



# ISPP

International Society  
of Political Psychology

## ISPPNEWS

SPRING 2012 · VOLUME 23.1

## Executive Director's Corner

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It's a busy and exciting time at ISPP Central Office. As part of our efforts to professionalize and grow the Society, we have hired a full-time Executive Director. I am very happy to announce that Severine Bennett will be leading the Central Office as of July 1. She comes to us from the US Department of Defense where she worked as a project manager and conference planner. She will begin her transition into the position starting in May so be sure to welcome her. I know she is excited to get started!

Work continues on the upcoming Annual Meeting in Chicago. We are working on the final conference schedule and will have it available soon. In the meantime, please be sure to go to <http://www.isppmeetings.com/registration.asp> to register for the conference and book your hotel room. It is important that we book through our central site as ISPP has pre-reserved accommodations in order to keep costs low. We are looking forward to stimulating, well-attended conference in July!

Voting continues for the 2012-13 Officer election and the proposed constitutional amendments. Your participation is critical so we ask that you please take the time to submit your vote for both! If you are a 2012 member and did not receive an email with the link to the ballot, please contact ISPP Central Office at [ispp@vcu.edu](mailto:ispp@vcu.edu).

Finally, this will be my last message as Executive Director. I have enjoyed my time with the Central Office and all of the wonderful members I have had the opportunity to work with over the past two years. I look forward to seeing everyone at future conferences and remaining a member of this vibrant academic Society!

Farrah Stone Graham, PhD  
Executive Director

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## Submission Information

ISPPNews welcomes submissions focused on teaching and methods, as well as short essays or opinion pieces on current issues or debates in the discipline. We also publish book announcements, member kudos, and other professional news on a bi-annual basis.

Announcements of upcoming meetings, workshops and events should be sent to the Central Office for distribution.

Your ideas for further improvements or additions to the ISPPNews are also welcome — please let us know what you would like to see here in the future!

Melinda Jackson  
ISPPNews editor

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## President's Message

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Dear members,

This will be an exciting year for our Society, not least because we are moving to a new organizational model. As of July 1st, Severine (Sev) Bennett will start as our full-time Executive Director. I am very excited about this and look forward to working with her, although it will only be for a short spell. My successor—Rose McDermott—will have the full benefit of her presence. During the hiring process and the transition period Sev impressed me as friendly, professional, and enthusiastic about her new job. She will work from her home in North Carolina.

As a consequence of that transition the Society's constitution must be changed in a number of places. This needs the approval of the membership. Together with the forms for the election of the Society's officials you will soon receive the request to vote on the constitutional changes. Please take a moment and take part in the elections and vote on the proposed changes.

Having a full-time ED will also allow us to organize our annual conference in-house, with the help of local professionals. The first partial test will be Chicago, a meeting still organized with Congrex our professional conference organizer. Next year's meeting will be in Tel Aviv, and the 2014 meeting in Rome. Many of the arrangements for those meetings are in place already, and Sev will be handling the final planning. All this looks great.

Meanwhile we have signed a new contract with our publisher Wiley-Blackwell which brings us substantially more income. Academically more important, we signed to add an annual review issue to our journal *Political Psychology* named '*Advances in Political Psychology*.' Howard Lavine will be the editor and the first issue will appear with the 2013 volume of the journal.

The ISPP Summer Academy, an initiative launched in Istanbul will also continue this year in Chicago. A group of young scholars from a number of countries will receive lectures from senior political psychologists and present their own work. Last year's Academy was a great success and we look forward to continuing the Summer Academy in the future. Thanks to Tereza Capelos for organizing this exciting new ISPP program!

Let me close with an appeal to all of you to attend the Chicago meeting 6-9 July. The theme of the meetings, '*Politicized identity and identity politics. Political psychology in times of contention*,' could hardly be more timely. A number of key-notes and thematic sessions will address the theme, while individual papers relate to it as well.

I hope to be able to greet you in Chicago.

Bert Klandermans  
President



## Publisher's Perspective from Wiley-Blackwell

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**Wiley-Blackwell closely partners with the International Society for Political Psychology to publish *Political Psychology*. We are happy to initiate this regular column in the ISPP newsletter and trust that it will be useful and of interest to the ISPP membership.**

Like the ISPP, Wiley-Blackwell communicates regularly with several communities. This includes authors, academic societies, libraries, and, of course, readers and researchers. A central mode for this communication is our bi-monthly Publishing News. The most recent issue can be found here: <http://blogs.wiley.com/publishingnews/>.

