By Susan Opotow  
SPSSI President

As SPSSI’s president, the year moves quickly. On September 1, 2009, Gene Borgida will assume SPSSI’s presidency, James Jackson will be SPSSI’s President-Elect, Margaret Bull Kovera will begin a three-year term as Secretary-Treasurer, and I will be SPSSI’s Past-President. It has been an honor to lead SPSSI, an extraordinarily complex, dynamic society. Consistent with my scholarly interest in inclusionary processes and contexts, in my last column as your president, I want to discuss the inclusionary culture operationalized in SPSSI that welcomes diverse approaches to social issues research and member involvement. As president I have been attentive to connections that can facilitate member engagement and foster SPSSI’s influence in psychology and the larger world. Partnering at all levels of analysis has been a theme that has informed my presidency.

Member Engagement
One of the great pleasures of my presidency is being in touch with you. The generosity, enthusiasm, and capability of SPSSI’s members are outstanding. This year alone, more than 250 members have been involved with SPSSI as members of Council, editorial boards, and chairs and members of SPSSI’s thirty-six committees. Appointments generally last one to three years, resulting in considerable turnover – a healthy process bringing fresh perspectives, insight, and energy to our Society. Many committees decide on the grants and awards that recognize and support social issues research for masters and doctoral students and early-career, mid-career, and senior scholars. SPSSI’s committees, much like the Society, are diverse and include junior and senior scholars with various areas of scholarly expertise. SPSSI’s future will be in good hands as members continue to be involved in the Society and assume leadership roles.

SPSSI’s Influence
A relatively small society, SPSSI has a storied history and considerable influence in psychology. SPSSI is an independent organization, but it is also a division of the American Psychological Association and a member of the larger psychological and social science community, nationally and internationally. SPSSI’s 75th anniversary will be celebrated in an upcoming Journal of Social Issues. We are justifiably proud of work on social issues from 1935 to the present, and our 75th anniversary will be an occasion for our publications, conferences, and website to detail SPSSI’s impressive contributions over time.

SPSSI is well positioned to influence policy. Sound policy is based on sound science, and since 1937, SPSSI has issued 19 position statements (available on SPSSI’s website; see

In This Issue . . .

8  SPSSI Convention in Toronto, Canada - August 2009  
Partnering on Social Issues for Social Change
11  Science in Translation at the Local Level
17  2009 SPSSI Election Results
26  Kurt Lewin Award Recipient

... continued on page 2
The Society seeks to bring theory and practice into focus on human problems of the group, the community, and the nation, as well as the increasingly important ones that have no national boundaries.

the Policy tab) including recent statements on the death penalty and interrogation and torture. These statements describe research with relevance to particular social issues. SPSSI’s policy mission is facilitated by the Policy Committee. In upcoming months, the Policy Committee will be commissioning more position statements. We have three policy positions in Washington, DC: a policy coordinator in the Central Office, a pre-doctoral Dalmas A. Taylor Summer Minority Policy Internship and a post-doctoral James Marshall Public Policy Scholar, who are both at SPSSI and APA. Occasionally, we have a Sabbatical Scholar who works on policy for a semester or year in Washington, DC.

Internationally, SPSSI has representatives at the United Nations in New York and Geneva who are active in the international NGO community. Although the United States government and the American Psychological Association did not send representatives to the April 2009 Durban II meeting on racism and xenophobia in Geneva, SPSSI sent our Geneva UN representative, Astrid Stückelberger, who reports on the meeting in this newsletter. Also in this newsletter are reports from UN representatives whose work concerns racism, environmental change, aging, health, and related social issues.

Much of our scholarly and policy influence is based on the outstanding reputation of SPSSI’s publications. Two of our journals, Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP) and Social Issues and Social Policy Review (SIPR) publish policy related scholarship, and both our edited and authored book series publish research relevant to social policy and programmatic interventions. Although the Journal of Social Issues (JSI) is not directly policy related, it publishes work that is often relevant to policy.

I am pleased to report that we have just concluded a seven-year publishing agreement with Wiley Periodicals (now home to Blackwell products; see the Publications Committee Report in this newsletter). SPSSI looks forward to a close and productive working relationship with Wiley in the years ahead.

SPSSI’s Internationalism
SPSSI’s internationalism was part of its early history in the 1930s and 1940s as European psychologists emigrated to the United States. SPSSI remains an international organization today. The 2008 report from Wiley indicates that more than 2,200 libraries have access to our journals; 80% of these are outside the USA. In addition, 40% of Journal of Social Issues articles published in 2008 were by authors outside the USA. SPSSI members from Chile, Switzerland, and England were elected to Council in May. Many SPSSI committees include international members, and three have an explicit international focus: Internationalization, International Conferences, and United Nations.

SPSSI Gatherings
Our annual meetings are an opportunity to gather and celebrate our own scholarship and the work of the Society. The theme of SPSSI’s 2009 meeting in Toronto at the APA Convention (August 6-9) is Partnering on Social Issues for Social Change. This newsletter describes our program, a three-pronged affair: a terrific program at the convention, a SPSSI suite at the InterContinental Hotel for informal gatherings, and a pre-APA visit to two economically challenged neighborhoods to learn about successful partnerships from community members and their partners in Toronto.

The community visit will be on August 5th, from 12:30-5pm and requires pre-registration (the registration page can be found at http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/homepage.html). Eleven APA divisions (8, 9, 17, 27, 32, 34, 35, 39, 44, 45, & 48) and the APA Office of Socioeconomic Status have co-sponsored this initiative, which was spearheaded by Michaela Hynie, SPSSI’s 2009 APA Program Chair, and me. The community visit will be followed up in APA’s convention program, which will be suffused with 20 sessions on partnering with communities that were organized by SPSSI and co-sponsoring divisions. We hope you’ll join us! Many SPSSI members will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, which can be booked at reduced rates through the APA convention website.

Please note the next three SPSSI meetings on your calendar.

June 24-27, 2010
Stand-alone meeting in New Orleans

August 12-15, 2010
APA meeting in San Diego, CA

August 3-7, 2011
SPSSI celebrates its 75th anniversary in Washington, DC before and during the APA meeting, with special sessions and festivities that are currently being planned.
To conclude, there are many ways you can connect with and support SPSSI:

1. Be in touch with me or SPSSI’s incoming president, Gene Borgida (borgi001@umn.edu), if you would like to be involved in the Society’s activities.

2. Let SPSSI Policy Coordinator Chris Woodside (cwoodside@spssi.org) know of your policy expertise and interests, or of forthcoming issues.

3. Give a gift membership ($10 each, 5 for $40) to your colleagues and students.

4. Contact book series editors with ideas for books or the JSI editor with proposals for special issues. Submit individual papers to ASAP and SIPR.

5. Attend SPSSI’s 2009 meeting in Toronto.

6. Submit a session proposal for the 2010 meeting in New Orleans (the program call will be available shortly) or simply attend the meeting.

7. Contact me with any ideas, suggestions, or concerns.

I want to thank everyone I’ve worked with this year. There are too many people to list, but I especially want to acknowledge SPSSI Council, the Executive Committee, the Central Office, and the many committee chairs for being so engaged, effective, and collegial.

The statement on the inside cover of the Journal of Social Issues has always embodied SPSSI for me:

*The Society seeks to bring theory and practice into focus on human problems of the group, the community, and the nation, as well as the increasingly important ones that have no national boundaries.*

It is through your efforts that SPSSI continues to do this important work and remains a vital and effective force within psychology and society.  

Visit us at www.spssi.org
For many of us who work in academic settings, summer is a time to step back for a moment, take stock of our recent accomplishments, and set goals for the coming months. There is clearly excitement growing among SPSSI’s members about becoming more involved than ever in impacting public policy. SPSSI has wonderful resources available for anyone who wants to become more involved with this work. In this issue of the Forward, Chris Woodside (Policy Coordinator) and Susan Dudley (Executive Director) provide a wealth of information that will be of great use to us all, regardless of how much prior experience one has with policy work. In addition, Council member (and former Forward Editor) Richard Wiener has contributed a great overview of policy work he has been doing at the University of Nebraska.

Summer can also be a time to visit with colleagues and friends at conferences, and to consider what new directions we might want to take in our teaching, our scholarship, and in how we engage with our professional and local communities. To that end, we note that this issue of the Forward features a report from Michaela Hynie, SPSSI’s 2009 APA Program Chair. As we write this, the APA Convention in Toronto is less than two months away – we hope to see many of you there!

We are grateful to Lisa Molix of Tulane University for contributing our second Emerging Scholars column, entitled “Investigating Intergroup Relations, Well-being, and Health Disparities.” As we noted in the Winter/Spring Forward we intend for this new feature to highlight the scholarship, teaching, and/or editorial commentary of a junior scholar. We received a great deal of positive feedback on the inaugural column authored by William Davis Jr. in the Winter/Spring issue, and we know that you will find Lisa’s contribution of great interest, too.

Finally, we wish to thank everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. We hope that you enjoy reading it, and we encourage you to send us any comments or suggestions at spssinews@gmail.com.

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SPSSI is on Facebook and Twitter!  
Become a ‘fan’ on Facebook or a ‘follower’ on Twitter, to receive immediate updates for SPSSI news, events, discussion forums, and more.
You can also sign up to receive RSS feeds from SPSSI.

Please spread the word to friends and colleagues!
A n article by Paul Basken, published in the June 3 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education, raises some very disturbing and important points about how poorly represented the scientific community is in Congressional hearings, and how we can (and must) improve our communications with the public and policy-makers if we expect our goal of data-driven policy to be met. Basken notes, for example, that of 124 non-government people invited to testify before Congressional committees considering topics that included economic development and trade, taxation, health care, energy, military procurement, prison sentencing, and the environment during a one week period in May, only two were university researchers!

There is certainly more than one reason for this under-representation, but one of the causes is rooted in the academic and intellectual approaches that we, as scientists, tend to take in our dealings with the world at large. I learned this lesson the hard way when I first became involved in state-level reproductive rights advocacy back in the 1980’s. Maybe I was more naïve than most, but I went in assuming the legislative process to be informed and rational. Of course I understood that people and parties took opposing positions, and that sometimes politics or big money contributions colored judgments. But I nonetheless imagined that most of the time the positions of elected people-of-good-will were based on their understandings of the facts, and that the role of the advocate was to broaden those understandings so that sound policy would result.

Alas, I was dumbstruck to learn that lawmakers weren’t interested in the data that I brought them. More than once, I was shooed out of an office by elected officials saying that they didn’t have time to talk about the scholarly studies that I was sure would help them vote more intelligently! I heard (too many times) legislators unabashedly admit to voting on bills that they hadn’t read! My poor academic’s mind was boggled.

What I didn’t appreciate then, and I think few people think much about now, is the sheer cumulative page count of the legislation introduced in the course of a year. On Capitol Hill, for example, HR1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (only the first of hundreds of bills that will have been introduced before this session ends) was 407 pages long; the No Child Left Behind Act, up for reauthorization this year, is 670 pages; and a new “discussion draft” of the American Clean Energy and Security Act, runs to 648 pages. The Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, has 717 sections, and runs 2289 pages – a length not atypical for annual federal budget legislation. In state houses, although fewer and shorter bills might be introduced in a legislative session, the sessions themselves are often crammed into intense 60- or 90- or 120-day periods, and the legislators typically have day jobs. So their proportional reading burden might not be so very different. And that doesn’t count the many, many additional pages of materials delivered to legislative offices in Washington and around the country by lobbyists, activists, and interested citizens!

We social scientists are invariably disappointed – sometimes to the point of shocked incredulity – when political rhetoric is voiced and bills are passed that fly blatantly in the face of well-established empirical data. But can we really be surprised that our policy-makers, even the ones who really want to do the right thing, don’t have time to wade through reprints of the jargon-filled theoretical or technical articles we’ve published in scholarly journals – no matter how elegant, groundbreaking, and important the studies they report may, from our perspective, be?

