



ISPP

International Society
of Political Psychology

ISPP Junior Scholars Committee

Newsletter Spring 2014

The ISPP Junior Scholars Committee (JSC) gives voice and visibility to the needs and interests of graduate students, junior faculty, and other early career scholars within ISPP. A Junior Scholar is defined as a graduate student or person within eight years of having earned their degree. The JSC's goals include providing information and assistance to junior scholars' efforts to conduct political psychology research, helping them to develop their careers, and supporting their attendance at the ISPP annual meetings.

2013 - 2014 JSC

Committee Chair:

Cengiz Erisen

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*We'd love to hear from
you!*

jsc@ispp.org

Chair's Address

Greetings from the Junior Scholars Committee (JSC)! As the annual meeting notifications are being sent, now seems like a good time to announce the JSC events that will take place over the summer.

This year, the annual meeting will be held at the beautiful Ergife Palace Hotel in Rome, Italy! The JSC will organize a number of events for junior scholars at the **2014 Rome meeting**, including **two roundtable sessions**. The first roundtable will focus on the job market and address relevant challenges and opportunities. Invited speakers will discuss the possible ways to fit in general job descriptions, overcome potential departmental boundaries, and stand out of the crowd while remaining true to specific research interests. The second roundtable will focus on publication and obtaining research funds. It will include discussion about publishing, with particular advice on how to get political psychology research published in traditional journals, in addition to suggesting options for junior scholars to fund their research.

During the ISPP annual conference, the JSC will host a **mentoring program** in which mentors will be paired with 2-3 junior colleagues based on mutual interests. The informal conversation provides the great opportunity to communicate

with senior scholars in our field. This year, instead of a late afternoon tea we hope to organize the mentoring program as a luncheon on the first day of the conference. Registration for both the mentors and the mentees will be available soon.

As always, the JSC will provide up to thirteen **awards** of a maximum of \$500 for travel to the ISPP annual meeting. The application procedure is now announced on the ISPP website, the JSC facebook page and the blog. You may also find the detailed information in this newsletter. The deadline is 15 April 2014 and decisions will be announced by early May.

Soon we will start accepting **applications for the 2014-2015 JSC**, and new officers will begin after the annual meeting. Serving on the JSC provides you with the opportunity to build your network within the organization for the greater benefit of supporting the needs of junior scholars. We will accept nominations for the positions of mentoring program coordinator, newsletter editor, professional development coordinator, blog and web resources coordinators, and a chair-elect. For more information about the application procedure, please take a look at the relevant section in this newsletter and follow our blog.

In addition to the JSC update, we are happy to provide discussion by **two outside contributors** in this newsletter. Rupert Brown shares his

insights for successful publications particularly relevant for all junior scholars. Also, Rezerta Bilali discusses how to succeed in funding research projects in political psychology as an early career scholar. We are thankful to both contributors for sharing their experiences.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions regarding the JSC please contact us at jsc@ispp.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Rome!

Cengiz

Erisen

*TOBB University of Economics and Technology
JSC Chair 2013-2014*



ISPP 2014: Junior Scholars in Rome

Roundtable Sessions

At the annual meeting this year in Rome, Italy, the Junior Scholars Committee (JSC) will host **two roundtables**. The themes of this year's roundtables are the *Job Market* and *Research Funding and Publishing*. Both provide an excellent opportunity for junior scholars to pose questions to established scholars, talk about issues junior scholars face and create a network to support their future work. We welcome all emerging academics (and other interested scholars) to join us in discussing these topics with our invited experts.

Seeking & Securing Jobs for Junior Political Psychologists

The first roundtable will focus on the **job market** for junior political psychologists. Even though political psychology is becoming an increasingly popular field, its students still face certain barriers on the job market. Many junior scholars in political psychology have to deal with issues such as fitting in general job descriptions, overcoming potential departmental boundaries, and standing out of the crowd while remaining true to specific research interests. The roundtable aims to address those issues that political psychologists face in the job market, as well as CV building and best practices. Possibilities and tips for finding jobs outside academia will also be discussed. What opportunities can we create or will we destroy when we accept a job in a different discipline or outside of academia? In this roundtable, scholars who have been on the job market recently and those who have been involved in the hiring process will share their experiences and insights.

