



# ISPP News

International Society of Political Psychology  
Fall 2009 Vol. 20 (2)

*The purpose of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) is to facilitate communication across disciplinary, geographic and political boundaries, among scholars and concerned individuals in government and public posts, the communications media and elsewhere, who have a scientific interest in the relationship between politics and psychological processes. In so doing, ISPP aims to continue to advance scholarship in political psychology, and to contribute to the usefulness of work in political psychology.*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

With just over a half a year to go in my tenure as ISPP Executive Director I'm pleased to report that our society remains on solid footing. ISPP has weathered the global financial downturn remarkably well and we are moving toward the end of 2009 with yet another all-time high of 938 members from 57 countries. With many other professional associations reporting a decline in membership and revenue in 2009 we are fortunate to have maintained the trust and confidence of our membership.

A strong revenue stream from our journal, *Political Psychology*, also remained intact this year. Projections for continued revenue strength in this domain will allow the ISPP Governing Council to consider a number of new initiatives to, among other things, subsidize more of the annual meeting costs, support additional travel by junior scholar travel and lower-income members, and fund a range of special research projects and small group meetings.

The Dublin annual meeting again exceeded our registration expectations with 590 from 41 countries attending. Close to 30% of these were graduate students. Looking ahead, ISPP President Sam McFarland, Program Chair Stephen Reicher, and from the Central Office Radell and I are hard at work putting together our next annual meeting which will be in San Francisco at the Mark Hopkins Hotel from July 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. Radell has already begun building the web page for the meeting which can be found at: <http://ispp.org/meet.html>. We've appreciated all of the feedback we've received from many of you about

what worked well and what did not work so well at the Dublin meeting and the entire conference team is dedicated to improving the meeting experience for all this coming year. Expect to see a number of changes, from improved internet access to more substantive changes related to the conference format and paper submission process.

—Bruce W. Dayton  
Executive Director

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to share with you the transitions and issues facing ISPP, and to thank all those who have contributed recently to our success.

**A Year of Transitions**

On February 1, the *Political Psychology* editorial team of Stanley Feldman, Leonie Huddy, Howard Lavine and Charles Taber will conclude its five-year term. The Society is greatly indebted to the departing team for the growing success of the journal. The new team consists of Editor-in-Chief Alex Mintz, Co-Editors Paul't Hart, Helen Haste, David Redlawsk, and Jim Sidanius, and Associate Editors Eran Halperin and Steven Redd. We can be confident in the journal's continuing success.

Next July, Bruce Dayton will conclude six years of service as our Executive Director and Carolyn Funk will assume the duties. With that transition, our Central Office will move from Syracuse, Bruce's home institution, to Virginia Commonwealth, which is Carolyn's. Bruce has managed ISPP affairs with precision and grace for the last six years, and we will always be in his debt. It's no secret, though, that Radell Roberts has been the day-to-day manager who kept all our tasks on schedule, compiled excellent records, and prodded us all as needed not to miss important deadlines. Radell, where would we be without your superb service?

Also in July, David Winter will complete his term as ISPP's Councilor. His wisdom has been invaluable. The Councilor role will pass to George Marcus—maybe not as wise as David, but still a pretty smart dude.

**Financial Advances**

Due to the growing income generated by *Political Psychology*, ISPP's financial situation is enviable. For the past three years, our revenues have exceeded our expenditures by about \$100,000 each year. To date, we have invested that money and have used income from our investments to fund small grants, announced elsewhere in this issue. However, the Governing Council will be considering whether to continue to invest this extra income, spend a portion to further professionalize our services, and/or invest on new ventures to advance ISPP and political psychology. Your suggestions are certainly invited.

**American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Human Rights Coalition**

I have placed before the Governing Council the question of whether ISPP should join the AAAS Human Rights Coalition. An announcement in this issue invites your comments and offers websites where you can learn details regarding the Coalition.

**2010 Program—"Making Our World Anew: Political Psychology in an Age of Global Challenges"**

Our next scientific meeting will be held in San Francisco, July 7-10, 2010. Papers and posters from all areas of political psychology are invited. However, we especially encourage members to consider presentations related to the program theme stated above. I am deeply grateful to Stephen Reicher for agreeing to serve as Program Chair; those who have done so in past years know the size of the task.

**So Many to Thank**

My biggest regret following the Dublin meeting was that I did not take an occasion to publicly thank Cheryl Koopman, my predecessor, for her dedicated work as ISPP President for 2008-2009. So Cheryl, thank you, not just for your excellent service last year, but for all you continue to do for ISPP.

On behalf of the Society, I want to thank those whose service on the Governing Council ended in Dublin: Rose McDermott, as Vice-President, and Molly Andrews, Allyson Holbrook, Angela Kidervater, and Klaus Wasmund as elected members of the Governing Council. Stephen Reicher also completed his elective term on the Council, but will remain on the Council this year as our Program Chair.

Thanks to Neil Ferguson and Orla Muldoon for co-chairing the successful Dublin Program, and to all their sections chairs, too many to name. Thanks to David Winter (again) for chairing the search for a new Executive Director. Thanks to all, also unnamed here, who chaired and served on ISPP's many committees last year.

Jamie Druckman, Art Kendall, Orla Muldoon, Joe Montville, Michael Krasner, Daphna Canneti, Kris

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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Thalhammer, Leonie Huddy and David Redlawsk have all agreed to chair various committees for 2009-2010, and I am very grateful to each one. And thanks to all who have agreed to serve on their various committees.

Finally, our thanks to Nadia Khatib for serving as Chair of the Junior Scholars for 2008-2009, and welcome to Janice Adelman who has taken that role for 2009-2010.

**Others to Welcome**

Paul Nesbitt-Larking starts his service as our new Vice-President, and Esra Cuhadar Gürkaynak, Jamie Druckman, Eva Green, Jeninifer Jerit, and Tasha Philpot are our newly elected members of the Governing Council. Welcome to you all.

**And, in Conclusion**

Finally, let me thank all of you for offering me the opportunity to serve this year as our President. It is, of course, a great honor. I am enjoying the work, and will make every effort to serve you effectively.

—Sam McFarland

**ISPP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**New Political Psychology Journal Editors**

The new editorial team of *Political Psychology* will assume their duties February 1, 2010:

- Alex Mintz, Editor-in-chief
- Paul ‘t Hart, Co-editor
- Helen Haste, Co-editor
- David Redlawsk, Co-editor
- James Sidanius, Co-editor
- Eran Halperin, Associate editor
- Steven Redd, Associate editor

The journal will be housed at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at IDC-Herzliya, Israel. The first issue of the new team will be published in April/June 2011 and will explore “Where Do We Go From Here.” See Call for Papers on Page 16.

