



ISPP

International Society
of Political Psychology

ISPP Junior Scholars Committee

Newsletter Fall 2013

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

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*We'd love to hear from
you!*

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Chair's Address

Greetings from the Junior Scholars Committee! It is a great honor to serve as chair for the 2013-2014 term. I am happy to give you a highlight of the JSC activities.

As before, the annual meeting was a great success. All of the JSC sponsored events at the annual ISPP meeting in Israel were very well received. The JSC organized the mentoring tea and two roundtables (one on teaching political psychology and the other on research and policy). These meetings provided junior scholars an opportunity to communicate with senior colleagues in our field. A member of our professional development team Sanne Rijkhoff provides more information on the JSC roundtables in this newsletter. Moreover, to attend this year's annual meeting, we were able to support thirteen junior scholars through our travel grant program. We will continue supporting the junior scholars for their expenses towards the 2014 Rome meeting.

I also would like to draw your attention to an important event organized by ISPP since 2011 before the annual meetings, the Summer Academy. The Academy provides the opportunity to receive training on a number of topics on political psychology by renowned scholars in our discipline. I believe in addition to the JSC events

at the annual meeting the Academy provides an exceptional opportunity to receive training on specialized topics and to meet with scholars. I strongly recommend the junior scholars to seek this opportunity next year. Stavroula Chrona provides more information about the Academy in this newsletter.

This year we have a number of enthusiastic new members, as well as dedicated members who are in the second year of their tenure. Together we will continue to work hard to provide our junior scholars with information and resources that are interesting and useful for the development of their academic career. Finally, I would like to thank Jolanda van der Noll and the 2012-2013 Committee for the fantastic job they did last year for the JSC.

We always aim to keep junior scholars connected with each other. To that end, we update our [blog](#) for particular announcements and topics of discussion. Also, take a look at our [facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#). If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions regarding the JSC please contact us at jsc@ispp.org.

On behalf of the Junior Scholars Committee, I wish you a happy and productive semester.

Cengiz

JSC Chair 2013-2014

Erisen



2013 ISPP Annual Meeting

Herzliya, Israel

2013 Mentoring Tea

The Junior Scholars Committee organizes a **Mentoring Tea** every year that allows junior scholars to meet one-to-one with leading researchers in their area. This year's event was held on Tuesday, July 9th in Herzliya, Israel. The event was a huge success and generated a great deal of interest: 51 mentees were paired with 19 mentors. Mentees listed their top 5 mentors and were assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Results from a **mentees' feedback survey** (N = 25) showed that most mentees attended the Mentoring Tea to obtain advice on career and development issues, as well as to ask substantial research questions. Notably, 76% of respondents rated their overall experience as good or very good, and 92% said they would be likely or very likely to recommend the Mentoring Tea to other conference participants.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Mentoring Tea, particularly the mentors: Molly Andrews, Daniel Bar-Tal, Daphna Canetti, Tereza Capelos, Neil Ferguson, Eran Halperin, Caroline Howarth, Leonie Huddy, John Jost, Arthur J. Kendall, Catarina Kinnvall, Bert Klandermans, Richard Lau, Shana Levin, David Redlawsk, Ervin Staub, Jacqueliën van Stekelenburg, Linda Tropp, and Johanna Vollhardt.

Next year's event will be organized by **Laura Taylor** and **Gary Smith**. If you have any questions or suggestions, email Laura and Gary at ispp.mentoringtea@gmail.com.

Jojanneke van der Toorn
Monica Gerber
2012-2013 JSC Mentorship Program

2013 Mentoring Tea (Herzliya)



2013 JSC Roundtables

The Junior Scholars Committee (JSC) organized **two roundtables** at the annual meeting last summer in Herzliya, Israel; both were well-attended and appreciated by those who participated.

Translational research and public policy

The theme of the first roundtable was **Translational Research and Public Policy**. This subject addressed the need to integrate political psychology as a scientific discipline with the practical application of its knowledge. Five invited speakers shared their experiences with the audience: Yaacov Vertzberger (Hebrew University), Paul Dekker (SCP and Tilburg University), Daniel Bar-Tal (Tel Aviv University), Peter Suedfeld (University of British Columbia), and Ervin Staub (University of Massachusetts Amherst).

Political psychology has a unique ability to inform public policy and intervention programs in settings of intergroup conflict and political transition, among others. The goal of the roundtable was to go beyond merely understanding problems or discussing possible solutions but to investigate how this knowledge could be implemented through concrete policies or programs.

