2016 SPSSI Policy Workshop Presenters and Attendees

David Aronson

David Aronson joined SPSSI’s staff in April 2014 as its first communications director. His responsibilities include developing and implementing a broadly targeted media strategy to disseminate the relevant findings of social psychology to a broader public, and to help SPSSI members better engage public policy debates with scientific insights drawn their field. David comes with 15 years of experience as a writer, editor and new media specialist at some of the nation’s leading think tanks and NGOs, including the Southern Poverty Law Center, the US Commission on Civil Rights and the US Institute of Peace. He has worked on a wide variety of social and political issues, from high-profile investigations of police – community relations in New York City in the aftermath of the Amadou Diallo killing, to the controversies surrounding the Florida recount in the 2000 presidential election, to the publication of the Iraq Study Group report. His essays and op-eds have appeared in The New York Times, the Washington Post, The New Republic, Dissent, the Chicago Tribune and elsewhere.

Emily T. Bashah

Dr. Bashah is currently a Post-Doctoral Psychology Resident at Wooten & Associates, Phoenix Professional Practice. She provides clinical, forensic and consultation psychological services. Dr. Bashah was the 2014 SPSSI Dalmas Taylor Memorial Summer Minority Policy Fellow. While in Washington, D.C. she learned about the intersections of psychology and policy and how psychologists can impact policy issues and inform legislators using research and science. Ms. Bashah was a spokeswoman for a D.C. based think tank, Generation Progress Voices Network, through the Center for American Progress. She presented a policy brief on immigration, Crossing the line: Psychological and policy implications on undocumented Latina/o immigrants. Based on her doctoral dissertation research findings, Undocumented Latinas’ cross-border experiences: A qualitative study of detained/deported immigrants, Dr. Bashah and researchers Dr. Baca and Dr. Suyemoto published several blogs in Psychology Today’s online journal. Dr. Bashah continues to be actively involved in local, state and national legislative issues.

Jacklyn Biggs

Jacklyn Biggs, PhD, is an Associate Researcher at the Center for Public Partnerships and Research at the University of Kansas. She develops and conducts program evaluations and research activities for small and large-scale initiatives that seek to improve the lives of women, children, youth, and families. She also helps programs and communities build capacity for data collection, evaluation activities, and cost analysis. At present, she serves at the lead evaluator on several evaluation projects with social programs and initiatives. Dr. Biggs received her doctoral degree in social psychology from the University of Kansas, where she specialized in quantitative methodology, statistical analysis, and women’s studies.

Benjamin Blankenship

Ben is a doctoral student in the Personality and Social Contexts Area within the Psychology Department at The University of Michigan. He is broadly interested in how the experience of intersectional racial and sexual identities affects academic and political outcomes. In his work with Dr. Abigail Stewart, he is interested in individual differences in people’s stigma and identity-related experiences, and how this affects academic and political outcomes and experiences across contexts. In his work with Dr. Denise Sekaquaptewa, he is interested in studying the ways in which gendered stereotypes about queer people influence their academic outcomes, as well as treatment by their straight peers, specifically in STEM contexts.
Laura S. Bogardus

Laura is a Ph.D. candidate at Clemson University in International Family and Community Studies. Laura’s research and consulting practice focuses on employers’ needs for a skilled and agile workforce and job seekers’ needs for sustainable employment. She holds an MA in Human Behavior and Conflict Management from Columbia College and a BA in Political Science from Miami University. Laura is a Marano Fellow of the Aspen Institute’s Sector Skills Academy for innovative workforce strategies. Laura has 20 years of experience in workforce development, career development, and human resources. She serves as operations director for the Greenville Society for Human Resource Management (GSHRM) while also working on a variety of graduate assistant projects. In 2014–2015, she served SPSSI as Graduate Student Member-at-large for Policy & Applied Work. Laura is also a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the GSHRM Workforce Readiness Council, and the Greenville Reentry Coalition.