**ISPP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Call for Governing Council Nominations**

The Nominating Committee for the International Society of Political Psychology is soliciting nominations for five three-year terms on the ISPP Governing Council (self nominations are welcome). The Governing Council consists of 15 elected members (five elected each year) who guide the policy and direction of the Society, approve budgets and expenditures, serve on the Nominating Committee, and often work on additional special projects committees. Information on the specific duties of the Governing Council can be found in the ISPP Constitution, available at [http://ispp.org/constitution\\_reformed.html](http://ispp.org/constitution_reformed.html) (see Article VII). Participation in the Governing Council is an excellent opportunity to help guide and develop both the Society and political psychology as a discipline. Members of the Governing Council must be current dues-paid members of the ISPP. Ten candidates will be nominated for five positions, with the ISPP membership voting in March-April 2010. (The slate will be announced in January.) Those elected will serve a term from July 2010-July 2013. **Nominations are due by November 15, and should be sent to:**

Tereza Capelos,  
Nominations Committee Chairperson  
[t.capelos@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:t.capelos@surrey.ac.uk)

Nominations must include the name and institutional affiliation of the nominee, along with information about the nominee’s discipline, primary areas of research, geographic location, and any other information that might be useful to the nominating committee in its goals of nominating a diverse set of candidates representing the broad range of research and interests in political psychology, and the international nature of the Society. Nominees will be contacted by the committee before being placed on the ballot.

**Membership Renewal Time!**

ISPP memberships run per calendar year, so 2009 memberships will be expiring December 31. In December, we will contact everyone with an expiring membership to invite you to renew for 2010. Those whose multi-year memberships are continuing will receive confirmation. Thank you for your support!

## ISPP ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ISPP Meeting, San Francisco 2010

It is always flattering to be asked to be a Program Chair. Only after you have been seduced into saying ‘yes’ do you realise exactly what you have let yourself in for—and in the case of an organization like ISPP the task is particularly challenging. There are two issues, in particular, which mark us out.

First, we bring together two disciplines with very different disciplinary traditions, especially when it comes to conferences. What the one takes as a desirable given, the other sees as a strange imposition. Take discussants, for instance. At the risk of over-generalizing, political scientists see the whole point of a conference paper as getting feedback from a qualified reader. Psychologists see the discussant as taking up valuable debating time (or, still worse, presentation time). If you try to impose one size on all, you will soon hear dissent from some.

The second challenge is the fruit of our success. ISPP is growing and ISPP is becoming more and more international. But the price of growth is the loss of intimacy. Bigger conferences run the risk of fragmentation with more and more sessions and less and less chance that any two people will have gone to the same talks and will be able to compare notes. So how do we encourage growth but at the same time retain the sense of belonging to a common community?

In order to meet these challenges, we have made a number of changes for the San Francisco meeting. Many of these are simply a matter of reinstating decisions made in the past but which have lapsed over time. Some of them are genuinely new departures. No doubt some will be more successful than others in making the conference vibrant and enjoyable. And no doubt you will tell us what you think—especially where things don’t work as intended. But it is important that you are aware of the changes—so note them well!

#### 1. Number of submissions

In order to contain the size of the conference and limit the number of parallel sessions, participants will be limited to no more than one presentation of a given type. So you can present a keynote, a poster,

a paper and participate in a roundtable. But you can’t present two papers, say. This doesn’t mean that you cannot have your name on more than one paper, however. Please observe the spirit in which this is intended. Don’t all put in roundtables as a surrogate way of giving papers please. Also, please don’t put in multiple papers simply rotating the name of the presenter!

#### 2. Acceptance and rejection

In recent times, acceptance of submissions has been pretty much guaranteed—but this wasn’t always so. While it is important that we are inclusive, it is equally important that people do not submit papers that are premature—for instance, work that relies on data that has not yet been collected. That is unfair to the audience and is also another way of making the programme too bulky. So, section chairs will be generous, but they will be asked to maintain academic standards when deciding on acceptance or rejection.

#### 3. Uploading written papers for archives

As things stand, all presenters are asked to eventually upload a full written paper for discussant preview and our public archives—but this is often honoured largely in the breach. Especially in some areas, say social psychology, people do not expect such a requirement. That results in a situation where often all we have on file is an abstract. For this year, then, we will make it a requirement to provide an abstract of up to 250 words (with the proposal submission) and, in addition, *either* a fuller summary of 1,000 words (which is in line with several psychology conferences) or a full paper, upon acceptance, prior to the conference. This choice, we hope, will not reduce the number of papers made available, but will increase the information available overall.

#### 4. Discussants

For San Francisco, we will not automatically allocate discussants to all sessions. Rather, this will be left to the discretion of section chairs. That way, we can accommodate the diversity of preferences in different domains. Where no discussant is allocated, it will be the responsibility of the symposium chair to introduce a discussion (taking no more than five minutes) and then to chair it. (If you have a strong preference for or against a discussant, please note such in the

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appropriate field of your submission.)

### 5. Sections

As you can see in the Call for Papers, the sections this year are slightly modified. I want to draw your attention in particular to the strand on 'regional studies'. What we are looking for is a better understanding of political psychology going on in different countries or regions around the world. So we are especially keen for people to submit symposia on political psychology outside the old hegemonic heartlands—in different parts of Asia, Africa and South America say and also in Southern Europe. Please do consider organising something in this strand if you can—or even contact people you know who might be interested in so doing. (Section leaders are currently being finalized and will soon be posted on the ISPP conference webpage.)

### 6. New formats

As mentioned in the Call for Papers, we are hoping to experiment with new formats which will be lively and thought-provoking—engaging with practitioners for instance, or else plenary debates. For that to work, we need ideas and suggestions from you: do you know any activists or politicians who might be interested in an exchange of ideas? Are there any 'hot' topics which would be a good focus of debate, and can you think of who might debate them—people who could participate in a good frank exchange without taking offence!? If so, let us know (ispp.conference@yahoo.com).

### 7. All-Academic

This year we are staying with All-Academic as the online system through which submissions are managed. We know that All-Academic is not perfect and has been difficult for some. We are working with the designers to correct these problems. We ask your patience as we discover this system's capabilities and limitations, while exploring alternatives for the future. Meanwhile, if you have difficulties using the system, let us know. We'll work it out.

### 8. Submission process

I want to stress just one very important point about

the online process of submitting proposals. Many of us log on, get a username, forget it, then next time we log on, make up a new name or use a different email address—thus inadvertently creating a new "account". I know. I have done it myself. The problem is that this totally undermines the system. We then cannot tell whether different submissions come from the same person and this can lead to all sorts of problems for us and for you—including clashing presentation times—and will mean you as a presenter will not be able to access your proposals to make changes or upload your paper. (Think of this like any account created online, including an Amazon account, where if you bring up a different account than the one you used to order, you're not going to find that order to track, modify, or cancel.)

When the submission site opens this year, everyone who already has an account in the system will receive a reminder of their log-in information. Please keep this information. If you are new to the system, please, please, when you do go through the process of creating an account, make sure you keep all the relevant information in a safe place that you can access next time you want to use the process (and tell any co-authors or co-presenters the exact name you've entered in the system, so they do not inadvertently add another account for you.). I know I am poacher turned gamekeeper on this, but you cannot imagine what difficulties are caused if you ignore this. Also, you can always retrieve your user name and password through the link below the log-in box. Finally, remember to click GO after entering your password, NOT the nearby "Create a new account."