As researchers, one of our goals is to influence policy makers and to effect positive social change. Our guest speakers pointed out that scholars need to 'package' their research and highlight its practical implications since policy makers do not typically connect with conceptual ideas. As policy makers will not reach out to us, it is helpful to be proactive and make ourselves visible; personal contact helps achieve this visibility. For instance, a phone call has a greater impact than an email. Participating in a radio interview can also help scholars become more noticeable and may result in further invitations. Engagement with policy makers is crucial in applying research to public policy, but it requires time and dedication from scholars. Directly contacting policy makers or inviting them for talks could be a starting point for fruitful collaboration.

The panelists recommended a number of strategies to address the gap between research and public policy. For example, only about 30 percent of what political psychologists do is relevant to real world problems and only half of that is policy-ready. Most studies are too complicated for policy makers, and the findings do not directly speak to policy agendas. Yet, though policy makers want clear cut advice, scholars should avoid oversimplifying the research and try to show them the information they need in order to make a decision. The panelists also noted that the transition from academic to public policy writing can be difficult. Rather than a thorough literature review, policy makers want the take-home message and to know the causal relations between relevant factors. Some of the speakers recommended writing in the native language where the policy will be implemented. For example, when English is not their mother language, scholars should make the extra effort to package research in the native language to make it more accessible to policy makers. These efforts can help scholars reach out to local policy makers and make sure that research findings are readily available for a broader public.

Another piece of helpful advice was to balance academic rigor with the realities of program

implementation. Our guest speakers agreed that it is possible to have solid translational research and to do good interventions. Demonstrating how the research can be used to improve society is crucial for receiving project grants. Interdisciplinary approaches to political psychology are especially well suited to solving real world problems.

Above all, our guest speakers advised the audience to discover what their passions are and to do research that excites them. Only by following your academic interests are you able to proceed and successfully influence public policy.



Teaching political psychology

The theme of the second roundtable was **Teaching Political Psychology**. Specific to the discussion were challenges in teaching political psychology to undergraduate and graduate students and incorporating courses in existing curricula. Four invited speakers engaged the audience in a conversation about experiences, pedagogies, and strategies for emerging scholars interested in teaching political psychology classes. Richard R. Lau (Rutgers University), Christ'l De Landtsheer (University of Antwerp), Richard Herrmann (The Ohio State University) and Linda Tropp (University of Massachusetts Amherst) generously shared their experiences and advice.

The goal of the roundtable was to generate awareness about resources, textbooks, and syllabi that already exist, as well as to brainstorm for solutions to unmet needs of political psychology pedagogy. The panelists also focused on how to integrate political psychology into the existing curriculum and how to recruit students for these courses. Our guest

speakers pointed out that many scholars who study political psychology are often the only ones teaching these types of courses in a department. Since it is still a fairly new field, courses in political psychology often need to be developed. In order to cover the wide variety of topics within the field, it helps to have multiple courses when possible. However, our guest speakers pointed out that when there is room for only one political psychology course, instructors should focus on the areas they are most interested in. Enthusiasm and knowledge about the topics are more likely to result in a successful class. In addition, co-teaching courses or inviting guest lecturers can help make the course interdisciplinary, while cross-listing classes can help increase enrollment, which is often a requirement for new classes.

Most of the speakers agreed on the importance of using examples that apply theories to everyday political life. Students are typically more engaged and more likely to enjoy the course literature when they can relate the material to everyday problems. Specifically, our panelists suggested a focus on political rhetoric and metaphor and political personality. Furthermore, they recommended introducing controversial topics to students to start debates, which in return could be used for specific learning goals. However, a guest speaker pointed out that many students are hesitant to voice their opinions in class, which may suggest that alternative technologies such as clickers can be useful in the classroom. Another tool to circumvent the reluctance to speak up and to help students think about the application of political psychology to real world problems is by running a political simulation. These simulations give students experience with decision-making processes and allow them to anonymously voice their opinions.

Finally, the speakers noted that students often have difficulty understanding critical methodology. Since political psychology is an interdisciplinary field, it subsequently has a variety of methods such as experiments, surveys, historical analysis, and psychoanalysis of political leaders. Our panelists pointed out that students need to be taught about those methods in addition to the theories of political psychology.

For a full summary of last year's roundtable on teaching political psychology, see: www.ispp.org/jsc/blog/teaching-political-psychology. Also make sure to join our conversation and share your experiences and resources through www.ispp.org/jsc/blog/resources-for-teaching-political-psychology.

We would like to give another thank you to the nine guest speakers of the 2013 JSC roundtables. Your participation was very much appreciated.

