

The Official Newsletter of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology

## Going to Memphis: SPSP's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, January 2007

By Steve Harkins and  
Monica Biernat

SPSP is going to Memphis, Home of the Blues, Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll!!

The 8th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology will be held in Memphis, Tennessee on January 25-27, 2007.

The Conference will be held in the newly-renovated Memphis Cook Convention Center in the heart of downtown Memphis. The headquarters hotel, the Memphis Marriott Downtown, is connected to the Convention Center and has a full range of facilities including an indoor pool and a fitness center. Overflow will be accommodated at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, which is only a block away. The complex is 12 miles away from the Memphis International Airport, which is served by direct flights from many national airport hubs.

As in past years, activities will begin on Thursday (January 25) with 13 preconferences. Take a look at all the choices at: <http://www.taramillerevents.com/spsp2007/preconferences.htm>

The convention itself will begin Thursday afternoon at 5:30 with the Presidential Symposium, which will be followed by a welcome reception. On Friday and Saturday the program will continue with a host of symposia, poster sessions, invited addresses, publisher exhibits, and special events. Each year we think that we must have reached asymptote in terms of numbers of submissions. That certainly was the case last year, but once again we have been proven wrong. This year, we received 124 symposia submissions (up from last year's 107) and 1,340 poster submissions (up from last year's 1,197). An article on p. 5 provides some detail about the review process faced by the

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Chris Crandall &  
Monica Biernat,  
Co-Editors

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## New Society Officers Elected

This past spring, Society Members voted in elections for the positions of President Elect, Secretary Treasurer, APA Council Representative, and Member at Large of the SPSP Executive Committee.

The winner of the presidential election was Jack Dovidio, who will serve as President-Elect in 2007, President in 2008, and past-President in 2009.

Dr. Dovidio is Professor of Psychology at the University of Connecticut, and Editor of *JPSP: IRGP*.

The Society's new Secretary/Treasurer is Jennifer Crocker, Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan.

The new Member-at-Large is Lisa Feldman Barrett, Professor of Psychology at Boston College.

M. Lynne Cooper, Professor of Psychology at the University of Missouri, was elected to a 3-year term as a Division 8 representative to the APA Council of Representatives.

These new members will have voting rights on the SPSP Executive Committee. Congratulations to our colleagues! ■

# Report from the Executive Committee

The SPSP Executive Committee held its bi-annual meeting following the APA convention in New Orleans, on August 13-14, 2006. Headed by President Brenda Major and Executive Officer David Dunning, a theme of this meeting was to “think bigger” about the Society—to consider the possibility of developing new journals, establishing new directions for training of graduate students and members at different career stages, and broadening the reach of social/personality psychology into other disciplines. The Society is in good financial shape, and the time may be ripe for stretching boundaries. Any suggestions about the direction of SPSP should be forwarded to members of the SPSP Executive committee (see the back of Dialogue for a listing of current members).

Newly elected Executive Committee members were announced at the meeting. The new President-elect is Jack Dovidio, Secretary/Treasurer is Jenny Crocker, Division 8 APA Council Representative is Lynne Cooper, and the new Member at Large is Lisa Feldman Barrett. These new EC members will join the meeting that will follow the SPSP convention in Memphis in January.

*Membership and Treasurer’s Report*  
SPSP membership as of August was 4,827, the highest figure yet. This reflects some burst in membership based on the membership requirement for submitting posters/symposia for consideration in the conference. Partly because of increased membership as well as good income from our journals, the Society had a higher-than-anticipated surplus this year that will allow for some cushion should a tight year arise. The cushion also allows for the luxury of thinking big about new journals and programs as well as other investment opportunities.

*Publication Committee*  
The Publications Committee, chaired

by Rick Robins, noted that *PSPB* is on target for another year of more than 600 journal submissions! Roughly 22% of submissions are now being triaged – rejected without review, and the overall rejection rate is at 76%, with an average editorial lag of 9.2 weeks and a publication lag of 6.8 months. Reports are that new editorial structure—in which editor Judy Harackiewicz heads a team of 2 Senior Associate Editors and 9 Associate Editors—is working well. The Executive Committee voted to continue this structure through the end of Harackiewicz’ term, but to revisit the issue when a new editor steps in.

In the context of discussing the very

*Reports are that new editorial structure—in which the editor heads a team of 2 Senior Associate Editors and 9 Associate Editors—is working well.*

high rate of submissions to *PSPB*, The Executive Committee brainstormed about the possibility of establishing other journals. There is obviously a need for outlets from the growing community of personality/social psychologists, and Sage, our current publisher, is open to moving forward to another journal. Some formats that were discussed included an on-line journal, a journal focused on public policy applications, a journal modeled on *Psychological Science* (short, punchy articles with quick turnaround), and/or an inter-disciplinary journal with thematic content in each issue.

*PSPR*, under the new editorship of Galen Bodenhausen is experiencing a slight rise in submissions relative to last year; 36 papers were submitted during the first 6 months of 2006. The journal is operating with an 82% rejection rate, an editorial lag of 9.5

weeks, and a publication lag of 9.8 months. There was some discussion of how submissions to *PSPR* might be increased. One suggestion was that authors might be encouraged to submit review articles (and not only “big theory” pieces) to the journal; also discussed was the possibility of publishing the SPSP annual Presidential Address in the journal. Prospective authors are encouraged to read editor Galen Bodenhausen’s mission statement that will appear in the February issue of *PSPR*.

### *Society Archivist*

SPSP is interested in developing an archive of photographs, videos, and tape-recordings that might be of interest to members of the society. If you have any such items, please contact Dave Dunning, Executive Officer of SPSP.

### *Convention Committee*

This year’s convention committee, headed by Steve Harkins, has been hard at work organizing the Memphis meeting. Registration is open, and the committee is pleased that the registration fee will stay the same as it has for the past two years. More about the convention appears in the cover story of this issue.

The Executive Committee also voted to change the Student Travel Award amounts. For the 2007 meeting, all travel awards to students (both from the Graduate Student Travel Award and the Diversity Fund Travel Award) will be for \$500. This represents an increase from \$300 for last year’s Graduate Student Travel Awards, but a decrease from \$800 for last year’s Diversity Fund Travel Awards. There was broad support for equating the amount of the awards from these two funds, and for a funding figure that would cover more than merely airfare and registration.

The SPSP Executive Committee also  
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voted on recommendations for sites for the 2008 convention. The winning city is Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the dates are set for February 7–9. Mark your calendars!

*Training Committee*

The Training Committee has been focused on training current and “next generation” social and personality psychologists, and has therefore been working closely with the Graduate Student Committee to coordinate its efforts. One joint effort is the Graduate Student Mentoring Lunch which will once again take place at the SPSP meeting. The committee is sponsoring a symposium on writing at this year’s SPSP meeting, and will also host an Open Breakfast meeting at the convention to discuss committee

*The Training Committee is sponsoring a symposium on writing at this year’s SPSP meeting.*

initiatives. One ongoing project is the development of a Graduate Training Directors’ network, designed to facilitate communication among those involved in training in personality/social psychology. Additionally, the committee is planning activities relevant to career stages beyond graduate school, and is revamping its mission statement so as best focus its efforts on important periods of career training.

*Diversity Committee*

This year, the Diversity committee plans several activities at the convention. One is a symposium on Friday afternoon on “Sexual prejudice: Continuities and discontinuities with other forms of prejudice” chaired by Mark Snyder. This symposium will be followed by a Diversity reception, at which winners of the Diversity Travel Awards will be recognized. On Saturday, the committee will host a coffee hour in honor of GASP, the

GLBT alliance in Social and Personality Psychology. Both of these social events are open to all SPSP members. The Diversity Committee has been involved in fund-raising as well, making appeals to publishers (often through SPSP members who author books) to contribute to diversity initiatives. If you would like to contribute money to the Diversity Fund, or have suggestions for any aspect of Diversity initiatives, please contact Committee chair Keith Maddox, at [keith.maddox@tufts.edu](mailto:keith.maddox@tufts.edu).

*Graduate Student Committee*

The Graduate Student Committee is sponsoring a special symposium at the SPSP conference on “Advice I wished I had received in graduate school,” and will also continue to sponsor the Poster Awards and the Mentoring Lunch at the convention. The GSC has been particularly successful in adding teaching resources to the website to aid graduate students who are beginning their teaching careers. For more information about activities of the GSC, see the article on p. 11 of this issue.

*The SPSP.org and SPN Websites*

The SPSP.org website has received more than 3.2 million page views; webmaster Scott Plous continually updates the site, adding to the Student’s Corner and checking on the accuracy of links.

Social Psychology Network is growing as well, and has received over 82 million page views since 1999; about 70,000 a day from people in over 100 countries. Funding from NSF for SPN has recently dropped and will phase out entirely in three years, so plans for continued funding are being explored. These include a fund drive, potential funding from APA, or an annual web fee for users. These possibilities will be explored in the coming months.

*Division 8 Programming at the APA Meeting*

Toni Schmader headed the Division 8 Program Committee for the APA

meeting in New Orleans. Toni and her committee (including Veronica Benet-Martinez and Laura King) put together a great slate of speakers, covering 29 program hours. As is typical of the APA meeting, attendance was not great for the personality/social talks, but topics related to clinical psychology were better attended, as were those offering Continuing Education credit. The Chair of the Division 8 program at the 2007 APA convention in San Francisco is C. Raymond (Chip) Knee, University of Houston. The deadline for program submissions is December 1. Visit [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org) for more information about the submission process, or contact Dr. Knee at [knee@uh.edu](mailto:knee@uh.edu).

*The next slated SISP session will be in Austin, Texas in July 2007.*

*The Summer Institute in Social/Personality Psychology (SISP)*

The next slated SISP session will be in Austin, Texas in July 2007. At this point seven of ten instructors have committed, and the planning is well under way. This will be the last meeting to be funded by the NSF grant originally written by Harry Reis, Eliot Smith, and Chick Judd, so it is time to plan a new NSF submission. Reaction to the SISP has been very positive overall, and there is a strong desire to keep this program on track. The Executive Committee is seeking “new blood” for the SISP Steering Committee. Those with interest in this program, and particularly those with interest in collaborating on a new NSF proposal, should contact Dave Dunning, the Executive Officer of SPSP ([dad6@cornell.edu](mailto:dad6@cornell.edu)).

*Funding and Lobbying Efforts*

The second day of the Executive Committee Meeting included a visit from Steve Breckler and Heather Kelly from the APA Science Directorate. Steve and Heather reported that NSF

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# Report on APA Council Meeting, August 8, 9, & 13, 2006

By M. Lynne Cooper &  
Janet K. Swim

A number of items of potential interest to members of Division 8/SPSP were discussed and voted on at the August meeting of the APA Council of Representatives, which took place in New Orleans both before and after the APA convention. Approximately 9000 people attended the conference. This is similar to the number that attended the conference in Toronto in 2003 when there was concern about a possible SARS outbreak in Canada. Members participated in many service opportunities to help the city of New Orleans, including about 80 people who volunteered for the Habitat for Humanity and provided school supply donations.