See <http://ispp.org/meet.html> for more information about the conference, the call for papers, and link to the submission process. *(Also, see the following page in this newsletter for the Call for Papers.)*

So, that's about it. If you have any other thoughts or comments, please contact me at [ispp.conference@yahoo.com](mailto:ispp.conference@yahoo.com).

And see you in San Francisco!

—Steve Reicher, Conference Program Chair  
[ispp.conference@yahoo.com](mailto:ispp.conference@yahoo.com)

## ISPP ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Call for Papers**  
**Annual Scientific Meeting of the**  
**International Society of Political Psychology**  
**July 7–10, 2010, Mark Hopkins Hotel**  
**San Francisco, California, USA**

**“Making our World Anew: Political Psychology**  
**in an Age of Global Challenges”**

*Conference Program Chair:*

*Stephen Reicher, University of St. Andrews*  
*ISPP 2009-10 President: Sam McFarland,*  
*Western Kentucky University*

Join us for the 2010 ISPP annual scientific meeting in San Francisco! The theme of the conference is “Making our World Anew: Political Psychology in an Age of Global Challenges.”

This is a challenging theme. It asks us to interrogate our discipline on a number of levels. Do we have the insights to deal with the various phenomena that assail us from the effects of the global economic downturn, through the impact of mass migrations and cultural encounters, new and inter-connected forms of tension and conflict, to the challenges of creating environmentally sustainable communities? Do our concepts, largely developed in the US and Western Europe, allow us to understand these phenomena across the globe? Can we transform ourselves—Political Psychology—into a truly global community that is able to address phenomena on a global scale? Our ambition is to see the conference as a stepping stone towards such a community.

To address this year’s theme, the Program Chair aims to create a culture of informed discussion and exchange of ideas between people from different countries, people from different disciplines and between academics and practitioners. We are particularly keen to make this a truly diverse conference, to include people from many disciplines, to showcase young scholars and more established scholars, and, most particularly, to welcome people from areas where, traditionally, Political Psychology has been under-represented.

San Francisco is renowned as a vibrant and diverse city, both culturally and intellectually. It therefore

provides an ideal setting for us to work together, think together and socialize together. We want the conference to be invigorating and we want to make the conference fun. So do come and join us, meet old friends, make new ones, challenge old ideas, gain new insights—have a great week in one of the world’s great cities!

### Format

*Paper and Panel Proposals:* Each panel normally includes up to four papers addressing a common substantive topic, a chair, and up to two discussants. In exceptional circumstances, we will accept panels of up to eight papers. This should be negotiated in advance with the Program Chair. We accept individual paper submissions, which subsequently will be grouped into panels with similar papers, and will be assigned a chair and (possibly) discussants. We also accept proposals for complete panels that include all papers and identify the discussant and chair, which can be submitted by the panel chair as a complete session.

*Posters:* Poster sessions are designed to present research projects in all their phases. Posters can include information on data, results, conclusion, applications, or implementation of instruments and techniques. The aim of poster sessions is to be interactive and to provide exchange and discussion of ideas between the poster’s author and the people viewing the posters. We accept individual poster proposals, which should be submitted to the appropriate section chairs.

*Discussants and Chairs:* Because every panel will have a chair and many will have discussants in order to stimulate discussion and valuable feedback, all presenters at the conference will most likely be assigned the role of a discussant or a chair at a panel on which they are *not* presenting a paper. If you would like to serve in this role for a specific area of study that fits your interests and expertise, you can submit a request through the online submission system.

*Roundtables:* Roundtables involve two or more presenters who articulate their views on a particular topic. This can be a research area, a particular book, a method, or some other topic. We accept only propos-

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als for whole roundtables, including the participants and a chair, which can be submitted by the roundtable chair. We do not accept individual proposals to join a roundtable.

**Workshops:** Workshops serve to instruct or give the audience practice in methods for political psychological research or might focus on practical program training relevant to political psychology. Workshops not charging additional fees will be given the same time slot as the other formats. Those whom wish to charge a fee for materials and/or need a longer time slot should contact the program chair. We accept proposals for workshops, which can be submitted by the workshop chair. We do not accept individual proposals to join a workshop.

**Keynotes and Debates:** There will also be 60-minute keynote addresses as well as 60-minute keynote discussions where two or more people will debate an issue of importance. These will be solicited for the program by invitation only.

**Sections**

Individual papers and posters, as well as entire panels, roundtables, and workshops can be submitted to a maximum of two of the 10 sections listed below, with one designated as the presenter’s first choice and the other designated as second. Each section is marked with keywords associated with its most relevant topics, to assist participants in identifying the sections that best match their research interests.

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	<b>2010 – San Francisco Sections</b>	<b>Key Words</b>
1	Globalization and international relations	Globalization, transitional politics, global and local economy, societal and environmental change, international negotiation
2	Migration and acculturation	Migration, refugees and asylum seekers, cultural encounters and cultural understanding, acculturation, contact, racism
3	Regional studies	In this section, we particularly encourage panels and papers from countries and regions which, historically, have not had a strong tradition of political psychology
4	Political culture, identity and language	Political and national identities, political discourse, cultural memory and identity, political narratives
5	Electoral behaviour, political communication and public opinion	Voting, political campaigns, political debates, mass media, internet, framing, priming, persuasion, advertising, propaganda, deliberation
6	Social inequality and social change	Tyranny, poverty, social justice, democracy, civic engagement, political alienation, social movements, collective action
7	Political decision making	Cognition, affect, motivation, information processing, heuristics, biases, impression formation, political learning
8	Crisis and conflict	Political crises, natural disasters, conflict, violence, genocide, ethnic cleansing, war, peace
9	Intergroup and intragroup relations	Stereotyping, prejudice, belonging, othering, solidarity, cohesion, social dominance, legitimacy, permeability
10	New perspectives, new developments	New areas of study and application, methodological developments, theoretical developments, critiques and controversies

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The International Society of Political Psychology and the Chair for the 2010 conference emphasize methodological and theoretical plurality in all participations and welcome all approaches and all topics.

### Proposal Submission

Submission of proposals will open in late October. Visit the ISPP Annual Meeting website at: <http://ispp.org/meet.html> where you will be able to submit your proposal electronically. **The deadline for proposal submissions is February 5, 2010.**

Please note that all presenters, panel chairs, and discussants will need to register and pay for conference attendance. Also, if your paper submission is accepted, you will be expected to electronically upload a copy of your research paper (or 1000-word brief) online by **June 23<sup>rd</sup>** for panel chairs, discussants, and public archives. You are also expected to distribute it by email to all members of your panel (other presenters, chair, and discussant) by that date. Finally, if your submission is accepted, you may be assigned a presentation time on any of the days of the conference.

We look forward to your participation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [ispp.conference@yahoo.com](mailto:ispp.conference@yahoo.com).

—Steve Reicher, Program Chair

***Help us spread the word: post the flier on page 19.***

### Call for Small Grant Proposals for Potential Funding by ISPP

In 2008, the ISPP Governing Council decided to use a portion of the income from ISPP investment funds for small grants that further the goals of ISPP. As stated in last year's announcement, the purpose of these modest grants is to "strengthen our organization and promote excellence in political psychology".

