

Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present to you our special Body Image issue of the *New School Psychology Bulletin* (NSPB), which features articles that address body image dissatisfaction, weight stigmatization, culture, and development.

The study of body image is especially important in a contemporary culture that idealizes beauty. There is too often a feeling of incongruence between an individual's body image and the societal standards of beauty. The extreme measures one may take to live up to these societal standards – eating disorders, excessive body modification, etc. – have tremendous implications for physical and psychological well-being.

In this issue, we have articles that address body image disturbance, examining its origins via attachment theory and through the lens of socio-cultural perspectives. It is the integration of various forces of influence that enhances our understanding of body image dissatisfaction's etiology, so that we may implement successful interventions and treatment on both a familial and socio-cultural level.

This special issue features a detailed review article of various perspectives of body image development, a study utilizing a new and unique tool for assessing various influences on perceived body image and eating disorders, and an experimental examination of factors that impact weight stigmatization. The issue concludes with the introduction of a new Body Dissatisfaction Scale designed to maximize experimental control when assessing body image dissatisfaction. These articles highlight a topic of immense importance, offering insight into its psychological underpinnings and providing tools to examine relevant factors. We sincerely hope that you enjoy this issue, and learn as much from it as we have.

Finally, we want to say farewell, as our tenure as Editors has now come to an end. Serving the NSPB has been a unique experience that will leave a lasting impression. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome next year's Editors. Jessica Englebrecht and Mariah HallBilsback will assume the responsibilities of Co-Editors and Emily Maple will serve as Assistant Editor. We are confident that we are placing the NSPB in the care of three highly capable and motivated individuals, and we are eager to witness the future and growth of the journal.

Clinton Merck, Jordan Hill & Batya Weinstein
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