## ***Issues and Concerns Surrounding the PENS (Psychological Ethics and National Security) Task Force Report***

Considerable time was devoted to discussion of APA's position on psychologists' involvement in interrogations. This included presentations, followed by question and answer periods, made by Dr. Kevin C Kiley, Lt Surgeon General of the Army; Dr. Olivia Moorehead-Slaughter, chair of the PENS Task Force, and Dr. Steven Reisen, a psychologist who treats victims of trauma and has been an outspoken critic of the PENS report. APA's position (summarized below) has recently come under fire for what many perceive to be an insufficiently tough and ambiguous stand on psychologists' involvement in interrogations. As reflected in the recent PENS Task Force report, the core features of APA's position can be summarized as follows:

- Psychologists do not participate in any fashion or under any circumstances in torture or other cruel, degrading, or inhuman

treatment. This includes knowingly providing research, instruments, or knowledge that facilitates the practice of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;

- Psychologists have a responsibility to remain alert to any activities that might qualify as torture or other cruel, degrading, or inhuman treatment, and to report such activities to appropriate authorities.

Key concerns raised by critics of APA's policy include:

- In contrast to other professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the World Medical Association, and the American Psychiatric Association, which have adopted policies banning any and all participation by their members' in interrogations, APA recognizes a legitimate role for psychologists.
- Interrogations are, by their very nature, coercive and inimical to the interests of the individual. As such, psychologists – whose first ethical responsibility is to do no harm – can have no legitimate role in such activities. Indeed, their very presence can be interpreted as tacit approval of the activity/situation. It is of special concern that psychologists are working in settings like Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. These institutions have rejected widely accepted international guidelines, such as those outlined by the Geneva Convention, for handling detainees who are not guaranteed basic rights as prescribed by international law. Under such circumstances, a psychologist's very presence can be seen as condoning the tactics, methods, and general position taken by the government on the treatment of detainees.
- Psychologists are called upon in

such situations to calibrate the amount of harm and to identify procedures that “cross the line” into abuse. As members of a helping profession, this is not an acceptable role for psychologists.

- Psychologists operating in such environments might be put in positions in which legal and ethical mandates are in direct conflict, and current APA guidelines do not unequivocally mandate psychologists to follow ethical principles.
- Clear and unambiguous guidelines for what constitutes psychological abuse do not exist. Historically, torture has been defined primarily in terms of physical treatment, whereas more contemporary methods are primarily psychological in nature. Thus there is a vast grey area in terms of what constitutes torture and/or cruel, degrading and inhumane treatment. The feeling by many is that it is bad policy to put psychologists in morally ambiguous situations where clear guidelines are not readily available and enormous situational pressures to go along exist.

APA is currently taking steps to address some of these ambiguities by developing casebook/commentary on the PENS Task Force guidelines that would assist psychologists working in military settings to make more informed decisions. The APA Ethics committee currently has the responsibility of writing casebook/commentary in which key terms (e.g., torture and cruel, unusual, and degrading treatment) will be defined and clearer, concrete guidelines for psychologists serving in these settings will be provided.

## ***Council Approves New Statement on Psychologists Involvement in Torture***

In a related move, Council approved an updated general statement on torture. This statement in no way invalidates the key findings of the PENS Task Force Report, which remains the

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# Difficult Decisions: Putting Together the 2007 SPSP Convention Program

*By Monica Biernat,  
SPSP 2007 Program Chair*

The popularity of the annual SPSP convention is a source of great pride for the organization, but it also brings some headaches. One of these is the difficulty of deciding among a broad array of excellent conference submissions which ones to include in the program. This year, the program committee (which also included Henk Aarts, Ximena Arriaga, Niall Bolger, Jennifer Richeson, Linda Skitka, Sheldon Solomon, Gary Stasser, and Jean Twenge) reviewed 124 symposia submissions -- the highest number ever (107 were submitted last year). The 2006 meeting featured 53 symposia (for a 49.5% acceptance rate), but based on the higher submission rate this year we reconfigured the 2007 conference schedule (starting a bit earlier and going a bit later in the day), resulting in the addition of 12 more symposia slots. Still, the committee was only able to accept 65 of 124 submissions, for an acceptance rate of 52%.

As has been the case for several years, a "one speaking role" rule was enforced. An individual can only speak once at the convention (including as a discussant), and indeed can only appear in a speaking role in one symposia submission. There continues to be some confusion about this rule, and a few violations did make their way through the screening system (we hope all were ultimately corrected). SPSP is committed to enforcing this rule and surely will do so next year as well. However, some points of clarification should be offered:

- The Executive Committee and Convention Committee agreed that an individual could chair a session (but not speak in it), and then speak

in another session. This would not constitute a violation of the "one speaking role" rule.

- Speakers in the Presidential Symposium, the Training Committee Symposium (on writing), and the Graduate Student Symposium (on "what I wish I'd learned in graduate school") were exempt from the one-speaking role rule, and were allowed to speak in other sessions. The SPSP Executive Committee is committed to supporting these special sessions and did not want to prevent the organizers from including the speakers they desired, or speakers from accepting these invitations.

The review process itself worked in the following way: Each symposium submission was reviewed by two members of the Program Committee. Committee members rated each symposium on a 4-point scale, and were forced to place 25% of the symposia they reviewed into each of the four rating categories. No committee member rated a symposium for which he or she had a conflict of interest. I then calculated averages, and in my first pass at decision-making I selected for inclusion the symposia with the best overall scores. It's probably not surprising that there were conflicting views on a number of submissions. In these cases, I often brought in a third reviewer, but the final decisions were based on a number of other criteria, including representing areas broadly, including both senior and junior speakers, and being sure that content overlap was minimal. For example, there were many submissions having to do with stereotyping and prejudice, and many having to do with interpersonal relationships. This reflects the interest level of our members and thus you will see good coverage of these topics in the program. However, when two or more

symposia were too closely related, I was likely to accept only one so that other topical areas could be represented in the program. I also considered whether a very similar symposium had been presented at last year's conference, and several submissions were rejected for this reason.

The decisions to reject were very difficult, and I have no doubt that a very strong program could have been put together based on the 59 rejected submissions. Still, we're very happy with the program we put together and impressed with our colleagues' work.

The program committee also received 1,340 poster submissions, again higher than last year's 1197. Posters were reviewed by a panel of graduate students (see the full list in the SPSP convention program). These reviewers were charged with identifying weaker submissions rather than rating each on quality. Based on these reviews, we were able to accept over 90% of the submissions. The most common reasons for rejecting posters included evidence that data had not yet been collected or analyzed, findings that merely replicated extant research, weak or null findings that seemed likely due to study design issues, lack of clarity/difficulty in understanding precisely what was done or why, and/or coverage of topic areas that seemed less relevant to the interests of social/personality psychologists.

Any feedback on procedural issues or content of the program is welcome. This year's schedule is jam-packed, with programming running from 8:00 am to 7:45 on both Friday and Saturday, in addition to the opening session on Thursday night. The Program Committee hopes you enjoy what we've put together—see you in Memphis! ■

## Comings and Goings

*Each fall, Dialogue features a list of comings and goings — where have colleagues moved in the past year? This list includes only information that was sent to us, so we have surely missed some moves. Year of Ph.D. and Ph.D. granting institution appear in parentheses.*

Catherine Amiot (2004, University of Ottawa), from a post-doc at the University of Queensland to Université du Québec à Montréal

Christopher Bauman (2006, University of Illinois at Chicago) to a post-doc at the Dispute Resolution Research Center and Kellogg School of Business, Northwestern University

Ginette C. Blackhart (2006, Florida State University), to East Tennessee State University

Jennifer Bosson (2000, University of Texas-Austin), from the University of Oklahoma to the University of South Florida

Amy L. Brown (2006 Miami University) to the Research Institute on Addictions, SUNY Buffalo

Kathleen C. Burns (2006 University of Massachusetts), to University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Amy Canevello (2006, University of Houston) to a post-doc at the Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Dana R. Carney (2004, Northeastern University), to a post doc at Harvard University

Bettina J. Casad (2006, Claremont Graduate University) to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Clara Cheng (2006, Ohio State University), to American University

Adam Cohen (2000, University of Pennsylvania), from Philadelphia University to Arizona State University

Elizabeth C. Collins (2006, University of Kansas), to a post-doc at Indiana University

Kristy Dean (2006, Northwestern University) to California State University, San Bernardino

Joyce Ehrlinger (2004, Cornell University), from Stanford University to Florida State University

Maire Ford (2006, University of California, Santa Barbara) to Loyola Marymount University

Donelson R. Forsyth (1978, University of Florida), from Virginia Commonwealth University to University of Richmond, Jepson School of Leadership Studies

Kentaro Fujita (2006, New York University) to the Ohio State University

Omri Gillath (2003, Bar-Ilan University), from a post-doc at University of California-Davis to the University of Kansas

Jeremy Ginges (2004, Tel Aviv University), from the University of Michigan to the New School for Social Research

Joshua Greene (2002, Princeton University), from a post-doc at Princeton to Harvard University.

Rosanna Guadagno (2003, Arizona State University) from a post doc at UC Santa Barbara to the University of Alabama

Joshua Hart (2006, University of California, Davis) to a post-doc at Lawrence University

Jeremy D. Heider (2005, Northern Illinois University), from Eastern Oregon University to Stephen F. Austin State University

Marlone D. Henderson (2006, New York University), to the University of Chicago

Michael Hogg (1983, University of Bristol), from the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia to Claremont Graduate University

William A. Jellison (2004, Michigan State University), from Colgate University to Quinnipiac University

Cheryl Kaiser (2001, University of Vermont), from Michigan State University to University of Washington

Eric D. Knowles (2003, University of California, Berkeley), to the University of California, Irvine

G. Tarcan Kumkale (2004, University of Florida), from a post-doc at Duke University to Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey

Mark Leary (1980, University of Florida), from Wake Forest University to Duke University

Janxin Leu (2004, University of Michigan), to University of Washington

Bonita London (2006, Columbia University), to Stony Brook University

Geoff MacDonald (2000, University of Waterloo), from University of Queensland to University of Toronto

William Maddux (2004, Ohio State University), from a post-doc at the Kellogg School of Management to INSEAD (France)

David Marx (2001, Harvard University), from University of Groningen, the Netherlands, to San Diego State University

Robert D. Mather (2006, Texas Tech University), to the University of Central Oklahoma

Jason Mitchell (2003, Harvard University), from a post-doc at Harvard/Dartmouth to Harvard University

Yuri Miyamoto (2006, University of Michigan), to the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Margo J. Monteith (1991, University of Wisconsin), from University of Kentucky to Purdue University

Dan Mroczek (1992, Boston University), from Fordham University to Purdue University