We now invite ISPP members to submit proposals for these grants for 2010. For 2009, with \$6,000 to award, the Allocations Committee awarded two grants of \$3,000 each. While the total money avail-

able this year has not yet been determined, it will likely be less than \$10,000.

While any proposal related to political psychology is welcome, the Allocations Committee last year favored proposals to establish a mini-conference of political psychologists in the Balkans and to network political psychologists in Eastern and Southern Europe and beyond. The Committee chose not to support proposals for research funding, for travel, or for paying for invited speakers. Provided funds will only be used to reimburse expenses. ISPP cannot support requests for salary. For 2010, proposals that aim to strengthen the field of political psychology, such as by forming local networks of political psychologists, will again likely be preferred. Evidence of matching funds is also beneficial, especially for proposals from wealthier countries. Nevertheless, all proposals will be considered fully.

To be considered for the coming year, proposals must be submitted to [ispp@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:ispp@maxwell.syr.edu) by Tuesday, **December 1, 2009** by 5:00 pm East Coast US Time.

The Allocations Committee must make their recommendations for grant recipients in time for their inclusion in the 2010 ISPP budget, which must be prepared before the Governing Council meeting, January 15-16, 2010. All applicants will be notified of decisions soon after the Governing Council meets.

There is not a rigid format for proposals. However, please include the following components:

- The title of the project;
- The person or persons submitting the proposal, including their affiliations and complete contact information. If non-members will be involved in the proposed project, please identify which persons are ISPP members;
- A brief description of the project, preferably limited to 1500 words, including its aims, and why it is feasible to complete within a year or less;
- The background and significance of the project;
- A time line for the project that lists specific activities and their timing;
- A plan for evaluating whether the goals of the

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project are met;

—A detailed budget, including funds requested from ISPP and the likelihood of supplementary funding from other sources.

—The 2009-2010 Allocations Committee  
Leonie Huddy (chair) Cheryl Koopman,  
Sam McFarland, Andrea Grove, Catarina Kinnvall

**Congratulations 2009 ISPP Award Winners:**

**Alexander George Book Award**

Sharon R. Krause, Brown University  
*Civil Passions: Moral Sentiment and Democratic Deliberation*

**Best Dissertation Award**

Samuel Pehrson, University of Sussex, England  
(Supervisor: Rupert Brown)  
*Defining ‘us’ and rejecting ‘them’: National definitions and the identification-prejudice relationship*

**Jeanne Knutson Award for Long-Standing Service to ISPP**

Helen Haste, University of Bath

**Harold Lasswell Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions**

Steven R. Brown, Kent State University

**Noel Markwell Media Award**

Mr. Takasumi Saikawa,  
*Kyodo News* Editorial Writer

**Robert Sigel Award 1 (for best paper by a junior scholar presented at 2008 ISPP meeting)**

Jason Barabas, Jennifer Jerit, Florida State Univ.,  
*Survey Experiments and the External Validity of Treatments*

**Robert Sigel Award 2 (for best paper with junior scholar as lead author presented at 2008 meeting)**

Margarita Krochik, University of Virginia  
John T. Jost, New York University  
E. Tory Higgins, Columbia University  
*Unseating the Status Quo: How Prevention and Promotion Motivate Voter Preferences for Change*

**2010 Alexander L. George Book Award:  
Nominations Deadline December 15, 2009**

The International Society of Political Psychology is pleased to announce the call for submission of books for the Alexander L. George Book Award. This is the seventh year the award is being given. The deadline for 2010 nominations is **December 15, 2009**.

The Alexander L. George Book Award will be given for the best book published in the field of political psychology during the previous calendar year. The 2010 award will be for the best book published in 2009. Befitting the extraordinary and far-reaching contributions to scholarship of Alexander George, the award winning work should be one that demonstrates the highest quality of thought and makes a major substantive book-length contribution to the field of political psychology, broadly defined.

As judged by the award committee, the book should increase substantially our understanding of an issue (or issues) that is central to the concerns of political psychology and the world in which we live. (Nominees must be ISPP members.) An interdisciplinary committee will determine the award winner. **Nominations, along with a copy of the books being nominated, should be sent to each award committee member by December 15.** (See <http://ispp.org/archives/george.html>.)

Inquiries should be addressed to committee chairperson Art Kendall: [Art@DrKendall.org](mailto:Art@DrKendall.org).

**2010 Best Dissertation Award:  
Nominations Deadline January 15, 2010**

All Ph.D. dissertations within the field of political psychology are eligible for consideration, regardless of home discipline. Dissertations should represent an independent piece of research that is the sole work of the author and gains the highest degree at the author’s university.

Nominations are due by **January 15, 2010**, for dissertations completed and successfully defended between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. **Nominees must be current ISPP members.**

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Nominations should be submitted electronically and must include a one-page abstract (300 word), a 10-page (3000 word) summary of the dissertation, and a letter of recommendation from the thesis advisor or committee member, all in English. Nominations should be submitted to the award committee chairperson: **Kris Thalhammer (thalhamm@stolaf.edu) by January 15.**

The award committee will request a copy of the full dissertation for those selected to participate in the second round evaluation. If the dissertation is written in a language other than English, the full dissertation may be submitted in the original language for the second round evaluation, and at least one qualified reader fluent in that language will be included as a committee member for the second round evaluation.

Please forward this announcement to Directors of Graduate Studies at your institution, and any other persons to whom you think it might be of interest. For more information: <http://ispp.org/archives/Best-DissertationAward.html>.

### **2010 Erik Erikson Early Career Award: Nominations Deadline February 15, 2010**

The Erikson Award, named for Erik Erikson, the “Father of Psychosocial Development,” recognizes and celebrates exceptional achievement and is awarded to an individual who is a member of ISPP and within a decade of receiving his or her Ph.D. You are encouraged to nominate a candidate for the Erikson Award who has demonstrated excellence and creativity in the field of political psychology. Nominations should be accompanied by a brief supporting narrative and, if possible, a link to the nominee’s curriculum vitae. Please submit your nominations to Erikson Award Committee Chair **Jamie Druckman (druckman@northwestern.edu) by February 15, 2010.** For more information: <http://ispp.org/archives/erikson.html>.

### **2010 Harold Lasswell Award for Scientific Contribution: Nominations Deadline March 1, 2010**

The Lasswell Award is given for “distinguished

scientific contribution in the field of political psychology.” It is named for Harold Lasswell, one of the first to apply psychology to the analysis of politics. He was, thereby, also one of the first to encounter the problems of interdisciplinary work: because of resistance to his ideas, from 1937 to 1950 not a single article of his was published in a political science journal. However, he continued to publish (in psychological and psychiatric journals and books) and ultimately he won recognition, being elected President of APSA in 1955. He taught at Chicago, Yale, CUNY, Temple, and finally Columbia.

The 2010 award recipient will be strongly encouraged to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting and Award’s Banquet in San Francisco, California, and may be asked to give a talk at the 2011 annual meeting in recognition of their work in the field.

All nominations must include a CV of the nominee and an argumentation why he/she deserves the award. Send nominations via email (deadline March 1, 2010) to Lasswell Award Committee Chair **Orla Muldoon (orla.muldoon@ul.ie)**. For more information: <http://ispp.org/archives/lasswell.html>.