This is why we’re so excited about one new SPSSI project in particular: building a library of ‘one-pagers’ that translate some of the social science data published in JSI, ASAP, and SIPR into the brief, jargon-free, quick to read, and policy-specific single page formats that are a universally valued communications tool in legislatures throughout the country. As Basken reports in his Chronicle article, efforts to accomplish similar goals are being adopted by other science-based organizations. Notably, AAAS has developed a program that they offer in diverse venues to teach scientists how to write more straightforward materials that will penetrate public policy debates.

We hope that SPSSI members will read Basken’s piece, check out the first few of our ‘one-pagers’ posted in the Policy section on our website, and join us in this project. Interested members can contact our Policy Coordinator, Chris Woodside (cwoodside@spssi.org), or me to talk about how you can produce and we can disseminate one-pagers to communicate your research to the public and policy-makers who most need to know about it. ☺
In 2011, SPSSI will be 75 years old. And we’re having a party!
In anticipation of this auspicious milestone, the SPSSI 75th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Michelle Fine, and the SPSSI History Task Force, chaired by SPSSI Historian Alexandra Rutherford, are planning a three-year arc of events. The events start this year, with a SPSSI Hospitality Suite at the APA convention in Toronto and a SPSSI history symposium during the convention on Saturday, August 8th, from 11-12:50 (room 202A of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre). The celebration continues in 2010 at SPSSI’s stand-alone conference in New Orleans, with previews of interviews, papers on the history of SPSSI and performances by SPSSI members and youth on the history and contemporary conditions of “Who Cares?” about social justice. The arc will complete its trajectory in a spectacular day of scholarship, celebration, and an evening gala in Washington, DC in August of 2011.

We need your help as we prepare for the celebration.
Specifically, we need two kinds of help:

PHOTOS: We are conducting a 75th Anniversary Photo Recovery Project to help ensure that the vibrant visual history of SPSSI and its members is preserved, and to help us produce materials for the celebration. If you have any photos of yourselves, any other SPSSI members, SPSSI events, memorabilia, trips, meetings, and/or conferences, please send them to us! The older the photo the better, but more recent photos are welcomed as well. Additionally, if you have in your own collection an interesting SPSSI-related object or artifact, take a photo of yourself with it and send it in with a description or narrative about the artifact. You can either scan and e-mail them to alexr@yorku.ca, or you can send them by regular mail whereupon we will scan them and ensure their safe return. Please include identifying information and actual or approximate dates.

TALENTS: In anticipation of the 2011 gala, we know that within the SPSSI community there are closet (and out) songwriters, dancers, skit writers, limerick creators, poets, dancers, comedians eager to join the 75th Anniversary Performance Committee. Please contact Michelle Fine, mfine@gc.cuny.edu to volunteer your talents.

We thank you in anticipation of your generosity!!

Send photos to: 
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SPSSI is Turning 75!
JOIN THE CELEBRATION
“Nothing is so practical as a good party”
[Lewin, revised!]

SPSSI is Turning 75!
JOIN THE CELEBRATION
“Nothing is so practical as a good party”
[Lewin, revised!]
Emerging Scholars Column

Investigating Intergroup Relations, Well-being, and Health Disparities

By Lisa Molix, Ph.D
Tulane University

We live in increasingly diverse societies in which more and more people are forced to interact with members of different social groups on a daily basis. These interactions can be positive or negative and are likely to influence not only intergroup attitudes and behaviors but also overall health and well-being. At the same time, pervasive inequalities exist between members of different social groups in areas such as access to education and financial resources. Possibly the most pernicious disparities are those that pertain to physical and psychological health. The aim of much of my research is to better understand how to improve intergroup attitudes, behaviors, and interactions as well as to how to improve health and well-being among members of marginalized groups. Increasingly, in my work I also aim to integrate these areas by examining the relationship between intergroup interactions and overall health and well-being.

Research from several disciplines employing a variety of methodologies has shown that having members of different social groups engage in positive interactions leads to a reduction in prejudice toward outgroup members in that setting. Much less research has examined the processes underlying the successful generalization of positive intergroup attitudes to other settings, to entire social groups, to social groups different from those represented in the contact setting, and over time. In some of my research I am currently investigating when and why intergroup attitudes engendered from positive intergroup interactions generalize beyond the initial setting. For example, some of this work investigates the relationship between intergroup interaction, intergroup emotion, and the generalization of positive intergroup attitudes via a series of experiments and community-based daily diary studies.

I am also very interested in improving the overall health and well-being of members of marginalized groups. While recent decades have seen notable progress toward improvement of health and reduction of mortality generally, members of certain ethnic minority groups continue to disproportionately suffer the burdens of physical and psychological illness. This inequitable situation exists in the United States as well as in countries with substantially different healthcare systems. In an attempt to combat this dire situation, another focus of my research program is on examining social psychological factors that may be contributing (either individually or in interaction with structural inequalities) to the existence of ethnic minority health disparities. For example, some of this work currently examines the relationship between perceptions of psychosocial adversities, empowerment, and overall health and well-being via a series of experiments and a community-based longitudinal study. The primary aim of this work is to determine when and why some efforts to manage stigma are more successful than others.

Most recently, my interests in intergroup relations and overall health and well-being have led me to investigate some of the intersections between these areas. For example, some of this work examines the relationship between perceptions of psychosocial adversities, intergroup interactions, and overall health and well-being over time in school, workplace, and healthcare settings. Of note, I recently designed an undergraduate service learning course focused on intergroup relations with this research in mind. The students in this course will assist healthcare providers at community clinics in New Orleans and Southern Louisiana in collecting data from ethnic minority and low income patients. Additionally they will be proposing, in groups, a cultural competency training plan designed to aid specific types of health care providers (e.g., nurses or physicians to have more positive interactions with patients from low status social groups. I believe that combining learning objectives with service objectives will make the theoretical and empirical literature covered in this course come alive for the students, hopefully enriching the students’ sense of engaged citizenship in a pluralistic society.

Ultimately, my hope is that my work may someday aid in improving intergroup attitudes and reducing health disparities by achieving a more comprehensive understanding of moderators and mediators of the relationships between intergroup interaction, intergroup attitudes, and overall health and well-being. In addition, I hope this work will contribute to the creation of interventions and curricula that can be implemented in real world settings (e.g., schools, workplaces, healthcare centers). ©
Psychologists who are interested in using their research for social change are challenged to find ways of making their research meaningful to policy makers and community members. One way of making research meaningful to community is by including community representatives as full partners in the research process. This approach has been taken up with enthusiasm in health research, which is increasingly adopting Community-Based Research approaches (CBR; also called Community-Based Participatory Research). Community-Based Research emerged from Participatory Action Research (PAR), which was utilized to help oppressed people gain control over and improve their lives through participation in research projects (Khanlou & Peter, 2005). Similarly, CBR engages communities in defining relevant research questions, methods, and interventions and is thus a powerful way of ensuring that research and interventions are relevant to, and appropriate for, the communities for whom they are intended (Israel, Schulz, Parker, & Becker, 1998). Moreover, CBR projects aim to create social change through the research process as well as the research findings.

Toronto, Canada, the site of this summer’s APA convention, has great depth in CBR research, and in meaningful community-academic partnerships more generally. We were therefore inspired to take advantage of the wealth of community partnerships in Toronto in the SPSSI division programming at the APA convention by choosing the convention theme of “Partnering on Social Issues for Social Change.”

SPSSI’s APA Program
The response to the partnership theme has been lively and enthusiastic. The APA convention program will include several symposia, paper sessions, and invited addresses on the theme of partnership. Sessions include papers and invited addresses describing examples of successful partnerships, symposia on the challenges of meaningful partnership, and a symposium on arts-based methods for research with community partners. Most exciting for us is that even the process for planning the conference this year has been an example of partnership! We partnered with 10 other divisions on the creation of the program (Divisions 8, 9, 17, 27, 32, 34, 35, 39, 44, 45, and 48). Several of those divisions’ programs now also include sessions that focus on partnership, notably Division 17 (Counseling Psychology), Division 27 (Community Psychology), Division 44 (Lesbian and Gay Issues), and Division 48 (Peace Psychology).

Visit Toronto Community Centers
As part of the partnership theme, we have also arranged a half-day pre-conference on Wednesday, August 5, in collaboration with two community engagement centers (the York TD Community Engagement Centre and the Wellesley Institute), and with the generous support of the Office of Socioeconomic Status of the Public Interest Directorate, who are handling registration process for this pre-conference. The pre-conference will include visits to the two community engagement centers, each of which are situated in a diverse and economically challenged Toronto neighborhood. The pre-conference will include sessions with community agencies and community members from these neighborhoods who will speak about the partnership projects that they have been involved with, and their experiences of partnership from the community side of the table. The bus trips themselves will have guides from the two neighborhoods who can provide information and history about these neighborhoods and their own engagement with their neighborhood, and with local research partnerships. You can register for this pre-conference at www.apa.org/pi/ses/homepage.html.

SPSSI’s Suite
This year SPSSI will also have a lively program situated in the SPSSI suite at the InterContinental Hotel. It will have a range of social, professional and educational events starting on Thursday, August 6th and running through Saturday, August 8th. Please see the SPSSI program flyer in this newsletter and on SPSSI’s website for information about SPSSI’s APA Suite events.

See you in Toronto!
Finally, the conference program committee – Karen Dion, Vicki Esses, Michaela Hynie, Richard Lalonde, Alex Rutherford, Regina Schuller, and Charlene Senn – partnered with over 100 members of SPSSI who served as reviewers for our conference submissions this year! Thank you to everyone who participated and we look forward to seeing you in Toronto!
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Meeting
Toronto, August 6-9, 2009

Convention

Thursday
August 6

10:11:50am | Producing Social Change Through Partnerships; Learning From the Visionaries (Symposium)
Chair: Linda Silka; Participants: Bill Keykendall, Mangione Sannikone, Wai Buddha, Suzanne Cashman, Sarona Seiser
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 714B
12:12:50pm | Partnering With Youth for Social Change: Highlighting Toronto Partnerships (Paper Session)
Participants: Sarah Flicker, Paul Ritvo, Yogendra Shaky
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 712
1:15:50pm | Challenges and Rewards in Community Based Research (Paper Session)
Participants: Carolyn Weiss; Kate Seehee
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 706
2:25:50pm | The Kurt Lewin Award Distinguished Address (Invited Address)
Recipient: Beatrice Wright, "What I learned from Kurt Lewin"
Chair: Kay Deaux; Discussants: Sheryl Wurl; Henry McCarthy
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 712
3:35:50pm | Members' Meeting: SPSSI Business and Awards
Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Tudor Room 7
4:45:50pm | Presidential Address
Chair: Dan Perlman; Participants: Susan Opotow
"Moral Exclusion: Looking at Past Injustice"
Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Tudor Room 7
5:55:50pm | Social Hour
Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Tudor Room 8

Friday
August 7

9:12:50am | Reflections on Participatory Action Research in the United States and Canada: The Legacy of Cynthia Joy Chatsaway (Symposium)
Chair: Michelle Fine; Participants: Maria Torre, Monique Guishard; Heather Schmidt; Discussant: Herbert C. Kelman
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 202A
2:25:50pm | Does Oppression Mean Damage? (Discussion)
Chair: William E. Cross; Participants: Michelle Billies; Duquann Hinton; Mayda Zaal
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 202C
3:35:50pm | Narrative Approaches to Social Issues in Psychological Research (Symposium)
Chair: Deborah L. Tolman, Participants: Phillip L. Hammack, Sara I. McClelland; David M. Frost; Deborah L. Tolman; Discussant: Ruthellen Josselson
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 202C