Elizabeth Mullen (2004, University of Illinois at Chicago), from Northwestern University to Stanford University, Graduate School of Business

Leonard Newman (1990, New York University) from University of Illinois-Chicago, to Syracuse University

Minda Oriña (2002, Texas A&M University), from Michigan State University to the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus (Institute of Child Development)

Julie Patock-Peckham (2005, Arizona State University) to the University of Missouri-Rolla

Jason Plaks (2001, Columbia University), from University of Washington to University of Toronto

Steven Platek (2002, State University of New York at Albany), from Drexel University to University of Liverpool School of Biological Sciences

Kristopher J. Preacher (2003, Ohio State University), from a post-doc at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to the University of Kansas

Jennifer Randall Crosby (2006, Stanford University), to Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA

Jennifer Richeson (2000, Harvard University), from Dartmouth College to Northwestern University

Luis M. Rivera (2006, University of Massachusetts) to California State University at San Bernardino

Aaron Sackett (2006, Yale University), to a post-doc at the Center for Decision Research, University of Chicago Graduate School of Business

Lynda M. Sagrestano (1993, University of California, Berkeley), from Southern Illinois University Carbondale to Director of the Center for Research on Women, University of Memphis

Alecia M. Santuzzi (2004, Tulane University) from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign to Syracuse University

Kai Sassenberg (1999, University of Goettingen, Germany), from University of Jena (Germany) to University of Groningen (The Netherlands)

Christian Schwennen (2005, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany), from University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany to Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

Michelle Lani Shiota (2003, University of California, Berkeley), to Arizona State University

Dikla Shmueli (2006, University at Albany, SUNY), to a NIDA post-doc at the University of California, San Francisco

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## CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT

# Contact in South Africa

By Thomas F. Pettigrew

The Ithala Game Park in South Africa must surely rank as one of the most exotic locations for a social psychological conference. And that is where the highly successful *Contact50* Conference was held, July 6-9 this year. Patterned after the SPSSI-EAESP sponsored Grenada Conference on Prejudice held in 2001, *Contact50* featured nearly 40 papers focused on intergroup contact presented by researchers from throughout the world. Social psychology is vigorously pursued in South Africa, and two of its leaders organized the gathering—Gillian Finchilescu of the University of Witwatersrand and Colin Tredoux of the University of Cape Town.

In addition to the formal sessions, there was also time to take long walks and even a mini-safari to view the animals – especially impalas and zebras. It cannot be said, however, that the conferees were “roughing it in the wild.” The Conference took place at the beautifully-situated Ithala Game Lodge with full amenities. And, like every effective meeting, there was ample time for discussion over drinks and fulsome meals (which included impala, wild boar and other local game).

The international cast of 43 came from eight nations. South Africans made up the largest group followed by seven Americans, six Dutch, five British, two Australians, and one each from Canada, Mozambique, and Germany. Marilyn Brewer, Linda Tropp, and a Harvard contingent led by Mahzarin Banaji and Kristin Shutts brought American perspectives. But the broad coverage guaranteed a diversity of opinion and insights, and some of the most interesting moments at the conference

came during the discussion periods. Seven attendees were old students and colleagues of mine, and that made it an especially enjoyable occasion for me.

Virtually all the papers pushed the frontiers of what is known about intergroup contact. Two of the most interesting for me were two novel contributions concerning informal racial segregation in the new South Africa.

John Dixon described patterns of racial positioning on Durban's beaches using photographs taken from a helicopter. Tredoux described racial seating patterns at popular bars and nightclubs in Cape Town, and showed how the degree of contact or segregation recorded is dependent on the particular scale of analysis used.

*Now that Apartheid has formally ended, diversity is widely apparent. No wonder the nation's social psychologists are particularly interested in intergroup contact theory and research.*

The *Contact50* conference took its name from the fact that exactly a half-century earlier Gordon Allport made a five-month visit to South Africa. Sponsored by the Ford Foundation, he was based at the then-University of Natal in Durban on the Indian Ocean and delivered addresses throughout the country. It was just two years after the 1954 publication of his influential volume, *The Nature of Prejudice*, and he used its insights in analyzing the tense South African situation. But he

learned from South Africa as well. In the foreword of the paperback edition in 1958, Allport notes that “...I would, on the basis of my experience in South Africa, give extra weight to the portions of this book dealing with conformity and sociocultural factors in prejudice.” (Allport, 1958, p. vii)

I had the great opportunity of accompanying Allport on his South African trip. In the fall of 1955, I was completing my doctoral thesis at Harvard University under his supervision (Pettigrew, 1959), and he made me an offer I could not refuse. Were I to finish writing my thesis by January, he would get a foundation grant for me to go with him to South Africa. With all haste, I did so and went ahead to make advance preparations for his visit. I had just married, and my wife, Ann, joined me as soon as she finished her B.A. at Radcliffe College. So our stay in Durban and our long trip back through Europe constituted our honeymoon trip.

Thus, the return to South Africa was an especially meaningful and nostalgic one for both my wife and me. Gillian and Colin arranged for me to speak after the Conference at three major universities - Kwa-Zulu Natal in Durban, Cape Town, and Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. This gave us the opportunity to revisit varied parts of the country. South Africa is larger in size than Texas and California combined with a population that equals those of California and Michigan together (47 million). Four out of every five South Africans are Africans; Caucasians and Coloureds constitute about 9% each, and the remainder are Asians.

Now that *Apartheid* has formally ended, diversity is widely apparent. No

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## Contact in South Africa, Continued

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wonder the nation's social psychologists are particularly interested in intergroup contact theory and research. South Africa's problems from HIV to persistent crime and poverty remain enormous; and the jury is not in yet as to whether it can achieve Nelson Mandela's optimistic vision of a "rainbow nation." Africans of different walks of life impressed us as being far more patient with the Government's efforts than we had anticipated. Yet South Africa remains a complex society that is at once part of the first and third worlds – from the grandeur of the expensive Cape Town homes on the Atlantic coast to the wretched conditions of some African townships.

Nonetheless, it warmed our hearts to witness the massive change that has taken place in the 50 years since our previous visit. Durban's beautiful beaches, strictly restricted to Whites only in 1956, are now open to all – although largely informally segregated. The new Constitutional Court, built on the site of an infamous jail in Johannesburg, features at its entrance a sign with all eleven official languages – English, Afrikaans, and nine African languages. Everywhere we looked through our half-century-dated vision, we saw progress even though much remains to be accomplished.

For all its problems, then, South Africa is one of the few places in the presently embattled world scene where progress is being made in intergroup relations and there is hope for a better future. What better place to hold a conference on intergroup contact theory and research?

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## Shelly Gable Wins NSF's PECASE Award

Shelly Gable of UCLA has been awarded the PECASE award (Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers), the highest honor the United States bestows on beginning independent investigators. NSF had 20 PECASE awardees, all selected from winning CAREER awards. Shelly Gable was the only awardee from the social and behavioral sciences.

Gable examines how the motives that partners bring to their relationships influence the way everyday events are noticed, interpreted and remembered. She was cited for her work integrating "research on motivation and interpersonal relations into a

comprehensive and innovative model that addresses the influence of individual disposition, environment and short-term goals on behaviors and outcomes . . . such as judgments of relationship satisfaction and decisions to end relationships."

Award ceremonies were held at the White House and at NSF. Amber Story of NSF reports that "Shelly gave a moving speech, noting how her fellow awardees illustrated the very thesis of her work, that close relationships are central to human functioning, in that every single one of them acknowledged and thanked their parents, spouse, children, siblings, mentors, and friends." ■

## Invitation to Submit Articles to *Psychological Review*

By Wendy Wood

*Psychological Review* publishes theoretical articles across the field of psychology. Social and personality psychology has been represented in the past by an eminent group of editors and associate editors. But relatively few personality/social articles have been published in the journal. One reason is that social and personality researchers have other good outlets, including *Personality and Social Psychology Review* and *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*.

Articles published in *Psychological Review* have the advantage of reaching a broad readership beyond our standard audience. In line with this broad readership, the social/personality articles that have appeared in the journal have been influential across the field of psychology.

I took over as Associate Editor of the journal in June, and part of my reason for doing so was to increase the representation of our best articles. But for these to appear in the journal, they first have to be submitted. So, I am inviting you to submit some of your best work.

The goals for *Psychological Review* are to publish influential and important articles that advance new theory and/or present new models and to publish articles that will likely have general appeal and broad impact. For the journal to meet these goals and serve as a forum for growth in social/personality psychology, we have to submit our papers to the journal.

I welcome and encourage each of you to do so. ■

## Executive Committee Report (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

funding increased this year by about 7%, with further increases expected, but that concern still lingers about a renewal of the Hutchinson Amendment efforts.

In December 2005, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX) proposed to triple the budget for NSF, provided that SBE (Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences) was eliminated. This effort was squelched after NSF's hard work educating the Senator about the portfolio of SBE. But in May 2006, she proposed an amendment to revise The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, in which she proposed that the Director of NSF exclude behavioral, social, and biological sciences in the list of top funding priorities. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) proposed an amendment in response to delete the Hutchinson language.

Both SPSP and SESP, along with the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences (FBPCS) and the APA responded to this, and though it's unclear how much difference a slew of phone calls made, Hutchinson and Lautenberg ultimately came to a compromise amendment that maintained NSF's ability to set funding priorities. Though this was a victory, there is still a sense that Senator Hutchinson will continue to try to undermine SBE funding at NSF.

Steve and Heather noted how important it is to continue to support our NSF program officers, keeping in touch with them about new developments and ideas in the field, and writing proposals. For more information about NSF funding (including the increase in funding for Social Psychology), see the article on p. 14. More generally, Steve Breckler noted that social/personality psychologists could do more to broaden their perspective on science, to pay

attention to calls for proposals that may initially sound irrelevant for SPSP members (such as the Human Social Dynamics initiative), and to give more than lip service to proposal requests that highlight the need for relevance to mental health issues.

The Executive Committee also voted to continue the society's membership in the FBPCS. This costs SPSP \$22,000 a year, but there was a strong sense that our role in advocacy has improved tremendously since joining the Federation 3 years ago. The Federation was involved in the Hutchinson issue as well as with several specific grant decisions.

*APA Council of Representatives*  
Janet Swim, one of Division 8's two representatives to the APA CoR discussed the Council meeting that had

*Social/personality psychologists could do more to broaden their perspective on science*

occurred just a few days earlier. Janet highlighted incoming president Sharon Brehm's initiatives, including addressing IRB concerns, integrative health care for an aging population, and math and science literacy. For a full report from the APA Council, see the story by Lynne Cooper and Janet Swim on p. 4.

