

# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

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The New School Psychology Bulletin  
*Spring, 2011*

Dear Reader,

The release of the current issue represents the conclusion of a banner year for NSPB. Never in the journal's history have so many manuscript submissions been received in one academic year, nor have we required so many student reviewers to meet the demand. While this rapid growth has made the selection process for this issue extraordinarily difficult, the quality of the final product has benefited and we are very proud of the collection of articles in this issue.

In addition to our expansion, NSPB has matured in ways which we hope represent lasting shifts in the vision and scope of the journal. We have applied concerted efforts toward the "training model" aspect of our mission statement by providing in-depth feedback and guidance to student authors and peer reviewers at each step of the process. The training model has served to increase the quality of peer-reviews provided by our editorial board, the ratio of authors who go on to resubmit their papers in response to reviewer feedback, and the understanding of the peer-review and publication process for reviewers and authors alike. Our reviewer training now exists in two forms – one for incoming NSPB reviewers, and one for student reviewers at large. These materials have been disseminated in our own university and have fostered collaborations between NSPB and the larger psychological student community at large. Our author training walks students through what happens after an article is submitted, how to prepare for strong criticism, and what an editorial decision really means. This year, an unprecedented number of authors chose to resubmit their manuscripts, indicating that providing this information has encouraged students to respond to feedback in a constructive and productive way. We are impressed by the work of both our authors and reviewers, and are hopeful that our ongoing efficacy study will add quantitative data to what we have observed over the past year. In order to measure the impact of our training model and the efficacy of our journal, we will be concluding a year-long pre-post evaluation of authors and reviewers this June. This research will be presented in an APAGS-hosted symposium on student publishing at the APA Annual Convention in Washington D.C. on August 5th. If you will be attending the convention, we invite you to join us for this talk!

In the current issue, the talent and scientific curiosity of graduate students in psychology culminates in eight important articles. Topics include adolescent drug use in Nova Scotia, boredom proneness and mental health, health psychology in late life, a novel treatment for irritable bowel syndrome, racism in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the use of social disclaimers in Singapore, adolescent separation-individuation, and the relationship between empathy and interpersonal problems. We congratulate the authors on their fine work, as well as their graciousness in receiving and incorporating reviewers' and editors' feedback.

We also wish to thank the NSPB community at large for serving to train us and furthering our own development. NSPB's next issue will be brought to you by a brand new Editorial staff. We are sad to say goodbye to this wonderful project that has been such a rich training experience and we are grateful our reviewers, authors and affiliates for making our time with NSPB so fulfilling and rewarding. We thank everyone who contributed to the success of NSPB in this extraordinary year, and wish you the very best.

Many thanks,

William Somerville & Jennifer Doran  
Editors

Jessica Harlem-Siegel  
Editorial Assistant

# Acknowledgments

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We wish to thank the members of Editorial Board, who consistently provided insightful, thoughtful, and timely reviews in a year of higher than expected manuscript submissions. Some were asked to review as many as two articles in a single month, and we are deeply indebted to those individuals for their service. In addition, we asked several members of last year's Editorial Board to serve as ad hoc reviewers. We wish to thank Fionnuala Butler, Scott Debb, Amanda Ferguson, Deborah Jeske, David Krupka, Ilyssa Lund, Drika Makariev, Reese Minshew, Stacy Ogbeide, Feliesha Wheeler, and Mona Xu for making themselves available for reviews. We also thank Kerri Chladnick for serving as a proofreader this year. We extend our continued gratitude to those who support the mission of NSPB, including the Psychology Department at The New School for Social Research (NSSR), the University Student Senate, the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS), APA's Division 52, the Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR), and gradPSYCH magazine. We thank Dr. Howard Steele, our faculty supervisor, and Dr. McWelling Todman for their continued support and mentorship. We also extend our special thanks to Dr. Victor Ferreira of the University of California San Diego, for allowing his excellent talk to be adapted into author training. Finally, we thank you, our readers, for your continued interest in graduate student research. We hope you enjoy reading the following collection of articles as much as we enjoyed guiding them through the process. Happy reading!