Financing Your Research & Getting Published

A second roundtable addresses issues concerning **financing research and publishing** in political psychology. The JSC is organizing this roundtable to help junior scholars with the process of collecting funds for research and getting published. We will discuss a variety of options for junior scholars for finding resources and we will provide tips for writing grant applications. In addition we will talk about strategies for doing research with low or no funding available without having to give up the vigor of our research. This roundtable also addresses publishing which is another important topic for junior scholars. Many questions will be addressed, such as how to get publications with political psychology research in general journals; or how to become aware what journal is the best fit for your research? In this roundtable, scholars who have been successful in collecting grants and other resources and those who have published in a wide variety of journals will share their experiences and insights.

These roundtables are being organized by the JSC Professional Development Co-chairs Gizem Arikan and Sanne Rijkhoff. Many scholars will be invited speak and share their experiences. We would like to encourage all junior scholars to join and participate in these roundtables. Furthermore, to make the roundtables tailored to the interests of junior scholars, we invite you to email your questions and concerns with regards to the themes of the roundtables and let us know about what you would like to see addressed during the meetings. You are welcome to send your emails to JSC Professional Development Co-chairs Gizem Arikan (gizem.arikan@yasar.edu.tr) and Sanne Rijkhoff (sanne.rijkhoff@email.wsu.edu).

More information about the time and location of these roundtables will be available on JSC page of the ISPP website soon.

Gizem Arikan

Sanne Rijkhoff

2013-2014 JSC Professional Development

Mentoring Lunch

This year, ISPP and the Junior Scholars Committee will host a luncheon for junior scholars and establish mentors on the first day of the conference. Each mentor will be paired with 2-3 emerging academics based on mutual interests.

Why participate, you may ask? Last year the participants reported that they were able to engage about substantive areas of interest (96%), how to pursue research (84%), and career advice (60%). Both the mentors (100%) and the mentees (93%) would recommend this to others! The participants also shared their feedback about the matching process and overall experience: "I thought the selection of mentors was quite good given the international setting - it seemed that a large portion of the "famous" researchers who attended the conference agreed to participate" and "I think the mentoring tea is great and one of the strengths of the conference!" We hope you will join us this year to deepen connections among junior and senior scholars!

- Junior Scholars: When you register for the Annual Meeting on the ISPP website (www.ispp.org/meetings), please also register for the mentoring luncheon; based on availability, you will be sent a follow-up email by the luncheon organizers to confirm your participation.
- Senior Mentors: If you are willing to serve as a mentor, please email Laura Taylor and Gary Smith at ispp.mentoringtea@gmail.com.

Gary Smith

Laura Taylor

Mentorship Program Chairs

2014 ISPP Junior Scholars Travel Awards

Call for Applications

The International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) Junior Scholars Committee is pleased to announce the **2014 Junior Scholar Travel Award Competition**. Up to thirteen (13) awards of a maximum of \$500 USD each will be awarded to Junior Scholars for travel to the ISPP annual meeting in Rome, Italy, July 4-7, 2014.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. The applicant must be a **paid** ISPP member as of **April 30, 2014**.
2. The applicant must be a Junior Scholar (i.e., graduate student or person within 8 years post-graduate career).
3. The applicant must be **first or sole author** on an **accepted** poster or symposium presentation.
4. The applicant must attend the 2014 ISPP meeting to receive the award.

Application Procedure and Deadline:

To be considered for a travel award, the following materials must be submitted via email:

1. A completed Travel Award Application.
2. A detailed budget plan.
3. A non-identifying copy of the submitted abstract (**only one abstract per applicant**).

Email the completed **application form**, **budget plan** and your **submitted abstract** to jsc@ispp.org. You may find the application form on the ISPP website under the Funding Opportunities tab. Please omit all personally identifying information (e.g., authors, affiliation) from the contents of the abstract.