*Foundation for Personality and Social Psychology*

As reported in Dialogue last spring, SPSP has established the Foundation for Personality and Social Psychology, a fund that will eventually operate independently of the SPSP Executive. The Foundation is currently accepting donations, but is still at the point of establishing an identity, developing a guiding framework for operations, and becoming fully financially

independent. The current Board of the Foundation includes Mark Snyder (President), Mahzarin Banaji, Jim Blascovich, Sharon Brehm, and Susan Fiske. The Foundation could do wonderful things for the field; please consider donating in the future.

*Public Outreach*

SPSP has been working with Sage, the publisher of PSPB, to nominate articles on which press releases might be done. But more needs to be done to get the work of SPSP members out to the public. The Executive Committee voted in favor of a \$5,000 allocation to form and support a meeting of an SPSP Public Relations Committee. More news about this committee will be forthcoming.

*Membership of the Executive Committee*

A proposal was made to consider adding two more Members at Large to the SPSP Executive Committee. The rationale for the size increase is that the Society is getting bigger and more complex, with more committees and responsibilities. More bodies are needed on the EC to facilitate these growing efforts. The EC voted to change the society by-laws by adding two more Members at Large to the Executive Committee (all non-student members of SPSP should have received a ballot insert with this issue of Dialogue).

*Awards*

The Executive Committee meeting ended with the selection of Service Award winners. This year's Awards for Service to the Field of Personality/Social psychology goes to Amber Story and James Jackson. The Award for Service to the Society goes to Roy Baumeister and Dianne Tice. Citations appear on p. 24 of this issue.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place in Memphis, on the Sunday and Monday following the SPSP Convention. ■

# Update From The Graduate Student Committee

*By John Edlund  
President, Graduate Student  
Committee*

The SPSP Graduate Student Committee is pleased to tell you about this year's many ongoing activities and give you a preview of the many exciting events we have planned for Memphis.

The GSC has launched several new initiatives this year to help fulfill our mission of assisting students for academic and career success. The first of these initiatives is the student award and grant posting. This collection of grants and awards is specially tailored for graduate student use.

The second is the introduction to psychology resource page. This is an exciting collection of syllabi, Power Points, demonstrations, and other miscellaneous resources that can contribute to your ability to teach introduction to psychology.

Last, but not least, is the international student resource page. This collection of links is tailored to what students requested in a survey late last year. We hope that you find these resources to be of great use.

Some of the ongoing projects that we have continued to support during the year include the non-academic job postings and the Forum. The job postings are great resource as there are always updates made as new social and personality positions are made available.

In the Forum, we have published topical issues focusing on Graduation/ Summer activities and an issue on Mentoring/ Start of A New Academic Year. Future issues will be focused on conference experiences and looking towards the future.

I also want to give you a preview of the

many activities will be sponsoring at the conference in Memphis. In previous years, the GSC had sponsored a careers preconference.

This year, as an experiment, we have decided to sponsor a symposium instead. We feel that this format will allow many more students and mentors to participate without having to make a difficult choice of which preconference to attend. This year's symposium features three well-respected professors who will give talks on their areas of expertise. John Dovidio will give a presentation on the academic publishing process specifically focusing on choosing a journal, writing the manuscript, and interpreting the editor's action letter. Heather Claypool will be giving a presentation on how to give an effective job talk. Finally, Peter Glick will be giving a presentation on considering academic careers at small liberal arts colleges.

New to the conference this year will be the graduate student social hour. This will be a chance for graduate students to network with other graduate students. Look for more information about this exciting activity in the near future.

As in previous years the GSC will be sponsoring a mentoring luncheon at the

conference. This is a great opportunity to meet the "who's who" of your particular field. In the past, this has been a very popular activity at the conference, and we are looking forward to continuing its success.

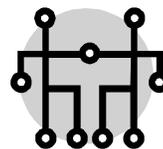
The final activity we will be sponsoring is the graduate student poster award. This the fifth year the GSC is sponsoring the award. As in years past, secret judges will evaluate each poster and select a winner and two runners up.

Each winner will receive an award certificate, a \$100 award, a personal copy of Medialab and/or DirectRT, and the winner's choice of either: a DirectIN Millisecond Precision Keyboard (value \$290) or a DirectIN Precision Response Box with Custom Button Layout (value \$390), provided courtesy of Empirisoft.

Winning posters will be moved to a designated GPA award winners' section. Runners up will receive an award certificate and a \$50 award.

As always, if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about the GSC please don't hesitate in contacting us at [spspgsc@yahoo.com](mailto:spspgsc@yahoo.com).

■



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# Passings

*This continues our section of very brief obituaries of psychologists of interest to members of SPSP. If you wish to contribute an obituary, or bring our attention to people we have overlooked, please e-mail the editors, and we will be happy to include them. —The Editors*

## John Money July, 2006

John Money received a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1952, with a dissertation on hermaphroditism, and spent his entire career at Johns Hopkins University. At Johns Hopkins, he founded a pediatric endocrine clinic, where was a psychoendocrinologist.

Money helped found the field of sexual identity studies, and moved the treatment of people born sexually ambiguous from “oddities and glitches” into the legitimate range of biologically-based sexuality. Money argued that sexual identity came from the interaction between social and environmental cues on the one hand, and genes and hormones on the other, to determine whether a person identified as male or female.

Money coined the phrases “gender identity” and “gender role,” describing the phenomenology of expectations about sexuality. He was an early supporter of “sex reassignment surgery” for people who believed that their “biological” sex was different from their own sexual identity.

Money also consulted and published on the phenomenon of “intersex” children—babies born with ambiguous genitalia, who might be raised either as boys or girls. The research, therapy, and surgery on sexual reassignment has proved extremely controversial. Money

published extensively in journals, newspapers, and books, including *Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment* (co-editor, 1969), *Man & Woman, Boy & Girl: Gender Identity from Conception to Maturity* (1972, with Ehrhardt), and *Gay, Straight, and In-Between: The Sexology of Erotic Orientation* (1988).

## David Lykken September 2006

David Lykken received a B.A., M.A., and finally a Ph.D. (1955) from the University of Minnesota, and spent his entire academic career there, rising from teaching assistant to Professor Emeritus in just under 50 years. In 1991, APA gave Lykken the Award for Distinguished Contribution to Psychology in the Public Interest, and in 2001 APA honored him with the Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions to Applications of Psychology.

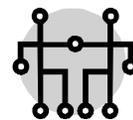
Lykken's doctoral dissertation on the experience of anxiety among people with sociopathic personalities found that sociopaths reported low levels of anxiety, showed lower GSR response to stimuli associated with electric shock, and showed less avoidance of punished responses in avoidance learning. This paper was an instant classic, and was reprinted in several influential volumes. Research that followed his dissertation, by Lykken and others, led to the theory that sociopaths need very high levels of stimulation, which can include risk-seeking, substance abuse, and sometimes cruelty and crime (Lykken, D.T. (1957). A study of anxiety in the sociopathic personality. *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 55, 6-10.)

With his strong focus on the physiological bases of behavior, and a life-long commitment to measurement issues, Lykken turned to the question of polygraph accuracy in the 1950s, and testified before U.S. Congress, 26 state legislatures and judicial bodies, and 3

provincial governments on the inaccuracy of the lie detector. Lykken wrote "Nature did not equip us with some sort of Pinocchio's nose, an involuntary reaction that accompanies lying but not truth-telling." The inadmissibility of polygraph findings in many jurisdictions is due in no small part to Lykken's efforts. See (1981/1989) *A Tremor in the Blood: Uses and Abuses of the Lie Detector*.

Lykken received substantial public attention for his work on the Minnesota Twin Study (with Bouchard, Tellegen, and many others), that studied 8,000 twin pairs and over 130 sets of twins raised apart. This long project has led to many useful findings, including uncovering startling similarities among monozygotic twins reared apart, and supporting the hypothesis that genotypes affect psychological phenotypes indirectly, by influencing the environment of the developing child (see Bouchard, Lykken, et al. (1990) Sources of human psychological differences: The Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart, *Science*, 250(4978):223-8.) This research has help established the plausibility of genetic influences on personality, attitudes, and social behavior.

Based on the twin studies, Lykken proposed the notion of a happiness setpoint, based largely on genetics, which determines one's tonic level of happiness (see Lykken (1999). *Happiness: What studies on twins show us about nature, nurture, and the happiness set point*). ■



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# Talking Points: Social Psychology's Unique Contributions

By *Eliot Smith*

Social psychology's disciplinary perspective gives it a unique standpoint on many issues that are key to understanding and changing human behavior. Applications range from mental and physical health, to the legal system, to the health and stability of marital relationships, to education and the workplace. Here are some of the underlying reasons that social psychological research and theory are especially informative and useful in such areas.

Social psychologists study intrapersonal (e.g., cognitive and affective) and interpersonal (e.g., relationship) processes as they unfold in time. Thus, social psychology is focused on the appropriate level for interventions aimed at improving mental health, intergroup relations, health behaviors, and so on. Even interventions that do not directly operate at the social-psychological level (such as drug treatments) involve social influence on behavior, such as persuading patients to comply with physician instructions.

Social psychology offers analyses of "context," which scientists from numerous fields are now recognizing as crucial for understanding behavior. The relevant context is almost always social instead of merely physical, and can include immediate audiences or a person's long-term and significant group memberships, which are important whether or not other group members are physically present.

Social psychology has developed powerful means of changing behavior, which can be applied to health behaviors or in other ways. For example, the technique of forming

specific implementation intentions in one demonstration study produced a 100% rate of the desired behavior (vs 53% in control condition). Successful social influence is a necessary component of treatment programs, which generally require attitude and behavior change.

Social psychologists are trained and experienced in the measurement of important but difficult-to-measure aspects of thoughts, feelings, behavior. Their research has elucidated many of the confounds and biases that can affect verbal self-reports (on which many of the social/behavioral sciences rely) and has also developed new types of implicit or indirect measures, and demonstrated that they predict social behavior.

Social psychologists have learned to take individual differences into account and are particularly sophisticated in studying how individual differences and situational influences interact, for example in studies that show particular types of persuasive messages are effective with particular types of people.

Social psychology studies both controlled processes (such as deliberative decision making) and automatic processes (such as unconscious biases), and how they interact. For example, such research establishes that even individuals who do not consciously harbor racial stereotypes may nevertheless be affected by them as they make judgments and interact with others. It also underlines how media content can affect behavior without the individual's conscious awareness of any effects, for example when advertisements change purchasing patterns, or portrayals of violence increase aggressive behavior.

"*Insights you can use*" – social psychological research provides information that the average person can use in everyday life, and that goes well beyond common sense. This is true in such areas as why and how relationships go bad, why different social groups e.g., ethnic groups, often misunderstand and dislike each other, and why and how feelings of control help deal with stressful situations.

Attitudes (people's likes and dislikes) are intimately linked to individuals' daily lives and, as a result, to a variety of issues central to the development, assessment, and treatment of mental illness. Research on attitude formation and change is relevant to areas such as anxiety disorders, stress arising from everyday life, and the ways we treat other people including ethnic minorities, people with mental illness, or the elderly.