Suite (InterContinental Hotel)

12:25pm | SPSSI 75th Anniversary Committee Interviews
2:35pm | Open House
Free for people to gather, eat, relax, meet up
3:55pm | SPSSI 75th Anniversary Committee Interviews

SPSSI’s APA Convention August 6-9, 2009
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Meeting  
Toronto, August 6-9, 2009

Convention

Saturday  
August 8

10-10:50am | Arts Based Research for Advocacy and Community Action, Photovoice and Collaboration (Symposium)  
Chair: Izumi Sakamoto; Participants: Lorraine M. Gutierrez; Izumi Sakamoto; Brenda Roche; Discussant: Adrienne Chambon  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Reception Hall 104A

11-12:00pm | Social Science for Social Action: Historical Perspectives on SPSSI’s Legacy (Symposium)  
Chair: Alexandra Rutherford; Participants: Cathy Faye; Andrew Winston; Michelle Frie; Bernice Lott; Discussant: Rhoda K. Unger  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 202A

1:15pm | Law, Attitudes, and Intergroup Relations (Poster Session)  
Participants: Karen A. Robinson; Elisabeth C. Wells; Destiny Peery; Laurence A. French; Amir Rosenmann; Brittany N. Hall; Leo Kiu; Karen R. Dickson; Jessica D. Remedios; Matthew A. Maxwell Smith; Shu Hsuan Kang; Harmony A. Reppond; Marylue Gerson; Christy L. Warren; Michael T. Sullivan; Sabrina Barnett; John M. McConnell; Paul B. Perrin; Eric A. Copeland; Rachel B. Venni; Milan Pagenji; Jianghe Niu  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Exhibit Halls D and E

Sunday  
August 9

8-9:50am | Partnership Between Universities and Community Organizations: Trends, Examples, and Challenges (Symposium)  
Chair: Lauren B. Cattaneo; Participants: Amy B. Cohen; Lauren B. Cattaneo; Aliya E. Chapman; Carson Heigel  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 202A

10-10:50am | Health and Community (Poster Session)  
Participants: Elizabeth K. Mattey; Amy M. Kobus; Dusty J. Johnstone; Joseph R. Gillis; Jordan S. Maile; Joahna C. Rocchio; Krissy L. Cahoon; Marietta K. Alfred; Erin E. Dehon; Elizabeth A. Nofi; Carl A. Kallgren; Lina Budiansi; Erin Winterrowd; Nilsfor C. Naqvi; Leonie J. Brooks; Carie L. Forden; Brent E. Sylves; Zarnanie Deacon; Conrad T. Mueller; Yonnee Lai; Cheryl A. Boglarsky; Monique A. Maxey; Rachel M. MacNair; Yuying Tsiong; Monique Guishard  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Exhibit Halls D and E

11-12:00pm | Sexual Orientation Based Hate Crimes: Implications for Policy and Practice (Symposium)  
Cochair: Robert J. Cramer & Karyn M. Plummer; Participants: Erin L. Gorter; Karyn M. Plummer; Robert J. Cramer; Bridget Hanson  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 202B

http://www.spssi.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/SPSSI_program_web_FINAL.pdf
SPSSI and Science in Translation. SPSSI has a long history of disseminating social scientific findings related to public policy issues at the national level in the United States. Over the years, the Society has developed effective means of bringing social science research to the forefront in a number of important areas including but not limited to affirmative action; regulating and controlling hate crime; lesbian, gay, and bisexual service members in the military; poverty; immigration; and multi-racial relations. This effort to educate fellow scientists, government decision makers, funders, and members of the public has taken many different forms. Historically, the development of different methodologies to translate social scientific findings has evolved in a number of different directions as a response to different public needs, the availability of new areas of scientific research, and opportunities to “give away” social science findings that are pertinent and timely to national debates about policy and law. Some of the past and current formats have included writing articles in SPSSI journals, disseminating position papers on the SPSSI website, conducting Congressional Briefings, writing Amicus Briefs for Supreme Court Cases, and sponsoring the James Marshall Public Policy Fellow as a representative of SPSSI issues in national policy debates.

The SPSSI policy committee is very active in guiding and directing this activity and it has had numerous successes over the years of structuring the Society’s activity at the national level, making SPSSI an active player in untold policy debates. Another important science in translation function that SPSSI has been less involved with over the years concerns the informational needs of policy makers at the local, regional, and state levels. Nonetheless, public and private policy makers at these lower levels greatly need accurate and objective social science information as they make decisions and enact policy with great potential to influence the daily lives of children, students, adults, workers and whole families.

Science in Translation at the Local Level. What types of decisions occur at the local, state, and regional levels that could benefit from the use of social science findings? The number and types of actions are almost limitless in scope and specificity. Consider some of the following types of policy action examples that occur frequently at these lower levels of organization:

- City councils pass ordinances concerning controlling substance use and gang violence.
- Local private and public agencies endorse anti-discrimination policies and procedures.
- Police departments increase surveillance of individuals with mental health problems who engage in nuisance crimes.
- School boards make administrative decisions about race and gender.
- Zoning commissions decide administrative issues to regulate the use of residential and commercial land.
- State licensing boards promulgate rules to regulate professional conduct.
- State legislatures pass or fail to pass statutes to compensate exonerated individuals who were wrongly incarcerated.
- State courts hear cases deciding whether to allow parents to deny medical procedures to their children for religious reasons.

These are examples of the types of decisions that policy makers, lawyers, corporate executives, and public officials routinely make that have important implications for the everyday lives of citizens across the rural and urbanized areas of the United States. The University of Nebraska Law and Psychology Program has recently started a new program designed to assist policy makers struggling with difficult decisions at the local, state, and regional level. The faculty and students at UNL started a dissemination program for science in translation at the local level. We have begun scanning regional
Subject Matter

This report provides a summary and analysis of two meetings of the think tank of the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence across the Lifespan (NPEIV). The think tank developed out of an identified need to integrate across all types of interpersonal violence. It was decided that “re-inventing the wheel” or creating another organization was not needed. Rather, it was determined that a partnership of existing organizations, agencies, coalitions, corporations, and other entities was a better route to pursue. Hence, the NPEIV was formed, and 50 partners were included by the second meeting.

At the first meeting, the think tank members were asked to identify existing gaps and issues to begin to develop a blueprint for action in creating a national priority to reduce and then end interpersonal violence. Groups based on types of violence (intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, teen dating/youth violence, sexual violence, children exposed to violence, community violence, and diverse populations) discussed six areas of focus (public awareness, training and mentoring, practice, research, funding/development, public policy, and community action). The second meeting focused on continuing the work of the NPEIV as well as beginning the planning for the 2010 Summit.

Findings

It was recognized across the board that this national agenda had to go beyond just a public awareness campaign. The campaign needs to be diverse and inclusive, and define violence. All forms of violence need to be considered and included to counter the segregation and barriers that have traditionally influenced the field. Similarly, there was a consensus that violence as a field has fallen behind in research, training, practice, funding, policy, and community action, with numerous negative con-
sequences, including increased risk of compassion fatigue among service providers. Several roadblocks to progress need to be overcome. Violence issues need to be taught to undergraduates and graduate students across several fields. Journals need to be written in jargon-free language and published digitally, making them more user-friendly and available for wider dissemination. Translating research into practice such that their applications can be understood and used by frontline practitioners is necessary. Policy is often not well-informed by research, a state of affairs that often works to the detriment of women and peoples of color. With the recent political change in Washington, this is an ideal time to make a significant change in making violence prevention a priority, but funding is a clear issue in these difficult economic times.

The NPEIV is also committed to the use of technology to enhance the breadth and scope of the populations we serve. It was found that the development of an online networking site would be more effective than a list-serv. Members of the NPEIV will utilize this site for the development of the infrastructure, as well as for the planning of the upcoming events. This will include the 2010 National Summit, where technology such as clickers, smartboards, and/or podcasts will be considered. There is also an interest in “syncing” presentations with video and audio to allow for further dissemination.

The economy has forced a rethinking on funding; with this in mind, the “stone soup” approach of piecing together funding through many collaborations and outreach has been adopted. It needs to be clear that collaborators do not have to provide funding to be involved in the NPEIV; co-sponsors provide the funding. Smaller contributions and grants from more agencies, foundations and corporations will be pursued for the short-term.

**Goals and Priorities**

The resulting priorities of the NPEIV are to work to increase collaborations so we can work together to end abuse and violence. The development of a large-scale partnership of all think tank representative organizations and coalitions is necessary to provide a single, unified voice to influence policy makers while remaining politically neutral. It is important to ensure that violence reduction becomes a national priority, and that research, service and policy are linked. Committees were developed according to the different areas of focus, and working groups were formed to move the agenda forward in developing a 3 and 5-year blueprint for action.

The third meeting of the NPEIV will occur just prior to the 14th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma in September, 2009 in San Diego. It is set for Sept. 21-22, 2009.

The main goal of the meeting will be to continue to create the blueprint for action, begin to develop the plans for a public awareness and public education campaign, and to increase participation by those with expertise in fund raising, public relations, legislative policy making, and media. The goal of the International Conference is 1,200 attendees. There will be 14 tracks covering each area of interpersonal violence, with themes of cultural diversity and substance abuse throughout the conference.

At the second think tank meeting in New Orleans in January 2009, it was determined that the 2010 Summit would be entitled the National Summit on Interpersonal Violence & Abuse across the Lifespan: Forging a Shared Agenda. There was a commitment made to attend and participate in the National Summit in Dallas, TX on February 24-26, 2010. The fourth meeting of the think tank will occur just prior to the Summit.

**Recommendations/Next Steps**

Recommendations for the next step are to determine how to identify potential additions to the partnership, and how to find better representation for people of color, victims, and the military, as well as those connected with the education system. Those in the research group are to contact journal editors to define violence in articles and publications. The public awareness group will work on compiling a list of potential partners as we begin to create a large scale public relations campaign. They will be assisted in this list compilation by the practice group, the public policy group, and the community action group. The training/mentoring committee will begin to develop curricula needs and start compiling lists of undergraduate and graduate departments to reform trainings with respect to violence issues. Public policy committee members will begin to evaluate policy needs to help set a national priority that would involve improved research funding, more evidence-based and promising practices, and better recognition of national and international needs for violence prevention.

The key next steps are to continue to seek short-term funding to meet immediate needs, and to begin to seek long-term funding for the think tanks, the NPEIV and its Blueprint for Action, the Summit, and the International Conference. The NPEIV will continue to look for a celebrity “face,” and to focus on a public relations and marketing campaign. The next think tank meeting will focus on infrastructure, the NPEIV mission statement, and the strategic plan. It is hoped that many of the think tank participants will remain and present at the International Conference on panels or breakout sessions as part of our overall efforts to link practice, research and policy."
SPSSI’s Courtwatch Committee writes the Judicial Notebook column each month for the APA Monitor. Committee members write columns to address an upcoming Supreme Court case or important legal issue with relevance to psychologists. The purpose of the Judicial Notebook is to make Monitor readers aware of legal issues that may affect or be of interest to them and to let psychologists know about pending cases in which they could become professionally involved. In the past four months the committee has examined death penalty sentencing, employment discrimination, DNA evidence, and childhood vaccines.

In the March Monitor, Dr. Ryan Winter and Jonathan Vallano (both from Florida International University) described the Florida death penalty system and a potential “flaw” that does not require unanimity of jurors in their sentencing recommendations provided to the judge. Empirical research on non-death penalty cases suggest the Florida system may lead to more verdict-driven rather than evidence-driven decisions, and jurors may be more prone to vote with the majority’s initial decision on conviction. Winter and Vallano suggest that further psychological research should examine the jury’s task in Florida to determine if the current procedure produces fair decisions.