Eugene Borgida

Eugene Borgida is Professor of Psychology and Law at the University of Minnesota. Borgida is also an Adjunct Professor of Political Science, and has served as Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Political Psychology, which he co-founded, and Co-Editor of the journal Political Psychology. Borgida’s research has been funded by NIMH, NIH, NSF, and The Pew Charitable Trusts. He received the Distinguished Teacher Award from the College of Liberal Arts and the system-wide Morse-Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education in 1989. With L. Rudman, Borgida won the 1994 Gordon Allport Intergroup Relations Prize, and in 1989, he and colleagues won the Heinz Eulau Award for the best paper published in the American Political Science Review. He is a Fellow of the Association of Psychological Science (APS), a Fellow in several divisions of the American Psychological Association (APA), and an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He has served on the Board of Directors for the APS and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). Borgida’s research interests include social cognition, attitudes and persuasion, psychology and law, and political psychology.

Rayne Bozeman

Rayne Bozeman is an advanced doctoral student in the Applied Social Psychology program at Loyola University Chicago. Her research focuses on prejudice reduction through confrontations of racial bias. Rayne is actively involved in the Committee on Diversity Affairs at Loyola, and serves as a leader in a faith-based racial reconciliation group in the Chicagoland area. Rayne recently taught an undergraduate course on the social psychology of prejudice, and she strives to integrate her research into her teaching.

Shelia Brandt

Shelia M. Brandt, Psy.D., is a legislative director with the Minnesota Department of Human Services. She is a licensed clinical psychologist who has worked in several correctional facilities and forensic treatment settings providing direct services and clinical supervision. In her current position, Shelia interfaces with the governor’s office, the Minnesota legislature, the department of corrections, and community stakeholders to advance evidence-based public policies at the intersection of the mental health and criminal justice systems.
Shelia chairs the Policy & Advocacy Committee for APA Division 18 (Psychologists in Public Service). Her primary policy interests include supporting diversion from and alternatives to incarceration, and effective prison-to-community transition, particularly for persons with severe and persistent mental illnesses. Shelia serves as the campaign manager for a state senator and she enjoys the opportunity to apply psychological research in this dynamic setting. She has also published several book chapters on correctional mental health topics.

**Stephanie Brooks Holliday**

Stephanie Brooks Holliday is a clinical psychologist and Associate Behavioral Scientist at the RAND Corporation. Her research has focused on forensic psychology, criminal justice, juvenile justice, justice-involved veterans, and issues related to veteran post-deployment health. Dr. Brooks Holliday also has broader interests in health disparities and the provision of evidence-based services for physical and mental health concerns, particularly among underserved populations. She completed her doctorate at Drexel University, and her graduate research focused on forensic risk assessment and interventions for risk reduction among correctional populations. Dr. Brooks Holliday completed her predoctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the Washington D.C. VA Medical Center, where she specialized in neuropsychology and contributed to research related to complementary and integrative health, sleep disturbances, and pain.

**NiCole T. Buchanan**

NiCole T. Buchanan, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on the interplay of race, gender, and victimization (e.g., racialized sexual harassment) and how social identity dimensions, such as race, gender, sexual orientation and social class relate to well-being and professional development.

Dr. Buchanan is a Fellow of three divisions within the American Psychological Association (Divisions 9, 35 & 45) and has been the recipient of several awards for her research, service and teaching contributions, such as the Carolyn Payton Early Career Award, APA’s 2015 Mary Roth Walsh Teaching the Psychology of Women Award for innovative instruction enhancing the teaching of diversity and APA’s Committee on Women in Psychology’s 2015 Leadership Award for her research scholarship and service in psychology.

Finally, Dr. Buchanan provides diversity-related training and consultation to academic departments, private and public organizations, including campus and city police departments.