For all of these reasons, basic theory and research in social psychology has served to advance our understanding of a variety of important issues in the domains of mental and physical health, law, and social policy. Many examples are provided in the 1990 special issue of *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* devoted to "Illustrating the Value of Basic Research" and in the Ruble, Costanzo, & Oliveri (1992) edited volume *The Social Psychology of Mental Health*. More generally, the level of analysis at which social psychology operates has resulted in its dissemination to many other scientific disciplines. Basic theory and research in social psychology has provided a useful perspective for scientific endeavors in such fields as educational psychology, organizational behavior, health psychology, economics, and political science. ■

# NSF Social Psychology Program Statistics, Update, and Grants

*By Amber Story and  
Kellina Craig-Henderson*

In fiscal year 2006, the social psychology program received and considered 155 research proposals. Twenty of those were "SGER" proposals (Small Grants for Exploratory Research) in response to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. There were 22 research grants awarded resulting in a funding rate of 14.2%. This represents a slight increase from the 13% funding rate that has been the norm for the previous three fiscal years. We realize that the funding rate is still far too low, as the program receives far more meritorious proposals than it can fund. However we have good reason to be optimistic about the future of the Social Psychology Program at NSF. At the end of the last fiscal year, the program received an additional funding allocation amounting to a 25% increase in its operating budget. The program will have significantly more funds available that will go directly to the support of high quality social psychological research. For this reason, we are excited about the significant advances to social psychology that the program will be able to support in the near future. We encourage you to think of the Social Psychology program as a resource that can provide support for your own research program.

## **Congratulations to the NSF awardees for the 2006 fiscal year!**

As you can see by the list of new grants below, the NSF social psychology program continues to support a portfolio of scientific research investments that are rich and diverse, across topics, universities, career status, and geographical regions. The program is proud to support the

following outstanding lines of research:

Amy Cuddy of Rutgers University – (SGER) *Inferred and experienced intergroup emotions as predictors of helping of victim groups: Helping when we – not they– need it most.*

Jennifer Hunt of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln – (SGER) *Temporal changes in prejudice and stereotyping in relocation communities following the evacuation of Hurricane Katrina victims.*

Collette Eccleston of Syracuse University & Cheryl Kaiser of Michigan State University – (SGER) *Collaborative Research: Racialized Explanations: Consequences for Intergroup and Intragroup Processes.*

Hazel Markus of Stanford University – (SGER) *Confronting Katrina: Socioculturally divergent models of agency shape response to disaster.*

Stephanie Madon of Iowa State University (with Lee Jussim of Rutgers University) – *The Accumulation of Self-fulfilling Prophecy Effect Across Perceivers.*

Emanuele Castano of the New School University – *The Effect of Ingroup Reprehensible Actions: Collective Emotions and Moral Disengagement.*

Virginia Kwan of Princeton University – *A componential approach to self-enhancement bias.*

John Jost of New York University – *Dynamic cognitive and motivational properties of system justification.*

Robert Kleck of Dartmouth College (with Reginald B. Adams of Tufts University & Ursula Hess of University

of Quebec, Montreal) – *The Functional Equivalence of Morphological and Expressive Cues as Signals of Dominance and Affiliation.* (Jointly supported by the EPSCoR program)

Elizabeth Ashby Plant of Florida State University – *Eliminating Racial Bias in Police Officer Decisions to Shoot: Implications for the Control of Automatic Bias.* (Jointly supported by the Law and Social Science program).

George Bizer of Union College – RUI: *Attitude Framing and Attitude Strength.*

Jeffrey Stone of the University of Arizona (with Toni Schmader of the University of Arizona) – *Target Empowerment Strategies for Reducing Prejudice 2.*

Arie Kruglanski of the University of Maryland – *A Parametric Model of Social Judgment.* (Jointly supported by the Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences program).

Nilanjana Dasgupta of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst – CAREER: *STEMing the Tide: Changing Educational Environments to Enhance Girls' and Women's Participation in Science and Mathematics.* (Jointly supported by the Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering program).

Hillary Anger Elfenbein of the University of California, Berkeley – *Accuracy in the cross-cultural understanding of others' emotions.*

Samuel Gaertner of the University of Delaware (with John F. Dovidio of the University of Connecticut) – *The common ingroup identity model: A focus on a dual identity.*

*(Continued on page 15)*

## APA in San Francisco—Call for Proposals

The 115th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association will take place in San Francisco, CA from August 17th - 20th, 2007. Division 8 is inviting proposals for posters and symposia from faculty and graduate students for research in any area related to personality and social psychology. Proposals will be reviewed anonymously.

Proposals must be submitted via the web by 11:59 PM, EST, Friday, December 01, 2006. All proposals must be submitted online at <http://apacustomout.apa.org/ConvCall/>. Questions can be directed to C. Raymond (Chip) Knee, the Division 8 Program Chair, at [knee@uh.edu](mailto:knee@uh.edu).

Personality and social psychologists will continue to figure prominently in presidential and cross-cutting programming, as well as sessions specific to Division 8. Join us for a wonderful conference in a spectacular city. We hope to continue to promote personality and social psychology at all levels of APA, and we invite you to help us do so.

## NSF Social Psychology, Continued

(Continued from page 14)

Gerianne Alexander of Texas A&M University – *Eye-tracking studies of gender development.*

R. Scott Tindale of Loyola University of Chicago – *Social and Cognitive Processes in Group Decision Making.*

Jerry Suls of the University of Iowa (with Paul D. Windschitl of the University of Iowa) – (SGER) *Vulnerability Beliefs and Actions Following a Tornado Disaster.* (Jointly supported by the Decision, Risk, and Management Science program and the Infrastructure Management and Hazard Response program).

Charles Carver of the University of Miami (with Sheri L. Johnson of the University of Miami) – *Functional Consequences of Positive Affect.*

Joshua Aronson of New York University – *Understanding and*

*Overcoming Social Psychological Barriers to Academic Development in African American Students.*

The Social Psychology program also jointly funded the following proposals submitted to other programs, but which have significant potential impact on the field of social psychology:

Thomas Gilovich of Cornell University – *A Cognitive Model of Superstitious Belief.* (Jointly funded with Decision, Risk and Management Sciences program).

Suzanne Thompson of Pomona College – *Threat Orientation Model: Dispositional and Situational Influences on Reactions to Potential Threats.* (Jointly funded with Decision, Risk and Management Sciences program).

Brian Vaughn of Auburn University – *Positive Affect Predicts Life Successes*

*for Preschool Children.* (Jointly funded with the Developmental and Learning Sciences program).

Megan Bradley of Frostburg State University – RUI: *Developmental Aspects of Children's Deceptive Self-presentations.* (Jointly funded with the Developmental and Learning Sciences program).

Brian Keith Payne of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – *Improving Implicit Attitude Measurement.* (Jointly funded with the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics program).

The authors invite interested scientists to email them directly at NSF:

Amber Story is at [astory@nsf.gov](mailto:astory@nsf.gov), and Kellina Craig-Henderson is at [khenders@nsf.gov](mailto:khenders@nsf.gov). ■

# Announcements

## The SPSP Student Publication Award, 2005

The recipient of the 2005 SPSP Student Publication Award is Olesya Govorun of the Ohio State University, for her article (co-authored with Kathleen Fuegen and Keith Payne), "Stereotypes focus defensive projection." The article appeared in the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, June, 2006 (Vol. 32, pp. 781-793).

Papers that were authored by predoctoral students and accepted for publication in a society journal by December 31, 2005, were eligible. A total of 34 papers were eligible this year, and the selection was made by the award committee consisting of Richard Petty, Richard Robins and Patricia Devine (Chair).

We congratulate Olesya on her receipt of this award and all the student authors on having their papers published in our society's journals. The Student Publication Award Committee members found the selection process to be extremely difficult as there were so many good papers from which we chose one recipient. Though our job was challenging, we were heartened to see that our field is in good hands in its next generation of scholars. ■

### New Books

*The Psychology of Media and Politics.* George Comstock and Erica Sharrer (2006). New York: Elsevier/Academic.

The framing of news coverage has a profound impact on public opinion, which in turns affects political decision making. But news framing choices are made to solicit viewers and ratings, not to convey accurate and meaningful information. This book discusses why people discount their own opinions,

how the media shapes the news, when this drives political decision making, and what the effect is on the future of society.

*Social Psychology and Economics.* Edited by David De Cremer, Marcel Zeelenberg, and J. Keith Murnighan (2006). New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

This book combines chapters written by leading social psychologists and economists, illuminating the developing trends in explaining and understanding economic behavior in a social world. It provides insights from both fields, communicated by eloquent scholars, and demonstrates through recent research and theory how economic behaviors may be more effectively examined using a combination of both fields.

*Social Psychology and Economics* comes at a time when psychological approaches to economics have begun to flourish, and papers exploring the intersection of these two disciplines have appeared in peer-reviewed journals, opening a dynamic dialogue between previously separated fields. It addresses a variety of economic phenomena within a social context, such as scarcity and materialism, emphasizing the importance of integrating social psychology and economics. The market for this book is students, researchers, and professionals in the disciplines of economics, psychology, business, and behavioral decision making.

*Dyadic Data Analysis.* David A. Kenny, Deborah A. Kashy & William L. Cook (2006). New York: Guilford Press.

This book offers state-of-the-art solutions to this age-old problem by presenting methodological and data-analytic approaches useful in investigating processes that take place

among dyads: couples, coworkers, parent and child, teacher and student, or doctor and patient, and so on. Examples from psychology and across the behavioral and social sciences help build the researcher's ability to conceptualize relationship processes; model and test for actor effects, partner effects, and relationship effects; and model and control for the statistical interdependence that can exist between partners.

*Psychology of Emotion: Interpersonal, Experiential, and Cognitive Approaches.* Edited by Paula Niedenthal, Silvia Krauth-Gruber, and François Ric (2006). New York: Psychology Press.

The book discusses theories of emotion, and reviews research on the structure and function of emotion, self-conscious emotions, facial expression, emotion regulation, affect-cognition interactions, group emotions, sex differences, and culture. Pedagogic features, including concise introductions and summaries, discussion questions, and suggested readings make this an ideal text for a course on Emotion.

*Breaking Murphy's Law: How optimists get what they want from life—and pessimists can too.* Suzanne C. Segerstrom. (2006). New York: Guilford.

Segerstrom surveys the data on optimism to show that it's not what you believe about the future that matters, but what you do about it. Pessimists may debate whether their goals are attainable, but optimists work to achieve them. *Breaking Murphy's Law* teaches readers practical ways to adopt the habits and skills that optimists use to get what they want from life. ■

Send announcements to the Editors at [crandall@ku.edu](mailto:crandall@ku.edu) or [biernat@ku.edu](mailto:biernat@ku.edu)

## Richeson Wins First MacArthur Foundation Fellowship “Genius” Award for Social-Personality Psychology

By *Monica Biernat*

Jennifer Richeson, social psychologist at Northwestern University, was recently awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, colloquially known as a “Genius” award. Richeson was cited for her work “examining the behavioral and cognitive consequences of prejudice and racial stereotyping to

reveal original insights into the dynamics of interracial interactions.”