Dr. Eve Brank and Lindsey Wylie (both from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln) addressed a U.S. Supreme Court employment case concerning the need for direct evidence versus mixed motives of age discrimination. In the April issue of the Monitor, Brank and Wylie suggested that even more than race or gender discrimination, age discrimination in the workplace may be harder to demonstrate as a sole factor because many people hold stereotypical attitudes towards older workers that equate older age with incompetence. Continued empirical research is needed on ageism in the workplace and the influence of negative age stereotypes on employment decisions.

In May, Dr. Jennifer Groscup (Scripps College) wrote a Monitor article that detailed juror’s reliance on DNA evidence. A U.S. Supreme Court case heard this term addressed how the courts should handle unreliable DNA evidence and potentially misleading expert testimony about DNA evidence. Of particular importance in this case was the expert’s confusion of source probability with random match probability, and the expert’s underestimation of the likelihood that one of the defendant’s brothers could have been the perpetrator. Groscup noted that empirical research suggests the Court should be concerned with the errors made in this case. Future researchers may be able to assist the courts with similar issues by providing empirical results concerning how jurors perceive and weigh DNA evidence, especially when experts make presentation errors.

Finally, Dr. Jennifer Robbennolt and Matthew Taskin (both from the University of Illinois) in their June article of the Monitor discussed the recent autism test cases brought under The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 and the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP). Because autism is not listed as a side-effect in the Vaccine Injury Table, plaintiffs must demonstrate a causal link between the vaccine and autism. In recent cases, a causal link has not been adequately demonstrated. Robbennolt and Taskin noted that psychologists could address research questions related to how the public understands scientific knowledge, how that knowledge is communicated to the public, and how scientific knowledge is handled in legal decisions. Research is already underway that explores the VICP’s functioning and its potential as a model for other injury compensation programs.

Summary of the Judicial Notebook Column by the Courtwatch Committee

Eve M. Brank
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Sustaining Membership . . . This membership category is available to all current and new members. For a one-time dues payment of $1,500, members will receive all benefits and voting rights and enjoy exemption from paying dues for the duration of their membership. Sign up now at www.spssi.org/membership to become a sustaining member!
Summer is a time for renewal, relaxation, and also reflection. As scholars, we often are so focused on the activities that eat up our time that there may be little time left to reflect on our goals and achievements. What we are working on – the research deadlines, papers to grade, and research to conduct – takes priority over how we do our work and who can support us in these endeavors. For those of us in the early stages of our careers, there is a resource available to help! The Early Career Scholars (ECS) Committee launched a blog this spring to serve as a forum for discussion about the issues, see http://earlycareer.blogspot.com. We designed the blog to help early career scholars to connect with one another, to ask questions and to offer support and feedback.

The topics for the monthly blogs have ranged from professional development to personal well-being and balance. As the first blogger, I posed the question of what constitutes good student advising. I was working on my first “advising philosophy” and sought input from my peers. It seems that advising is an expected component of faculty work; however, it is an area in which many of us received little training during graduate school. I can attest to the fact that the comments I received were invaluable. Our second blog focused on perhaps the biggest issue facing early career scholars, getting promoted. The finish line for tenure and promotion is years ahead, but the preparation can begin much earlier. The blog author, Kim Case at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and other contributors shared great information and resources for organizing professional development materials and planning for success. Whether it’s your first day on the job or the summer before your promotion materials are due, this blog offers an insider’s perspective to getting ahead without getting overwhelmed.

One of my career mentors advised me that to stay on track for promotion in the early years of my career, I’d need to “work like a dog.” This certainly motivated me to work hard, but also led me to feel guilty when tending to other responsibilities in my life. Michèle Schlehofer of Salisbury University shared a timely blog on balancing our professional and personal demands, while avoiding guilt and exhaustion. Michèle’s topic garnered a variety of strategies and useful techniques from those who posted comments.

It’s summertime. This is when I should be most productive in my scholarship and when I can finally catch up on all of those journal articles that I’ve been meaning to read, right? Spend your summer as you would like, but there is a better plan out there. According to our May blogger and author of “How to Write A Lot,” Paul Silvia, you can break down your reading and writing projects into smaller tasks, which can be developed throughout the year. The time commitment may just be a few hours per week, but it is important to block out this time in your schedule so that other activities (e.g. students’ questions, committee reports, etc.) do not interfere. This is great advice for scholars trying to avoid “burning out” and who would like to enjoy a well-earned summer vacation.

I am eager to read the next monthly blog by Sara Villanueva Dixon of St. Edward’s University on developing a sustained undergraduate research team. I also look forward to hearing from my peers in the blogosphere on how to best prepare students for the rigors of graduate-level research.

We are a community of scholars. As such, it is important for us to find ways to stay current on the latest policy developments and research findings, but also to stay connected to another. If you have an idea for a future blog topic or you have comments about the ECS blog, please contact our committee chair Dr. Kim Case via e-mail: caseki@uhcl.edu, or any member of the committee. We look forward to seeing you online. Also, if you plan to attend the APA convention in Toronto this summer, this committee will host a session on August 7th about how you can get more involved in SPSSI.

Update on the Activities of the Early Career Scholars Committee: Focus on the Blog

By Jeannetta G. Williams, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology, St. Edward’s University
poll of the SPSSI membership conducted several years ago confirmed that public policy and advocacy are important concerns for many of you. The range of experience with national-, state-, and/or local-level advocacy practices among our members is tremendous, and so, one of our goals moving forward is to begin to connect those who wish to stretch their “activist” muscles with informational resources and activist opportunities.

SPSSI staff can aid our members with answers to a wide variety of tactical questions, such as discerning where advocacy efforts might be most effective, how best to garner attention, and practical methods of sharing data and expertise with policymakers and other advocates. We’ve begun this process of indoctrination by initiating our RSS-based SPSSI Policy News Feed (if you haven’t already, please sign up at www.spssi.org) and by e-mailing policy alerts and other information of interest to members, when appropriate. By the time you read this, we’ll be on Twitter as well.

Over the course of the next few months, we’re planning to develop some basic how-to materials for members who haven’t yet had the opportunity to become involved with personal advocacy efforts concerning their work. In this overview we’ll simply begin the process by focusing on some of the most common and effective tools available for conveying messages and scientific data to legislators and advocates: delivering legislative correspondence, conducting legislative visits, and testifying at hearings and in the courts. While further resources will be forthcoming, we encourage you to get started with conducting personal advocacy, wherever you are, both geographically and experientially.

**Conducting legislative correspondence:** Legislative correspondence is an avenue of advocacy that can be conducted using various forms of communication. Letters, e-mails, faxes, and phone calls are all useful media for conveying scientific information to policymakers and other advocates. While members of Congress do receive an overwhelming amount of correspondence from constituents and advocacy groups, their staffers are almost always intuitive enough to sniff out a quality personal note or statement amongst the sea of “copy and pasted” spam-type form letters. In fact, the impact of a personal letter is generally far greater than that of an email message.

Policymakers will usually listen to an expert on a particular issue area. SPSSI members would be well-served not to hesitate in contacting a local or national leader if they have scientific data that may be pertinent to a current public policy matter. Often joked about for their inability to get things accomplished, when they want to, Capitol Hill’s residents can move very quickly, and the opportunity to influence change can be lost if those with knowledge don’t speak quickly enough to a particular issue – so be alert for your chance.

**Visiting your representatives:** The idea of a legislative visit is commonly misinterpreted as an individual, or group of individuals marching on Capitol Hill. While there is certainly significant merit to meeting with one’s Congressional Representative or Senator(s), it is often the visits that take place with state level representatives and to a large extent, local level politicians, community leaders, and other like-minded advocates that can produce the biggest impact. Many state- and local-level politicians would welcome learning the science behind the issues that demand action from them. By sharing some of your expertise and insights, you can help them to gain a better understanding of the scientific data. Community advocates and other non-profit groups operating within your specific area may also have the resources to better publicize your research, and to use it effectively to benefit a specific cause. If you are unsure how to set up a meeting or need contact information for a state- or local-level official, the SPSSI Central Office can be of assistance.

**Offering testimony:** Offering testimony concerning a current social justice issue, whether it is on Capitol Hill at the behest of a member of Congress, in a state legislature, or in a courtroom, is an extremely valuable method of sharing important scientific findings being realized by some SPSSI members. Testifying, in addition to being a significant honor and privilege, is a unique opportunity for experts in a particular social justice field to highlight specific scientific information and answer pointed questions from lawmakers and advocates seeking to address changes in policy and governance.

Testimony, be it legal or legislative in nature, is recorded for all of time in an official record, and can be used as an impactful resource both in the present, and for many years to come. If you are interested in giving congressional testimony on a specific bill pertaining to...
Congratulations to all!

a social justice issue but have not been officially called to do so, you can contact the sponsoring member of the legislation and offer to provide your thoughts in Committee. Similarly, if you wish to offer testimony in opposition to a piece of legislation, you can sign up to do so in person at a Committee session. If you have more questions about offering testimony, please feel free to contact the Central Office—we may even be able to connect you with other SPSSI members that have advocated in a similar fashion.

Please note that these notes are meant to serve as a very basic introduction to conducting personal advocacy. We will continue to share and highlight more information moving forward. The concept should in no way be viewed as intimidating, however, and is of value to SPSSI members (and all citizens) to learn. We look forward to your feedback, and we hope you’ll share your experiences and advice, as well as your stories of successes (and lessons learned) so that we can post them to inspire other members who may want to jump into the policy fray as well.

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Results from the 2009 SPSSI President and Council Elections

2009 Election Committee (Eugene Borgida, Tanika Daftary, Susan Fiske, Dan Perlman, Chair, Michele Schlehofer, and Sally Shumaker)

SPSSI is pleased to announce the elected President-elect and Council members.

President-elect 2009-10
• Incoming members of Council, to serve September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012
• Alternate 2009-10

James Jackson
Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology and Director of the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, He will be President in 2010-2011, and Past-President in 2011-2012

Dominic Abrams
Professor of Social Psychology, University of Kent

Roberto González
Professor of Psychology, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Barbara A. Gutek
Professor, Department of Management and Organizations, University of Arizona

Astrid Stückelberger
Senior Lecturer and Researcher, School of Public Health, University of Geneva

Carey S. Ryan
Professor of Psychology, University of Nebraska at Omaha, will serve as an alternate during 2009-2010 to fill vacant Council seats

The Nominating Committee was delighted at the quality of the candidates who were willing to run for SPSSI offices, and would have been pleased no matter who was elected. Given the distribution of this year’s votes, it is clear that the slate of candidates presented “approach-approach” conflicts for many voters. SPSSI wishes to extend a warm thanks to all who stood for office.

The 2009 election is noteworthy in that it is the first time a majority of the incoming set of Council members is from outside the United States. This is consistent with SPSSI’s commitment, as stated in SPSSI’s current strategic plan, “to having an international, cross-cultural and diverse membership that informs SPSSI’s functioning as a Society.” The election also reflects the trend toward greater use of the internet: 97 percent of ballots were cast electronically. Just eight years ago, when electronic voting was first introduced, only 20 percent of participating members voted in this way.

There is no election of a SPSSI representative for the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives planned for this year. Allen Omoto and Maureen O’Connor’s terms are continuing.

All SPSSI members are urged to vote in the 2010 election. SPSSI elections in the past have been decided by just one vote, so every vote counts!

Congratulations to all!
On April 20-24, 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland, the United Nations hosted the “Durban Review Conference II” – a follow-up to the 2001 UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR). As mandated by the UN General Assembly, the Human Rights Council of the United Nations (UNHRC) was responsible for organizing and convening the event “towards the effective and comprehensive implementation” of the conclusions and recommendations of WCAR, and to continue the “global drive for the total elimination of racism.”