There are several items of interest in the recent edition, including scholarly publishing and government affairs news, a look back at Wiley Online Library (our new platform launched in late 2010), and a general update on open access across the industry and more specifically at Wiley-Blackwell. Most exciting for us is the announcement of our plans and work for a new online article format, the "Anywhere Article." The Anywhere Article prototype lays the foundation for what we believe to be the online article of the future, which is: fully optimized for mobile and tablet reading; published with the PDF reading experience in mind; while based on PDF, fully integrated with the functionality in the html version of published articles.

We are now well into the 2012 volume of *Political Psychology*. The 2012 special issue *Political Psychology, Where Do we Go From Here?* is available along with the April 2012 issue. You will also regularly find recently published articles under the "Early View" link on the left side of the *Political Psychology* homepage: [www.wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/pops](http://www.wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/pops).

Michael Streeter  
Senior Editor, Journals  
Wiley-Blackwell

## ISPP Announcements

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### ISPP Elections Currently Underway!

**Cast your vote today for 2012-13 ISPP officers, and two proposed constitutional amendments.**

Nominee biographies and information about the proposed amendments are available on the ISPP website under Announcements. You should have already received an email invitation to vote — if not, please contact the ISPP Central Office at [ispp@vcu.edu](mailto:ispp@vcu.edu) or by phone: +1 804 828 1989.

Voting will end May 6th.



## 2nd Annual ISPP Summer Academy

**The ISPP Summer Academy 2012 program will take place July 3rd- 5th, 2012 in Chicago, USA.**

The Summer Academy's central objective is to spread interest and promote training in political psychology around the world. The Summer Academy program is designed for young scholars who are likely to teach political psychology and/or conduct political psychology research in the future. Our 2012 program contains five new substantive courses by prominent scholars: Susan Condor (Lancaster University), Jack Levy (Rutgers University), Victor Ottati (Loyola University Chicago) Felicia Pratto (University of Connecticut), Jerrold Post (George Washington University) and an introductory course in Political Psychology by Leonie Huddy and Stanley Feldman (Stony Brook University). Fellows will also discuss their research agendas in smaller breakout groups, and take part in a number of social activities. The 2012 Summer Academy fellows will also receive a full fee waiver for the 2012 ISPP annual meeting, and free ISPP membership for 2012.

Last year, the first ISPP Summer Academy took place between the 6th and 8th of July 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey, and was attended by a truly interdisciplinary group of 36 fellows from the USA, Europe and Turkey, with research agendas in Psychology, Politics and IR, Social Sciences and Humanities. Prominent political psychologists offered short courses addressing cutting edge theoretical debates and key methodological approaches to political psychology, on Terrorism (Martha Crenshaw), Political Leadership (Peg Hermann), Multiculturalisms, Conflict and Integration (Catarina Kinnvall), the Social Psychology of Protest (Bert Klendermans), Social Identity (Steve Reicher), Inequality and Social Dominance (Jim Sidanius) and Key Debates in Political Psychology (Stanley Feldman and Leonie Huddy).

If you are interested in this unique opportunity, want to learn more about political psychology and engage with a international mix of participant in an interdisciplinary setting we invite you to visit the Summer Academy website at <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/politics/research/researchareasofstaff/isppsummeracademy/>

The Summer Academy website hosts information about the 2012 program and will soon provide instructions on how to apply for the 2013 program.

For any questions / enquiries, please contact Tereza Capelos at [t.capelos@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:t.capelos@surrey.ac.uk)

## 2012 Summer Institute in Political Psychology at Stanford University

**The 2012 Summer Institute in Political Psychology will take place at Stanford University from July 15 – August 4, 2012.**

Applications are being accepted for the 20th Annual Summer Institute in Political Psychology (SIPP), to be held at Stanford University July 15 to August 4, 2012. The SIPP program takes up to 60 participants and is filling up; there are still some spots available.

The Summer Institute offers three weeks of intensive training in political psychology. Political psychology is an exciting and thriving field that explores the origins of political behavior and the causes of political events, with a special focus on the psychological mechanisms at work.

