thus, we are hopeful that the work Council did in February results in New Business Items before Council as early as August.

**Leadership within APA COR.** Caucuses are an informal part of APA governance, which were formed in response to representatives wanting to confer with their colleagues on specific issues, special interests, or personal identities. Wendy has been representing SPSSI on two of these Caucuses, the Women’s Caucus (as Secretary) and the Public Interest Caucus (as Chair). Similarly, Kim has jumped in to the discussions, attending a number of caucuses (the Ethnic Minority Caucus, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Concerns Caucus, the Public Interest Caucus, the Women’s Caucus) and was elected to

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Independent Review of APA Involvement in Torture. As a result of the allegations in James Risen’s book, Pay Any Price: Greed, Power, and Endless War, the APA put out a press release in October which refuted the validity of Risen’s claims and asserted that the allegations are based primarily on “innuendo and one-sided reporting”. Although standing by this statement, because of mounting pressure from constituents, in November the APA decided to appoint outside legal counsel to conduct a comprehensive and independent review of the allegations. Specifically, the charge of this independent review of APA’s involvement in torture is as follows: “The review will include but not be limited to the following three issues: 1) whether APA supported the development or implementation of “enhanced” interrogation techniques that constituted torture; 2) whether changes to Section 1.02 of the APA Code of Ethics in 2002 or the formation and/or report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security (PENS Task Force) were the product of collusion with the government to support torture or intended to support torture; and 3) whether any APA action related to torture was improperly influenced by government-related financial or policy considerations, including government grants, contracts or adoption of government policy regarding prescription privileges for psychologists serving in the military.” To examine these issues, APA announced that David Hoffman and his law firm Sidley Austin will serve as the independent reviewer. Anyone having information that they believe the independent reviewer should be aware of is invited to contact Mr. Hoffman. Information can also be shared with Mr. Hoffman via a special phone line (312) 456-8468. At this point, the review is ongoing, and a report of the findings is expected later this spring.

Your Representatives
We look forward to the opportunity to have a more influential role in bringing psychological research to the forefront of public policy at the August APA Council meeting and beyond. Until then, if you have questions or concerns that you want your representatives to bring to the APA on your behalf, please contact Wendy or Kim.

—Wendy R. Williams & Kim A. Case
Wendy_Williams@berea.edu & caseki@uhcl.edu
A flurry of activity in SPSSI publications began last year, and should continue into next year. The Co-Chairs of the Publications Committee are Chris Crandall and Sheri Levy; the members are Phil Hammack, Constance Flanagan, Joel Nadler, Masi Noor, and Peggy Stockdale.

SIPR. We wish to welcome the new co-editors of Social Issues and Policy Review (SIPR), Lou Penner and Rodolfo Mendoza Denton, and thank outgoing editors, Sam Gaertner and Rupert Brown for their time and dedication in bringing the newest SPSSI journal to life. Competition for the new editor’s position was fierce—the Committee had the embarrassing position of choosing from a large and strong field of candidates. SIPR publish online articles, theoretical or empirical, that review research relevant to social issues and public policy. Authors interested in submitting articles to the journal can contact one or both of the editors for advice on SIPR’s publication process.

SPSSI Methods Textbook. The 8th Edition of the perennial favorite Research Methods in Social Relations, was published in 2014, this time written by Geoffrey Maruyama and Carey Ryan. The book can serve as a textbook or a reference volume; it covers all the standard research topics and extends into a wide variety of new issues and techniques. SPSSI receives a portion of royalties from the book—you can provide an excellent education for your students and support SPSSI at the same time by adopting it for a methods class. SPSSI Fellow and Past-President Faye Crosby said, “The volume is sophisticated in its epistemology but easily read and understood. An excellent source for anyone who wants to know how to do research in the social sciences.” SPSSI Fellow Linda Tropp described it as an “impressive and comprehensive volume unparalleled in its ability to make sophisticated concepts and rigorous scientific methods accessible and easy to understand.”

It is the publications of SPSSI—Journal of Social Issues, Social Issues and Policy Review, Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy, the SPSSI book series and the Research Methods text—that provide much of the funds that make SPSSI possible. The largest portion of this income is based on the publication contract we have with Wiley-Blackwell. Our current contract is up at the end of 2015; we are now in the process of contract negotiations.