### **Noel Markwell Media Award: Nominations Deadline March 1, 2010**

The Markwell Award Committee Invites ISPP members to nominate outstanding journalists whose work deals with the media and political psychology for the Markwell Award, which carries a cash prize of \$500. The award is open to any institution, journalist, or other media source that demonstrates concern for the political psychological factors that are central to the ISPP. Thus, a recipient could be an institution such as National Public Radio or the Science section of a media outlet such as the *New York Times*. Individual writers/journalists whose work elucidates psychological insights into important political events would also be eligible, (such as the first two recipients in 2005). ISPP membership is not required.

Nominations should be sent, along with copies of the nominee’s work, if possible, to Markwell Award Committee Chair **Michael Krasner, (mkrasner@sover.net) by March 1, 2010.** For more informa-

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**ISPP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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tion: <http://ispp.org/archives/markwell.html>.

**Nevitt Sanford Award  
for Professional Contribution:  
Nominations Deadline January 15, 2010**

Nevitt Sanford was deeply influenced by John Dewey, who imposed upon the scholar the obligation to put knowledge to work in the solution of social problems. Thus the ISPP was dear to his heart. Nevitt's problem-centered approach to the generation of human knowledge involved not only perceiving but also doing or making, so his interests ranged widely through the disciplines, much like ISPP. His specialization was in personality theory and human problems, particularly the authoritarian personality and social destructiveness, higher education and adult development.

This award, set up in the honor of Nevitt Sanford, is to be given yearly to someone deemed by the committee to be: 1) engaged in the practical application of political psychological principles, or 2) creating knowledge that is accessible and used by practitioners to make a positive difference in the way politics is carried out.

The award recipient will be strongly encouraged to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting and Award's Banquet in San Francisco, California, USA and may be asked to give a talk at the 2011 annual meeting in recognition of his/her work in the field.

All nominations must include the nominee's CV and an argumentation why he/she deserves the award. Send nominations via email to Award Committee Chair **Joseph Montville (jmontville3k@verizon.net)** by **January 15, 2010**. For more info: <http://ispp.org/archives/sanford.html>.

**Should ISPP Join the  
AAAS Human Rights Coalition?**

In January, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) launched the AAAS Human Rights Coalition, "a network of scientific membership organizations that recognizes a role for science and scientists in efforts to realize human rights." Detailed information on the Coalition is available at its website, <http://shr/aaas/org/coalition/index.shtml>, particularly under "Foundation Documents," "Plan of Action (2009-2011)," the five program areas, and "SHR Coalition."

The American Psychological Association and the American Political Science Association, the associations that most American ISPP members belong to, are both members, as are many scientific societies from both both the physical and social sciences. International associations such as ISPP are also welcome.

In Dublin, the Governing Council considered briefly whether ISPP should become a member. Doing so would imply that ISPP endorses and wants to advance human rights, but does not appear to imply a position on any particular political issue beyond that.

The matter was tabled until the midwinter Governing Council meeting, and I was asked to invite comments from our members.

If you have comments that you would like the Governing Council to consider regarding joining the AAAS Human Rights Coalition, either in favor or in opposition, or just things we should consider prior to making the final decision, **please send them to me at [sam.mcfarland@wku.edu](mailto:sam.mcfarland@wku.edu) by November 10.**

All comments will be posted on a website for the Governing Council to read and consider.

—Sam McFarland

*Save these dates...*  
**July 7-10, 2010, ISPP Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, USA**  
**July 9-12, 2011, ISPP Annual Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey**  
For more information, see: <http://ispp.org/meet.html>

**JSC NEWS**

**JSC wants to hear from you!**

The JSC is always open to comments or suggestions. If you'd like to get in touch with us and tell us your thoughts, you may do so at [ispp.juniorscholars@gmail.com](mailto:ispp.juniorscholars@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

—Janice Adelman, JSC Chair

**ISPP Mentorship Program**

Attention BOTH Junior and Senior Scholars: When you register for the 2010 meeting in San Francisco next spring, please make sure to sign up for the ISPP Mentorship Program. This program gives our junior scholars a unique opportunity to interact with senior researchers in their chosen research area by providing a forum in which they can meet one-on-one at the Mentoring Tea. If you have any questions about the mentor program, please email us at [ispp.juniorscholars@gmail.com](mailto:ispp.juniorscholars@gmail.com).

**SIPP 2010: Summer Institute in Political Psychology, Stanford University, July 11-30**

SIPP is a three-week intensive training program that introduces graduate students, faculty members, and professionals to the world of political psychology scholarship. The curriculum is designed to accomplish one preeminent goal: to produce skilled, creative, and effective scholarly researchers who will do more and better work in political psychology as the result of their attendance at SIPP. For more details and application information, see <http://www.stanford.edu/group/sipp/>

**Roberta Sigel Fund**

The Sigel Fund's expansion efforts have reached beyond our expectations. This year we subsidized a portion of travel costs for a record 19 junior scholars to attend the Dublin meeting! Congratulations to: Janice R. Adelman, Zeljka Buturovic, Aleksandra Cichocka, Katharine Greenaway, Patricia Hallam, Sudhir Chander Hindwan, Roland Imhoff, Katarzyna Jaško, Rajiv Jhangiani, Reşit Kışlıoğlu, Filip Kovacevic, Enoch Landau, Barbara Lasticova, J. Celeste Lay, Hyunji Lee, Joke Meeus, Cecilia Mo, Xenia Pertsovskaya, and Johanne Van Der Toorn. We thank everyone for your past contributions. Remember to donate to the Sigel Fund when you renew your ISPP membership, and continue supporting our talented Junior Scholars.

**PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Political Psychology of US–China Relations Retreat  
October 23, 2009, University of Oklahoma**

The Institute for US–China Issues at the University of Oklahoma will convene a retreat on October 23, 2009 in Norman, OK to set a research agenda for its new “Political Psychology of US–China Relations” research lab. The retreat, to be hosted by Institute director Peter Gries, will bring together experts in the political psychology of international relations, cross-cultural psychology, and US–China relations. Participants will include Ned Lebow (Dartmouth), Rick Herrmann (Ohio State), David Rousseau (SUNY Albany), Ted Hopf (Ohio State), Kaiping Peng (Berkeley), Chi Yue Chiu (National Singapore U.), Iain Johnston (Harvard), and Qingmin Zhang (Peking U.). For more information, see [www.ou.edu/uschina/pp.html](http://www.ou.edu/uschina/pp.html).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Princeton Conference on Psychology and Policymaking  
19-20 February 2010, Princeton University  
Submission Deadline November 15<sup>th</sup>**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Princeton Conference on Psychology and Policymaking solicits papers from graduate and post-doctoral students from across the social sciences whose research focuses on the intersections between psychology and the policy-making process. The conference will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Princeton University. The goal of the conference is to provide feedback for papers that are in progress. As such, it will employ a workshop style format with eight panels, each offering rigorous consideration of a single paper. The conference will also include a keynote address by John Jost of New York University's Department of Psychology. We hope to build on the success of last year's conference to bring together a diverse group of psychologists, political scientists and other social scientists as paper presenters and discussants.