When contacted by email about her reaction to the award, Richeson wrote, “I’m pretty much stunned to be honest. I never expected anything like this to happen and I certainly can think of so many other people in social psychology who are as deserving and, quite honestly, more deserving. I do hope that the attention from the fellowship

will shine a light on social psychology as a whole, showcasing the creative and important work that so many people are doing.”

When asked what she would do with the \$500,000 prize, Richeson wrote: “I’m not sure just yet what I’ll do with the money, but certainly want to use some of in the service of fostering more positive intergroup interactions.” ■

## Comings and Goings, *Continued*

*(Continued from page 7)*

Jim Sidanius (1977, University of Stockholm, Sweden) from UCLA to Harvard University

Jessi L. Smith (2002, University of Utah) from Ohio State University to Montana State University

Pamela K. Smith (2004, New York University), from Leiden University to Radboud University Nijmegen

Natalie D. Smoak (2004, Purdue University), from University of Connecticut to Illinois Wesleyan University

Katherine Starzyk (2004, Queen's University), from a post-doc at the University of Waterloo to the University of Manitoba

Shevaun L. Stocker (2006, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), to University of Wisconsin at Superior

Angelina Sutin (2006, University of California, Davis), to National Institute on Aging

James Tan (2001, University of Akron), from the University of Wisconsin-Stout to St. Cloud State University

Chuck Tate (2006, University of Oregon), to California State University, Bakersfield

Jessica Tracy (2005, University of California-Davis), to the University of British Columbia

Linda Tropp (2000, University of California-Santa Cruz), from Boston College to the University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Kali Trzesniewski (2003, University of California, Davis), from Stanford University to the University of Western Ontario

James M. Tyler (2006, University of Massachusetts-Amherst), to Purdue University, Department of Communication

Ayse K. Uskul (2004, York University, Canada), from University of Michigan (SSHRC postdoc) to University of Essex, UK

Simine Vazire (2006, The University of Texas at Austin), to Washington University in St. Louis

Kate Walton (2005, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), from University of Minnesota to St. John's University

Gregory D. Webster (2006, University of Colorado at Boulder), to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Robert Wicklund (19—, Duke University), from University of Trieste, Italy, to University of Bergen, Norway

Carol Wilson (2006, Texas A&M University), to Franklin & Marshall College

Vivian Zayas (2003, University of Washington), to Cornell University.

Sabrina Zirkel (1991, University of Michigan), from Saybrook Graduate School & Research Center, San Francisco, to the School of Education, Mills College, Oakland, CA ■

## SPSP in Memphis, 2006, Continued

(Continued from page 1)  
Program Committee.

Highlights of this year's conference include:

- The Thursday night Presidential Symposium, titled "Being a Social Person and Why It Matters." President Harry Reis, along with invited speakers Mark Leary, Jack Dovidio, and Roxane Silver will address what social/personality psychology has to say about the well-functioning individual
- An invited symposium celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leon Festinger's *A theory of cognitive dissonance*. This symposium will be chaired by Jack Brehm and Eddie Harmon-Jones, and features talks by Jack Brehm, Mark Zanna, and Jud Mills (as well as a birthday surprise!)
- Presentations by award winners: Lew Goldberg, the winner of this year's Jack Block Award, and John Bargh, the winner of the Donald T. Campbell Award
- Two early morning methodology symposia ("A virtual laboratory for the social and behavioral sciences," chaired by Brian Nosek, and "Incorporating the analysis of archival data into the toolkit of the social-personality psychologist," chaired by Kali Trzesniewski and Brent Donnellan)
- A special writing symposium, titled "The Agony and Ecstasy: Writing in Personality and Social Psychology." Hosted by the Training Committee, this session features talks by Lisa Molix, Sheldon Solomon, Paul Silvia, and Dan Wegner
- Lunch time informal conversations with representatives of funding agencies, included Amber Story and Kellina Craig-Henderson of NSF, Bob Croyle of NCI, and Teri Levitin, of NIDA.

We also encourage you to set aside some time to explore Memphis. Take a side in the great barbecue debate. Pork barbecue is king in Memphis, but should it be dry-rub ribs, wet ribs, or pulled pork and cole slaw on a bun? Check out one of America's most famous musical streets, Beale Street. Located in the heart of downtown Memphis, it boasts more than 30 nightclubs, restaurants, and retail shops. And don't miss Graceland, the second most-visited home in the United States. Or Sun Studio where Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, B.B. King, Johnny Cash, Howlin' Wolf, Carl Perkins, and Roy Orbison all launched their musical careers. Another must-see is the National Civil Rights Museum, located at the Lorraine Motel, the site of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. The museum chronicles key episodes of the American civil rights movement, which is also an integral part of the legacy of Memphis.

Taken together, we think we have a great program and a great city. We look forward to seeing you in January when we can enjoy the best that Memphis and Personality and Social Psychology has to offer.

To register for the conference, please go to:

<http://www.taramillerevents.com/spsp2007/registration.htm>

Please note that the cost of lunches is included in the conference registration fee—a distinctive feature of our meeting that will allow us to take a look at the posters and then to picnic with our friends on the floor of the spacious exhibition hall.

2007 Convention Committee: Steve Harkins (Chair), Monica Biernat (Program Committee Chair), Jeff Simpson, and Julie Norem ■

## APA Council Report, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

official policy of the APA. The APA 2006 Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment adopted by Council and related press release can be found on the homepage of the APA website

(<http://www.apa.org/convention06/notortureres.html>,  
<http://www.apa.org/releases/notorture.html>, respectively).

**Social Economic Status (SES) Report**  
Council approved a report on SES and a standing committee to address issues of SES and promote appropriate attention to SES in research and practice. The report, which will be available sometime this year, outlined ways in which SES influences people's lives, including their development and mental health outcomes. It also included a discussion of the intersection between SES, race, and gender. Nominations are being sought for membership on the task force; see [http://www.apa.org/pi/CallforNomsSES2006%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.apa.org/pi/CallforNomsSES2006%20(2).pdf). (The deadline for submitting nominations closed on November 11, 2006.)

### APA Plans to Roll Out New Website

Dr. Norman Anderson, CEO of APA, discussed plans for developing a new APA website that not only addresses a number of existing problems but also has greatly enhanced capacity. The hope is to roll out the new *APA.org* website by Dec, 2007. The costs of the proposed project will range upwards to \$13,000,000.

### Presidential Initiatives

Dr. Sharon Brehm, APA President-Elect, outlined three initiatives she proposes to undertake during her presidency. These include: 1) addressing integrated health care for aged populations, 2) supporting APA's

(Continued on page 28)



**Put Guilford  
Ad Here  
  
(Whole Page)**

# Dialogue Ask Editors: What Makes an Excellent Review?

Peer review is one of the fundamental processes in science. Science is different from other human endeavors only to the extent that it relies on openness and expert peer criticism. Even though peer review is absolutely central to making science different from politics, education, or religion, there is little discussion of the process during graduate training in most programs. Many programs ignore it, and a handful spend a class session on "how to" write a review. It is the rare program that gives substantial training. Peer review is important to progress in science, to individual careers, and to the health of our field. *Dialogue* sought to provide an opportunity for discussion about good (and bad) practice in reviewing.

To start discussion, *Dialogue* asked several current and past editors to tell us what constitutes a good review. Editors rely closely on reviewers, even though the ultimate responsibility for a decision to accept or reject an article usually lies with the Editor. What kind of judgment do editors rely on? What components of a review are crucial; what practices should be avoided?

Our initial request was for perspectives was modest, and several editors and former editors responded to our query. In addition, several editors gave us unusually detailed and complete responses. We have edited their generous responses to fit within our space limits. Ed Deiner kindly wrote extended comments, and we have included that as a separate contribution, following this article.

*What should reviews do?*

**Be nice**

*Brenda Major:* In my view, an

excellent review is never sarcastic or demeaning of the author or his/her ideas.

*Sonja Lyubomirsky:* Start your review by noting what's good, interesting, or valuable about a paper, not only what's wrong with it. It's much easier to nitpick and criticize than to appreciate the positive contributions. (And I say this not just because I'm a positive psychologist!)

*Peer review is important to progress in science, to individual careers, and to the health of our field.*

*John Jost:* Early on in my career I received a fairly large number of unkind, even condescending reviews and rejection letters. I try to keep that experience in mind when I write reviews or decision letters now. There is almost always a way to express even strong criticism in a constructive (and helpful) way, but it takes time and effort.

*Cindy Pickett:* Manuscript coordinators are people too! It's really rude to ignore their emails. Perhaps there is some confusion about whether the emails are generated automatically or are sent out personally, but at the 2nd section of JPSP, the coordinators are real people...and really nice people at that.

**Be constructive**

*Brenda Major:* An excellent review provides constructive, helpful comments that would help the paper and research be better.

*Harry Reis:* What's needed, I think, is a

"back to basics" approach. A good review should be about 1.5 pages that articulates the essence of what is good, important, and newsworthy about a paper, or alternatively, what is fundamentally flawed and what needs to be fixed.

*Sonja Lyubomirsky:* Be specific in your suggestions for how to address problems. Saying things like "The manuscript's contribution is not sufficient to meet the standards of Journal X" drives authors crazy and leaves them with little idea of how to improve their work.

**Take the long view as well as the short view—be reflective about how important the paper is**

*Brenda Major:* A good review takes into account whether the authors are addressing an interesting or important question not just methodological precision. A good review points the author to other relevant literatures that are not cited and encourages citation of earlier relevant work so as to foster a cumulative science, rather than one in which we are re-inventing the wheel or re-bottling old wine in new bottles.

*More than anything else, editors need to know how a paper advances an area (or doesn't).*

*Harry Reis:* More than anything else, editors need to know how a paper advances an area (or doesn't). After all, journal articles are vehicles for communication and progress in a field; they are not textbooks, comprehensive histories, guidebooks for novices, or definitive statements of truth etched in stone. In the best sense, science is a

self-correcting enterprise; journal articles therefore ought to announce important developments and provide the information that other scientists need to understand one's work and build upon it. Minor flaws of logic, analysis, or presentation, missing citations, secondary alternative mechanisms not considered, and all of those other details will be corrected in time, if they matter.

*Reviewers should review the study that was conducted, not the one they would have preferred.*

Editors were also quick to point out a number of practices that reviewers should avoid.

***What reviews should not do . . .***

*. . . treat the paper as if they were the author*

*Brenda Major:* An excellent review does not get too bogged down in nit picky details, but tries to keep the big picture in mind.