**Juan Del Toro**

**Thomas Dirth**

I’m a doctoral candidate in social psychology at the University of Kansas. I received my B.A. in Psychology from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA and my M.A. in social psychology from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA. My research concerns the general area of social psychology of disability, specifically in social representations of disability and the impacts these have for disabled and nondisabled persons alike. Additionally, I examine the role that social identity plays in well-being outcomes for people with disabilities. Intellectually, I am influenced by Disability Studies perspectives that reframe disability as a minority group identity and to problematize taken-for-granted notions of human ability. I anticipate pursuing a career in academia once I finish my doctoral work, continuing my
research and looking for opportunities to apply my research in the classroom and in community settings to support the health and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Odilia Dys-Steenbergen

Odilia Dys-Steenbergen is a Masters student at Simon Fraser University (SFU). Her advisor is Dr. Stephen Wright. She received her Bachelor of Arts (Honours with Distinction) from SFU in 2013. She has been the recipient of SSHRC Canada Graduate Masters Scholarship, Provost’s Prize of Distinction Award, Vice-President Research-Undergraduate Student Award and various Simon Fraser University Open Undergraduate Scholarships. Her research interests are motivation, identity, positive intergroup relations, and social justice. Thus far, her research has investigated the role of self-expansion motivation and knowledge sharing orientation in intergroup relations. She is also the coordinator and facilitator of a poverty simulation project that is part of an undergraduate Intergroup Relations class at SFU. And lastly, she is a community research consultant involved with a non-profit organization that offers support to at-risk families and their children.

Alice Eagly

Past President, SPSSI; Professor of Psychology & Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. Expertise in study of attitudes and gender and diversity issues.

Yolanda Flores Niemann

Yolanda Flores Niemann (Ph.D., Psychology, 1992, University of Houston) is Professor of Psychology at the University of North Texas (UNT). Previously, she served as Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affair at UNT, Vice Provost and Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at Utah State University, and held numerous administrative positions at Washington State University. She has been Principal Investigator of over 40 million dollars in federal outreach grants. Her research interests include the effects and social ecological contexts of stereotypes and tokenism across various domains, interventions for diffusing tokenism, interventions for microaggressions, and effective mentoring across demographic groups. Her most recent book (coedited) is Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia. Narratives from this book have been featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Diversity In Academe, The Gender Issue, and in other multimedia venues.

Kris Gebhard

Kris (pronouns: they/them) is a rising third-year student in the Clinical Psychology PhD program at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. After spending several years community organizing with trans and queer communities in the Minneapolis / St. Paul area, they came to psychology seeking to help make the field more accessible and resourceful to the LGBTQ community. Kris’s research interests are interpersonal violence, intimate partner violence, hate violence against trans women, and research on masculinity relating to causes of male violence. One long-term goal of Kris’s work is to do research that will allow them (and other psychologists) to serve as an expert witness in court cases when trans women are facing charges for defending themselves during hate attacks. Kris is also interested in other research that will benefit the LGB, queer, and trans communities, especially work on resiliency, community resiliency, and empowerment.
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Jack Glaser

Jack Glaser received his Ph.D. in psychology from Yale University and serves on the faculty of the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California Berkeley. He is a social psychologist whose primary research interest is in stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. For example, he investigates the unconscious operation of stereotypes and prejudice using computerized reaction time methods, is investigating the implications of such subtle forms of bias in law enforcement, has conducted research on hate crime, has carried out analyses of historical data as well as racist rhetoric on the internet, and is also studying capital punishment, the effect it has on legal decision making, and how that interacts with defendant race. Dr. Glaser is one of the principal investigators working on a National Science Foundation grant to build a national Justice database of police stops and use of force incidents. He serves on the governing Council of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, where he is chair of the Policy Committee.

Annalisa Gonzales

I am currently a second year Ph.D. student in Transpersonal Psychology at Sofia University in Palo Alto, California.