Sanne

Rijkhoff

2013-2014 JSC Professional Development



2014 ISPP Annual Meeting

Join us in Rome, 4-7 July

Roundtables for the 2014 Annual Meeting

The JSC is now preparing the roundtables for the next annual meeting. The topics to be addressed include navigating the job market and publishing worlds. We will discuss strategies for writing applications and interviews. In addition, we will talk about some struggles for scholars in political psychology. For instance, how can we fit in general departments without losing our unique perspective of political psychology? We will also talk about how to pick a journal for your manuscript and how to fit political psychology research into more general journals.

We will base the second JSC roundtable on your feedback. What other topics are important for you junior scholars, especially junior faculty? We invite you to **share your suggestions** with us.

Please submit your ideas to sanne.rijkhoff@email.wsu.edu. Your involvement is highly appreciated.

Sanne

Gizem

2013-2014 Professional Development

Rijkhoff

Arikan

International Society of
Political Psychology
Summer Academy
July 2nd - 4th
Rome, Italy



We are delighted to announce that the **2014 Summer Academy will take place on July 1st- 3rd in Rome**, in the three dates prior to the ISPP Annual Scientific Meeting.

The ISPP Summer Academy (ISPP-SA) is designed as a three-day workshop, held each year in conjunction with the ISPP Annual Scientific Meeting. The central objective of the Summer Academy is to offer high quality training to interested faculty and students from Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and other relevant disciplines, who do not have

the opportunity to follow relevant political psychology courses at their home institutions.

Every year, the Summer Academy hosts a number of foundational and cutting edge research-led courses in a selection of specialization areas of political psychology. Last year the ISPP Summer Academy hosted seven courses by prominent scholars from the field of political psychology including: **Bettina Davou** (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), **Catarina Kinnvall** (Lund University), **Richard R. Lau** (Rutgers University), **Paul Nesbitt-Larking** (Huron University College), **David O. Sears** (UCLA), **Jim Sidanius** (Harvard University) and an introductory course in Political Psychology by **Leonie Huddy** and **Stanley Feldman** (Stony Brook University).

In addition to attending courses, successful ISPP-SA applicants will have the opportunity to participate in a number of 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. In particular, fellows will have the opportunity to engage with the instructors in breakout group discussions where they will develop new research projects and ideas. Fellows and instructors will also participate in a research exhibition, where they will engage in informal conversations and presentations about their own research with the aim to build future research collaborations. Successful Summer Academy applicants will have the opportunity to engage with a truly international mix of participants and expand on their research interests.

All selected fellows will receive a full fee waiver for the ISPP Annual Meeting, and free ISPP membership for one year.

INFORMATION ON THE 2014 ISPP-SA INSTRUCTORS AND COURSES WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS WILL BE OPEN IN DECEMBER 2013.

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

We are looking forward to receiving your applications and see you in Rome!

Tereza

Director of the ISPP Summer

Stavroula

Administrative Assistant of the ISPP Summer Academy

Capelos

Academy

Chrona

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Junior Scholars on the Internet

News from the Junior Scholars Blog

We took the Junior Scholars blog in a new direction last year, accepting **submissions** from our members on a range of themes, such as 'identity' and the 'psychological consequences of the economic recession'. We also started **a series of interviews** with senior scholars; our first respondent was Chris Cohrs (Jacobs University, Bremen).

This year, we plan to continue with our aim of making the Junior Scholars blog an interactive and informative resource for our members. We will continue to disseminate information relating to conferences, publication, employment opportunities, and other

resources relevant to the professional development needs of junior scholars. Further interviews with senior scholars are yet to come, and we will also solicit more contributions from junior scholars in the coming months (so watch this space!).

We are very keen to receive **feedback** on the blog in terms of what content you would like to see included. Please get in touch with us at e.odwyer@kingston.ac.uk or s.chrona@surrey.ac.uk if you have suggestions on how the blog can be improved, or if you have ideas about potential themes or pieces.

Stavroula Chrona

Emma O' Dwyer

JSC Blog Editors

JSC Web resources

Together with our **Blog**, the JSC **Twitter** account ([@ISPP_JSC](https://twitter.com/ISPP_JSC)) and **Facebook** page ([/ISPPJuniorScholars](https://www.facebook.com/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

- Qualitative psychology pre-conference and special interest group, University of Illinois, May 21-24 2014 ([link](#))
- Call for papers: Doing citizenship in multi-cultural and multi-faith societies, Kingston University, December 18-19 2013 ([link](#))
- Workshop on statistical genetic methods for human complex traits, Boulder, Colorado, March 3-7 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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