More than 5,000 individuals attended the Conference, which included States, 120 NGOs and media personnel.

Many factors put the conference at high risk of slowing down the process and jeopardizing the outcome document: the provocative opening speech of the President of Iran (the only President of State to attend) which irritated several delegations to the point of leaving the room in plenary, and the boycott of 10 member States deciding not to participate in the conference.

Despite this very tense first day, the Durban II conference ended with 2 main outcome documents: the member States Outcome Document and the NGO Declaration against Racism.

The outcome document of the Durban Review Conference was adopted by consensus on the 21st of April, 2009. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay noted that “the adoption of the outcome document by consensus is the right answer to the disinformation and misinformation that had raged throughout the preparatory process. The fact that the document was adopted by the entire membership of the UN, with the exception of the ten States who declared they would not be part of the Conference, was a measure of success and that one State was not able to detract from the document.” She was referring to the opening speech of the President of Iran which had provoked a general fear that it would undermine the advancement and work of the majority.

The main points of the Outcome Document were: that it reinvigorates the political commitment to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA); it highlights the increased suffering of many different sorts of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and similar forms of intolerance; it identified, shared and disseminated some best practices in the fight against racism; it unequivocally reaffirmed the positive role of freedom of expression in the fight against racism, while also deploring derogatory stereotyping and stigmatization of people based on their religion or belief. Furthermore, it launched a process that will examine how the prohibition of incitement to hatred, as reflected in Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, has been implemented in various parts of the world.

Mrs. Pillay renewed her appeal to all to consult the document to ascertain exactly what it contains and what it does not contain. See the outcome document on http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/pdf/Durban_Review_outcome_document_En.pdf

The NGO Declaration, the “Geneva 2009 Declaration Against Racism,” is the result of the Civil Society Forum that took place 2 days prior to Durban II (17-19 April 2009) and was intensive but attended only by about 50 people. The declaration can be seen on www.ngocongo.org.

Concluding remarks

Conflicts and strong reactions from individuals and States demonstrate the need to continue the dialogue – as monologue leads nowhere – on these often hotly disputed issues in a non-confrontational and non-politicized manner, whilst at the same time safeguarding the fundamental importance of freedom of expression.

As psychologists, we know how emotions can be a problem but also a solution. With Durban II the issue at stake is too important to let anyone highjack it by leaving the room or refusing to talk, it would be opposite to psychological maturity and diplomacy. There may be some contribution that SPSSI could
make in bringing an understanding of dialoguing better and understanding the different meanings a word can have in different languages and cultures. By accepting freedom of expression, yet participating in the process, it will be possible to contribute to designing the future of a discrimination-free and racism-free world.

In April 2009, as Durban II just ended, the United States has taken a decisive step in seeking a seat this year on the United Nations Human Rights Council “with the goal of working to make it a more effective body to promote and protect human rights.” The government has issued the “US Human Rights Commitments and Pledges” which underlines the importance of working together. Two points are particularly relevant in this context:

1. The United States commits to continuing its efforts in the UN system to be a strong advocate for all people around the world who suffer from abuse and oppression, and to be a stalwart defender of courageous individuals across the globe who work, often at great personal risk, on behalf of the rights of others.

2. The United States recognizes and upholds the vital role of civil society and human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights and commits to promoting the effective involvement of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations.

Between Durban I and Durban II, legislative and other actions took place in the United Nations, including a series of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly:

**Holocaust and anti-Semitism**
- **2005:** resolution to designate the 27th of January every year as Holocaust Remembrance Day, which also resulted in establishing a program of outreach on the Holocaust and the United Nations, and inaugurating several memorials (the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, the Memorial de la Shoah in Paris and Yad Vashem in Israel).
- **2006:** resolution to condemn, without any reservation, any denial of the Holocaust.
- Series of seminars: “unlearning intolerance” specifically addressed anti-Semitism and one on Islamophobia.

**Slave Trade**
- **2006-2007:** set of three resolutions related to the Slave trade followed by the installation of a permanent memorial at United Nations HQ to honor the memory of the victims of the slave trade, the latter an initiative led by the Community of Caribbean Nations.

**Human Trafficking**
- **2007, UNGIFT – United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking** – was launched. This led to a number of collaborations within the United Nations system such as that between the ILO, UNGIFT and the Global Compact to address the possible connections between business and human trafficking as it affected the policies of investors and stakeholders and how best to ensure that businesses did not inadvertently allow themselves to be used either by traffickers or use the trafficked. The Inter Parliamentary Union has also issued a handbook for parliamentarians on human trafficking.
- **2006:** the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which entered into force.
- **2007:** United Nations Convention of the Rights of Migrant Workers and All Members of their Families entered into force and launch of a global forum on migration and development.
- **2007:** United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples entered into force.

**Interesting News for SPSSI UN Affairs:**

Human Rights Commitments and Pledges of the United States of America

BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Office of the Spokesman - Washington, DC - April 27, 2009

On March 31, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Susan Rice announced that the United States will seek a seat this year on the United Nations Human Rights Council with the goal of working to make it a more effective body to promote and protect human rights.

As part of the process that will culminate in elections on May 12, each candidate country is asked to produce a pledge outlining its commitment to promoting human rights. This information is circulated among countries and posted on the UN Human Rights Council website. The United States has produced its pledge - Human Rights Commitments and Pledges of the United States of America, which can be read in its entirety here: [http://www.state.gov/p/io/](http://www.state.gov/p/io/).
We are happy to announce that we have finalized a contract to continue our relationship with Wiley Periodicals. This contract renews our journal publishing arrangements, and Wiley also continues as the publisher of our two book series. We publish edited books and authored books relating to social issue research. Wiley has incorporated Blackwell Publishers, our former publisher, into its company. We have been very happy with our relationship with Blackwell over the past several years, and look forward to a continued positive relationship with Wiley. As part of the new contract, Wiley will be digitizing the entire collection of our back issues of Journal of Social Issues. This was our first journal, beginning publication in 1945. Having a digitized version of all the back issues will allow the early issues to be much more accessible. Many institutions now have the early copies only on microfilm, if they are available at all.

We also welcome Kevin Lanning (kevin.lanning@gmail.com) as the new editor of ASAP, SPSSI’s second journal. Kevin will be taking over on processing new submissions on July 1, 2009 and becomes masthead editor in 2010. [See full article on Kevin, page 21 in the newsletter]. Sheri Levi takes over as masthead editor of Journal of Social Issues in 2010, but she has already been working on the transition for some time. Jack Dovidio and Vicki Esses have been successfully editing SIPR (Social Issues and Policy Review), our third and newest journal, since 2007. In 2010, we will begin to search for a new editor for SIPR. With all our publications now, we have had to work out a systematic process for bringing on new editors for the journals and the book series. Later in 2009, we will begin the process of finding a new editor for the edited book series to succeed Marilynn Brewer.

Another project the Publications Committee is working on is the creation of a new book on research methods for those interested in social issues research. Past editions of the research methods book were quite successful, and we hope to duplicate this with a new version of the book.

We welcome your input on our publications. Please contact Irene Frieze (frieze@pitt.edu) or Rudy Mendoza-Denton (rmd@berkeley.edu).

Journal of Social Issues Report
By Sheri R. Levy
JSI Editor-Elect, 2010-2013

I am delighted to report it has been a busy few months for JSI. To help us review all the exciting submissions in a timely manner, I have invited two new editorial board members. I am pleased to have Dr. Dariusz Galasinski (University of Wolverhampton, England) and Dr. Luisa Ramirez (Konrad Lorenz University, Colombia) on our board. I also want to thank our current board for all their hard work and insights. Please view our editorial board at www.spssi.org/jsieditorialboard.

JSI Issues in Development

• Latinos and Latino Immigrants in the U.S., Carey S. Ryan & Juan F. Casas

• The Changing Landscape of Intergroup Relations in South Africa, Gillian Finchilescu & Colin Tredoux

• Immigrants and Hosts: Perceptions, Interactions, and Transformations, Kay Deaux, Victoria Esses, Richard Lalonde, & Rupert Brown

• Social Stigma and Social Disadvantage, Manuela Barreto & Naomi Ellemers

• The Reality of Contemporary Discrimination: The Consequences of Hidden Bias in Legal, Employment, and Health Care Contexts, Jason A. Nier & Samuel L. Gaertner

• Scaling the Higher Education Pyramid: Research Addressing Academic and Career Success of Minorities and Women in Science and Engineering, Martin Chemers & Moin Syed

• 75 Years of Social Science for Social Action: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on SPSSI’s Legacy, Alexandra Rutherford, Frances Cherry, & Rhoda Unger

• Impact Validity as a Framework for Advocacy-Based Research, Ricardo E. Barreras & Sean G. Massey

Contact JSI
I hope you will contact me by email (Journal_of_Social_Issues@notes.cc.sunysb.edu) about your ideas for issues... continued on page 21
Kevin Lanning
Selected as New ASAP Editor

By Rhoda Unger
Selection Committee Chair

Kevin Lanning has been selected as the new editor of Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP) for a four-year term beginning in 2010. He brings with him a great deal of experience with ASAP, where he served as book review editor between 2001 and 2006 and as a member of the editorial board since the journal’s inception.

Kevin contributed an article “Reflections on September 11: Lessons from four psychological perspectives” to the special feature on terrorism and its consequences that was published electronically less than six months after the attack. He also edited a special feature on the social psychology of the 2004 U.S. presidential election and is currently working on a feature about the 2008 presidential election, which was accepted before he was selected as editor of the journal.

Although Lanning received a Ph.D. in personality psychology (University of California, Berkeley, 1986), he has been a long-time SPSSI member whose scholarly and social interests span much of political and social psychologies. In addition to his work with ASAP, he has recently published articles on voting, democracy, and disenfranchisement in the United States as well as tensions between attitudes about equality and freedom in the wake of September 11th.

Since 1998 Lanning has been an associate professor of psychology at Florida Atlantic University and a charter faculty member of its Wilkes Honors College. He has also been on the faculty of Oregon State University and spent two years as a lecturer at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

From his long experience with ASAP, Kevin Lanning brings with him an understanding of the challenges and tensions produced by the mission statement of this journal which states that it should serve as “an outlet for timely and innovative psychological and related social science scholarship with implications for social action and policy” and “aim to facilitate communication between social science researchers and policy makers as well as with the public as a whole.” He also brings with him an understanding of new forms of electronic communication as well as a great deal of energy and enthusiasm.

The members of the search committee (Meg Bond, Irene Frieze, Dan Perlman, and Rhoda Unger, Chair) were pleased to recommend him to the Executive Committee of SPSSI. He is looking forward to receiving not only your manuscripts but also your ideas on how ASAP can best serve SPSSI and fulfill its mission in the years to come. He can be reached at Lanning@fau.edu.

Social Issues and Policy Review

By Vicki Esses & Jack Dovidio
SIPR Editors

Social Issues and Policy Review (SIPR), which publishes theoretical and empirical reviews of topics of relevance to social issues and public policy, is currently in its third year of operation. The journal is faring very well.

We are always looking for new submissions. Our goal is to have each volume reflect the diversity of interests of the SPSSI membership and to identify emerging issues of both theoretical and practical interest. We thus want to maintain a steady stream of new submissions. Interested authors are encouraged to consult our model manuscript outline available at www.spssi.org under Publications, or to contact one of us directly.

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Visit us at www.spssi.org
Dr. Norman Anderson, APA Chief Executive Officer, described the February 2009 Council of Representatives (COR) meeting as one of the most important in history because of substantial budgetary challenges faced by APA and the opportunities provided by an ongoing and intensive strategic planning process. Below, we highlight some of the decisions and business from this meeting, giving special attention to issues we thought would be of greatest interest to SPSSI members.

