



The FORUM

The Newsletter of the SPSP Graduate Student Committee Spring/Summer 2005

Journal Reputation and Turn Around

There are many criteria to consider when choosing where to submit a manuscript, perhaps most importantly, the strength of your design and results and whether your research topic is a close match with the subject area of a journal. In every case, one important consideration is the reputation of the journal. Although we all want to publish in the most highly respected journals, it is not always clear how to determine a journal's reputation among established professionals in the field.

To determine which publications are most highly regarded in the field of personality and social psychology, we asked published authors to complete a survey in which they rated 22 journals. With a few exceptions, journals were selected that appeared on both the "Journals Related to Social Psychology" list on the web site of the Social Psychology Network (www.socialpsychology.org/journals.htm) and also the list of social psychology journals in *Journal Citation Reports*. Requests for participation in the survey were primarily solicited from the listservs of SPSP and SPSSI.

Between April 28th and May 10th 2005, data were collected from 163 participants who have published at least one article in a peer-reviewed psychology journal. Participants were largely faculty at a research (60.7%) or

teaching (14.1%) university, with 2.5% indicating employment as a professional researcher. Doctoral students accounted for 17.8% of the respondents. Other positions included post-doctoral fellow (1.8%), faculty at a teaching and research university (1.2%), government employee (.6%), medical school faculty (.6%), and college instructor (.6%).

The majority of respondents indicated that their field was social psychology (82.1%), with 9.3% indicating personality psychology and 1.8% indicating both. Most of the remaining responses consisted of social/organizational psychology (2.5%) and clinical psychology (1.8%). Other responses included cultural psychology, law and psychology, social/health psychology, and social/neuro psychology (.6% each).

Individuals who had published more than 15 articles made up the largest group of respondents (45.4%), followed by those that had published between one and five (27.6%), six and ten (17.8%) and eleven and fifteen (9.2%) articles.

We asked participants to "rate the journals... according to how desirable you think it would be (in terms of professional development, publicizing your research, etc.) to have your work published in them, on a scale from 1 (least desirable) to 10 (most desirable)". Results (table 1) suggest that the

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (JPSP; M = 9.85, SD = .71), *Psychological Bulletin (M = 9.76, SD = .60)*, *Personality and Social Psychology Review (PSPR; M = 9.01, SD = 1.12)*, *Psychological Science (M = 8.88, SD = 1.59)*, and *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin (PSPB; M = 8.83, SD = 1.07)* were seen as the top five most desirable journals in which to have personality and social psychology research published. Comparison of responses from those with the most publications (more than 15) to everyone else, revealed only minor differences in the individual rankings; both groups had the same publications included in their list of the five most and least desirable

Another indication of the relative influence of journals can be found in a yearly publication entitled, *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*. This publication comes in two formats, a science edition and a social sciences edition, both of which provide statistics on how often journals are cited. If you are hoping to get a copy of the *Journal Citation*

Reports, be forewarned that it is available online and on CD only and is somewhat rare. A recent search on *WorldCat* revealed that only 70 libraries worldwide carry the most recent social sciences edition on CD, with an additional 49 providing web access. *Journal Citation*

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Take our Latest Survey!

Go to the address below and tell us what you'd like the GSC to do!

<http://www.small-groups.org/phpsurveyor/index.php?sid=9>

President's Corner

Greetings fellow graduate students! I trust you are relaxing after what (for me, at least) has been a hectic year.

I am very excited about the current composition of the SPSP Graduate Student Committee. Just in the past couple months that, I have been very impressed with the group's passion and dedication. You will find brief biographies and contact information for the committee in this issue of the Forum. Also, you can visit the SPSP website (<http://www.spsp.org/>) and click on the "Student's Corner" link to find more information.

The GSC has several initiatives and actions plans for this year that I am especially excited about. To begin, we want to hear from you. We have gone over the "talking points" from the SPSP GSC Roundtable, but would like to solicit a much larger crowd. Enter Jonathan—he has put together a survey that you can find at:

<http://www.small-groups.org/phpsurveyor/index.php?sid=9>

We will be putting together a report that should give us a good idea of what you want the GSC do for you. Please take a few moments to fill this out. Thanks!

Another main initiative during the roundtable was the formation of an international student's group. Rosie and Jacek (Jonca—from last year's committee) are trying to put together this group. If you would like to assist in this initiative, please contact Rosie or Jacek (jacek.jonca@ttu.edu). The social and personality fields have always been quite diverse, but it has not been until recently that technology has given us the opportunity to communicate with many different cultures at the same time. It is our desire to see

graduate students from all over the world work together in a virtual forum to increase our collective knowledge.