SPSSI Council Meeting. At the 2015 winter meeting of SPSSI Council, there was a great deal of discussion on two matters. The first was on the very hot topic of ethics in human research, and particularly the sharing of data sets for independent analysis. As a general rule, it is very desirable that scientific data sets be open, transparent, shared, and subject to scrutiny by independent and skeptical colleagues. As a scientific organization, SPSSI endorses these values. But SPSSI also

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publishes—and wants to continue publishing—data sets from young children and other vulnerable populations, including data collected from stigmatized groups that agree to participate in the research if and only if the researcher maintains complete control over their information. Because SPSSI is deeply committed to publishing articles based on data that can (in some rare instances) not be open to public scrutiny, we are in the process of developing a policy about data openness. We will report more on this in the coming months.

The second issue discussed at SPSSI Council was the current role of the three journals, and whether we wish to consider making changes to their format. Because the journals are successful at their mission, there was no great desire to make large changes. However, the Council agreed that the journal editors should be free to consider some innovation, in consultation with the Publications Committee. If you have any ideas you would like to be considered for the journals, please contact either me, or Shari Levy. We are planning a “Journal Innovation Summit” at the 2015 summer conference among the Publication Committee, journal editors, and a handful of others. Please don’t hesitate to offer your input!

—Chris Crandall
crandall@ku.edu

Analyses of Social Issues & Public Policy (ASAP)
By Heather Bullock, ASAP Editor

Greetings from ASAP’s editorial board! With summer rapidly approaching, I am pleased to draw your attention to several new papers that I hope will be on your summer reading list! Coming Soon to ASAP’s early view page:

- Using Moral Foundations to Predict Voting Behavior: Regression Analyses from the 2012 U.S. Presidential Election (Andrew Franks & Kyle Scherr)
- Meanings of Intimacy: A Comparison of Members of Heterosexual and Same-Sex Couples (David Frost & Kelly Gola)

When visiting ASAP’s early view page, you will find even more diverse topics and articles on the verge of publication in an upcoming ASAP issue, including, new original articles by Deborah Schooler, The Woman Next to Me: Pairing Powerful and Objectifying Representations of Women; and a new book review in which Karim Youssef reviews Cook, Halsall, and Wankhade’s (2015), A “Third Way” to Capitalism: International Perspectives on Social Capital and Public Health.

If you have an idea for a special section or individual paper, please drop me a note. If you would like to review books for the journal, please contact our Book Review Editor, Joel Nadler. We look forward the hearing from you!

—Heather Bullock
hbullock@ucsc.edu
Just in case you haven’t seen our JSI video abstracts, check out the videos we have for our 2014 JSI issues: Social Exclusion of Children; Everyday Sexism; Following orders? A closer look at the effects of Milgram’s prods. We are working on similar video abstracts for our 2015 issues. We hope that these video abstracts along with other JSI issue promotions will enhance the visibility of JSI issues and articles. Also, please see our 2015 issues completed to date, and upcoming planned issues, listed below.

**Completed 2015 Issues**

Media Representations of Race and Ethnicity: Implications for Identity, Intergroup Relations, & Public Policy  
*Issue Editors: Dana Mastro & Riva Tukachinsky*

*Issue Editors: Andrea Hunter & Abigail Stewart*

**Planned 2015 Issues**

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

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*

**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*

Inequality: Opportunity and Mobility  
*Issue Editors: Allan Ornstein & Norman Eng*

Sexual and Gender Minority Health Disparities: Translating Stigma and Intergroup Relations Research  
*Issue Editors: Stacey L. Williams & Abbey Mann*

**Issues in Development**

Proactive Behavior Across Group Boundaries: Seeking and Maintaining Positive Interactions with Outgroup Members (Birte Siem, Stefan Stürmer, & Todd Pittinsky)

Digging Deeper: The Social Cognition, Neuroscience, and Genetics of Political Ideology (Travis Proulx & Mark Brandt)

Weight Bias: Social, Policy, and Legal Implications (Twila Wingrove, Lindsey Wylie, & Evelyn Maeder)

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From Trayvon Martin to Michael Brown and Beyond: What Psychological Research Can Say About the Shootings of Unarmed Minorities (Kristin Nicole Dukes, Kimberly Barsamian Kahn, & Samuel R. Sommers)

Identity Concealment: A Multilevel Perspective on Causes and Consequences (Jonathan Cook & Diane Quinn)

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. And be sure to visit the JSI website for all recent updates, more journal information, and past issues.

