What is SPSSI?

SPSSI is an international group of over 3000 psychologists, allied scientists, students, and others who share a common interest in research on the psychological aspects of important social issues. SPSSI seeks to bring theory and practice into focus on human problems of the group, the community, and nations, as well as the increasingly important problems that have no national boundaries.

SPSSI celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding on September 1, 1936. SPSSI's founding objectives were to (1) encourage research upon those psychological problems most vitally related to modern social, economic and political policies, and (2) help the public and its representatives to understand and to use contributions from the scientific investigation of human behavior in the formation of social policies.

Publications and Communications

- Since 1945, SPSSI has published the Journal of Social Issues (JSI). Social science and psychological research relevant to specific social issues. Each issue in on a single theme, with a set of related articles. For a listing of the theme and the articles in each issue, see http://www.spssi.org/jsi_issueinfo.
- Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP). Timely and innovative psychological and related social science scholarship with implications for social action and policy. Articles are made available electronically as they are accepted.
- Social Issues and Policy Review (SIPR) An annual featuring high quality reviews on cutting-edge topics relevant to social issues and social policy. The first issue was published in 2007.
- SPSSI's authored and edited book series includes books with a mix of theory and research relevant to social issues and interventions, focusing on contemporary social issues. They are suitable for use in graduate or advanced undergraduate seminar courses.
- Forward. Newsletter for members published up to three times per year and including regular columns from officers and editors and articles about other SPSSI activities.
- SPSSI Listserv. Internet e-mail discussion list is open to members and non-members. Subscribe at http://www.spssi.org/

Membership in SPSSI offers many benefits, including:

- Free subscription to SPSSI’s 3 journals: JSI, ASAP and SIPR.
- Discounts on SPSSI conference registration.
- Free subscription to the SPSSI newsletter.
- 20% discount on SPSSI sponsored books.
- Information about and eligibility to apply for grants, fellowships and awards.
- Access to member-only online content.

Membership Categories

- Full Member: $40 initial dues. After first year a graduated dues structure ranging from $50 to $100 is suggested.
- Sustaining Member: $1500 (one-time fee)
- Student Member: $25 per year
- Affiliate Member: $50 per year
- Gift Membership: $10 each, or $40 for five memberships given by a SPSSI member at one time

For more information on membership, please visit our website at: www.spssi.org/membership

SPSSI Competitive Awards

- Michelle Alexander Award*. For early career scholarship and service.
- Gordon Allport Award. Recognition of published or unpublished research relating to inter-group relations.
- Distinguished Service Award. Recognition of service to SPSSI.
- Louise Kidder Award*. Early career awards for social science research.
- Otto Klineberg Award. Grant for research on international or intercultural relations.
- Kurt Lewin Award. Our oldest award is given to a senior scholar for outstanding social science research. The winner presents a conference address which is also published in the Journal of Social Issues.
- Teaching Awards. Given for teaching in both graduate and undergraduate institutions.

SPSSI Competitive Grants

- Applied Social Internships*. Short term funding for students or beginning post-docs who work in a policy-related organization.
- Grants-in-Aid*. Small grants given to students to do social issues research.
- Clara Mayo Award*. Small grants to support masters and pre-dissertation social issues research.
- SAGES Award. Small grants for social issues research or applications of this research for retired scholars.

SPSSI Supports Scholarly Approaches to Public Policy

- SPSSI’s Policy coordinator manages our various policy initiatives and is our point person for any queries seeking SPSSI’s expertise.
- SPSSI’s Policy Committee makes recommendations about policy initiatives on which SPSSI will concentrate its resources.
- SPSSI has official NGO status at the United Nations and is active in various initiatives at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.
- James Marshall Scholar. A PhD-level scholar is hosted full-time for 1-2 years to work on applying social science research to policy.
- Dalmas Taylor Minority Summer Fellowship. A graduate student is funded to work on policy issues in Washington DC for the summer.
- Sabbatical Scholar. Scholars with independent funding are invited to work out of SPSSI’s Central Office in Washington DC on relevant policy issues.
- White papers, position statements, fact sheets and other policy resources can be found at www.spssi.org/policy

For an interactive look at SPSSI’s history, please visit our new timeline website at www.spssitimeline.org.