Application Deadline: April 15, 2014

Decision Process and Notification:

Applications will be blind-reviewed by the Travel Award Committee. Decisions will be based on the excellence of the submitted conference abstract and financial needs of the applicant. Winners will be notified by e-mail no later than **May 2, 2014**.

Award Disbursement:

Awards will be given as reimbursements to recipients after the conference. Recipients should be prepared to submit receipts for travel costs incurred (e.g., airline tickets, hotel accommodations). Recipients will receive the amount equivalent to their travel costs, up to \$500 USD (if travel costs are less than \$500 USD, the recipient will receive an amount equal to his/her travel expenses). Unfortunately, we are not able to cover all travel expenses and strongly encourage applicants to search for additional sources of funding.

For any inquiries about the travel awards you may contact the Travel Award Committee at jsc@ispp.org.



2014 ISPP Summer Academy

Application submission is now closed for the **2014 ISPP Summer Academy**, in Rome, Italy. We received a large number of high quality applications from undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as post-doctoral fellows, Professors and practitioners. Applicants come from Argentina, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Macedonia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, UK and USA.

The ISPP – SA Committee will notify all applicants on admissions decisions by April 25th, 2014. Eligibility for travel scholarships available through ISPP and ECPR will be reviewed in early May. The 2014 Summer Academy fellows will meet in Rome, Italy to form a truly multi-disciplinary group, spanning across sister disciplines: Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Psychiatry, History, International Relations, Computer Science, and Theology.

The 2014 Fellows will attend seven research-led courses on '[*Personalizing politics*](#)' offered by [*Gian Vittorio Caprara*](#), '[*Political action, motivation and the socio-political context of felt emotions*](#)' offered by [*Bettina Davou*](#), '[*Political Cynicism and Alienation*](#)' offered by [*Nicolas Demertzis*](#), '[*Psychological Bases of Political Ideology*](#)' offered by [*Stanley Feldman*](#), '[*Sexual Politics in Nature/Nurture Cultures*](#)' offered by [*Peter Hegarty*](#), '[*Psychoanalysis as Political*](#)

Psychology’ offered by [Steven Frosh](#), ‘*The Neuroscientific Basis of Political Psychology*’ offered by **George Marcus** and ‘*Introduction to Political Psychology*’ offered by **Leonie Huddy**.

These thematic courses cover theoretical and methodological advancements in the instructors’ specific areas of research, and the introductory session provides a survey of the field of political psychology focusing on specific theoretical and methodological approaches.

The 2014 Summer Academy Fellows will also participate in activities aiming to enhance their understanding of the taught material and promote the application of core principles from the field of political psychology in their own research. Fellows will engage with the instructors in breakout group discussions where they will develop new research projects and exchange ideas. Fellows and instructors will also participate in a research exhibition, where they will engage in informal conversations and poster presentations, with the aim to build future research collaborations.

For further information on the 2014 ISPP Summer Academy, visit our [website](#). Information on the 2015 ISPP Summer Academy will follow soon.

For any questions, please contact Dr. Tereza Capelos, Director of the ISPP-SA (t.capelos@surrey.ac.uk) or Miss Stavroula Chrona (s.chrona@surrey.ac.uk) Administrative Assistant of ISPP-SA.

We look forward to seeing you in Rome!

Tereza **Capelos**
Director of the ISPP Summer Academy
Stavroula **Chrona**
Administrative Assistant of the ISPP Summer Academy

Visit Our [Website](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/politics/research/researchareasofstaff/isppsummeracademy/)



ADVICE FROM THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE

Grant writing in political psychology: Advice from an early career scholar

By Rezarta Bilali

Department of Applied Psychology, New York University Steinhardt

Securing research funding has become increasingly important for junior scholars and plays a large role in tenure evaluations. Also, most announcements for assistant professor positions request evidence of the applicant's ability to get grants. Most importantly, grants are essential to our ability to carry out our research, and if successful, they provide further validation that our ideas are worth pursuing. In this piece, I will highlight two major misconceptions that I believe impede junior scholars' ability to secure research support, as well as two pieces of advice on grant writing that I have found useful as a junior scholar in political psychology.