—Ann Bettencourt
Bettencourta@Missouri.edu

Contemporary Social Issues Book Series

By Dan Perlman, SPSSI Book Series Editor

Readers, Advocates, and Authors Wanted

Grounded in basic and applied scientific research, volumes in SPSSI’s “Contemporary Social Issues” series focus on areas of psychological inquiry relevant to social issues facing individuals, groups, communities, and/or society at large. Written to speak to scholars, students, practitioners, and policy-makers, a listing of previous volumes can be found on the publisher’s website. The Series has included books that could be used as core readings in advanced undergraduate or graduate seminar courses (e.g., Bernice Lott’s Multiculturalism and Diversity). The most recent volume is Heather Bullock’s Women and Poverty: Psychology, Public Policy, and Social Justice.

Since reporting on the Series in the Fall 2014 issue of the Forward, two noteworthy developments have occurred. First an exciting new volume is being developed. Entitled Psychology and Social Justice: Science, Education, Practice, and Policy, the authors are Jamie Franco-Zamudio, Wendy Williams, Jessica Salvatore and Vikki Gaskin-Butler.

With coverage of both what the research says and taking action, the volume will be in the SPSSI tradition. When published (circa 2017) this volume could serve as a text for courses on social justice as well as for anyone interested in better understanding or more effectively advocating for social justice.

Second, Publication Committee Co-Chairs Chris Crandall and Sheri Levy along with Series Editor Dan Perlman had a conference call with Wiley Editor Danielle Descoteaux to discuss the nature and directions of the Series. From Wiley’s perspective, Ms. Descoteaux sees value in SPSSI developing one or more, larger publication projects such as a social issues handbook or an encyclopedia. These possibilities are currently being considered. Reactions to such ventures would be welcome including ideas for topics and possible authors.

From time to time, the Series receives proposals from authors for whom English is their second language and whose prose is not always completely idiomatic. To make publications by such authors more feasible and to help them in the process, it would be very useful to know of any SPSSI members who would have editorial skills and an

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interest in helping such authors polish their writing for native English speaking readers. If you could help in this way, please send an email to let us know.

Are you interested in being a SPSSI Book Series author? As Editor of the Series, I welcome hearing from you to discuss the feasibility of your publishing a volume in the Series. Please contact me via email, Google+.

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February 2015
Conversation hour, “What is ahead for U.S. psychology?” (February 13) with APA past-President Nadine Kaslow.

March 2015

April 2015
Careers in Applied Psychology. Forum held at Fordham University (April 8) with multiple experts working in various applied settings, including organization development, mediation, health, and talent management.

Healthy Cities in the 21st Century. Forum at Fordham University (April 16). This event was chaired by Harold Takooshian with guest speakers Arline L. Bronat, Charles Shamoon, Michael Noel, Peter R. Walker, and Noema Chaplin.

43rd Hunter College Psychology Convention (April 26). This free event saw 500 attendees who heard researchers present their work to fellow students, faculty, and practitioners in the field of psychology.

May 2015
Looking ahead to spring 2015, SPSSI-NY members will host an international reception on May 21 at Fordham University. For more details, please send an email inquiry.

The SPSSI-NY Planning Committee for fall of 2014: Nava R. Silton (chair), Henry Solomon (Marymount), and Harold Takooshian (Fordham). For further information about SPSSI-NY events, please email me.

—Harold Takooshian
takoosh@aol.com

Have you read SPSSI’s blog today? In Sound Science, Sound Policy, SPSSI members are writing about timely social justice issues. What is more, the blog posts reference psychological science to enhance our understanding of these issues. Want to hear what social psychology says about a woman president, racial disparities in healthcare, campus assault, and other topics? Read the blog!
2015 Michele Alexander Early Career Award

Established in 2005, this award recognizes early career excellence in scholarship as well as in service in honor of Dr. Michele Alexander. For more details, please visit the Alexander Award page. Congratulations to the recipients!