Research findings in political psychology advance basic theory of human cognitive and social behavior and are an important basis for political decision-making in practice.

SIPP was founded in 1991 at Ohio State University, and Stanford has hosted SIPP since 2005, with support from



Stanford University and from the National Science Foundation. Hundreds of participants have attended SIPP during these years.

The 2012 SIPP curriculum is designed to (1) provide broad exposure to theories, empirical findings, and research traditions; (2) illustrate successful cross-disciplinary research and integration; (3) enhance methodological pluralism; and (4) strengthen networks among scholars from around the world.

SIPP activities will include lectures by world-class faculty, discussion groups, research/interest group meetings, group projects, and an array of social activities.

Some of the topics covered in past SIPP programs include race relations, conflict and dispute resolution, voting and elections, international conflict, decision-making by political elites, moral disengagement and violence, social networks, activism and social protest, political socialization, and justice.

In 2012, SIPP will accept up to 60 participants, including graduate students, faculty, professionals, and advanced undergraduates.

For detailed information and to apply, visit this website: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/sipp/2012>

Applicants are accepted on a rolling basis until all slots are filled, so applying soon maximizes chances of acceptance.

## 2012 ISPP Annual Scientific Meeting

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**JULY 6TH - 9TH, 2012 · CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, USA**

**PROGRAM CHAIRS:**

Jacqueline van Stekelenburg (VU University Amsterdam)  
and Nicholas Valentino (University of Michigan)

**CONFERENCE CHAIR:**

Linda Skitka (University of Illinois, Chicago)

**ISPP 2011-12 PRESIDENT:**

Bert Klendermans, VU University Amsterdam

*“Identity Politics and Politicized Identities: Political Psychology in Times of Contention”*

Syria, Libya, Greece, Norway, and the Tea Party, riots in Berlin, central squares occupied in Egypt, Spain and Tel Aviv. Our times are contentious. Politics concerns the distribution of scarce resources and the working of power relations in society, and the conflicts that arise often pit social groups against one another. The major players often represent cleavages along lines of race, ethnicity, class, religion, and language. When they engage in identity politics, do they trigger the formation of politicized identities, which in turn instigate more contentious politics? Or are they merely exploiting existing cleavages, representing one side in a long-standing dispute for



political gain? Finally, how can we explain and thus hope to minimize the wrenching human suffering and loss of life that often accompany these conflicts? The goal of the conference will be to apply political psychology in these important questions. Chicago with a political history full of conflict and reconciliation provides an excellent setting in which to examine this theme.

The theme will serve as a lead for keynotes and thematic sessions. In addition to the Presidential Address by Bert Klandermans, this year's conference will feature thematic keynote addresses by Dr. Bernd Simon, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel; Dr. Claude M. Steele, Stanford University; and Dr. Ronald Fisher, American University. Anca Minescu has also programmed a chain of thematic sessions on Identity Politics and Politicized Identities.

The conference schedule is shaping up with many fascinating roundtables and paper panels. We will also feature several panels and events focused on junior scholars, including the Mentoring Tea, Publishing Roundtable, and Career Development Roundtable. We hope that you will make plans to join us for this year's meeting and participate in an exciting intellectual exchange that will enrich political psychology and help us better understand the dynamics of our contentious times.

We look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

*Early Registration Deadline: June 18th*

## Junior Scholars Committee News

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**Greetings from the Junior Scholars Committee. As JSC chair, I am happy to report on several JSC organized events that will take place at this year's annual meeting. Once again, the JSC will arrange the mentoring tea program, in which junior scholars will be paired with a senior colleague. At this event junior scholars will learn more about the rewards, challenges, and practical advice regarding a career in political psychology. The JSC is also sponsoring several additional professional development courses. The "Career Development Roundtable" will focus on collaborative research; the JSC "Publishing Roundtable" will provide junior scholars an opportunity to discuss publication in our discipline.**

I am also pleased to report that we will be continuing the JSC Travel Awards program. The JSC is offering 13 competitive travel awards in the amount of \$500 to be awarded to junior scholars for travel to the annual meeting. We hope these awards will offset the now exorbitant costs of travel. More information, including the application, can be found at <http://www.ispp.org/funding/travel-grants>.

To ensure full consideration, applications should be received by April 30, 2012.