Kristen Hackett

Kristen Hackett is a PhD student in the Environmental Psychology Program at the Graduate Center of the City of New York (CUNY). Using a critical and feminist approach, her doctoral research investigates how young people navigate and pursue life in an increasingly precarious economic environment, as well as asks larger questions about the relationship between economic anxiety, political participation and democratic/communal health. Kristen is also a Research Associate with Housing Environments Research Group (HERG) where her work examines the extent to which Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are an alternative housing model capable of stably and affordably housing low-moderate income households, challenging the dominant discourse around housing and homeownership on a larger scale, and ultimately interrupting the intergenerational transmission of inequality. She is also an adjunct lecturer in the Urban Studies department at Queens College, CUNY.

Ingrid Haas

Dr. Ingrid Haas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Resident Faculty in the Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She also has a courtesy appointment in the UNL Department of Psychology. Dr. Haas conducts research on political psychology, attitudes, emotion, and social cognition, using research methods from social psychology and social cognitive neuroscience. She teaches courses primarily within the biology, psychology, and politics area of emphasis in the Department of Political Science. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in social psychology from The Ohio State University, and B.A. in psychology and political science from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. She joined the UNL faculty in 2012.

Brittany Hiett
Lisa Huang

I am a social psychology doctoral student at the University of California, Davis. The focus of my research is social perception in the context of intergroup bias. I am interested in understanding intergroup bias from both the majority and minorities perspectives. As such, my research covers topics in stereotyping and person perception, bias regulation, stigma, and disclosure of stigma. One of my major lines of research examines how people form impressions of individuals who are encountered in different contexts and whether stereotypic expectancies influence these impression formation processes. In other research, I study how people perceive reactions to the disclosure of a concealable stigmatized identity and whether different types of reactions influence perceptions of social norms for disclosure. My research is driven by my broad concern for reducing intergroup bias, promoting diversity and acceptance, and improving outcomes for disadvantaged groups.

Alicia B. Johnston

Dr. Kleyman received her PHD in Social Psychology, with an emphasis in Political and Cross Cultural Psychology from the University of Nevada Reno in 2010. Currently, she is an Associate Professor at Metropolitan State University, teaching courses in Social, Political, Cross-Cultural and Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis. Her past research has broadly focused on perception of race, more specifically, the influence of stereotypical stimuli on perceptions of racially ambiguous individuals. She is currently conducting research on perceptions and attitudes of race, non-establishment political parties, media influences on immigrants, and the intersection of technology and racial stereotypes. Dr. Kleyman is a SQIN (Special Qualification in Nutrition) Fellow at UNR Medical School, has attended the Summer Institute in Political Psychology at Stanford, and has received training in SEM and MLM at the University of Kansas. She is a member of SPSSI, APS, SPSP, and ISPP, and serves as faculty advisor for multiple student organizations.

Jaboa Lake

Jaboa Lake received a BA in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from the University of California, Merced in 2013 and is currently enrolled in Portland State University’s Applied Social and Community Psychology doctoral program, working with Dr. Kimberly Kahn. Jaboa’s interests broadly involve intraminority intergroup relations and coalition, contemporary forms of discrimination, and the role of intersecting marginalized identities on attitudes and behaviors. She is also involved with a number of community social justice programs and networks. Jaboa is a strong believer in bridging the gap between academia and the community, and strives towards accessibility of research and active engagement between the two in order to enact positive and productive social change.

Peter Leavitt

Peter Leavitt just received his PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Arizona and is currently employed as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology at Dickinson College. For the last two years, he also worked as a graduate assistant for the National Institute for Civil Discourse in Tucson, Arizona. His scholarly interests include how cultural factors and social identities, such as race, ethnicity, and social class, shape how people think and behave, and how people understand their own behavior and the
behaviors of others. He is particularly interested in how cultural factors impact educational settings, computer-mediated communication, and interpersonal influence.