Vanessa has been working on the monthly non-academic job postings. If you know of any of job postings, please be sure to email her or myself so that we can get them placed in the postings. We are seeing about a way of getting these posted online so that we can have a virtual job forum for graduate students to visit.

Lavonia and I have been working with Michele on miscellaneous projects and initiatives. For example, the SPSSI (Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues) has asked the GSC to co-sponsor a mentor luncheon for the upcoming APA Convention in Washington, D.C. (similar to what we had during the SPSP convention). We will be putting out more information on the student listserv about this as the convention draws nearer.

From the roundtable, there was a discussion about getting more training opportunities. As it may not be plausible to have actual training sessions, we may start working on virtual training seminars through the SPSP or APA websites (or, even our own). Some ideas have included grant writing and online data-collection. If you are interested in this, please participate in our online survey and express how we can best meet your needs.

We are also starting to gather ideas for the pre-conference at the SPSP convention that we sponsored for the past few years. Previously, this pre-conference has focused on a "career" topic, and it has had a good turn out. If this is something that you would want to see, please make your opinion known. Also, if you have a desire to work with the GSC on the pre-conference, please get in contact with one of the members.

This year is shaping up to be a

very active year for the GSC. We are, however, only as strong as you make us. We need your help and involvement in order make the GSC work for you. If you would like to get involved, do not hesitate to email or contact myself or any of the committee members.

See you at the APA Convention! Have a GREAT summer!

Current GSC Members

President:

Darin Challacombe
Fort Hays State University
djchallacombe@scatcat.fhsu.edu
Research: social influence, embodied cognition, and nonverbal communication.

Members-at-Large

Jonathan Cook
University of Oregon
jcook4@darkwing.uoregon.edu
Research: social interaction dynamics associated with membership in a stigmatized group, as well as prejudice, stereotypes, and stereotype change.

Rosie Meek

University of Sussex
r.meek@sussex.ac.uk
Research: identity processes in adolescence, particularly in relation to young men in prison.

Lavonia Smith-LeBeau

Pennsylvania State University
lsx932@psu.edu
Research: the self, affect, and social cognition; the way affective states influence social comparison seeking behavior, specifically in the domain of romantic relationships.

Vanessa Hemovich

Claremont Graduate University
Vanessa.Hemovich@cgu.edu
Research: current trends in older adolescent drug use.

Past President:

Michele Schlehofner

Claremont Graduate University
Michele.Schlehofner@cgu.edu
Research: perceived control in relation to women's reproductive health, health care utilization, and coping

2004 GSC Activities at the SPSP Convention

If you attended the SPSP Convention in New Orleans this past January, then you were likely aware of the number of GSC-related activities offered. Building upon 2004's Career Pre-Conference, we co-hosted a full-day Career Pre-Conference on Thursday, January 20th, 2005. This pre-conference featured five sessions on various aspects of career development, including sessions on grant writing, interviewing, and non-academic job opportunities.

The nominal registration fee included a continental breakfast and a mid-afternoon snack. The American Psychological Association provided a session on negotiating tenure and co-sponsored the event. In addition, a number of individuals outside of the GSC assisted with the plan-

ning of this event, including Darin Challacombe of Fort Hays State University, and Arlen Moller of the University of Rochester.

We also co-hosted the second annual mentoring luncheon, in conjunction with the Training Committee. During this event, students had an opportunity to dine with Ph.D.-level SPSP members at topic-oriented tables. We were happy to find that we could accommodate more students at this year's luncheon, with room for up to 100. In addition, more topics were offered: attendees chose from 20 mentoring tables on various professional development and research topics. Many individuals helped make this event possible, including the many SPSP members who donated their time to

serve as mentors, the training committee (especially Theresa Vescio), Jamie Hughes, and Tara Miller for helping to coordinate the event. Without their assistance, this event would not have been possible.

Finally, the GSC again coordinated the third annual Graduate Poster Award (GPA) competition. A total of seven awards (one for each poster session) and 14 honorable mentions were given. Please see the separate article in this FORUM for more information on this event, including a listing of the winners.

For the 2006 convention, which takes place in Palm Springs, CA from January 26th to 28th, we plan on continuing these activities. If you want to help, or have ideas for pre-conference sessions or other activities, please let us know (and consider taking our survey!)

Spotlight on..... Stephan Dickert, University of Oregon

Having grown up in Germany and attended UCLA, Stephan Dickert was looking for a graduate program with a mix of good support for students, an interdisciplinary research focus, and faculty highly visible in the field. He found this match at the University of Oregon, working on judgment and decision making (JDM) research with Paul Slovic, Ellen Peters, and Robert Mauro.