*Harry Reis:* I sometimes think the review process has gotten out of hand. More and more, editors and reviewers raise questions as if it were their responsibility to recast a paper in the manner they themselves would write it. Authors find this irritating, to say the least; perhaps more importantly, think of the lost time and energy that reviewers might instead devote to thinking better theories and doing better research!

*. . . Require spurious theory*

*Tony Greenwald:* I strongly suggest resisting the temptation to offer conclusions of the form, "*This article is interesting and even has some novel*

*data, but cannot be recommended for publication because it makes no new theoretical contribution.*" I won't detail reasons for urging that theoretical contribution not be a precondition for publication beyond pointing out that, among the articles that would never have seen the light of day had reviewers offering that recommendation prevailed, are Asch (1956), Milgram (1963), and Zajonc (1968) (not to mention Greenwald, McGhee, & Schwartz, 1998).

*. . . Review something not submitted*

*John Cacioppo:* I hope someone is suggesting that reviewers review the study that was conducted, not the one they would have preferred the authors to have conducted.

*An excellent review does not get too bogged down in nit picky details, but tries to keep the big picture in mind.*

*. . . Let their theoretical and metatheoretical commitments get in the way of a fair reading of a manuscript*

*Chet Insko:* I really do not have any profound wisdom for "you'll," but I can mention that one of the fundamental problems evident in many reviews is the reluctance to recommend publication of a manuscript that suggests a limitation in the reviewer's theoretical bias. A field study by Mahoney that illustrates the problem rather well. Here is the reference: Mahoney, M. J. (1977). Publication prejudices: An experimental study of confirmatory bias in the peer review system. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 1*, 161-175.

*Brenda Major:* An excellent review is not biased or driven by ideological political divisions in the field, but has an open mind.

*John Jost:* Some of the criticisms that I received were useful for improving my work; others, it seems to me, were due to the fact that my research questioned or departed from established paradigms. I think that science, like society as a whole, is generally conservative and slow to change. Even people who see themselves as advocates for social change in one domain of life can be staunch defenders of the status quo in their scientific or professional lives. I find that nearly everyone responds defensively or dismissively to a brand new theory or method or finding that seems to radically challenge what we thought we already knew or what has already made it into the textbooks. I'm sure that I respond this way myself sometimes. But I am not of the opinion that an article should be published only when all reviewers are in unanimous agreement. On the contrary, I think that an article (or a book) is only interesting or useful if a reasonable person could disagree with it. Science is well-served by getting the various theoretical alternatives out into the open sooner rather than later. To be even more frank, I do not think that any truly great accomplishments—scientific or otherwise—were ever noncontroversial when they were first received.

*I am not of the opinion that an article should be published only when all reviewers are in unanimous agreement. On the contrary, I think that an article (or a book) is only interesting or useful if a reasonable person could disagree with it.*

I consider myself to be fortunate to have studied with two social psychologists, William J. McGuire and  
(Continued on page 22)

# What Makes an Excellent Review?, Continued

(Continued from page 21)

Mahzarin Banaji, who not only valued scientific creativity, theoretical and methodological pluralism, and even the occasional quixotic attack on received wisdom, but actively instilled in us a revolutionary spirit (see Jost, Banaji & Prentice (Eds.) (2004). *Perspectivism in social psychology: The yin and yang of scientific progress*, a festschrift in honor of Bill McGuire.)

## **How should theoretical papers, as compared to empirical papers, be reviewed?**

*John Cacioppo:* Excellent reviews of theoretical papers typically address the extent to which the paper satisfies the following criteria: (1) The paper makes a new and important theoretical advance on a topic about which the field cares (or should care). (2) The theoretical predictions follow clearly from a specific psychological mechanism explicated in an internally consistent theory rather than from an author's expectations given the broad guidelines of a general perspective or heuristic formulation. That is, the theory consists of explicit assumptions,

*Excellent reviews of theoretical papers typically address the extent to which the theory produces specific, unique, and generative predictions that could be and, in at least some cases, are tested empirically*

premises, and predictions that are internally consistent. (3) The paper includes a representative review of the

existing literature to provide a clear and strong empirical basis for key assumptions, premises, and at least some predictions. (4) The theory produces specific, unique, and generative predictions that could be and, in at least some cases, are tested empirically, and the paper specifies the conditions necessary for replication by others. (5) The theory has broad scope, meaning that the theoretical formulation accounts for a vast body of data, and the theory is parsimonious, meaning it provides the simplest available explanation for the data the theory seeks to explain.

## **What reviewers need to do right away**

Tell editors as soon as possible whether you are able (or not) to do the review. If you need to say "no," it's better to do it immediately than in two months. This is so obvious, but I'm amazed at how many people don't reply at all to email requests.

## **Practice and compare**

*Cindy Pickett:* Reviewing is definitely a skill. Early on reviewers should compare their review to the other reviews that were sent in and the editor's action letter to get an idea of what things were emphasized and how they might improve their own reviews.

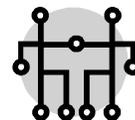
In general, I've been very pleased with the quality of the reviews that I've solicited at *JPSP*. I'd say that the vast majority of them are very thoughtful and constructive, and given the length of some of these manuscripts, I know that the reviewers invest a substantial amount of time in their reviews.

*I've been very pleased with the quality of the reviews I've solicited . . . the vast majority of them are very thoughtful and constructive.*

## **I want to do reviews, but no one asks!**

*Cindy Pickett:* If younger faculty members are interested in doing reviews, they should feel free to email editors with their areas of expertise and indicate their availability. I find that the availability heuristic tends to prevail when choosing reviewers, and so I'm sure there are many good potential reviewers out there that I must miss.

*Bob Arkin:* Kathy Oleson and I have a chapter in *The Psychology Research Handbook*, Leong & Austin, Eds., (2006) entitled "Reviewing and Evaluating a Research Article." It is very much for the beginner, but there are some really good references and some useful advice in it. ■



**Society for Personality and Social Psychology**

**Visit us at [www.spsp.org](http://www.spsp.org)**

# Being A Good Reviewer

By Ed Diener

Over the past decades I have been the editor for approximately 2000 papers that were submitted to our scientific journals – 4 years as Associate Editor of *JPSP*, 6 years as Editor of *JPSP*, 7 years at *Journal of Happiness Studies*, and now two years as Founding Editor of *Perspectives on Psychological Science*. Thus, I have seen about 5,000 reviews of submitted papers, and have formed a few opinions about the good review – and the good reviewer.

## *Evaluate Overall Contribution to Science*

Many reviewers believe that their role is to find the errors in papers, and this is certainly one of their tasks. But the good reviewer does much more – she or he evaluates the overall contribution of the paper to science, and therefore weighs the strengths of the research as well as its weaknesses. Inexperienced reviewers sometimes think their job is to go through the paper and find any and every error. As an editor, I find it more helpful to be informed of important shortcomings and limitations, and especially fatal flaws, but also to learn of the overall importance and contribution the paper is likely to make.

## *Be Positive in Your Words*

It is true, many papers are not outstanding, and a few might deserve some harsh words. Hold those tough words, and instead be nice, even when heavily criticizing a paper. Remember how couples are supposed to use “fair fighting,” in which they express their criticisms in nice terms? Even the most eminent authors often have their egos on the line with their submissions, and there is no point in being nasty to them. Instead, frame your weighty criticisms in positive words, and try to mention a few good things about the paper. I recently received a review of a submitted paper that concluded, “This paper is utterly trivial.” Ouch. Better

had the reviewer written, “This paper does not surpass the high importance threshold for this prestigious journal.”

## *Short is Usually Better than Nothing*

Many reviewers believe that they must thoroughly review in detail each and every paper they agree to review. It is true that both editors and authors greatly prefer detailed reviews, and authors often resent very short reviews. Nonetheless, I prefer short reviews to no reviews. Since reviewers are overwhelmed, nowadays they are very often reluctant to commit to doing reviews, and it is getting harder and harder for me to get enough expert input on papers. Therefore, I would prefer to receive even a few-sentence review that gives an overall impression of paper, or points to one or two major shortcomings, to receiving no review at all. Let’s face it, you can often quickly glance at a paper and get a pretty good impression of how good it is, although some papers require a much more detailed reading. Often I can skim a paper and quickly see that it is either outstanding or that it just will not make the grade at a top journal. It seems to me that giving the editor this judgment and one or two reasons for it is more helpful than not doing the review at all, although perhaps editors disagree about this.

## *The Role of the Reviewer*

Reviewers need to understand that their primary role is to inform the author of the strengths and weaknesses of the paper, and its overall contribution to science and scholarship. It is the editor’s job to make accept and reject decisions, and it is the reviewer’s role to help her or him do this well. It is not the job of the reviewer to make accept and reject decisions, despite the fact that many journals ask for recommendations in this respect. Thus, you should not agonize about being responsible for a rejection versus acceptance—you just inform the editor of what is good and bad about the

paper, and he or she does the rest. Furthermore, you and authors should not be offended when the editor goes against the recommendations of the reviewers, which occasionally happens. This is what the editor is supposed to do – receive input and then make an informed decision with that particular journal in mind. After all, the threshold for acceptance differs greatly across journals and the editor is the one in the best position to judge publishability in that particular journal.

## *Reviewing is a Great Learning Experience*

Reviewing can be seen as a way to build one’s C.V., as a way to curry favor with an editor, or as an onerous duty. However, there is a much more intrinsic reason to do reviews, and that is that it can be a true learning experience. Reviewers can learn both from the weak papers and the strong papers that they review. From the weaker papers the reviewer will learn what to avoid, and how to think of their own papers in a critical light as a reviewer will do. From the strong papers the reviewer will learn things to emulate. Reviewing will give you a new perspective that will help you better write up your own papers. In addition, one can often learn much from the other reviewers and what they see as strengths and weaknesses of the paper. Reviewing can be seen as a time-consuming task with few rewards, but in fact it can be a good way to see the latest work occurring in a field, and to hone one’s own thinking about that area of study.

As an editor I see a few scientists who readily write reviews, and other scientists who virtually never complete a review, usually offering the reason that they are too busy. However, the system of science requires that we all do reviews, and I am reluctant nowadays to consider for publication papers that are submitted by authors who themselves refuse to do reviews. We all have an obligation to do reviews as a way to insure quality science, and therefore we should learn to enjoy this activity! ■

# SPSP Service Awards Announced: Baumeister, Jackson, Story, & Tice

By David Dunning

Each year, the Society recognizes people who serve social-personality psychology, or who serve the Society in significant ways. The Society is pleased to announce two winners of the Award for Distinguished Service on Behalf of Social-Personality Psychology, and joint winners of the Award for Distinguished Service on Behalf of the Society for Social and Personality Psychology for 2006.