Misconception # 1: There are fewer grant opportunities in interdisciplinary (or non-mainstream) fields like political psychology

Identifying agencies that fund research on your topic is the first step to receiving a grant. A common belief is that funding is scarce for research that does not fit neatly into a discipline's mainstream. I believe this is a misconception that discourages junior scholars from searching and applying for grants. In fact, more funding opportunities might be available for research that extends traditional disciplinary boundaries, such as work in political psychology. Much of political psychology research, in addition to its theoretical importance, has direct policy and practical implications, thereby broadening the range of funding opportunities for political psychologists. Moreover, traditional funding agencies are increasingly interested in research that has real world implications. For instance, because my work is issue-focused and spans the boundaries of different disciplines, I have been able to apply to agencies funding research in psychology and political sciences, as well as to agencies funding research on a specific social issue.

That being said, a common mistake is to submit the same (or almost the same) application to different agencies. To successfully navigate these different funding opportunities: (a) You need to frame your research in ways that align with the agencies' goals. This goes beyond using the key terms in the "call for applications." It requires an understanding of the intellectual tradition of the agency's work. Reading the literature cited in their website and closely examining the previously funded research is a good start in better understanding the agency. (b) In addition, you should know and be able to clearly articulate the contributions of your research, including its theoretical implications for different fields of study, as well as its practical and policy implications.

Misconception #2: Writing a grant proposal is the same as writing an empirical article

Writing a grant is similar to writing an empirical manuscript to the extent that both are academic writing. However, empirical articles and grant proposals are judged by different criteria. To be clear, both products are judged by the quality of the ideas and research designs presented. However, a written manuscript is evaluated for the quality of the completed work, whereas a grant proposal is judged by the likelihood that the author can complete the research in the proposed time frame, complexity, and budget. Ignoring these differences leads to a fatal mistake: *over-ambitiousness*. Over-ambitiousness might mean

setting too many goals or making unrealistic claims about what we can learn from the proposed research (e.g., how the study will change the field; how the study will settle question X forever). It also means underestimating the time, resources, and skills/experience needed to complete the project, and is especially likely to occur among junior scholars. A research proposal that is unlikely to be completed in the proposed timeframe or budget, and needs skills or experience that the authors might not have, is unlikely to be funded. It is important to be ambitious, but also realistic.

Useful advice that I have received on writing grants

There are a lot of resources on successful grant writing online that give excellent advice: write linearly, avoid tangents, keep the logic simple, do not use jargon, be explicit about the importance of your topic, tell a story and make it interesting, keep the audience in mind, etc. Instead of repeating these points, I will highlight two additional pieces of advice by my senior colleagues that have been useful to me as a junior scholar.

1. Start with small grants. Small grants are easier to write up and easier to get. Writing small grants is good practice. If successful, they give your research momentum and increase the likelihood of receiving larger grants later (and, lift up your spirits). Moreover, multiple small grants add up and jointly can support an ambitious research project.

2. Create an effective hook. The first paragraph is probably the most important part of a grant proposal, because it hooks the reader to your story and makes them want to know more. It is important to create an effective hook early in the introduction. An effective hook presents a sense of urgency to the problem, draws immediate attention to your thinking, provides a clear representation of your point, and creates a sense of drama.

Older but not much wiser: Three (tentative) tips for getting published

By Rupert Brown

After many years of endeavouring to get my work published in the world's psychology journals, I offer these three pieces of advice for younger colleagues. Be warned though, they come with no 'money back' guarantees of success. If there is one thing that nearly four decades in the business has taught me, getting published in the scientific world remains a rather unpredictable and capricious affair.