Stephan became interested in judgment and decision making toward the end of his undergraduate career. While taking a JDM seminar during his last quarter at UCLA, Stephan found "the mix of cognitive and social ideas immediately appealing" and notes "I guess it helped that much of JDM research focuses on the perception of probabilities and I like numbers a lot". At the

University of Oregon, Stephan has focused on affective versus deliberative information processing, risk and uncertainty perceptions, and aspects of neural economics. He likes studying JDM from a social psychological perspective because "it incorporates intuitions, emotions, and individual differences" and addresses questions that are of significance to every day life.

Now finishing his third year, Stephan has found that "the interpersonal environment both among faculty and grad students is generally very supportive" at UO and adds, "it is easy to collaborate, especially across disciplines". Asked what he likes most about being a graduate student, he answers "my office", in addition to the intellectual environment and teaching oppor-

tunities. Among Stephan's least favorite parts of being a graduate student is the uncertainty.

"Much of what you do has uncertain rewards," he notes, "but since I study uncertainty that really shouldn't bother me, right?"

In the future, Stephan would like to get a faculty position at a research-oriented university, either in Europe or in the U.S. Asked what advice he might have for graduate students who are first starting out, Stephan emphasizes that new students should listen to other people's ideas, noting the dangers of being unwilling to incorporate others' ideas into one's research. He also advises students "to be continually productive (either at a steady pace or in bursts) and to avoid burn-out".

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Reports is published each summer for the previous year, so the 2004 edition should become available this summer.

Journal Citation Reports provides impact factor scores for each journal, a useful statistic for comparing the relative influence of various journals. The impact factor is formed by dividing the total number of citations for a particular journal in a year by the total number of articles published in that journal in the past two years. Because one would generally expect larger and more frequently published journals to be cited more, dividing by the total number of articles published in a time period standardizes the figure and allows for comparison across journals.

Table 1 provides the impact factor scores for the journals

included in this study. The JCR column of table 1 provides ranks within the Social Psychology section, however numbers are not contiguous because only 18 of the 46 journals in this category were included in our survey. Overall, the desirability rankings of study participants are highly correlated ($r_{(9)} = .78, p < .001$) with impact factor rankings. Multidisciplinary psychology journals like *Psychological Bulletin* and *Psychological Science* tend to have high impact factor rankings, perhaps because of their broad appeal. Among journals that target personality and social psychology, *JPSP* has the highest impact factor ranking. Comparing the top five personality and social psychology journals according to the current study with the top five according to impact factor rankings reveals that *PSPB* is third on the current study's list,

but sixth on the impact factor list. In its place is the *British Journal of Social Psychology*, ranking among the top five on the impact factor list. *JPSP*, *PSPR*, *Journal of Personality*, and *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* are among the top five on both lists.

We also asked participants to give us an indication of the length of time it takes between submission of a manuscript and publication. Of the top five journals from the current study, participants perceived *JPSP* as the slowest, with respondents indicating a wait, on average, of around 9 or 10 months. Other journals on the top have similar turn around times, although *Psychological Science* and *PSPR* were among the fastest.

Together, results suggest that *Psychological Science* and *Psychological Bulletin* may be among the fastest and most desirable outlets for original personality and social psychology research. In addition, *JPSP*, *Journal of Personality*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *British Journal of Social Psychology*, and *PSPB* all represent highly desirable outlets, although they may have slightly slower turn around times. *PSPR* represents an excellent option for review and theoretical articles. Of course, it should be mentioned that results are from a convenience sample and due to a preponderance of responses from social psychologists, may be biased toward social and away from personality psychology. In addition, many factors not discussed here may be related to the desirability and turn around time of various publications, including length of articles and

Table 2: Journal Turnaround Time

	N	M	SD
Journal of Applied Social Psychology	45	4.29	1.83
Journal of Social Issues	22	4.05	2.28
Basic and Applied Social Psychology	51	4.00	1.93
Journal of Social Psychology	12	3.75	1.22
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	104	3.71	1.83
European Journal of Personality	10	3.70	2.00
European Journal of Social Psychology	28	3.61	1.42
Journal of Language and Social Psychology	5	3.60	1.52
Journal of Personality	26	3.54	1.92
British Journal of Social Psychology	23	3.48	1.59
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin	98	3.43	1.83
Journal of Research in Personality	29	3.31	2.09
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology	65	3.28	1.82
Psychological Bulletin	31	3.26	1.83
Journal of Personality Assessment	10	3.20	2.04
Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology	20	3.20	1.67
Asian Journal of Social Psychology	3	3.00	1.73
Personality and Social Psychology Review	35	2.80	1.53
Social Psychology Quarterly	7	2.43	0.53
Social Behavior and Personality: An International Journal	5	2.40	0.55
Psychological Science	40	2.25	1.43
ASAP: Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy	10	1.90	1.20
Valid N (listwise)	0		