Submissions are due via email to [psychpol@princeton.edu](mailto:psychpol@princeton.edu) by **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. All authors will be informed of the decision by January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

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**PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Papers not accepted for full presentations may be accepted for a poster session. Assistance for invited participants' travel and lodging is available by application. The organizing committee acknowledges the support of the Princeton University Departments of Politics and Psychology and the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics.

For more information see: [www.princeton.edu/~pyschpol](http://www.princeton.edu/~pyschpol).

**1st Annual Political Psychology  
Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality  
and Social Psychology (SPSP) 2010  
January 28, 2010, Las Vegas  
Poster Submission Deadline December 15<sup>th</sup>**

We invite you to join us for the first annual SPSP political psychology pre-conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 28, 2010.

The pre-conference is being organized in light of what appears to be a burgeoning increase in political psychology research in recent years. Our objectives in organizing this event are to honor the leaders of the field, to break down boundaries between social psychology and political psychology, and to promote the next generation of political psychologists.

We are very excited about the lineup of confirmed speakers: Rachel Calogero, Chris Federico, Adam Galinsky, Ronnie Janoff-Bulman, Jon Krosnick, Howard Lavine, Brenda Major, David Sears, Jim Sidanius, Stacey Sinclair

The pre-conference will also include a poster session, a paper swap, a screening of Lenny Martin's new documentary on ideology, a speaker/audience Q & A session moderated by John Jost, and closing remarks by Tom Tyler.

Registration is now open and will close when space is filled or January 5th, whichever comes first. The deadline for submitting a poster is **December 15th**. To submit your poster, register for the pre-conference, or obtain more information, please visit: [http://www.psych.nyu.edu/spsp\\_politpsych/](http://www.psych.nyu.edu/spsp_politpsych/),

**International Society for Justice Research  
Conference  
August 21-24, 2010, Banff, Alberta, Canada**

The International Society for Justice Research will be holding its upcoming biennial conference in Banff, Alberta, Canada, August 21-24, 2010. The theme of the meeting is "Rights and Equality in the Global Community". The conference is an interdisciplinary, international forum for the presentation and discussion of research on justice and fairness. Researchers of all relevant disciplines are invited to propose papers, posters, or symposia on the conference theme or any other justice-related issue.

Please visit the conference website for details: <http://wcmprod2.ucalgary.isjr2010/>.

**Marxism and Psychology Conference, 2010  
August 5-7, 2010  
University of Prince Edward Island, Canada**

In bringing together scholars at the forefront of research in Marxism and Psychology, we hope to give new students and activists an opportunity to interact with individuals who have made significant contributions within this area. We aim to foster an environment where students, activists, and scholars can identify potential graduate advisors, research assistants, and participatory investigators. To this end, students will be offered a reduced conference fee and budget accommodations at the University.

This conference is sponsored by the Marxism and Psychology Research Group (MPRG). For updates on the conference, please visit our website <http://vre.upei.ca/mprg/>. We will begin reviewing abstracts for the conference in mid-November. For a complete conference timeline, please visit the website listed above.

**International Psychohistorical  
Society Conference  
June 2-4, 2010, Fordham University, NYC**

For information see: [www.psychohistory.us](http://www.psychohistory.us).

**PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NSF Funding for 2010 Behavior Genetics Methods Workshop**

*Application Deadline October 31, 2009*

Selected applicants will be funded for travel, lodging, and tuition by the National Science Foundation to attend a five-day workshop (March 2010, University of Colorado, Boulder) offered by the Behavior Genetics Association organized to explore individual differences in human behavior. This is a hands-on methods training course. **Application Process closes October 31, 2009.** For more information: <http://ispp.org/announcements/BehaviorGenetics-MethodsWorkshop.pdf>.

**Politics Beyond the State: Transformations of the State between De- and Repoliticization**

**May 27-29, 2010, University of Bremen**

*Proposal deadline January 11, 2010*

Papers are invited dealing with the politics of international and/or private authority from a conceptual, theoretical, empirical or normative perspective. Does the transfer of political authority to the international level and to private actors imply a (re-) politicization of the international or economic sphere? How does the gradual internationalization of traditionally national political issues affect the state? Is there evidence for a depoliticization trend of national politics? Which policy areas have been most depoliticized and why?

**Paper proposals must be submitted electronically by January 11, 2010** to [conference2010@sfb597.uni-bremen.de](mailto:conference2010@sfb597.uni-bremen.de), and should include the author's name, full contact information, and an abstract of no more than 250 words. See <http://www.sfb597.uni-bremen.de/pages/aktTermine2010TagungPoliticization.php>.

**Online Resources**

**The Social Psychology Network (SPN) offers online resources of interest to political psychologists: See <http://www.socialpsychology.org/>**

**CAN YOU AVOID SEGREGATION?**  
**<http://www.UnderstandingPrejudice.org/segregation>**

Building on the work of Nobel Laureate Thomas Schelling, this new interactive learning resource shows that small social preferences at the individual level can generate surprising patterns of segregation at the group level, and it shows how the same dynamic can be used to reverse segregation. In addition, the site offers more than 100 web links and readings for visitors interested in learning more about segregation.

**STANFORD PRISON EXPERIMENT**

**<http://www.PrisonExp.org>**

To mark the 10-year anniversary of PrisonExp.org, this summer this site was updated and expanded with more content than ever, including a Portuguese translation, eight streaming video clips, and a YouTube channel. Please stop by for a visit!

**DATA VISUALIZATION TOOLS & VIDEOS**

**<http://www.socialpsychology.org/methods.htm#visualization>**

These new resources include links to web videos that dramatically illustrate how “data animation” is being used to address global problems such as poverty, climate change, and the spread of HIV. Inspiring, informative, and highly recommended for teachers, students, and anyone who analyzes statistical data.

**PSYCHOLOGY HEADLINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

SPN now offers its free news service through a variety of channels:

RSS (over 11,000 subscribers)  
<http://www.socialpsychology.org/headlines.rss>

PsychWidget (over 16,000 downloads)  
<http://www.PsychWidget.org/>

Twitter (over 1,700 users)  
<http://www.twitter.com/PsychNews>

iGoogle (over 3,800 users)  
<http://www.google.com/ig/directory?hl=en&type=gadgets&url=www.socialpsychology.org/headlines.rss>

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## PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Headlines Box (for home page, syllabus, or blog)  
<http://www.socialpsychology.org/headlines.htm>

### AN INVITATION TO EDUCATORS <http://www.ActionTeaching.org>

If you practice action teaching of any kind, you're invited to apply for the SPN Action Teaching Award (**Deadline: January 15, 2010**). The **\$1,000 prize** honors classroom activities, student assignments, field experiences, and web demonstrations that promote a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

## MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### KUDOS:

#### Herbert C. Kelman Receives Socrates Prize

Long-time ISPP member Professor Herbert C. Kelman was awarded the 2009 Socrates Prize for Mediation by the Centrale für Mediation, Germany. The Richard Clarke Cabot Professor of Social Ethics, Emeritus, and co-chair of the Middle East Seminar at Harvard University, Kelman was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the solution of national and international conflicts. The award was presented April 2 at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediation Congress in Berlin.