The JSC is also accepting nominations to the 2012-2013 JSC. We will continue to work hard to maintain diversity on the committee. The 2011-2012 committee consists of political science and psychology graduate students and junior faculty. Our committee is also internationally diverse, with members in the United States, United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada, Poland, Germany, and New Zealand. In selecting the next committee, we will strive to maintain this diversity.



As always, our committee will continue to work to represent the interests of graduate students and junior faculty. From the Junior Scholars Committee, we hope you have a relaxing and productive summer, and we look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

Christopher Weber, JSC Chair  
Louisiana State University

## Member Commentary on Proposed Amendment to ISPP Constitution Article II. C.

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**The Governing Council at its midwinter meeting unanimously approved a proposal to amend Article II. C. of our Constitution, which states one of the four purposes of ISPP. As amended, it will read, “To increase the theoretical and practical significance of political psychology both inside and outside academia. Practical significance shall be guided by the principles of universal human rights.” The underlined sentence constitutes the amendment.**

This amendment was proposed, in part, in response to psychologists using psychological principles (such as Martin Seligman’s principle of “learned helplessness”) to help the American Central Intelligence Agency create “enhanced interrogation techniques.” These techniques were determined to constitute torture by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the American Medical Association, and other groups. The concern is to prevent such use of scientific knowledge for “practical significance ... outside academia” in the name of ISPP, and to make explicit that ISPP does not endorse uses that violate universal human rights. Torture, of course, is a violation of human rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 5) and many subsequent human rights conventions.

The ISPP Constitution at present offers no guidance on what ISPP considers an ethical “practical significance” and what it considers unethical. ISPP has no ethical code similar to that of the American Psychological Association (APA) which requires that “In their professional actions, psychologists seek to safeguard the welfare and rights of those with whom they interact professionally and other affected persons...” (Principle A) and “Psychologists respect the dignity and worth of all people...” (Principle E).

Adding the proposed sentence to our constitution would help make clear, at least in abstract terms, the kinds of “practical significance” that ISPP could support. The principles of universal human rights, as described in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent international human rights conventions, represent widely accepted norms of international law that could help to identify contributions of “practical significance” that ISPP would disapprove. The intention is not to prescribe particular kinds of “practical significance”, but to prevent harmful contributions such as enhancing techniques for torture, propping up dictators who abuse their own people, or recruiting terrorists. But certainly, under this added sentence, ISPP could contribute what knowledge we might have to preventing genocide or ethnic cleansing, promoting conflict resolution and peace, reducing discrimination against all groups, promoting social justice, or any other goal that does not violate human rights.

We hope that ISPP members will vote to approve this amendment.

Sam McFarland, Chris Cohrs, Eva Green



## Research Note

### Tracking Obama's Motives

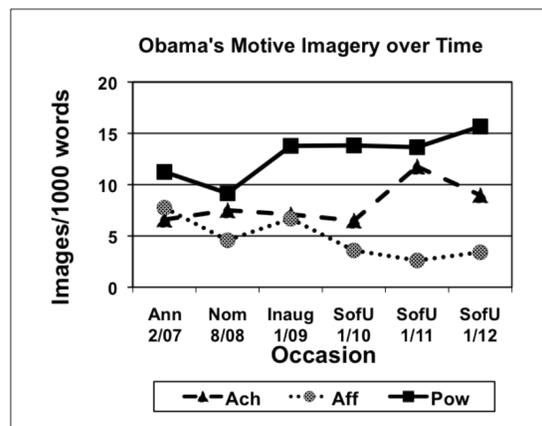
**DAVID G. WINTER, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, U.S.A.**

U.S. Presidents inevitably encounter frustration, obstruction to goals. Presidents high in power motivation appear to thrive on it—recall Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Ronald Reagan. In contrast, achievement-motivated presidents often become stubborn and bitter—as did Woodrow Wilson, Richard Nixon, and Jimmy Carter (see Winter, 2010).

What about Barack Obama? After two successful years (securing legislative approval for an economic stimulus package and health care reform, as well as negotiating an arms-reduction treaty with Russia and a string of foreign-policy successes), his party was (in his words) “shellacked” in the November 2010 Congressional election. Thereafter his efforts ran into a complete stone wall erected by the opposition Republican party: speaking for many party leaders, Senate minority leader Addison (“Mitch”) McConnell repeatedly proclaimed that “the single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president” (Garrett, 2011). And so President Obama remains vulnerable in the 2012 re-election campaign, even though the Republican party seems determined to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory with candidates ranging from a Wall Street multi-millionaire to a 21st century Savonarola to a serial adulterer.