Rezarta Bilali, PhD (New York University)

Dr. Rezarta Bilali is Assistant Professor of Psychology and Social Intervention at New York University. Dr. Bilali uses multiple methodologies to understand the social psychological processes underlying intergroup conflict and violence. Her work is international and applied in its focus, and she has worked in countries such as Albania, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Turkey, and the U.S. In addition to working closely with non-profit organizations, and studying innovative interventions (such as reconciliation radio programs), she has published extensively, and received funding from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, American Psychological Foundation, Psychology Beyond Borders, and others.

Stephenie Chaudoir, PhD (College of the Holy Cross)

Dr. Stephenie Chaudoir is Assistant Professor of Psychology at College of the Holy Cross. Dr. Chaudoir’s theoretical and empirical contributions to research on concealable stigmatized identities has been impactful both within the field, as well as in policy-making. Her Disclosure Processes Model has been translated into a “disclosure continuum” tool being used by the Colorado Department of Health to help clients make more informed disclosure decisions around HIV/AIDS, and her conceptual model of HIV stigma has been used to inform policy briefs created by the International Center for Research on Women. She is an active public lecturer on issues related to concealable stigmas, helping service organizations better understand their clients. She has received funding from the National Science Foundation and other organizations for her research.

Sara McClelland, PhD (University of Michigan)

Dr. Sara McClelland is Assistant Professor in the Departments of Women’s Studies and Psychology at the University of Michigan. Her multi-method research uses intimate justice as a theoretical framework to examine how experiences of inequality shape people’s intimate lives. She wrote an amicus brief to the Supreme Court using psychological research to inform an abortion case, and her work was cited in the court’s opinion. Her work on sexuality has appeared in numerous journals, as well as in popular outlets such as the Huffington Post, The New York Times, and the Chronicle of Higher Education. She aims not only to shape how social scientists think about, and do, research on sexuality, but to inform public policy and broader social conversations. She has received funding from NIH/National Cancer Institute and others for her research.
SPSSI Members in the Media

SPSSI Fellow Arthur Aron, PhD (State University of New York at Stony Brook) recently made the rounds in various media outlets. Beginning with a piece in The New York Times on how to fall in love, Aron and his 1997 empirical article on generating interpersonal closeness with 36 questions received widespread attention. He was later featured in ABC News’ Good Morning America, and more recently used as a springboard to a modern day journalism matchmaking experiment by Esquire and Elle.

New research on unfalsifiable belief systems by SPSSI members Justin Friesen, PhD (York University) and Aaron Kay, PhD (Duke University) was highlighted in the Pacific Standard article “Facts? We Don’t Need No Stinking Facts!” Dr. Friesen and co-author Troy Campbell further describe their work in an article in Scientific American.

SPSSI member Ellen Gerrity, PhD (Duke University), is quoted in the Washington Post’s article, “What makes patriots perpetrators of torture?”. The article also references SPSSI’s 2007 policy statement on the use of torture, written by Mark Costanzo, PhD (Claremont McKenna College), Gerrity, and M. Brinton Lykes, PhD (Boston College).

SPSSI member Jack Glaser, PhD (University of California, Berkeley) is quoted in USA Today’s article on unintended discriminatory consequences of “religious freedom” laws.

SPSSI members Shelly Grabe, PhD, Rose Grose and Anjali Dutt (all from University of California, Santa Cruz) were honored with the 2015 Georgia Babladelis Award by the Society for the Psychology of Women recognizing their paper “Women’s Land Ownership and Relationship Power: A Mixed Methods Approach to Understanding Structural Inequities and Violence Against Women” published in Psychology of Women Quarterly.

The recent article, “Why Do So Many People See Black Protestors Different From White Ones?” in Pacific Standard references the work of ten (10!) SPSSI members. First, the article points to the research of Phillip Atiba Goff, PhD, Matthew Christian Jackson, PhD (both at University of California, Los Angeles), and Brooke Di Leone, PhD (Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion) and colleagues in which Black boys (aged 10 and up) are perceived as older and less innocent than their White peers. The article goes on to highlight the work of Kelly Marie Hoffman, and Sophie Trawalter, PhD (both at University of...
Virginia along with their colleague Adam Waytz, which finds that Whites’ tend to perceive Blacks as superhuman. The Pacific Standard author continues to turn to SPSSI member research, pointing to the 2004 meta-analysis on race, crime, and visual processing by Goff, Valerie J. Purdie-Vaughns, PhD, (Columbia University) and Paul G. Davies, PhD, and their colleague Jennifer L. Eberhardt. Finally, the article references the newest Implicit Association Test research by Anthony G. Greenwald, PhD (University of Washington), Mahzarin R. Banaji, PhD, (Harvard University) and Brian A. Nosek, PhD (University of Virginia).