Ziv Levin

I’m currently a social psychology PhD student in the Intergroup Relations and Social Justice Lab at Simon Fraser University, BC, Canada. I’m deeply interested in the emotive-cognitive processes that group members experience in contexts of intergroup conflict and how these biased cognitions form barriers that stand in the way of reconciliation and peace. I received an MA from Tel Aviv University in Israel, and a group facilitation diploma from the School for Peace at Neve-Shalom/Wahat al-Salam in Israel, the only cooperative village in the world where Jews and Arabs live side by side. As both a participant and a group facilitator in various intergroup dialogue settings, I experienced first-hand how difficult it is to go past “the dialogue of the deaf” that characterizes most contact experiences between Israelis and Palestinians. I’m currently looking into the antecedents and consequences of collective action.

Morgana Lizzio-Wilson

Morgana Lizzio-Wilson is a final year PhD student from the University of Queensland. She is passionate about social justice and applied research. Her doctoral research focusses on the causes and consequences of women’s intra-group conflict and ingroup derogation. She is currently collaborating with the Women’s Collective at the University of Queensland to develop campaigns which change public perceptions of feminism and instigate positive social change on campus. Her other research interests include effective prejudice reduction strategies (with a particular emphasis on sexism), how to involve dominant group allies in social movements, and how prejudice is transmitted and reinforced in romantic relationships and family systems. Over the course of this workshop, she hopes to learn how to more effectively collaborate with activists and policy makers, and how research can influence public and political understanding of important social issues.

Sarah Mancoll

Sarah Mancoll, M.S. joined SPSSI as Policy Director in the fall of 2015. Her role at SPSSI is to develop opportunities for sharing relevant social science data with advocates and policymakers, and to work with SPSSI members who are interested in developing stronger connections to policy stakeholders. Prior to joining SPSSI, Sarah carried out policy work for the Society for Research in Child Development. She has also previously worked as a research assistant at the American Institutes for Research (on educational assessment) and at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Health and Social Policy (on social safety net issues). Ms. Mancoll received her bachelor’s degree in human development from Cornell University and received her master’s degree in social policy and planning from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Agostino Mazziotta

Rashmi Nair

Rashmi Nair is a Ph.D. candidate in social psychology at Clark University. After she completes her degree, Nair will be serving as the 2016-2017 James Marshall Public Policy Fellow in Washington, DC, where she will carry out a congressional office placement. Nair currently serves on the SPSSI Graduate Student Committee and will also be facilitating the small group discussion on “Influencing policy in international
 contexts” during the Policy Workshop. In her research, she employs both qualitative and quantitative methods to highlight several issues related to the social psychology of members from disadvantaged minorities that shape their intergroup relations. Through her work she has had the opportunity to work with disadvantaged communities in the U.S. as well as in India. Her doctoral work examines relations between two disadvantaged groups in the understudied context of India, who constitute more than a third of the nation’s sizeable population and share tense relations: the Dalits and Muslims. Specifically, she employs an intersectional framework for a nuanced understanding of the social psychological and structural factors that can explain tensions between these disadvantaged groups as well as those that can help bring them closer.

Steve Newell

Dr. Steve Newell currently serves as the James Marshall Public Policy Fellow on behalf of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. At the University of Florida, Dr. Newell received a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation and graduated in 2015 with a Ph.D. in Psychology and an M.S. in Medical Science with an emphasis on health outcomes and policy. Broadly, his work focuses on how people perceive and respond to their social environment, the psychological and structural factors that affect the health care process and health outcomes, and promoting evidence-based policy addressing health and social issues. Dr. Newell has conducted research, designed programs and materials, and collaborated with the Wellness Incentives and Navigation (WIN) Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Disparities in Oral Health, the National Association of School Nurses, and other health-oriented organizations. As a fellow, Dr. Newell continues working to improve health care quality and health outcomes, slow the growth of health care expenditures, and reduce health disparities.