Can we predict Obama's political future from his motivational profile? His inaugural address was very high in power motivation, and about average in achievement and affiliation (see Winter, 2011). Normally, such a profile is associated with presidential charisma (more precisely, with arousing strong positive emotions in followers and strong negative emotions in opponents), political skill, U.S. involvement in a new war, and rated greatness. Some of these predictions have been confirmed (see Winter, 2011), but the jury is still out on “greatness.”

While motives are stable individual dispositions, they also wax and wane over time and in response to situations. Thus it is important to determine how Obama's motive profile has been affected by Republican opposition and the 2010 election “shellacking.” I have tracked the motive imagery scores of Obama's annual “State of the Union” messages to Congress, delivered in late January of 2010, 2011, and 2012. The results are shown in the figure below.





Obama's 2011 message, his first after the 2010 election, showed a sharp increase in achievement motive imagery—almost double the previous year's score. And his behavior during the first part of 2011 was consistent with the actions of achievement-motivated leaders: high aspirations, firm emotional control, and above all trying to solve problems through rational negotiations. None of this worked. During the futile debt ceiling debates in summer of 2011, the full faith and credit of the United States government nearly went over the cliff of default. The legislative process seemed to come to a halt, once again demonstrating George Edwards' argument that the persuasive power of presidential rhetoric is highly overrated, if indeed it exists at all (see Klein, 2012).

How would Obama react to this political stalemate? At the time I wrote my personality profile (Winter, 2011), I wondered whether further increases in his achievement motivation might drive Obama to increased exhortation, more concessions and attempts to compromise, and further frustration—thus leading to a full-fledged “active negative” crisis of character (Barber, 1992). In his January 2012 message, however, Obama's achievement motive imagery went back down and his power imagery further increased, so that the gap between power and achievement widened almost to its 2009 level.

What might this mean? With a focus on power rather than achievement, Obama will likely discard idealistic but ineffective efforts at persuasion, turning instead to “mobilizing those predisposed to support him and driving legislation through Congress on a party-line vote” (Edwards, quoted in Klein, 2012; emphasis in original). Obama's inaugural motive profile is very similar to that of Harry Truman, who in 1948 also had approval ratings in the 30-40% range 7-8 months before the presidential election. Truman came out fighting against the “do nothing 80th Congress” and won a surprising victory, even as the left and right wings of his own party ran their own presidential candidates.

Of course there are limits to how closely Obama can follow Truman's path. A display of Trumanesque anger by an African American man could alienate many White voters, and any Obama effort to present himself as a plain-speaking “man from Missouri” would ring false.

Will Obama win re-election? The answer probably depends on the state of the U.S. economy more than the profile of Obama's motives. However, increased power motivation may bring a re-awakening of Obama's charisma among younger voters, who gave him the victory in 2008 but who, by not participating in the 2010 mid-term election, left the Congressional field to the Tea Party and their take-no-prisoners candidates.

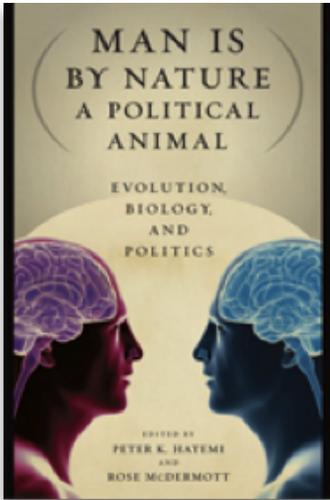
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## Book Announcements

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### Man Is by Nature a Political Animal: Evolution, Biology, and Politics

**EDITED BY PETER K. HATEMI AND ROSE MCDERMOTT**

Published in Paperback, September 2011, University of Chicago Press  
ISBN: 9780226319100

In *Man Is by Nature a Political Animal*, Peter K. Hatemi and Rose McDermott bring together a diverse group of contributors to examine the ways in which evolutionary theory and biological research are increasingly informing analyses of political behavior. Focusing on the theoretical, methodological, and empirical frameworks of a variety of biological approaches to political attitudes and preferences, the authors consider a wide

range of topics, including the comparative basis of political behavior, the utility of formal modeling informed by evolutionary theory, the genetic bases of attitudes and behaviors, psychophysiological methods and research, and the wealth of insight generated by recent research on the human brain. Through this approach, the book reveals the biological bases of many previously unexplained variances within the extant models of political behavior.