SPSSI Fellow, Jennifer A. Richeson, PhD (Northwestern University) received the distinct honor of being elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS). In recognition of her scientific achievements (Richeson was also a 2006 MacArthur Fellow; aka the “genius grant”), she joins the ranks of the nonprofit NAS organization’s 2,250 active members. Congratulations Dr. Richeson!

SPSSI members Sophie Trawalter, PhD and Kelly Marie Hoffmann’s (both at University of Virginia) article with Adam Waytz is also cited in an article with Waltz in Popular Science on “What social psychology has to say about Darren Wilson and Michael Brown”.

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!

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 newsletters (the Forward and the Rookie), as well as discounts on SPSSI conference registration and books published by Wiley. As a dues-paying SPSSI member, you also meet the first eligibility requirement of all SPSSI awards. Complete the online form as either a new or renewing member (by using your login details).

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 Administrative Coordinator, Brad Sickels.
Social Inequalities: Causes and Consequences

We hope you can join us at the APA Convention in Toronto this August to support our SPSSI presenters and Division 9’s programming. Our theme of *Social Inequalities: Causes and Consequences* is reflected in several of our sessions, including:

**Invited Address**  
**Dr. Victoria Esses (University of Western Ontario) The Dehumanization of Immigrants and Refugees**

Dr. Esses will be talking about the contentious issue of immigration, where immigrants are often portrayed as “enemies at the gate.” This talk describes research on the effects of such portrayals on dehumanization and the consequences for the treatment of immigrants and refugees.

**Symposium/Discussion**  
**Addressing Social Inequalities with Intersectionality: Research, Clinical, and Justice Implications**

Co-chairs Dr. Lisa Rosenthal (Pace University) & Dr. Valerie Earnshaw (Boston Children’s Hospital)

Sponsored by the SPSSI Diversity Committee, this combined symposium and discussion hour will include brief presentations and time for discussion to explore research, clinical, and justice implications of using intersectionality theory within psychology to understand social inequalities.

**Data Blitz**

Highlighting 8 speakers with research projects dealing with bias based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and other minority group status.

**Toronto**

We are particularly excited that the APA Convention is in Toronto this year, as Toronto is a vibrant and diverse city that is best enjoyed during the summer. Close by the convention center is Toronto’s Queen West neighborhood, which was named continued next page...
were not born in Canada. As a result, you can find almost anything you want hidden in some pocket of the city. We recommend that you buy a $10 day pass for the public transit system one day and go neighborhood-hopping to discover these gems. The weather in August will almost certainly be warm but not hot, which means that you can enjoy a pint of beer on one of the copious patios around the city without being drenched in sweat. Toronto was just named by The Economist as the best place in the world to live, and so we expect that you will certainly enjoy visiting it and taking in all the city has to offer, in addition to our riveting SPSSI programming at the APA convention, of course.

Along with the exciting events listed above, we hope you find the Division 9 (SPSSI) Programming full of relevant and important sessions, including the following symposia:

- Inequalities Experienced by International Migrants: Psychosocial and Human Rights Perspectives
- Decolonizing Justice: Critical Approaches to the Psychology of Global Inequality
- Social Psychology and Social Justice: Critical Perspectives for the Twenty-First Century
- Moving Beyond Individual Suffering: Contesting Gendered Racialized Violence in Guatemala
- Rules of the Game: Fair Contests with Unfair Outcomes
- (De)Constructing Young People’s Political Participation: A Critical Bifocal Approach
- Sentenced to Debt: The effects of student loan debt on a generation with a mortgaged future
- Mental Health, Violence, and Policy: Realities and Recommendations

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto this summer!

—Your APA Div 9 2015 Convention Co-Chairs
Anne Koenig (University of San Diego) & Elizabeth Page-Gould (University of Toronto)
SPSSI Directory 2014–15

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APA Council Representatives
Wendy R. Williams
Kim A. Case
Journal & Book Editors
Journal of Social Issues (JSI)
Ann Bettencourt
Analysis of Social Issues & Public Policy (ASAP)
Heather Bullock

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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