2 = 3 – 6 months; 3 = 7 – 9 months; 4 = 10 – 12 months; 5 = 13 – 15 months

**Upcoming Grant
Deadlines:**

**NIH- NRSA due 8/5
APA- Dissertation Awards
due 9/15**

Table 1: Journal Rankings

	Current Study			Impact Factor		
	N	M	SD	IF*	JCR*	IF-rank
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	155	9.85	0.71	3.86	2	2
Psychological Bulletin	155	9.76	0.60	8.41	n/a	1
Personality and Social Psychology Review	154	9.01	1.12	3.13	3	4
Psychological Science	152	8.88	1.59	3.56	n/a	3
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin	157	8.83	1.07	1.84	8	9
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology	156	8.28	1.46	2.13	5	7
Journal of Personality	128	6.59	2.23	2.34	4	6
European Journal of Social Psychology	148	6.29	1.70	1.34	13	10
Journal of Social Issues	141	6.10	2.07	2.36	n/a	5
British Journal of Social Psychology	144	5.85	1.80	2.11	6	8
Journal of Applied Social Psychology	147	5.82	1.91	.52	34	18
Journal of Research in Personality	117	5.80	1.99	1.11	15	11
Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology	129	5.64	2.05	1.03	19	13
Journal of Personality Assessment	103	5.24	2.09	.94	21	14
Basic and Applied Social Psychology	150	5.22	1.89	.69	26	15
European Journal of Personality	110	5.08	1.97	1.06	17	12
Social Psychology Quarterly	133	5.03	1.94	.61	28	16
Social Behavior and Personality: An International Journal	101	4.01	1.98	.23	43	21
ASAP: Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy	95	3.87	2.39	n/a	n/a	n/a
Journal of Social Psychology	143	3.78	2.20	.29	40	20
Journal of Language and Social Psychology	91	3.75	1.82	.45	37	19
Asian Journal of Social Psychology	101	2.64	1.70	.61	29	17
Valid N (listwise)	53					

* Taken from Journal Citation Reports. (2003). *Social science edition*. Philadelphia: Institute for Scientific Information.

IF = impact factor

JCR = Journal Citations Report impact factor rank (among 46 journals) in Social Psychology section

IF-rank = Impact Factor rank of the journals discussed in this article

n/a = journal was not included in Journal Citations Report or was not included in the Social Psychology section

The 2005 Graduate Poster Award Winners

In New Orleans, you probably noticed poster presentations displaying "GPA nominee" signs. These signs signaled candidates for the Graduate Poster Award. Candidates for the award applied in October. During each poster session, three secret judges visited nominees. The judges overheard students explaining their poster and asked questions of the student. They rated each poster on clarity, presentation skills, methodological and theoretical soundness, and independent intellectual contribution to the field.

The top-rated poster in each session received: \$50.00, a one-year individual user license for Media Lab RT (both donated by

Empirisoft), a certificate, and their poster was displayed throughout the remainder of the conference.

The winners this year were: Cheryl Dickter, Marie Ford, Kristen Lindquist, Yuri Miyamoto, Corey Scherer, Colin Smith, and Sophie Trawalter.

This year's honorable mentions went to: Joe Cesario, Kate Dockery, John Edlund, Francesco Feroni, Matt Gailliot, Alison Ledgerwood, Mary Murphy, Yu Niiya, Heather Omoregie, Erin Rapien, Gwendolyn Seidman, Lindsay Shaw, Dikla Shmueli, and Elena Stepanova.

This year's judges were Ozlum Ayduk, Kurt Boniecki, Mark Brackett, Chris Crandall, Jon

Grahe, Judith Hall, Tony Hermann, Alisha Janowski, Tim Ketelaar, Wendy Berry Mendez, Leonard Newman, Matt Newman, Kathy Oleson, Minda Orina, Tamarha Pierce, Diane Quinn, Darcy Reich, Neal Roesse, Lloyd Sloan, Carrie Smith, and Carolyn Weisz. Special thanks to Blair Jarvis of Empirisoft for donating the prizes.

We will be increasing the number of poster awards at the 2006 Convention. The GPA will be undergoing other changes to better showcase superlative student research and streamline the nomination and judging process. So, get ready to submit your posters to the 2006 GPA! Next year's winners may include you.