

ISPP JUNIOR SCHOLARS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER, FALL 2001

The ISPP Junior Scholars Committee (JSC) gives voice and visibility to the needs and interests of graduate students, junior faculty, and other junior and non-tenured academic life forms within ISPP. The JSC's goals include providing information and assistance to junior scholars' efforts to conduct political-psychological research, helping them develop their careers and supporting their attendance at the ISPP annual meetings.

Dear fellow ISPP Members,

Welcome to another edition of the JSC Newsletter. We hope that we have provided you with useful information so far and encouraged you to attend some (if not all) of the JSC events.

This is going to be another exciting year for ISPP and we strongly urge you to become even more committed to the organization and to junior scholar activities in particular. Although the highlight of the year is probably the conference in Berlin, there are multiple ways to get actively involved. For one, you could join our mentorship program, which is designed to facilitate contact between junior scholars and senior faculty who share similar research interests. You could submit your recently completed dissertation for a possible award. Or, you could send us your suggestions for enhancing the work of JSC so that it truly addresses the concerns of junior scholars in political psychology and related fields.

In an era where political processes seem deeply connected to psychological processes, and knowledge of the workings of the human mind is inter-twined with knowledge of political situations, the field of political psychology takes on a newfound significance and debates in the field have a passionate new beginning. Here's to another year of discovery.

*Alexia Panayiotou
JSC News Editor*

Introducing the New Chair of the Junior Scholars Committee

Antonio Brown, an active member of both ISPP and JSC, is the new chair of the JSC. Antonio, who has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Michigan, is currently an assistant professor of comparative politics at Loyola Marymount University, his undergraduate alma mater. His dissertation, titled "Culture Matters: The Cultural Construction of Rational Choice(s)," was a qualitative and quantitative study of the effects of values and beliefs on the range of political interest, political preferences and rational choices. Antonio's research interests include, comparative studies of the US and Western Europe as well as race, ethnicity and politics in the US and Western Europe.

Antonio has been an active member of JSC since 1997 and has served as the chair for the Professional Issues Panel for the 2000 and 2001 conferences. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

Antonio is very excited about his new position as Chair of the JSC and would welcome your comments and suggestions. You can reach him at <abrown@lmu.edu>.

Call for Papers: Sigel Junior Scholar Paper Award

The Sigel Award has been dedicated to support junior scholar travel to the 2002 ISPP annual meeting in Berlin, Germany. All junior scholars who have a paper accepted at the Berlin conference will be eligible to be considered for this award. Junior scholars are all students (graduate or undergraduate) and faculty who received their Ph.D. within the last five years.

There are **two** prizes with slightly different criteria to accommodate the authorship and publication practices in the various disciplines represented in ISPP:

The first award will be given to the best paper written by Junior Scholars only. Especially in the case of multiple authors, all co-authors must be Junior Scholars.

The second award will be conferred to the best paper with a Junior Scholar first author. This award allows, but does not require non-Junior Scholar co-authors.

Please submit your complete paper by **May 1, 2002** (postmarked). Papers previously submitted to the Sigel award are not eligible. The winners will receive an award of \$250 each at the Berlin meeting. You must be a current dues paid member of ISPP to be eligible for the award.

Send three copies of papers to:
Andrea Grove
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2001 Sigel Award Recipient: Abstract

Implications of Motivated Reasoning for Voter Information Processing

Researchers attempting to understand how citizens process cognitive and affective information about the political environment have advanced a tripartite theory of motivated reasoning. Motivated reasoning operates through on-line processing, hot cognition, and the "How-do-I-feel?" heuristic to provide an immediate affective evaluation of all new information. The prominence of affect suggests that all social information processing is affectively charged, and thus prone to biases driven by affect towards the social object under consideration. This paper uses a unique dataset built through experimental studies using a dynamic information board to test important premises of motivated reasoning. In particular, affective biases should cause citizens to spend longer attempting to process information, which is incongruent with their previous affect, and such biases should also direct search for new information about a candidate, issue, or other social object. Somewhat perversely, motivated reasoners may actually increase their support of a positively evaluated candidate upon learning new negatively evaluated information through a process of bolstering existing affect. Findings are reported which support all of these expectations. Additional analysis shows that these affective biases and bolstering process may lead to lower quality decision-making.

David P. Redlawsk, Ph.D.
Political Science
University of Iowa

Do you have plans for next summer? See you in Berlin!

This is the first reminder of our upcoming ISPP meeting in Berlin, Germany from July 16-19, 2002. The theme of next year's meeting is "Language of Politics, Language of Citizenship, Language of Culture," however, you can make a contribution in any area of political psychology.

If you have not yet enjoyed the stimulating experience of an ISPP meeting, then this is a great chance to do so. The meeting combines the benefits of a major scholarly conference with a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Those of you who are already familiar with ISPP meetings should not need too much encouragement, but we can't help pointing out that the theme of this year's conference is particularly exciting and timely given the European Year of Languages. It will also take place in one of Europe's most exciting and 'political' places.

For general information on the ISPP meeting, including registration details see <http://ispp.org/ISPP/meet.html>.

The Annual Junior Scholars Social Hour

We have again organized a Social Hour at the ISPP Meeting. In the past three years, the social hour has managed to bring together junior scholars from a diversity of backgrounds and has provided the opportunity to meet some of the most accomplished scholars to share their ideas and experience. The JSSH will also include a reunion of the Summer Institute of Political Psychology at Ohio State University (SIPP). Come to the Social Hour and see your SIPP buddies again.

Online Career Information

As a junior scholar in Political Psychology, you may need some additional resources in your career search. Check out:
<http://ispp.org/ISPP/jsc/career.html>

Recent Dissertations in Political Psychology

Kent J. Kille, Political Science, The Ohio State University, Ph.D., 2000:
Leadership and Influence in the United Nations: A Comparative Analysis of the Secretaries-General

Benjamin E. Goldsmith, Political Science, University of Michigan, Ph.D., 2001:
Imitation and Transition in World Politics: Observational Learning and the Formation of Foreign Policy Preferences

Antonio Brown, Political Science, University of Michigan, Ph.D., 2001:
Culture Matters: The Cultural Construction of Rational Choice(s)

Markus Kimmelmeier, Social Psychology, University of Michigan, Ph.D., 2001:
Motivated Racial Cognition: Power and Implicit Goals to Affirm or Attenuate Social Hierarchy

Junior Scholar Committee Members

Chair:

Antonio Brown

Outgoing Chair:

Markus Kimmelmeier

Mentorship Coordinator:

Angela Kindervater

JSCNews Editor:

Alexia Panayiotou

Social Hour/SIPP Reunion:

Suzanne Hillin & Birgit Schreiber

Sigel Award Chair:

Andrea Grove

Committee Members:

Andrew Edward Manning

Lauren Appelbaum

For our activities and links to information on committee members, see <http://ispp.org/ISPP/jscweb01.html>.

To contact the JSC or for information on junior scholar activities, email: jsc@pitzer.edu