
Editorial

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This is the first issue of the second volume of *Social Psychological and Personality Science* (*SPPS*). To be candid, I sometimes have a hard time believing that a consortium of four learned societies (the Association for Research in Personality [ARP], the European Association of Social Psychology [EASP], the Society of Experimental Social Psychology [SESP], and the Society for Personality and Social Psychology [SPSP]) launched this new outlet only one and a half years ago. It is safe to say that, by all standards, the initiative has met with huge success. Whether in terms of the number of submissions, quality of the published articles, number of readers, or, more generally, response of the scientific community and specialized media, the journal has already reached a level that places it among the top outlets in the field of personality and social psychology.

After only one year of publication, the journal is already implementing a number of significant changes. First and foremost, there will be six issues in 2011. The reason for this increase is simple: The number of manuscripts reaching our editorial desk has reached a level that none of us ever dreamed of when we started this adventure. As far as we can tell, we should fall in the vicinity of 550 submissions for 2010!!! In all honesty, I am not aware of any comparable growth in the scientific publishing business. And this is clearly something that we owe to you, the readers.

Another change is that one new associate editor, Carolin Showers, joined the team over the course of this year, and her name will appear on the masthead of the journal. Carolin has now been contributing for several months in place of Carolyn Morf. Indeed, for personal reasons, Carolyn Morf could not keep on collaborating with *SPPS*. Obviously, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to her for her contribution. From the beginning, Carolin dealt with the papers assigned to her in the most timely and professional manner. Like the other associate editors who accepted my invitation to join the board as early as 2009, she believed in the project as soon as I contacted her, and so did the two additional colleagues who came on board in 2010, Kerry Kawakami and Paula Niedenthal. It stands to reason that when I talked them into this, I did not have a very clear view of what would actually happen. Still, it did not take long to realize that they constituted a superb team of associate editors. Clearly, I have been blessed to be able to count on this amazing cast of outstanding scholars.

In addition to the associate editors, *SPPS* can also count on the help and guidance of Chris Crandall, our public

communication director. When a particular manuscript is being accepted, it may be flagged by any of the handling editors as a piece that is worthy of closer media attention. This is when Chris goes to work. He gets in touch with the lead author, and together they work toward presenting the key message of the research to a larger audience by reaching out to traditional media as well as to more modern, that is, Internet-based, channels of communication. With Chris's exceptional sense of how to convey a good story to nonscientists, the journal has helped our authors in ways that, I believe, are pretty unique.

This second volume also comes with a number of modifications to the editorial board. For obvious reasons, the initial editorial board was put together at a time when it was difficult to have a clear idea of the exact number and kind of manuscripts that would reach the journal's desk. I want to say how much we have appreciated the positive response of so many distinguished colleagues. At the moment the journal was being created, they showed their support and accepted the invitation to be a member of the editorial board. We are most grateful for their gesture and would like to say once again how important this has been in establishing *SPPS* as a credible scientific outlet. To be sure, now that we have received almost 900 submissions since the official launch of the journal, we are in a position to reexamine the list of editorial board members in light of the specific expertise that was called on during these past 20 months. Some colleagues who did not initially find themselves on the board gave us feedback on quite a few papers. We wanted to be responsive to this state of affairs, and this is why we updated the editorial board.

But the question remains, why is the journal such a hit? There is little doubt that the field is healthier and more productive than ever. For one thing, larger numbers of researchers than in the past are producing excellent research and need journal space. For another, the level of expertise and sophistication of the work published in the various journals covering social and personality psychology is ever more impressive. In this context, the specific format of the papers published in the *SPPS* as well as the swift processing of the manuscripts (due to the great efficiency of the handling editors but also to the wonderful response from reviewers) come across as decisive features that contribute to the incredibly positive reaction to *SPPS*. There is every reason to believe that the present outlet corresponds to the aspirations of a great many researchers. *SPPS* does not come as a competitor but rather as an ideal complement to other highly respected outlets in the field.

As the founding editor of the *SPPS*, I have every reason to be thrilled and proud. Such an achievement is the result of the efforts of a great many people. With this in mind, I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for all of the precious help coming from Sage. I am thinking in particular here of Kristen Marchetti, our managing editor, and Hana Joe, our production editor, but also Will Schweitzer and Bob Howard, the editors in charge of *SPPS* and social sciences at Sage. Their responsiveness to the many requests coming from myself, from the editorial team, from the reviewers, and even from the authors has been tremendously stimulating and a source of inspiration for all of us. Finally, I want to express

thanks to the members of the consortium, and in particular to Linda Skitka, for their constant support.

I have every reason to believe that this year will further confirm the quality and the standing of the journal. The ambition of *SPPS* is to be the ideal place to publish the best of your work. On behalf of all the people involved in the publication process, I thank you, the readers, for your support, and I wish you as much pleasure reading the content of the journal as we experience bringing it to you.

Vincent Yzerbyt, *Editor*