Presidential Initiatives
Current APA President, James Bray, described three initiatives for his term, including: 1) the Future of Psychology Practice; 2) the Future of Psychology as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) discipline; and, 3) Homelessness. The first initiative has as one of its components the application of basic and applied scientific evidence to inform professional practice. The second initiative includes a task force (chaired by former SPSSI President, Jack Dovidio) charged with articulating the rationale for identifying psychology as a core STEM discipline and developing strategies for solidifying psychology as a STEM discipline. The third initiative includes a task force on Psychology’s Contribution to End Homelessness that will address psychological factors that contribute to adults and children becoming homeless and the psychological factors and interventions that help them overcome these problems and resume productive lives.

Strategic Planning
APA is in the midst of an intensive strategic planning process. COR previously approved a new Mission Statement, and at this meeting, adopted a new APA Vision Statement. This statement is intended to describe the type of organization APA aspires to be, and the impact it hopes to have over a 20-30 year horizon. Although no statement is perfect, there is much in this statement for SPSSI members to like. Specifically, it stresses science and policy work, mentions diversity and international issues, and advocates for the promotion of human rights. The new Vision Statement reads:

The American Psychological Association aspires to excel as a valuable, effective and influential organization advancing psychology as a science, serving as:

- A uniting force for the discipline;
- The major catalyst for the stimulation, growth and dissemination of psychological science and practice;
- The primary resource for all psychologists;
- The premier innovator in the education, development, and training of psychological scientists, practitioners and educators;
- The leading advocate for psychological knowledge and practice informing policy makers and the public to improve public policy and daily living;
- A principal leader and global partner promoting psychological knowledge and methods to facilitate the resolution of personal, societal and global challenges in diverse, multicultural and international contexts; and
- An effective champion of the application of psychology to promote human rights, health, well being and dignity.

Reports & Resolutions
- COR voted to receive the Final Report from the Division 19 (Society for Military Psychology) & Division 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues) Joint Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Service. This report contains a series of activities that have been and will be undertaken to implement the 2004 APA Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Military Service. A copy of the full report is available at www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/publications/militaryhomepage.html.
- COR also voted to receive a task force report on Psychology’s Role in Mathematics and Science Education and another report on Increasing the Number of Quantitative Psychologists.
• COR approved Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings.

Petition Follow-Up
APA Past President Alan Kazdin created the APA Presidential Advisory Group on the Implementation of the Petition Resolution to review actions taken related to the resolution passed by APA members in fall 2008 and to provide possible options for COR to consider in determining additional implementation activities. Division 9/SPSSI was represented on the 11-member Advisory Group by Allen Omoto. Additional background on this issue and the work of the Advisory Group can be found in a previous SPSSI newsletter article: http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=1164.

At this meeting, COR took three actions: 1) voting to render action on the petition resolution “complete” so that it immediately became APA policy, 2) adopting a title for the policy, Psychologists and Unlawful Detention Settings with a Focus on National Security, to clarify that the policy does not apply broadly to all jails, detention centers, and psychiatric hospitals, and 3) voting to receive the Report of the Advisory Group and forward it to APA Central Office and relevant Boards and Committees for their review and appropriate action stipulating that APA Central Office also make reports to COR and the Board of Directors on subsequent implementation steps taken. More information on APA policies and the entire Task Force report can be found at: http://www.apa.org/releases/interrogatepos.html.

Budget Issues
APA’s Chief Financial Officer presented the 2008/2009 budget report showing that, consistent with the national economy, APA’s budget situation is challenging; the 2008 budget year closed with an operating deficit (unadjusted, $3.4 million). Based on its membership, publishing operations, and real estate holdings, APA’s overall financial health remains strong, but the Association needs to take serious and significant steps to address problems and produce a non-deficit budget for 2009. The primary steps already taken by APA management include freezing executive pay increases and staff positions, cutting governance activities (including the fall 2009 consolidated meetings of Boards and Committees), eliminating Board of Directors and COR discretionary funds, and cutting spending on public education programs. COR also approved nearly $1.9 million in reductions. Most likely of greatest concern to SPSSI members were decisions to suspend for at least one year the interdivisional grant and ethnic minority recruitment, retention, and training (CEMRRAT) programs. The financial situation will continue to be monitored closely for the foreseeable future.

Council Diversity Training
Each year, COR members participate in diversity training activities. This year, the training focused on sensitivity to and education about ageism, and how to be aware of and incorporate issues related to aging in one’s work.

Working behind the Scenes at APA Council of Representatives

By Maureen O’Connor & Allen M. Omoto
SPSSI/Division 9 Representatives
to APA Council of Representatives

We are honored to be serving as Division 9/SPSSI’s representatives to APA Council of Representatives (COR). Maureen is humbled to be following the legendary Bernice Lott in this role. Bernice’s prowess at shaking up the foundations of APA when necessary and her effectiveness in moving important social issues forward at APA cannot be overstated. Her work on the interrogation and torture issue and her success in bringing issues of socio-economics and class to the forefront at APA are legacies of which SPSSI can be proud. For Maureen, being able to continue to work with Bernice’s original partner, Allen Omoto, makes the long hours spent locked in hotel rooms in Washington and elsewhere working through lengthy COR agendas an absolute pleasure as Allen has become well-schooled in APA governance and is an effective and thoughtful advocate for SPSSI’s concerns.

We thought it might be useful to briefly discuss one aspect of the structure and functioning of COR: the caucuses. Much of the important work that eventually comes to COR for review and/or approval begins in the hallways and caucus meetings that precede formal COR meetings. With over 160 voting representatives, COR floor debates can be unwieldy. Consequently, the caucuses are extremely influential in framing issues and marshalling votes. We have conceptualized our roles as voices for SPSSI concerns within the caucus structure as well as on Council floor when circumstances warrant. Specifically, we have focused on four key areas—social issues/public interest, science, diversity, and women’s concerns. Allen is involved in the Divisions for Social Justice (a coalition of APA divisions rather than a formal caucus) and in the Public Interest Caucus; he is also active in the Ethnic Minority Caucus. Maureen and Allen both attend meetings of the Coalition for Academic, Scientific, and Applied-research Psychology (CASAP) and the Women’s Caucus.

CASAP is an important focus for SPSSI because it is the cross-disciplinary group most concerned with advancing the cause of science at APA. As many of you know, particularly those SPSSI members who are no longer members of APA, APA is often viewed as putting practice concerns above science, in terms of resources, membership, governance, and policies. CASAP works closely with the APA Science Directorate and is trying to have more influence with the Board of Scientific Affairs (which is an elected Board within APA governance that
This has been a busy spring in Washington, DC! Many social issues dominated the public policy conversation inside the Beltway and in the national news. I was fortunate to be exposed to some of the major debates, including health care reform and economic recovery in the United States.

At APA, our government relations work was focused on health care reform initiatives. APA considers the health care reform debate in Congress as an important opportunity to advocate for an appropriate health infrastructure for all Americans; an opportunity with the potential to meet both their mental and behavioral health needs. The Public Interest Government Relations Office developed a range of legislative resources related to APA's policy recommendations on health care reform, available at www.apa.org/ppo/pi/reform-resources.html. In my role as Public Policy Fellow with APA’s Government Relations Office, I handle issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) concerns. I have engaged in health care reform advocacy in several ways. First, I represented APA in the National Coalition for LGBT Health (‘Coalition’), a coalition effort comprised of over fifty advocacy, policy, and education organizations (including APA), committed to improving the health and well-being of sexual and gender minorities. The Coalition’s top three priorities for Federal health care reform are: 1) appropriate data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity in national health surveys; 2) a definition of the terms ‘family’ and ‘spouse’ that is inclusive of same-sex couples and their families for the purposes of health care provision; and 3) health care coverage that acknowledges and embraces the needs of transgender persons. As part of this effort, I joined the Coalition’s effort in discussing health disparity concerns for LGBT populations with Congressional Committee offices involved in health care reform initiatives, and shared APA’s health care reform priorities with relevant parties there. Second, the Public Interest Government Relations Office submitted legislative language to both House and Senate Committees working on drafting forthcoming health care reform legislation. As part of this effort, I submitted language aimed at helping to eliminate the health disparities faced by the LGBT population. I also assembled and submitted comments relating to the above priorities for sexual and gender minorities to the Healthy People Consortium at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as input into the creation of an initial set of objectives for Healthy People 2020. The Healthy People initiative at HHS is concerned with science-based, decade-long national objectives for public health priorities, and the goals and objectives for Healthy People 2020 will be released in 2010. The last Healthy People initiative did not contain health program elements specific to the LGBT community, so this is a great opportunity to influence future governmental initiatives and thus contribute to the elimination of health disparities experienced by sexual and gender minorities. My other ongoing advocacy efforts include coalition work and collaborating with Congressional offices on such issues as sexual orientation and military service, employment non-discrimination, and the civil rights of same-sex couples and their families. I’ve drawn up several fact sheets on these topics, available at www.apa.org/pi/advocacy/lgbt.

At SPSSI, I have recently been focusing on adding more content to the SPSSI public policy resources. At this point in the development of SPSSI’s public policy shop, a broader range of policy-relevant resources is very useful when initiating contact with like-minded policy organizations as well as with policy-makers. In SPSSI’s Central Office, we have been working on adding a variety of policy-relevant resources to the website, organized by the types of content that SPSSI’s policy committee have identified as priorities for SPSSI members, (e.g. the global climate crisis, gay marriage, and the psychological effects of unemployment). Chris Woodside, SPSSI’s Policy Coordinator, and I have also created information resources that explain public policy and advocacy more generally to the interested reader. I have reached out to interested Congressional and advocacy stakeholders concerning several of SPSSI’s policy priorities. For example, with regards to the social justice aspect of climate change, I have begun collaborating with science-based coalitions. SPSSI has recently published an issue on Human Behavior and Environmental Sustainability (vol. 63, no. 1, 2007) in its flagship publication Journal of Social Issues, which is very timely and relevant in the current policy context. I have also reached out to APA’s Division 34, Population and Environmental Psychology, to ascertain how we can leverage our members’ expertise in areas where SPSSI’s interest overlap with those of Division 34. Do check out our public policy resources, available at www.spssi.org/policy, and let me have your comments. I would be... continued on page 32
For Spring 2009, the SPSSI New York group (SPSSI-NY) arranged six free gatherings, hosted by local schools—CUNY, Fordham—some in concert with other local activist groups.

1. February 10, Rivka B. Meir of CUNY led a Saint Valentine’s workshop at Fordham on “Love and healthy relationships.”

2. February 12, over 100 attended a forum on “Guardian Angels: The first 30 years.” The panelists included keynote speaker Curtis Sliwa (founder of the Guardian Angels), Christina Bartel, Rev. William G. Kalaidjian (Chaplain, NYPD, ret.), Arnaldo Salinas, Aleta St. James, Mary A. Sliwa, Harold Takooshian, Andrew A. Karmen.

3. March 12, 70 people joined a Forum on “Remembering Kitty Genovese: 45 years later,” with panelists Christina Bartel, Kathleen Koltko-Rivera, Marcia M. Gallo (University of Nevada-Las Vegas), Joseph DeMay, Esq (www.kewgardenshistory.com), Arnaldo Salinas (Guardian Angels), Charles E Skoller, Esq (author, Twisted Confessions), Harold Takooshian (Fordham), Andrew A. Karmen (John Jay College), William Genovese (Kitty’s brother).