The diversity of methods discussed and variety of issues examined here will make this book of great interest to students and scholars seeking a comprehensive overview of this emerging approach to the study of politics and behavior.

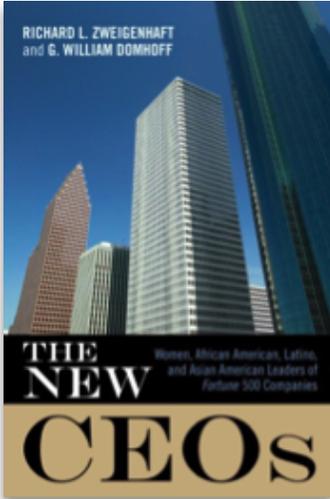
"A major paradigmatic contribution relevant well beyond political science, *Man Is by Nature a Political Animal* provides a primer of what has been happening at the intersection of political science, biology, and cognitive neuroscience for the past twenty years. Hatemi and McDermott have put together a formidable group of the most creative scholars in the discipline, each of whom has attempted to show how the various methodologies and theoretical frameworks operate." (John M. Orbell, University of Oregon)"

### The New CEO's: Women, African American, Latino, and Asian American Leaders of Fortune 500 Companies

**BY RICHARD L. ZWEIGENHAFT AND G. WILLIAM DOMHOFF**

Rowman and Littlefield, June, 2011

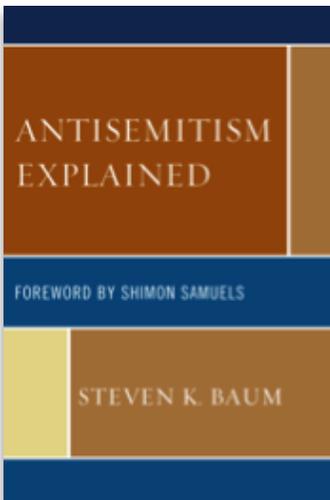
ISBN-13: 978-1442207653



The capstone in a series of books by Richard L. Zweigenhaft and G. William Domhoff on diversification at the top of the American power structure, goes well beyond their previous work by examining the class backgrounds, education credentials, and social networks of the 75 women and people of color who became CEOs of major corporations, mostly in the past 10-15 years, showing similarities and differences with comparable samples of white male counterparts (gentile and Jewish) on several factors.

It includes analyses of the differences in corporations that have and have not appointed non-traditional CEOs, reveals how corporations reshaped affirmative action and the diversity industry to fit their goals, traces the corporate funding networks that sponsor promising young students of color into elite private schools and universities, and anticipates future CEO diversity through an analysis of corporate pipelines. It draws on the authors' backgrounds in psychology and

social psychology for discussions of the bias in favor of lighter skin and the role of diversity in contributing to social stability by means of tokenism effects.



### Antisemitism Explained

**BY STEVEN K. BAUM**

University Press of America, December 2011,  
ISBN-13: 978-0761855781

“Beneath the surface [of our society],” writes historian Robert Wistrich, are “ancient myths, dark hatreds, and irrational fantasies [that] continue to nourish antisemitism.” But the larger question has to do with why we are so prone to believe them.

To that end, Steven K. Baum has an answer. In this book, Baum carefully guides the reader through the social mind and explains how the formation of social beliefs can be used as a narrative to determine reality. He offers a new perspective regarding how antisemitic legends and folk beliefs form the basis of our ongoing social narrative. Baum asks the reader to consider a social

unconscious—the cauldron of cultural fantasies that consists of superstitions, magical thinking, and racial tales. This witches’ brew concocts a Social Voice that can be loud or quiet, benign or hostile, fleeting or permanent. Most importantly, this voice is undeniably antisemitic and racist. As is often the case in the court of public opinion, those who own the narrative, win. In *Antisemitism Explained*, Baum reminds us to think critically about our own social narrative and to be careful about what we choose to believe.