Ivy Onyeador

Ivy is a fifth year doctoral student in Social Psychology at UCLA, where her research examines responses to information about implicit bias, evaluations of minorities in admissions and hiring contexts, and perceptions of Whites’ responses to discrimination. Ivy is a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow and a recipient of UCLA’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award. She holds a Masters degree from UCLA and a B.S. in Psychology, with distinction, from Yale University. Ivy was born in Nigeria and raised in southern California.

Destiny Peery

Destiny Peery is an assistant professor at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. She holds a JD and PhD in social psychology from Northwestern University. Her research focuses on the intersection of race, psychology, and law with an emphasis on definitions, conceptions, and perceptions of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination in the law and society more broadly and inequality caused by biases in the legal system. She teaches Criminal Law, Anti-Discrimination Law, Law & Psychology, and Race, Social Science, and the Law. Peery also works regularly with various practitioners, including lawyers, judges, and police departments, on addressing biases in the practice of law.

Rudy Perez

Rudy Perez was born and raised in the border region of southernmost Texas. He is currently a senior undergraduate psychology student at The University of Texas at Dallas and is currently working on his
honors thesis. Before transferring to UT Dallas, he served as the president of the psychology club at South Texas College. Shortly after transferring, he was accepted into the honors program of the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at UT Dallas. He recently received an undergraduate research award for his dedication to research.

His primary interests in psychology are stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, judgment and decision-making and the enforcement of immigration law. He plans on continuing research and attending graduate school after he completes his bachelor’s degree this December.

Jillian Peterson

Jillian Peterson is an assistant professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has a Master’s degree and Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Behavior from the University of California, Irvine, and a Bachelors’ degree in Sociology from Grinnell College. Prior to graduate school, Dr. Peterson worked as a mitigation specialist in Chicago and New York City, investigating the psychosocial life histories of men facing the death penalty for their sentencing hearings. She has also worked as a research coordinator at the University of Minnesota, as a trial consultant, and as a forensic psychology trainer. Professor Peterson has published over a dozen articles on offenders with mental illness, risk assessment, psychopathy, and school shootings. Her areas of expertise include forensic psychology, mental illness in the criminal justice system, and violent crime.

Stacey Rieck

Luis M. Rivera

Luis M. Rivera is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Principal Investigator of the Rutgers Implicit Social Cognition (RISC) Lab at Rutgers University, Newark. He earned his Ph.D. in Social Psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His research focuses on the implicit social cognitive processes that underlie the expression of stereotyped attitudes and how such processes affect stigmatized individuals’ self, identity, and health. Most relevant to the SPSSI Policy Workshop, his research focuses on the role of self-stereotyping in obesity, which is a risk factor for diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and some cancers. This research helps explain pervasive health disparities, which are systematic differences in the burden of chronic health conditions between stigmatized and non-stigmatized groups. He has (co)authored articles in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Journal of Social Issues*, and *Social Cognition*.

Gina Roussos

Gina Roussos, M.S. is a social psychology graduate student at Yale University, studying with Dr. John Dovidio and Dr. Yarrow Dunham. She investigates the antecedents and consequences of prejudiced attitudes and beliefs and how these attitude and beliefs can ultimately be changed. Specifically, she focuses on the role of prejudice in perceptions of and reactions toward injustice. She examines bias toward a number of stigmatized groups, including women, poor people, over-weight people, and people of color. She is currently a Graduate Policy Fellow with the Institute for Social and Policy Studies at Yale as well as a Diversity Fellow with the Office for Graduate Student Development and Diversity at Yale.