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE ON BEHALF OF SOCIAL-  
PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

### Amber L. Story

The Society for Personality and Social Psychology is pleased to present Amber L. Story with its Award for Distinguished Service on Behalf of Social-Personality Psychology. As Program Director of the Social Psychology Program at the National Science Foundation, Amber Story has provided crucial and effective efforts to enhance opportunities for behavioral research within the Foundation. As Cluster Coordinator for the Cognitive, Psychological, and Language Sciences Cluster, as well as Team Leader for the Dynamics of Human Behavior emphasis area, her work has invigorated social/personality research by linking it to scholarship in other disciplines. She has generously mentored and counseled individual scholars seeking grant support, and has tirelessly advocated for increased support for psychological research. Her efforts have bettered the chances that worthwhile behavioral research will receive the essential financial support it requires.

It is for these efforts, which have bolstered the health and vigor of the

field, that the Society is delighted to present Amber Story with this award.

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE ON BEHALF OF SOCIAL-  
PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

### James S. Jackson

The Society for Personality and Social Psychology is pleased to present James S. Jackson with its Award for Distinguished Service on Behalf of Social-Personality Psychology, in recognition of his lifelong service and professional contribution to the field. Throughout his career, James Jackson has served as an ambassador for social-personality psychology to significant audiences, serving as a skilled member

*This years winners are:*

*Amber L. Story  
James S. Jackson  
Roy F. Baumeister  
& Dianne M. Tice*

of innumerable boards, working groups, and committees. In doing so, James Jackson has forcefully championed the promise of psychological research, articulating, with clarity and force, its potential contribution to address important social issues of the day. His success has provided the field with invaluable benefit and assured its vigor far into the future.

It is no exaggeration to observe that enumerating all of James Jackson's specific contributions in service of social-personality psychology would be beyond the scope of any single

document. Just within the past six years, a sampling of James Jackson's service would include his participation on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute of Aging, the White House Conference on Aging, and the American Psychological Association's delegation to the United Nations World Conference on Race. It would include his work as chair of Social, Economic, and Political Sciences Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as a member of the Medical and Scientific Advisory Council of the Alzheimer's Association, as a member of the Committee on Assessing Behavior and Social Science Research in Aging at the National Academy of Science, as a member of the Council Workgroup for Priority Settings for the Basic Sciences of the National Institute of Mental Health, and as a member of the Working group on Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences at National Institute of Health. Within the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, James Jackson has recently provided invaluable insight and advice in his role as a member-at-large on the Society's executive committee.

At the same time, James Jackson has remained an energetic researcher, administrator, scholar, and mentor contributing greatly to our fundamental understanding of the social processes underlying mental health and illness. As the Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan, and since 2005 as the Director of the Institute for Social Research, James Jackson has been a moving force on several research fronts. As just one example, he has directed the ambitious National Survey of American Life, an effort to

*(Continued on page 25)*

## Society Awards, continued

(Continued from page 24)

document the physical, emotional, mental, structural, and economics conditions of African Americans as we enter this new century.

James Jackson demonstrates that social-personality psychologists have much to say on significant social issues. His advocacy of the field on pivotal academic, scientific, and policy-making venues has bolstered the health and prestige of the field, and enabled its reach to other fields. The contribution of his efforts and accomplishments is deep and extensive. Thus, the Society is pleased to have the opportunity to acknowledge incalculable debt of personality/social psychology to James Jackson through the presentation of this award.

### AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY FOR PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

**Roy F. Baumeister  
&  
Dianne M. Tice**

The Society for Personality and Social Psychology is delighted to present Roy F. Baumeister and Dianne M. Tice with its Award for Distinguished Service to the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

While setting the standard in pursuing energetic and visible research careers that added greatly to the intellectual vigor of the field, Tice and Baumeister served ably as editors of the Society's

newsletter, *Dialogue*, for a full twelve years, from 1989 to 2000. Their untiring stewardship of *Dialogue* ensured that Society members received timely news about the Society's business during a time of substantial growth and change, as well as information about professional issues beyond the Society. Their editorial work kept members informed about the opinions and thinking of other member, including thoughts from top scholars. It also exposed members to debates about cutting-edge issues within the field. Their editorial tenure kept members informed while entertaining with notable doses of humor.

For their longstanding service to the Society, we are gratified to present Dianne Tice and Roy Baumeister with this award. ■

## Call for Nominations for the Henry A. Murray Award

Nominations are being sought for the Henry A. Murray Award for distinguished contributions to the study of individual lives and whole persons. The Award, established in 1978, is made annually to recognize and encourage those working in the demanding and difficult tradition pioneered by Professor Murray. The awardee receives \$1,000 and is asked to present a Murray Award address at the meeting of the APA the following year. The Murray tradition may be characterized as follows:

- (a) Receptiveness to the value of bringing together a variety of disciplines, theoretical viewpoints, and research techniques.
- (b) Conceptual tools that lend themselves to the integration of the tough and tender in personality research.
- (c) A theoretical outlook that recognizes intrapsychic structure and the thematic unity of individual lives in the midst of phenotypic diversity.
- (d) Interest in imagination and in biography, literature, and myth as psychological data.
- (e) Interest in the biological, social, and cultural contexts of personality.
- (f) A style of intellectual leadership that has contributed to outstanding work that exhibits several of these characteristics.

Nominating materials should be sent to Bill E. Peterson, Ph.D., Chair, Henry A. Murray Award Committee, Smith College, Department of Psychology, Northampton, MA 01063, (413) 585-3764, e-mail: [bpeterso@smith.edu](mailto:bpeterso@smith.edu)

Nominations should include a general nomination letter and 3 letters of recommendation that describe how the candidate meets the award criteria, a copy of the nominee's CV (including publications), and no more than 5 articles or chapters of his/her work selected for their relevance to the award criteria. Four hard copies of all nomination materials should be sent. Nominations are due by May 1, 2007.

Bertram J. Cohler, the most recent Murray Award winner, will be honored at the American Psychological Association convention in August of 2007. The previous three winners were Carol Ryff, Salvatore Maddi, and Eric Klinger.

# Job Applications We Wished We Didn't See

By Rob Foels

November 19, 2006

Chair, Search Committee  
Department of Psychology  
Prestigious University

Dear Sir and/or Madam:

I am applying for your position as an assistant professor in social psychology. I really, really like social psychology and I hope you'll give me a job so I can prove my parents and my advisor wrong. Enclosed please find my curriculum letum. I know this is arriving past your deadline but my Shih Tzu ate my letter and then my copier ran out of toner and when I went to the store to get more I slipped on the ice and hurt my wrist and couldn't type for a week. Also please disregard the coffee stains, I was in a hurry this morning.

Sincerely,  
I. M. Noname

Curriculum Letum  
I. M. Noname, ABD (All But Despondent)

## Education

BA in General Studies (1992) Podunck College (Extension Campus)  
Honors Thesis Title: *The Social Psychology of Basket Weaving*  
MA (1997)  
Thesis Title: *Social Psychology: My Advisor Told Me to Do This*  
Ph.D. (anticipated this decade)  
Dissertation Title: *Social Psychology: You Promised I Could Do What I Want This Time*

## Honors/Awards

Honors in Basket Weaving (1991): Podunck College  
Best dressed, Class of 1986 (1986): Podunck High School  
Nearly Perfect Attendance (1985): Podunck High School

## Research Experience

Associate Deputy Assistant Web Trawler (2005-present): Wikipedia  
Research Assistant in Charge of Stapling (1999-2002): Podunck College  
Research Assistant in Charge of Collating (1998-1999): Podunck College  
Research Assistant in Charge of Coffee (1997-1998): Podunck College

## Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant in Charge of Keeping Students Awake (1996-1997): Podunck College  
Teaching Assistant in Charge of Keeping Professors Awake (1995-1996): Podunck College

## Publications

Noname, I. M. (2006). A concise unifying theory of social psychology. *Journal I Write in at Night*, 18, 35-486.  
Mimeo, C. C., & Noname, I. M. (2004). How to write effective psychology papers. In P. L. Agjarism (Ed.), *How to write effective psychology papers* (pp. 3-16). NY: Uncle Jimmy's Garage Press.  
Whoo, R. U., Noname, I. M., & Aha, I. C. (2003). The ins and outs of the trade: Social psychology and basket weaving: *Manuscript rejected for publication*.  
Noname, I. M., & Morón, I. B. (2002). Astrology and social psychology: Lunar perspectives on social psychological principles. *Manuscript vehemently rejected for publication*.  
Noname, I. M. (2006). Important and novel social psychological principles. *Manuscript under review at Journal of Psjnsdkjcmkj Pjjsch Inpoinc*.

## Professional Affiliations

Fellowship of Objective Observational Life Scientists  
Joint Experimental Research Knowledge Society  
International Dialoguers Investigating Observational Theories of Science  
Association of Scientists Studying Experimental Stuff ■



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[biemat@ku.edu](mailto:biemat@ku.edu)

News of the Society Since 1986

## APA Council, Cont.

(Continued from page 18)

IRB task force, and 3) addressing issues related to improving Science and Math education.

### Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA)

Steve Breckler, executive director of the BSA, presented news items in a meeting with members of the science community. These included: 1) plans to open an office on Applied Psychological Science to bring together psychologists doing research in applied settings including Education, I.O., and Clinical psychology; see <http://www.apa.org/science/psa/sep06oap.html> for more information; 2) the formation of a task force to work on IRB issues; see <http://www.apa.org/monitor/feb06/sd.html> for more information; and 3) an upcoming leadership conference that will address cross-career professional development needs of psychologists.

### Financial Issues

APA continues to be on solid financial ground, concluding the 2005 year with a \$4.8 million budget surplus – the single largest surplus in APA's history. APA's real estate holdings in Washington DC continue to appreciate (by an estimated \$4.9 million in 2005), as does APA's stock portfolio. In contrast, 2006 does not promise to be a banner year; expenses are expected to roughly equal the anticipated revenues of \$104 million. Similar break-even projections are being made for 2007, with a total overall estimated budget of

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\$105,000,000. Nevertheless, APA remains financially healthy.

Several budgetary issues were discussed in detail. The proposed 2007 budget included increases in dues for members (of \$9) and students (of \$6), a \$10 increase in journal credit, an increase in honoraria for board members, and approval of an accelerated schedule for ramping up dues for new members. In 2007, dues will comprise only 14% of total revenues; revenues from publications continue to comprise APA's major source of income (nearly 70% in 2006).

### Dialogue Mission Statement

*Dialogue* is the official newsletter of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. It appears twice every year, in the spring and fall. Its intended readership is members of the Society. The purpose of *Dialogue* is to report news of the Society, stimulate debate on issues, and generally inform and occasionally entertain. *Dialogue* publishes summaries about meetings of the Society's executive committee and subcommittees, as well as announcements, opinion pieces, letters to the editor, humor, and other articles of general interest to personality and social psychologists. The Editors seek to publish all relevant and appropriate contributions, although the Editors reserve the right to determine publishability. Content may be solicited by the Editors or offered, unsolicited, by members. News of the Society and Committee Reports are reviewed for accuracy and content by SPSP officers or committee chairs. All other content is reviewed at the discretion of the Editors.