5. April 4, SPSSI-NY offered five panels on applied psychology at the 37th Hunter Psychology Conference: (1) Psychological issues in human organ donation: What is next? (Lynda J. Carpenter, NY Organ Donor Network); (2) Urban psychology (Henry Solomon, Marymount Manhattan); (3) Opportunities in 21st Century psychology created by Web 2.0, social media and other tools (Richard H. Wexler & Suzanne Roff-Wexler, NYSPA); (4) History of psychology in New York City (Elaine P. Congress, Fordham); (5) Increasing academic and career success in psychology (Kathleen Koltko-Rivera, Fordham).

6. April 30, David C. Glass (Stony Brook) lectured on “Social psychology applied to health,” and received an award recognizing his 50 years of pioneering research since his PhD from NYU in 1959.

Looking ahead to fall 2009, the two largest SPSSI-NY events: (1) Sept 4, a trip to the President’s Room of Yale University with Peter Salovey, to mark the 80th anniversary of the historic 1929 International Congress of Psychology. (2) November 6, the 21st Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research at Saint Francis College in Brooklyn, NY; the call for papers is due in October to jlancaster@stfranciscollege.edu. Other early plans include the fifth NYC gathering on international psychology in September, a symposium on “Does science make God obsolete?,” a student workshop on “Graduate admissions in psychology” in October, the third Psychology Day at the UN in November, and the Ninth pre-Holiday Healing Circle in December.

The SPSSI-NY Planning Committee for spring 2009: Christina Bartel (Fordham), Uwe Gielen (St. Francis), Samvel Jeshmaridian (BMCC), Kathleen Koltko-Rivera (Fordham), Rivka B. Meir (CUNY), Mark Mattson (Fordham), Henry Solomon (Marymount Manhattan), Jason R. Young (Hunter). Direct any questions or comments to SPSSI-NY Chairperson Harold Takooshian, takoosh@aol.com.
When Beatrice Wright receives the Kurt Lewin Award at the SPSSI/APA convention in Toronto in August, the ceremony will be a particularly important historical moment for SPSSI and for social psychology in general. As the sole surviving doctoral student of Kurt Lewin, with whom she studied in Iowa, Beatrice knows first-hand what the Lewinian tradition signifies. The award ceremony, which will take place from 2 to 2:50 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, will be the occasion not only for others to talk about the contributions that Beatrice Wright has made to social psychology and especially to the field of rehabilitation, but also for Beatrice to talk about her own experience with Kurt Lewin and to answer questions from members of the audience who want to know more about this now unique historical link.

The title of Beatrice’s talk is “What I Learned from Kurt Lewin” (and it is not giving anything away to say that a great deal can be included under that umbrella!). Prior to Beatrice’s comments and following the presentation of the actual award by Dr. Kay Deaux, chair of last year’s Lewin Award Committee, two speakers who have a deep knowledge of Beatrice Wright’s life and work, will give short talks. First, Dr. Henry McCarthy, a professor in the Rehabilitation Counseling Department at Louisiana State University, will offer his perspective on the life-time contributions, under the title of “Appreciating Beatrice Wright’s Lewinian Legacy to Rehabilitation Theory and Practice.”

In a project funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Dr. McCarthy has done an intensive analysis of the scholarly contributions and practical impact of Beatrice Wright’s work. Dr. Sheryl Wurl, director of Clinical Pastoral Education at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, will talk about “Beatrice Wright and the Lewin legacy.” For her dissertation work, Dr. Wurl wrote a detailed life history of Beatrice Wright, combining available published material with a substantial number of personal interviews. In the process, she developed both extensive knowledge and a deep appreciation for the woman and for the work, one result of which was her nominating Beatrice for the Lewin award.

Beatrice Wright was born on what is now called Staten Island, a borough of New York City, in December 1917, arriving 12 hours before her fraternal twin brother. Their parents, Sonia and Jerome Posner, were Russian immigrants who had come to the United States six years before. As did many other children of immigrants, young Beatrice went to Brooklyn College, which offered free quality education to those who could not afford private universities. She majored in psychology, earning a Bachelor’s degree in 1938, and her professors at Brooklyn included the legendary Solomon Asch and Abraham Maslow. Then came the career-defining move to Iowa to study with Kurt Lewin, pursued on the recommendation of a Brooklyn College professor. At Iowa, Beatrice was one of only two women who earned a doctorate with Kurt Lewin. She received her master’s degree from Iowa in 1940 and her Ph.D. in 1942. (Lewin left Iowa in 1944 and died only three years later.) At Iowa, Beatrice also met Erik Wright, whom she married in 1940 and who was himself a student of Lewin.

Beatrice Wright’s academic career was not the standard one – at least not standard in terms of a male-defined model – but perhaps not untypical of the more circuitous routes that female academics of that era were forced to navigate. She began work on disability somewhat by chance, taking advantage of a needed job opportunity in California where her husband was stationed (and where she had moved to be with him, leaving a teaching position at Swarthmore that she attained after her PhD). This was post-war United States, and the problems facing many returning veterans, so similar to those today, made the psychological study of disability a social issue of the highest priority. This early work became the foundation of Beatrice Wright’s professional legacy.

Roger Barker brought both Beatrice and Erik Wright to the University of Kansas in 1951. Yet while Erik was installed as a Professor and Director of Clinical Psychology, anti-nepotism rules precluded a faculty position for Beatrice. It was not until 1964 that she could have a faculty position in her own right, at which time she immediately became an...
SPSSI's Diversity Committee Congratulates 2009 Diversity Travel Award Winners!

**Adriana Aldana**, MSW, in University of Michigan’s doctoral Joint Program in Social Work and Social Science (Psychology), employs research and evaluation methods that advance youth and community civic participation.

**Christopher Allen**, MA, is finishing University of South Carolina’s doctoral program in Clinical-Community psychology, with a certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies. His research examines risk factors for and prevention of men’s violence against women.

**Le Ondra Clark**, MS, is completing the University of Wisconsin’s counseling psychology doctorate, assessing cultural competence in a community mental health agency, and how to overcome barriers created by actual and perceived discrimination.

**Amber Landers**, beginning Purdue University’s Clinical Psychology doctoral program, investigates African Americans’ implicit attitudes and psychological stress responses to race-related police contact.

**Debbie Ma**, MA, in the University of Chicago social psychology program, studies how factors both internal (e.g., arousal, fatigue) and external (e.g., context, labels) affect racial construal and response.

**Anne Marie Mikhail**, MA, in the McGill University Counseling Psychology doctoral program, examines the career development and cultural transitioning of immigrants to Canada, focusing on the second generation.

**Mike Parent**, starting the University of Florida Counseling Psychology doctoral program, studies sexual-orientation identity development, and barriers to such identification, as well as gender identity and stereotypes.

**Deviyanti Soejanto**, MA, in the Colorado State University doctoral program, studies stereotypes of older lesbians and gay men among older adult population, and more generally, gender roles and sexual orientation, plus sexual prejudice across cultures.

**Anita Tam**, MS, in Clemson University’s International Family and Community doctoral program, explores deliberative dialogue as promoting democracy, globalization influencing indigenous peoples’ rights, and the impacts of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

**Zhana Vrangalova**, in Cornell University’s Human Development doctoral program, studies how sexuality and its circumstances enhance or thwart its enriching potential, focusing on sexual orientation, casual sex, morality, and well-being.
CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal of Managerial Psychology

Special Issue on
Organizational Psychology and Poverty Reduction

The deadline for submissions is July 31, 2009

Guest Editors
Christopher Burt, University of Canterbury, New Zealand and Stuart C. Carr, Poverty Research Group, Massey University, New Zealand

Context and Rationale
In 2000, the United Nations collectively signed up to the Millennium Development Goals (http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/). These goals focus on the reduction of poverty by the year 2015. They encompass a range of integral human freedoms, from the right to health and education, to gender equity, a clean environment, and fair trade. They are inherently inter-disciplinary. Inter-disciplinarity in turn creates an opportunity for disciplines and professions, who have to-date been relatively silent on poverty, to step up and make a contribution. Organizational Psychology is one such discipline and profession.

There are literally millions of organizations worldwide that are focused on reducing poverty, from international aid agencies like the UN and World Health Organization, to Government civil services and national aid agencies, to non-government organizations (NGOs) global and local, to joint ventures between not-for-profit and for-profit sectors. We want to hear from organizational psychologists whose work and research falls into any of these categories. We are especially interested in empirical papers that include, but are not limited to, topics like the following:

Potential Foci
- Job analysis and competency modeling in aid work, joint ventures and capacity development partnerships
- Recruitment and Selection of aid workers, local and expatriate
- Training needs analysis, intervention and evaluation, for aid work and joint ventures
- Interactions between socio-cultural and socio-economic diversity at work
- Application of motivation theories to aid-workers
- Leadership in aid-workers
- Aid-workers’ work attitudes, such as job satisfaction, organization commitment
- Teamwork in poverty reduction
- Organizational psychology of capacity development
- Managing the well-being of aid workers local and international
- Ethical issues in poverty reduction consultancy
- Corporate social responsibility and stakeholder models, in poverty reduction
- Images of poverty and their role in socially responsible aid appeals
- Managing brain drain from developing and/or transition economies
- Organizational psychology of remittances
- Organizational psychology of Foreign Direct Investment
- Organizational psychology of financial markets
- Organizational psychology of free trade
- Negotiation and bargaining in stakeholder models for development
- Ethical issues in poverty reduction consultancy
- Corporate social responsibility and stakeholder models, in poverty reduction
- Images of poverty and their role in socially responsible aid appeals
- Managing brain drain from developing and/or transition economies
- Organizational psychology of remittances
- Organizational psychology of Foreign Direct Investment
- Organizational psychology of financial markets
- Organizational psychology of free trade
- Negotiation and bargaining in stakeholder models for development

Submission requirements
- Submissions should be no longer than 5000 words, excluding end matter
- Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere
- All papers refereed through a peer review process
- The deadline for submissions is 31 July, 2009

Submissions are requested by e-mail attachment to Kay Sutcliffe, JMP Editorial Administrator, at K.Sutcliffe@emeraldinsight.com
Please state in your submission that the paper is for consideration in the Journal of Managerial Psychology special issue “Organizational Psychology and Poverty Reduction.”

Impact
The special issue is part of a world-first global initiative, in which 10 journals in Psychology are simultaneously releasing, in unison, a “global special issue” on the poverty reduction theme. This is a unique opportunity for accelerated input from an entire field. We bring not one but a whole series of peer-reviewed journals to the theme, each journal with its own, complementary focus on the MDGs in general, and poverty reduction in particular. The journals represent applied, professional, health, social, and other branches of psychology. The journals span low-income, transition and OECD economies. Each journal will release its contribution in mid 2010. Each journal will publish either a special section of papers, or an entire issue of the journal, on the poverty reduction theme. Development and policy development agencies, such as the UN and the OECD, will be notified about the global special issue. It is expected that the special issue will make a significant contribution to the work of those agencies, and the communities they serve.
Awards

Gordon Allport Award for Best Article on Intergroup Relations, 2008

By Kerry Kawakami
Selection Committee Chair

On behalf of the selection committee (Kerry Kawakami, Chair; Wendy Berry Mendes, John Jost, Margo Monteith, Dick Moreland, and Jacquie Vorauer), I am pleased to announce that this year’s winners of the Gordon Allport Award for best article or paper of the year on intergroup relations are Andrea Carnaghi, Anne Maass, Sara Gresta, Mauro Bianchi, Mara Cadinu, and Luciano Arcuri for their 2008 article entitled Nomina sunt omissa: On the inductive potential of nouns and adjectives in person perception, which appeared in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 94, 839-859. In this article, the authors describe six experiments that provide strong evidence for the impact of nouns on inferences about social category members. Specifically, they demonstrated that when targets were described by nouns (e.g., “Mark is a homosexual”) compared to adjectives (e.g., “Mark is homosexual”), people were more likely to infer stereotypes and less likely to infer counterstereotypes when forming an impression. Furthermore, their findings demonstrate that once a person has been labeled by a noun (e.g., “Mark is an athlete”), classification of the same person along a different dimension (e.g., “Mark is also an artist”) becomes unlikely. Notably, when targets are described with nouns in comparison to adjectives, greater essentialism was also attributed to stereotypic behavior such that the targets’ behavioral preferences were perceived to be stronger, more stable, and more resilient. The committee was impressed by the novelty of the ideas, the quality of the research, and the importance of its implications for intergroup relations.