Shanila Sattar
Linda Silka

A social and community psychologist by training, much of my work has focused on building community-university research partnerships aimed at addressing policy issues. Prior to moving to the University of Maine (where I directed a policy center and was a senior faculty member), I was a faculty member for three decades at the University of Massachusetts Lowell where I directed the Center for Family, Work, Community, served as the Special Assistant to the Provost for Community Outreach and Partnerships, and was Professor in the Psychology Department and then University Professor in the interdisciplinary Department of Regional Economic and Social Development. Recent research partnerships I have led include the NIEHS-funded Southeast Asian Environmental Justice Partnership and the New Ventures Partnership, the HUD-funded Community Outreach Partnership Center and Diverse Healthy Homes Initiative, and the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Community Leadership and Empowerment. I was principal investigator on over $16 million of federal grants from the National Institute of Health, National Science Foundation, U.S. Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Education. I’ve written extensively on the challenges and opportunities of building research partnerships with diverse groups and have consulted internationally on how to build community-university research partnerships.

Tejaswinhi Srinivas

Tejaswinhi (Tejas) Srinivas is a PhD candidate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Denver (DU). Her primary areas of research include the psychosocial consequences of interpersonal and political forms of violence, and the social cognitive processes implicated in intergroup attitudes. As a graduate researcher in Dr. Anne DePrince’s Traumatic Stress Studies (TSS) Group and the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning (CCESL) at DU, Tejas has been involved in the development and implementation of community-engaged research projects with diverse trauma and crime survivor populations. She has been lead coordinator on projects evaluating gaps and strengths in legal service provision for crime victims in the Denver metro area, and benefits and costs of partnerships between community agencies and DU faculty and students. For her dissertation, Tejas is examining the role of perceived cultural conflict in predicting attitudes toward immigrants and immigration.

Ryan Strack

Ryan Strack, MSW, is the Manager of Homeless and Highly Mobile (HHM) Student Services at Minneapolis Public Schools. Strack is responsible for implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act within Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), including service development, system change, state and federal compliance, community relations, financial oversight, and staff management. In more detail, his responsibilities include: Collaborating with other levels of government, community organizations, and private resources to effectively coordinate efforts to serve HHM students; Providing advocacy services for HHM students and their families; Developing priorities and assigning tasks and projects; Collecting and analyzing student data and developing recommendations to improve student outcomes; and providing professional development for MPS staff about HHM student needs, rights, and available services and resources.

Vicki Surratt

Meagan Sweeney
Meagan Sweeney is a rising fourth year at The George Washington University’s Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program. Her research is on emergency preparedness, especially how perception of threat and self-efficacy can influence an individual’s preparedness level. She is currently conducting a program evaluation with the Red Cross on their Be Ready Cross Ready community program; she is presenting a poster of preliminary results at this conference. Clinically, she is interested in trauma, especially in the Veteran population. Besides her research and clinical interests, Meagan has developed a love for policy and advocacy work. She is currently working at APA in the Science Directorate’s Government Relations Office. Last summer she worked in APA’s Public Interest Directorate in the Office of SES and wrote pieces encouraging scientists to include SES more often and more consistently in their work. Meagan is also one of two National Student Representatives for SCRA.

Joseph A. Vitriol

I am a doctoral candidate in psychology at the University of Minnesota, Twin-Cities, with expertise in social, personality, political, and legal psychology. I also have extensive training in survey design and the measurement of individual differences, experimental and non-experimental research methods, and a broad range of tools for statistical inference. My research focuses on the psychological processes related to attitude formation and change, and their implications for social perception, judgment and behavior.

Joanna Weill

Joanna Weill is a PhD Candidate in Social Psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research examines how prisoners are treated as outsiders by society and how this impacts their reentry back into the community. She uses a variety of methodologies including interviews, surveys, and social network analysis. She is a past Chair of SPSSI’s Graduate Student Committee and held student leadership positions with the American Psychology-Law Society and American Psychological Association of Graduate Students. She currently serves on SPSSI’s Policy Committee and is member of the UC Criminal Justice & Health Consortium. She is based in Brooklyn, New York while completing her dissertation.