1. Keep it clear, keep it short

The best way of increasing your chances of getting published is to be understood by reviewers and editors. And the best way of being understood is to write simply and clearly. Use a direct style and the active voice; don't try to appear too 'academic' by using convoluted sentences full of passive verbs and abstract jargon (I once remember Mick Billig, himself a brilliantly lucid writer, advising younger colleagues, only half-jokingly, to "write in a way that your grandmother would understand" - see, for example, his essay, Billig, 2011). Try to avoid academic clichés – 'specifically', usually following some over-abstract general formulation is one grossly overused adverb in my view. Be sparing with the 'cut and paste' function in word processing packages – I find it intensely irritating as a reviewer or reader to see the exact same phrases repeated several times in a Results section, with just the numbers changed! Surely it can't be too much effort to find another way to describe a result.

Editors, reviewers and (eventually) readers are all busy people, and journals are imposing ever shorter word limits (e.g., Eich, 2014). In other words, shorter is definitely sweeter when it comes to preparing your manuscripts for publication. In my opinion, the Introduction and Discussion sections of most articles are too long. Yes, you have to provide a decent rationale for your work at the outset, to convince your readers that you have something interesting to say. But after that, let your (beautiful) findings speak for themselves and use your Discussion section only to unravel their most glaring complexities. Be sparing with your references. Do you really need those six citations in parentheses in the middle (ugh!) or at the end of each sentence? Isn't there one seminal paper or integrative review instead that will substantiate the claim you have just made? In my many battles with journal word limits, losing references and shortening the Discussion

section have invariably been the easiest ways of making economies.

2. Choose your journal well

We all know that there is a 'hierarchy' of journals in our field – some journals are viewed more favourably by appointing or promotion committees than others. So, even if we find such hierarchies distasteful, they are a fact of academic life. Moreover, the more prestigious journals do tend to have larger readerships. So, if dissemination is our goal, aiming 'high' has much to recommend it. But how 'high' is reasonable? Here there are several competing considerations. Some – not all – of the top journals have rather long decision times and even longer 'revise and resubmit' times. So, aiming too high may entail a long wait before one gets published, and for colleagues seeking that first postdoc or permanent position, such a delay can be a career handicap. Top journals all have higher rejection rates (that's why they are top journals). Thus, even after a long delay, the chances are that you will get rejected anyway, with obvious consequences for your imminent employability. On the other hand, some of the highest ranked journals nowadays operate a 'triage' system in which the editor will make a rapid initial decision as to the manuscript's ultimate publishability. That decision may (often) be negative, but at least you will know this sooner rather than later and can try your luck elsewhere. A wise colleague of mine once remarked that if you are getting accepted by your first choice journal more than 50% of the time, you are probably aiming too low. Not bad advice in my view.

The kind of journal you target is also important. There is little point in sending a qualitative paper to a journal with an exclusively experimental remit. Is your paper's message mainly 'policy-oriented' or 'basic', reporting primary data or reviewing a body of work, empirical or theoretical? The answers to all these questions should dictate your choice of journal to submit to.

In sum, then aim high but not too high, and choose the outlet best suited to the work you wish

3. Develop a thick skin

Scientific publishing is far from a rational process. We can all tell stories of that infamous

'Reviewer B' who wilfully misunderstood our paper or who seemed to have some mysterious personal vendetta against us. Editors can be myopic or stupid (sometimes both) in their inability to appreciate the importance of our work (and in their failure to discount that obviously biased Reviewer B). In short, the chances are you will get rejected more often than you will get accepted, and your ego is likely to become a bit bruised as a consequence. My advice here is simple: try, try and try again . . . and develop the hide of a rhinoceros. Such is the plethora of journals that you will find a home for your precious pearls of wisdom somewhere. I recently had occasion to check the growth in publications over a thirty year period in several related topics in social psychology ("well-being", "values" and "identity", since you ask). To my astonishment, I discovered that the number of published articles on these topics nearly doubled every five years. That exponential growth in publication must surely be related to the insatiable appetite of publishers to issue new titles on what seems like a monthly basis. Whilst such journal proliferation and its consequent information overload is not without its problems, it does at least give us researchers hope that someone, somewhere will eventually accept our article. So, hang in there, don't take your rejections personally, and never give up.

References

Billig, M (2011) Writing social psychology: Fictional things and unpopulated texts. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 50, 4–20.