Engaged for more than 30 years in efforts toward the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Professor Kelman is a pioneer in the development of interactive problem solving, an unofficial third-party approach to the resolution of international and intercommunal conflicts. His major publications include *International Behavior: A Social-Psychological Analysis* (editor; 1965), *A Time to Speak: On Human Values and Social Research* (1968), and *Crimes of Obedience: Toward a Social Psychology of Authority and Responsibility* (with V. Lee Hamilton; 1989).

Founded in 1998, the Centrale für Mediation is a multi-disciplinary mediation association focused on the promotion of mediation and other consensual methods of dispute resolution in all areas of society.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Call for Papers Special Issue of Political Psychology: "Where Do We Go from Here?"

The first Special Issue of *Political Psychology* under its new editors will be published in April/June 2011. It seems an appropriate time to take stock of the field of political psychology and consider its future directions. We invite papers that address this agenda. **The deadline for papers is February 1, 2010.** The SI Editor, Helen Haste ([helhaste@aol.com](mailto:helhaste@aol.com)), would appreciate receiving 500-word abstracts from people who propose submitting papers, well in advance of that date, to guide potential papers towards a common thematic style for the Issue. For more information, see <http://ispp.org/announcements/CallSpecial-Issue-WhereDoWeGo.pdf>.

### Searching for Authors

Please help to spread the word about ISPP and encourage colleagues or students from underrepresented countries to submit an article for publication in "Humanism and Democracy across Borders of Countries and Disciplines."

This publication, approved and funded by ISPP in 2009, is intended to expand knowledge of political psychology beyond North America and Western Europe. We already have new contacts on colleagues, articles and abstracts from Belarus, Georgia, Czech Republic, and India but would welcome more, especially from Africa and Asia. Please help to attract more members and encourage them to send an abstract for a possible paper, or send me their email and I will send them an encouraging letter.

All fields of specialty are welcome—the only requirement is a connection to humanism and democracy. Please address all questions and proposals to Martina Klicperova at [klicperovabaker@gmail.com](mailto:klicperovabaker@gmail.com).

—Martina Klicperova

PUBLICATIONS

**Brief Analytical Essays Invited for Book on Theofascism**

I am writing to fellow members of the International Society of Political Psychology to request their brief analysis on any one of several psychic anxieties manifest in the political ideology of ‘theofascism,’ a term which rephrases Hannah Arendt’s “clerico-fascism” (1948, p. 121). Theofascism in the first decade of this new century is a form of governance that welds the practices and tenets of an evolved form of fascism with honored doctrines found in any of the world’s four salvific religions.

Brief analyses (1,000 to 5,000 words) are invited for a planned book, on any one of the following 15 features of theofascism: Millennialism; Widespread disaffection; Absolutism, and the psychic need to have, find, or create an enemy; Official clerical infallibility; Apocalypticism and Messianism; Determinist worldview; Narcissism, belligerence, and moral superiority masking a profound sense of inferiority; Revivalism; ‘Purity’ as the society’s moral glue; ‘Perfection’ of the local dominant religion as an already-achieved fact; ‘Salvation’ and ‘sacrifice’ as ultimate virtues; Adopting forms of stasis as religious/political idealism; Homicidal suicide as a form of heroism; The politics of resentment.

Questions and submissions should be directed to G. Don Kirk Richardson, glennr@unr.nevada.edu, Executive Director, International Society for the Philosophy of Human Rights (www.philohr.org).

—G. Don Kirk Richardson

**BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Leadership 101*  
**By Michael D. Mumford, PhD**  
 Springer Publishing, 2009

Are leaders born or made? What are the personality and motivational traits of good (and bad) leaders? Do leaders possess unique intellectual capacities? How is leadership influenced by gender, cultural differences, and social networks?

In this short, engaging introduction to leadership theory and research, Dr. Mumford and his colleagues address these questions and more. The book presents in-depth discussions of common assumptions and misconceptions surrounding leadership. Examining the subject from both psychological and business perspectives, the book discusses what traits, skills, and behavioral patterns leaders possess; how good and bad leaders think; what makes an outstanding leader; and how leadership research is conducted. For complete Table of Contents, please see: [www.springerpub.com/prod.aspx?prod\\_id=11340](http://www.springerpub.com/prod.aspx?prod_id=11340).

*Private Selves in Public Organizations*  
**By Michael A. Diamond and Seth Allcorn**  
 Palgrave Macmillan, 2009

This book is about the psychodynamics of analyzing and changing organizations. Michael Diamond and Seth Allcorn define organizations as relational and experiential systems. They offer a contemporary psychoanalytic model for immersion, diagnosis, and intervention in organizations. The authors discover workers who view their organizations as silos—fragmented and dysfunctional. They come across workers who demand but rarely find organizations where they feel safe and secure enough to question authority or challenge the status quo. The authors address issues of oppression, persecution, moral violence, chaos, and workplace democracy. Case examples illustrate the collision of social and psychological structure in the workplace.

“This pioneering comprehensive volume establishes the new field of psychoanalytic organizational psychology. By unifying elements from articles that have touched on the topic, Diamond and Allcorn have provided a complete and definitive volume on a subject that has previously been only tangentially and partially explored. It will endure as the fundamental volume for scholars and consultants, setting a model for the field. This is a monumental accomplishment for which readers will long be grateful.” —Harry Levinson, Ph.D. Clinical Professor of Psychology Emeritus, Harvard Medical School, President Emeritus, the Levinson Institute

More information available at: <http://us.macmillan.com/privateselvesinpublicorganizations>.

## MEMBER COMMENTARY

**Political Participation and  
Conflict Escalation in Lebanon\***

—Fouad Bouzeineddine

Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts

*\*A similar version of this article will be published in Fall/Winter 2009 issue of the APA Division 48 Peace Psychology Newsletter*

“The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.” —W.B. Yeats

In the past four years, Lebanon has been divided internally, reeling from a war with Israel, battle with fundamentalist militants, and multiple horrendous terrorist attacks. This comes after what was arguably the most prosperous period in the country's recent history. The major political parties have become inflexible, polarized, and polarizing. They have merged over this span of time to form two coalitions that not only have a monopoly on power, but are equally influential enough to block each other. So the parties bicker while true government is stalled and helpless. And foreign powers manipulate and use the Lebanese rifts for their own power struggles. Most notably, the USA and Iran each have backed a side, in a proxy struggle stemming from the issues between them.

We hypothesized that this crisis, coming immediately after a period of economic growth and prosperity, would create a climate of insecurity and hopelessness, and that this climate would cause some people to become demoralized and withdraw from political involvement, while making others more active and aggressive. And we thought that these changes in the populace's political participation and emotional climate might be partially responsible for the continuance and heightening of polarization and internal tension in Lebanon.