Carolyn Weisz

Carolyn Weisz is a professor at the University of Puget Sound. She is a social psychologist with interests in prejudice, racism, homelessness, and social perception. Her recent research conducted in collaboration with the Tacoma/Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness focuses on racial disparities in homelessness; links between stigma, psychological distress, and physical health; smoking; and organizational diversity climate. Her past work with co-author Lisa Wood examined social identity and friendships. Carolyn is on the leadership team of the University of Puget Sound’s Race and Pedagogy Institute. In the community, she serves as a facilitator and consultant for Project PEACE -- a series of dialogues between community members and the Tacoma Police Department, a volunteer in the Diversion Program of the Pierce County Juvenile Court, and a Board member for the Fair Housing Center of Washington.

Ashley L. Weinberg

Ashley Weinberg is the Member-at-Large Membership Coordinator for SPSSI’s Graduate Student Committee, 2015-16. She is a PhD candidate at York University in Toronto, CA. Broadly, she is interested in analyzing the mechanisms of intergroup relations and the ways to empirically address relevant social issues. Her research examines intergroup contact, cross-group interactions and
friendships, stereotypes, prejudices, implicit/explicit biases, and diversity practices. She is currently researching the mechanisms of personalization of the outgroup and the ways to utilize these mechanisms to reduce intergroup conflict and promote positive outgroup attitudes. Specifically, her most recent project considers the role of self-disclosure as a means for evoking positive outgroup attitudes. She is hoping to begin research that considers personalization of the outgroup in children and teenagers. Ultimately, she strives to apply this research to reduce outgroup biases and promote beneficial intergroup interactions through interventions and public policy.

Richard Wiener

Dr. Richard L. Wiener earned his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Houston and a Master’s Degree in Legal Studies at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln where he currently is the Charles Bessey Professor of Law and Psychology. Wiener applies psychology to problems of legal decision-making and conducts research in the areas of program evaluation, policy analysis and discrimination. He currently consults for the Nebraska Office of Probation Administration. The National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Justice have funded Dr. Wiener’s work allowing him to publish numerous research articles, edited volumes, book chapters and law review articles. Dr. Wiener currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of SPSSI and is the organizer of the SPSSI Local Policy Initiative Project. In the past, he has also been an active member of the American Psychology and Law Society serving as Secretary and editor of the Journal, Law and Human Behavior.

Allison Williams

Allison Williams is a Ph.D. Candidate in Psychology at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. Her dissertation focuses on the effects of discrimination and marginalization due to race, gender and the intersection of these two social categories.

Michele A. Wittig

Michele Wittig earned a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She is Professor Emerita of Psychology at California State University, Northridge. For four decades, she conducted funded research (e.g., on prejudice reduction and academic achievement in high schools), and is author or co-author of over 50 publications. She is a long-time SPSSI member (and Past President) and has been active for 25 years in the Santa Monica-Venice branch of the NAACP. More information can be found at: http://wittig.socialpsychology.org. She has done extensive policy-related work in education. Most recently, her research was cited in support of California Assembly Bill 101 (pending approval by Gov. Brown) which mandates that an Ethnic Studies course be made available as an elective in California public high schools. Wittig and colleagues also recently received a SPSSI State-and Local- Policy Work grant for the Community Policing Reform Project, a Santa Monica, California-based effort that will engage local social scientists with community members in the development, implementation and evaluation of research-based policies for fair and just policing at the local and state levels. Wittig has also served as President of SPSSI.

Yi (Jenny) Xiao

Yi (Jenny) Xiao is a PhD Candidate at New York University, and will be starting as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Macalester College in Fall 2016. She has a bachelor’s degree from Bard College in Psychology and Biology, and a Masters degree in Social Psychology from New York University. Jenny
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primarily studies how social identities and other intergroup dynamics flexibly influence perception and evaluation. Her dissertation looks at how perceptual biases play a role in police interactions with racial minorities. Jenny has won several research awards, including the Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award from SPSP and the Clara Mayo Grant from SPSSI. This research has been covered in multiple media outlets, such as the New Yorker. Jenny has presented her research several universities and major conferences in Psychology, Social Psychology, and Policy.