The committee would also like to acknowledge two additional papers for their innovative approach to studying prejudice in an intergroup context and their examination of actual behaviors. The articles that receive honorable mentions are by Elizabeth Levy Paluck entitled Reducing intergroup prejudice and conflict using the media: A field experiment in Rwanda, which appeared in 2009 in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 96, 574-587, and by Evan Apfelbaum, Samuel Sommers, and Michael Norton entitled Seeing race and seeming racist? Evaluating strategic color-blindness in social interaction, which appeared in 2008 in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 95, 918-932.

Otto Klineberg Intercultural and International Relations Award, 2009

By Kimberly Noels
Selection Committee Chair

The 2009 Otto Klineberg Intercultural and International Relations Award committee can definitely be described as “international”. The members included Dr. Winnifred Louis from the Department of Psychology at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia; Dr. Hiroshi Ota from the Faculty of Studies on Contemporary Society at Aichi Shukutoku University in Aichi-Prefecture, Japan; Dr. Sam Sommers, from the Department of Psychology at Tufts University in Medford, USA; and Dr. Kimberly Noels (Chair), from the Department of Psychology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

The committee selected Daniel Bar-Tal’s paper Reconciliation as a Foundation of Culture of Peace as the first place winner because of its potential to have wide-ranging influence in the area of conflict management and international relations. The committee also felt that honorable mentions should be given to Angela Ka-ye Leung, William W. Maddux, Adam D. Galinsky and Chi-yue Chiu’s article Multicultural experience enhances creativity: The when and how (2008, American Psychologist, 63, 169-181) and to Sheri R. Levy and Melanie Killen’s edited volume Intergroup attitudes and relations in childhood through adulthood (2008, Oxford University Press).

SAGES Award Recipients, 2009

By Frances Cherry
Selection Committee Chair

The SAGES program was developed to tap the experiences of retired social scientists who would like to be more involved in intervention projects or other activities that would allow them to use their research expertise to assist in solving social problems. Grants are available to applicants who are SPSSI members and are retired or over the age of 60. This year’s SAGES Committee included Dr. Warren Thorngate, Dr. Cynthia Deutsch, and Dr. Frances Cherry (Chair). The following scholars were awarded:

... continued on page 30
Dr. Lou Penner (Senior Scientist, Communication and Behavioral Oncology Program at Karmanos Cancer Institute; Wayne State University) Dr. Penner’s research proposal is entitled The effects of explicit and implicit racial bias on racially discordant medical interactions.

Dr. Louis J. Medvene (Department of Psychology; Wichita State University) Dr. Medvene’s research proposal is entitled Promoting collaborative research opportunities around person-centered caregiving with long-term care residents with and without dementia.

Dr. Ian Lubek (Department of Psychology; Guelph University) Dr. Lubek’s action research proposal is entitled Collaborative empowerment to reduce risks of HIV/AIDS in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Clara Mayo Grant Recipients

By Wendy Williams
Selection Committee Chair

The mission of the SPSSI Clara Mayo Grant is to support masters’ theses or pre-dissertation research that focuses on prejudice, with special attention to work that examines sexism or racism. The fund is named for Professor Clara Mayo, a Past-President of SPSSI, and it was made possible by a bequest and gifts from the friends and family in her honor. The Clara Mayo Grant Committee strives to choose winners who demonstrate excellence in their project purposes, theoretical rationale, research methodology, and analytic procedures. The 2008-2009 Clara Mayo Grant Committee was chaired by Wendy R. Williams (Marshall University) and included Ashby Plant (Florida State University) and Germaine Award (University of Texas at Austin).

There were five recipients for the Fall 2008 awards. They were:

Priyanka Carr (Stanford University) “Stereotype threat and inflexible perseverance”

Laura Babbitt (Tufts University) “Framing matters: Situational influences on interracial interaction outcomes”

Christopher Beasley (Roosevelt University) “A proposal to evaluate a mass distribution “virtual” model for gay and lesbian speaker panels”

Laura Severence (University of Maryland) “Gender dynamics in negotiation: The role of biology as a moderator”

Krystle Woods (Michigan State University) “Sexual harassment across the color line: Experiences and outcomes of cross- vs. intra-racial sexual harassment among Black women”

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If you have any questions, please contact spssi@spssi.org.
Science in Translation in Nebraska.

A recent case involves the Nebraska “Beatrice Six” who were convicted, in part based upon confessions, and served prison time for the murder and rape of a 68-year-old Beatrice, Nebraska woman. Subsequent DNA evidence exonerated the defendants and implicated a now deceased Oklahoma man as the likely killer. The case brought into the limelight a pending bill in the Nebraska legislature that would have provided at least $50,000 a year for each year of wrongful conviction to those who had served prison time. The fate of the bill was entangled with the events that lead up to the imprisonment of the Beatrice Six, several of whom had falsely confessed to the 1968 crime. At issue, was the status of false confessions and the psychological research on the topic. Many in Nebraska, including the family of the murder and rape victim, were troubled by the fact that the new legislation would benefit defendants who had admitted to the murder of Helen Wilson. In conjunction with the Nebraska Innocence Project, Richard Wiener, director of the law and psychology program testified in front of a Nebraska legislative committee on the psychological literature that explains how and why people sometimes falsely confess to crimes that they have not committed. The Nebraska newspapers carefully followed the hearings and reported on the committee’s findings. Graduate and law students at UNL were the primary researchers for the evidence that Wiener gave to the legislature. (The testimony is available on the website at http://psych.unl.edu/930/jperki11/finalproject/crisp.asp or www.unl.edu/crisp/index.asp. Additional work on the admissibility of defendants’ dreams in a criminal trial appeared in local newspapers (http://www.journalstar.com/articles/2009/06/02/specialreports/presumed_guilty/doc4a036d2794d56449298219.txt) after reporters interviewed Wiener on this topic. Again, graduate students and law students assisted in researching the status of dream testimony at trial.

While we are unable to ascertain how influential this science in translation information was in Nebraska (a modified version of the bill did pass the unicameral), we do know that this was an excellent opportunity to present findings from psychological research to a state legislature. More importantly, these findings are now in the record in Nebraska and likely will make their way into the deliberations in other states and may eventually rise through the legislative and judicial system to the federal level where it could have a nationwide impact on policy related to those who are wrongfully convicted.

Associated with the University of Nebraska, Department of Psychology is a private not-for-profit research consulting organization, Scientific Resources for the Law (SRL), which now is home for the website of our newly founded science in translation committee, Current Issues in Social Policy. We are working on other regional issues, one of which concerns gender identity crisis in Omaha in which a young boy wishes to change his gender, and the role of the schools and local government in his and his family’s life. The other concerns discrimination policies in local organizations in South Dakota. Following the Iowa Supreme Court upholding the right of gays and lesbians to marry in Iowa, same sex couples are working in private organizations and publically to enact legislation to protect gay workers against discrimination because of their sexual orientation in South Dakota.

The purpose of Current Issues in Social Policy (CRISP) is to identify local, state, and regional policy and legal issues for which the social sciences and especially psychology can offer important insights and to disseminate research findings at the local level that are of value to the local policy makers. We believe that most policy starts locally and eventually works its way up through private and public systems to reach the national debate. The goal of CRISP is to enter the debate at the early stages so that once the policy issue arrives on the national scene, a track record will be in place making it easier for SPSSI and other like minded organizations to offer science in translation evidence at the national and international levels. Please visit our website and offer any suggestions that will advance what we believe is an exciting and new involvement for psychological scientists interested in providing information to policy makers and legal decision makers.  

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SPSSI Welcomes 2009 Dalmas A. Taylor Summer Intern

Angel Colón Rivera, a graduate student in social-community psychology at the University of Puerto Rico has been selected as this year’s Dalmas A. Taylor Summer Minority Policy Intern. During his eight-weeks in Washington, which began on June 15, he will have an opportunity to work both at the SPSSI Central Office and the APA Public Policy Office. He will also participate in the APA Office of Minority Fellowships Summer Institute.

Welcome, Angel!

Angel Colón Rivera
also been fortunate to be offered the dissertation research fits in well. I’ve served a two-year term as its Chair-elect and then Chair. In this capacity, he will be responsible for helping set the agenda for this caucus, shaping the positions that it adopts on APA legislation and activities, and also in raising the profile of public interest concerns throughout APA and its work.

As members of the Executive Committees of two caucuses, we are well-positioned to advance SPSSI interests within APA. We STRONGLY urge SPSSI members who are APA members to let us know about issues that they would like to see addressed within or by APA. That is, as your representatives, we are eager to take advantage of and provide opportunities to bring SPSSI’s expertise and sensibility to the work of the APA. We would also like to bring more SPSSI members into APA governance. If you have any interest in being nominated for an APA Board, Committee, or Task Force, please let us know so that we can put your name and qualifications forward for consideration.

The Public Interest Caucus focuses on the advancement of psychology in the public interest and as a means of promoting human welfare. This caucus also develops and reviews APA policy and legislative initiatives with relevance for under-represented groups within the Association and society as a whole. It serves as a forum to support issues of social justice and public interest through psychological knowledge. Clearly, then, the focus of this caucus is closely and centrally aligned with SPSSI’s own concerns. Many of the recent “hot” issues within APA have centered on public interest initiatives and issues. This caucus works closely with the APA Public Interest Directorate as well as the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest and its constituent Committees in advancing the public policy agenda of APA. Allen previously served a two-year term as Secretary of this caucus and on its Executive Committee. He has been elected to serve a two-year term as its Chair-elect and then Chair. In this capacity, he will be responsible for helping set the agenda for this caucus, shaping the positions that it adopts on APA legislation and activities, and also in raising the profile of public interest concerns throughout APA and its work.

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The August 6 session will be a wonderful opportunity to salute this remarkable nonagenarian and to be part of an important moment of SPSSI history as Beatrice Wright receives the 2009 Kurt Lewin Award.

Her work and her theorizing are inherently and inextricably social psychological in character. Disability and rehabilitation are conceptualized not in terms of some physical state of the individual but rather as a form of social process in which interactions between the physically affected individual and his or her social and cultural environment are the necessary domains of study. Her work has been theoretical as well as empirical, accessible to practitioners as well as scholars. In short, she is a Lewinian through and through!

James Marshall Public Policy Report .....

delighted to help make these resources most relevant to our members and to other interested parties.

As far as my professional development activities are concerned, I’ve recently had a paper on enterprise in post-conflict Rwanda accepted with the Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, a multidisciplinary journal where my dissertation research fits in well. I’ve also been fortunate to be offered the opportunity to teach an online leadership class at the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, CA, during the upcoming academic year.

It would be my pleasure to discuss any of my activities with you in greater detail, and you can reach me at SPSSI at (202) 675-6956 or jtobias@spssi.org and at APA at (202) 336-5668 or jtobias@apa.org.

Visit the SPSSI Web site at www.spssi.org
Membership Form

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We welcome submissions of announcements, articles, and letters that are relevant to members of the Society as space permits. Announcements of new books by SPSSI members are limited to 50 words; announcements of conferences, awards, meetings, etc. are limited to 100 words. For more information, or to submit copy, contact the co-editors.

Advertising rates in FORWARD are $50 for quarter page, $100 for half page, and $200 for full page, if space is available. Electronic files should be sent to the editor.

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