Sophisticated and widespread political participation is an essential part of democracy, and makes for democracies that are stable, peaceful, and successful. Where democracy is the rule of the people by the people, it cannot be anything other than what the people make of it. So far, the research on the relationship between psychology and political participation has been mostly at the level of the individual. But it is well established that group influences interact with

individual psychology and behavior. It is therefore imperative to understand the underlying dynamics of participation in psychological terms, to find ways to improve it quantitatively and qualitatively. We cannot afford to continue to ignore the relationship between the group psychology of nations and their citizens' political behavior, especially with respect to groups' collective emotional conditions and their effect on political stability and conflicts.

One important national condition is a nation's emotional climate. Measures of emotional climate may ask people what they think most citizens feel about the situation in the nation. Such a method may be more accurate than simple self-report because it allows people to be more honest. It is a reflection not only of the socio-economic and political situation of the nation, but also of the ways that people are dealing with that situation. As such, it can be a good way to uncover the affective framework through which people are responding to their situation, including the political decisions that they are making.

We adapted a survey shown to be a good measure of emotional climate (de Rivera, Kurrien, & Olsen, 2007) so that it included items that assess the level of political involvement of the respondent, the motivational levels for political participation, aggressiveness in political activity, and the general perceived level of crisis and polarization in the country. Since such a survey had not been used in countries in which there had been a crisis coming right after a period of economic growth and prosperity, and since Lebanon was passing through both a prolonged internal crisis and foreign attacks after some good years, it was an obvious candidate for the study.

There was, as expected, a significant sense of hopelessness and insecurity, and an acute lack of trust and respect between the people. The extent of individual demoralization was correlated with the extent to which individuals perceived a climate of distrust (.35\*\*\*), and a climate of insecure hopelessness (.25\*). In Lebanon, this demoralization was related to political affiliation. Moderates who did not support one of the two major political coalitions were more likely to be demoralized [ $F(3,78) = 9.4***$ ] and had lower political involvement [ $F(3,78) = 6.6***$ ].

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MEMBER COMMENTARY

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There are several possible reasons for why the moderates were more demoralized and withdrawing. One factor is the previously mentioned rigidity and polarization of the major political parties. This rigidity and hostility may be exacerbated by the collective lack of trust and security which compromises the people's solidarity and their willingness to sacrifice for the greater good. Insecurity may force people to choose affiliation between the main political poles; to pick a lesser of two evils, rather than risk being independent and vulnerable or placing their faith in less powerful political players. The only other choice is to withdraw from political life completely.

This loss of openness and flexibility leads to the polarization described by Rubin, Pruitt, & Kim (1994). This polarization, with the climate of distrust and insecurity, can lead to zero-sum thinking, negative attitudes, and contentious goals, the hallmarks of the structural changes that prevent conflict resolution. This cycle would be completed as increased polarization and escalation make the emotional climate of a nation more insecure, eliminate trust, and breed despair.

Additionally, in an insecure climate where demoralization is high, the individual's perceptions of self-efficacy might be lower, and the locus of control externalized. This might be a particularly potent problem in Lebanon, due to the sense that all political power is concentrated in the hands of few, and that that power serves foreign influences and politicians' self-interest rather than the interests of the people. Coupled with a context that is unstable, this may lead to one of two things. Citizens can come to a state very like learned helplessness, withdrawing from any involvement with politics, as it can become damaging to the self-image and to one's sense of self-control and security. Or, one can become frightened, frustrated, and aggressive. Terror management theory suggests that this could lead to hate and polarization, as one's belief system, self-image, and identity are threatened. An aggression scale was not available at the time the survey was done to verify whether this latter was indeed occurring, though one has been developed since.

Nonetheless, if these findings generalize to other

countries with similar emotional climates of insecurity and distrust, they demand our attention. The mere fact of the demoralization and withdrawal of the moderates and neutrals as a result of such a climate is worrisome. It ensures that relatively more aggressive and/or partisan elements remain involved in politics, risking further polarization, radicalization, and destabilization. This is not to mention any potential activation of radical elements. In order to ensure the internal stability, peacefulness, and prosperity of sensitive and already troubled states, such as Lebanon, this cycle must be prevented. It suggests that political players dealing with these countries should adopt policies that activate and empower the political participation of nonpartisan, moderate citizenry, without creating further polarization or insecurity.

On a final note, we begin to see signs of a growing polarization here in the US, coinciding with an emotional climate that apparently has begun to turn towards insecurity and distrust. The insecurity seems to be stemming both from the economic downturn and its long-term consequences (particularly unemployment), and from the sudden and radical ideological shift of power in government, and the consequent uncertainty as to how such a shift might affect the future and identity of the country. The reaction appears to be feeding distrust, and intensifying the culture war between liberal and conservative. So, while we certainly have reason for concern about the state of the fragile countries in whose internal politics the U.S. has a hand, it is also imperative to remain vigilant on the home front. The twin tumors of polarization and radicalization must under no circumstances be allowed to take root and grow.

References

De Rivera, J., Kurrien, R., & Olsen, N. (2007). The Emotional Climate of Nations and Their Culture of Peace. *Journal of Social Issues*, 63(2), 255-271.  
 Rubin, Pruitt, & Kim. (1994). Structural Changes in Escalation. In *Social Conflict* (2 ed., pp. 82-97).

\* p<.05  
 \*\* p<.01  
 \*\*\* p<.001

Acknowledgement: Many thanks to Professor Joseph de Rivera and Gabe Twose for their invaluable help.



PLEASE POST THIS PAGE

## International Society of Political Psychology Annual Scientific Meeting



**July 7-10, 2010**  
**San Francisco, California, USA**

***“Making our World Anew:  
Political Psychology in an Age of Global Challenges”***

This is a challenging theme. It asks us to interrogate our discipline on a number of levels. Do we have the insights to deal with the various phenomena that assail us from the effects of the global economic downturn, through the impact of mass migrations and cultural encounters, new and inter-connected forms of tension and conflict, to the challenges of creating environmentally sustainable communities? Do our concepts, largely developed in the US and Western Europe, allow us to understand these phenomena across the globe? Can we transform ourselves—Political Psychology—into a truly global community that is able to address phenomena on a global scale. Our ambition is to see the conference as a stepping stone towards such a community.



### **Accepting Presentation Proposals in Ten Areas:**

Globalization and international relations;  
Migration and acculturation; Regional studies (*New!*);  
Political culture, identity and language;  
Electoral behaviour, political communication and public opinion;  
Social inequality and social change; Political decision making;  
Crisis and conflict; Intergroup and intragroup relations;  
New perspectives, new developments

*Conference Program Chair:*  
*Steve Reicher, St. Andrews University*

**To submit proposals and for more info: <http://ispp.org/meet.html>**  
*(submission deadline Feb. 5, 2010)*

### *ISPP*NEWS PRODUCTION

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## Submissions to *ISPP*News

**Editor: Melinda Jackson**  
**San Jose State University**

**Next newsletter: Spring 2010**

**Deadline: March 1, 2010**

Please consider sharing your professional news and activities with the Society. We can publish notices of upcoming meetings, announcements of recent professional activity related to political psychology, calls for papers, op/ed letters, book announcements, and (space permitting) limited-length scholarly articles. Email or email attachments in Word are preferred, but most other formats are acceptable as well.

#### **Address submissions to:**

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