

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

The New School Psychology Bulletin
Fall, 2010

Dear Reader,

The debut of the Fall 2010 issue brings with it some exciting news and changes. Most notable is the rapid, recent growth of the journal. In July and August we received an unprecedented number of peer reviewer applications, making our selection process the most competitive to date. Our Editorial Board, comprised of M.A., Psy.D., and Ph.D. students, now spans 35 domestic and international universities. Visits to the website and manuscript submissions have also increased substantially, and for the first time NSPB has had to recruit ad hoc reviewers in order to meet these demands. We are thrilled to see our enthusiasm for this project spread, and are proud of the quality and diversity of the NSPB network.

Less apparent, but perhaps more important, are changes relating to our development and refinement of NSPB's vision and the way it is being carried out. A central premise of this journal is that graduate students do not receive enough training in scientific writing and reviewing, and that being involved in a project like NSPB can help sharpen publishing-related skills. This year we have identified areas in which authors and reviewers can make even more of their experience with NSPB. This has involved restructuring our training materials for both reviewers and authors, and creating a more formalized and comprehensive system of didactic tutorial and feedback. Members of the Editorial Board are now required to complete a structured training prior to receiving manuscripts to review. Authors also receive "training" during the submission process, which includes materials on how to psychologically prepare for the editorial decision and respond to an action letter. In this way we hope to better prepare both our authors and reviewers for the realities of academic publishing, using NSPB as an experiential learning tool for students to develop these critical skills.

While we feel that these training materials are increasing the quality of reviews, the number of resubmissions, and the overall impact of the model, data is needed to substantiate these claims. To support our observations and validate the utility of graduate student journals in training, we are currently in the midst of NSPB's first pre-post efficacy study. Authors and reviewers have rated their ability and confidence in various publishing-related skills, and will rate themselves again at the end of their tenure. In continuing the research tradition that has been part of NSPB since inception, it is our hope to take the next step and begin to show empirical support for NSPB and its training model.

We are continually impressed by the talent of our authors, and believe that this issue reflects their diligence, persistence, and scientific contributions. This issue includes a series of articles on topics of social significance, among them employment and delinquency, racial identity and coparenting in African Americans, the impact of various family structures on adult relationship patterns, gender as it relates to weight and well-being, the impact of smoking on mental health, and student perceptions of professors. We hope you find the articles in this issue both interesting and informative, and enjoy reading them as much as we have enjoyed watching them grow.

Best,
Jennifer Doran & William Somerville
Editors
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Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our Editorial Board members, who have given back to the scientific community by devoting their time to improving the work of others. We would also like to thank our authors, who have taken the time to meticulously revise and refine their manuscripts, working with our reviewers and staff to get the manuscript to the final product you see here. We are also very grateful to our supporters who stand behind and help promote NSPB. Among them are the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS), APA's Division 52, the Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR), gradPSYCH magazine, and the Psychology Department at The New School for Social Research (NSSR). A few stellar individuals have also been instrumental in our development. We thank Dr. Howard Steele, our faculty advisor at NSPB, for his continued mentorship and supervision, guiding us through our own learning process. We thank Dr. MacWelling Todman for his advice, support, and for helping spread the word to our talented student body. We thank Dr. Howard Takooshian of Fordham University for including NSPB in various regional and national conference events, allowing us to reach out to a larger student community. Special thanks to Robert Kostrzewa and the Dean's office at NSSR for their continued financial support. We would also like to thank the University Student Senate and Psych Student Union for their contributions. These funds support printing and our research efforts, and we would not be able to operate without them. Finally, we thank you, our readers, for your attention and support, and for the value you place in graduate student scholarship. We hope you enjoy the following collection of articles. Happy reading!