Eich, E. (2014) Business not as usual. *Psychological Science*, 25(1), 3-6.

Call for Nominations to the JSC 2014-2015

The current ISPP Junior Scholars Committee (JSC) is now accepting nominations to the 2014-2015 JSC. By working with members of the ISPP, organizing events at the annual meeting, and maintaining several online sites that facilitate communication across the discipline, the JSC is an integral part of the ISPP community. This is an

excellent opportunity to meet and work with other members of ISPP, provide input into the JSC, and enhance your curriculum vitae with international committee experience.

Open positions in the JSC are described below, with the number of available positions in parentheses:

Chair-Elect (1): Working under the current chair, this position is responsible for learning the ins and outs of the JSC, in preparation for taking the lead the following year. Duties as chair include writing reports to the Governing Council, overseeing the junior scholar budget, and representing the interests of junior scholars in ISPP. This position includes three years of service to JSC: as chair-elect, as chair, and the final year of service as chair ex-officio.

Mentoring Program Coordinator (1): Organizes the mentoring tea for the annual meeting.

Professional Development Coordinators (1): Organizes roundtable sessions in publishing and career development for the annual meeting.

Newsletter Editor (1): Solicits articles and announcements for the Junior Scholars newsletter that is published twice a year.

Web Resources Coordinator (2): Manages all web-related JSC archives and is responsible for updating the JSC Blog, Facebook and Twitter pages.

How to Apply:

To apply, email a curriculum vitae and a brief (150 word) statement of your interest in the JSC and the JSC position(s) that are of most interest to you to jsc@ispp.org by

30

April

2014.

All JSC members are encouraged - but not required - to attend ISPP's annual meeting. Each nominee will be considered for an anticipated two-year term (except chair-elect which is a three year commitment). To make our committee more representative of ISPP's membership, we are looking for representatives from every continent.

A selection committee comprised of JSC members and Governing Council members will review the applications. The 2014-2015 JSC will be announced by the end of May with the new term beginning at the end of the annual meeting in July. **Feel free to email us with any questions at jsc@ispp.org** The current JSC members are happy to assist you in any way possible. Thank you for your interest and good luck!

Junior Scholars on the Internet

News from the Junior Scholars Blog

We hope you have enjoyed the material posted on the blog, Facebook and Twitter accounts. The next theme on which we would like to receive submissions is 'methodological issues in political psychology'. This can be interpreted however you like - perhaps you engage in interdisciplinary research and would like to describe some of the advantages of such an approach, or you might like to discuss some of the specific challenges you have faced in your own research. All ideas welcome – just get in touch with either of us at the addresses below to discuss.

We are very keen to receive feedback on the blog in terms of your views on the content which should be included, with a view to improving the blog and social media as an interactive space for junior scholars. We'd welcome your comments at e.odwyer@kingston.ac.uk or s.chrona@surrey.ac.uk.

Best wishes,

Stavroula Chrona

Emma O' Dwyer

JSC Blog Editors

JSC Web resources

Together with our **Blog**, the JSC **Twitter** account ([@ISPP_JSC](#)) and **Facebook** page ([/ISPPJuniorScholars](#)) are the places to find up-to-date information on conferences, publications, open positions, and discussions of interest to (junior) scholars in political psychology. And be sure to check and contribute to our **wiki-page**, which gives an overview of the [upcoming conferences](#) in our thriving field.

Last announcements in the blog

- ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, 3- to 5-Day Statistical Workshops in 2014 ([link](#))
- Call for Papers: Society for Terrorism Research Annual International Conference, University of Massachusetts Boston, 17-19 Sept 2014 ([link](#))
- Jean Monnet@CRonEM Summer School on "Resistance, protest, and social change in the EU", University of Surrey, 23-28 June 2014 ([link](#))

Did you move?

Please make sure that the ISPP has your up to date contact details so you won't miss out on any newsletters or other information of the ISPP and the Political Psychology journal. To review and update your contact details please login on the [ISPP website](#).

We'd love to hear from you!

jsc@ispp.org



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