

## Conference and Society Information

- SPSP, usually held in January each year.

Deadline to submit: June/July [www.spsp.org](http://www.spsp.org)

- APA, usually held in August each year. Dead-

line to submit: November [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)

- APA Regional Conferences Rocky Mtn

Association or the Western Psych. Association

usually held in April/May with deadlines in

November.

- APS, usually held in May each year.

Deadline to submit: January

[www.psychologicalscience.org/](http://www.psychologicalscience.org/)

*If your paper isn't rejected from the first place you sent it, you didn't aim high enough.*

—Jessi, present day.

Not everything in social psychology has been ‘done’ already, and what has been done has not been done perfectly

—Ian, present day

*"While the modern social psychologist does indeed need experimental, statistical, and computer skills, he needs also historical perspective. He needs immersion in theories (both macro and micro). Above all, he needs an ability to relate his problem to the context in which it properly belongs. Sometimes the context lies in the traditions of academic psychology, often in sociology or anthropology, sometimes in philosophy or theology, occasionally in history or in economics, frequently in the political life of our day. Sometimes the science of genetics or clinical experience provides the context."*

- G. Allport, (1966, p. 17)



Working with  
Dr. Ian Handley  
and  
Dr. Jessi L. Smith

## Social Psychology Graduate Student Expectations



Revised 08/2010

## Find Yourself

Over the next two years, you should identify specific areas of research that interest you, and familiarize yourself with those areas to the point where you are conversant in the area without notes, understand the major theories and ideas within the area, see the flaws with some ideas in the area, understand what holes there are in a literature (e.g., what has not been tested or considered), and be capable of executing publishable studies within the area. This will help you get into a Ph.D. program, as they like to see your motivation, research potential, and level of expertise, and see with whom you will be a good fit.

## Expectations

Being a graduate student is more like having a job than being a student, actually it is a lifestyle. When you are not running experiments, in class, or working on your classes, you should be reading about social psychology, thinking of future studies, thinking in general, analyzing data, finding materials, meeting with your advisor or students, etc. This is not to say that you can have no life outside of psychology, but that psych should become the primary theme in your life...that is what it takes to get into Ph.D. programs and into academia. Ideally, you will love social psychology so much that this is what you will do for fun. Fortunately, it really can be exciting!

**Assumption: We are training you for a Ph.D. in Social Psychology**

**Tip: Do not have an outside job. Graduate students are expected to be poor and to always be working on their studies. Yes, even in the summer.**

### Research

By the end of the first year, students will design and execute, *at least* one experiment. This is your **FIRST YEAR PROJECT**. Ph.D. programs are interested in research and publications most of all, so it is wise to hit the ground running. By the end of your second year, you should have completed a master's thesis. However, it is in your best interest to conduct more research. It would be ideal for you to have at least one other project running concurrently with your master's thesis.

### READ READ READ!

If you want to be a scientist, you have to know what others have

done; science builds on itself. Also, to publish, you need to demonstrate how your research adds to what is known, qualifies what is known, or is completely new. The only way to do this is to read and know what has been done. You are required, each semester, to turn in a new reading list of things you plan to read. Some suggested places to find your readings include: work by your advisor, any undergrad social text, as well readings from the following books and journals:

- *Advanced Social Psychology*—this is a little dated (Tesser, 1995), but is a nice transition book into more advanced topics;
- *Social Cognition*—by, Fiske and Taylor's (1991)
- *The Handbook of Social Psychology* (Fiske, Gilbert & Lindzey 2010)—this is the bible of social psychology, a must read...
- *The Nature of Prejudice* (Allport, 1954) and the 50 years later book *On the Nature of Prejudice* by Dovidio, Glick, and Rudman (2005)

- *The Social Psychology of Stigma* (Heatherton et al., 2000)
- *The Handbook of Attitudes* edited by Albarracín, Johnson, and Zanna (2005)
- *Theories of Mood and Cognition: A User's Guidebook*, edited by Martin and Clore (2001).
- *The Handbook of competence and Motivation* (by Elliot & Dweck, 2005)
- *Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivation* (by Sansone & Harackiewicz, 2000)

Besides books, which provide good overviews, it is also equally (if not more highly) recommended that you make your reading list include papers from the top social psych journals: 1) *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (JPSP), 2) *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* (JESP), 3) *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* (PSPB) and *Personality and Social Psychology Review* (PSPR), as well as peer-reviewed annual volumes such as *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*. There are also other nice social journals such as *Social Cognition*, *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, *Motivation and Emotion*, *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, *Sex Roles*, *Journal of Personality*, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Self and Identity*, *Journal of Consumer Research*, and more. PLUS, *Psychological Science* is a fantastic journal that publishes short pieces on all areas of psychology. Also check out the new SPPS journal, *Social Psychological and Personality Science*

**Tip: You should own a copy of the APA publication manual!**

## Acculturate

We do not represent the whole of social psychology, at all. So, you should try to get into the culture of social psychology. To do this, you are expected to:

1. Become a member of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (see [www.spsp.org](http://www.spsp.org)). You will get two free, and highly important journals, with your membership: *PSPB* and *PSPR*. Further, as a member, you should join the SPSP listserv. With this, you can either eavesdrop in or participate in discussions (some interesting, some heated, some...eh), learn of book announcements, ask questions to a broad audience of experts, ask for help, ask opinions, learn of job announcements (not that you'll need that yet), learn about grant and funding information, learn about graduate schools, etc. Also, SPSP has a graduate student listserv for grad students only. This would probably be great for you...you can hear about other's experiences, see what others are up to, ask what is a good book to read for X topic, and just acculturate. When applying for Ph.D. programs, it helps to walk the walk and talk the talk. Also, making connections at conferences is a great thing. Go to the SPSP conference, if not this year, absolutely next year...its worth it.
2. Join the Association for Psychological science (APS). They have an annual conference that is good, and with your membership you get *Psychological Science*, a top-notch journal.

**Tip: July and November are when most conferences deadlines occur.**

- Critical thinking
- Writing Skills
- Public Speaking
- Lab Coordination
- Computer skills, including: SPSS; Media Lab; PowerPoint, Tracking mode in Word
- APA format
- Psych Info Searching

**Tip: collaborate on research! With other professors, with other graduate students, with other departments!**

**Every Semester you will turn in your upcoming goals and a list of your accomplishments.**

3. Join the American Psychological Association as well as any divisions that interest you (e.g., the Psychology of Women). You will get a nice newsletter outlining what is new in psychology, and you can then join APAGS for grad students only with tips on how to get in to grad school and such. You will also receive the *American Psychologist* with your membership. You might also join the regional association (either Western, or Rocky Mtn).

4. Consider joining special interest organizations as well, such as the Association for Consumer research or the American Education Research Association.

## Skills you should come away with

**Grades in grad school translate to:**

**A = A, B = C, C = F**

## What you can Expect from us

We are here to help answer your questions about applying to Ph.D. programs, to write you letters of reference, and to guide you along in this adventure that is graduate school. We will meet with you as needed, provide feedback to you on drafts in a timely manner, and keep you posted on grants, conferences, and awards. We will invite you to be part of our research, often as a co-author.

## Requirements in a Nut Shell

**First (Fall) Semester:** Create a reading list, join professional organizations, attend all lab and joint lab meetings, go to Brown Bags, present to MAD-PALS, run an in-progress research study, begin brainstorming ideas for your first year project, meet with your advisor once a week, start your vita, and keep up with your reading!

**Second (spring) Semester:** in addition to all of the above, you should also submit the IRB for your first year project and collect and analyze the data. Update your reading list. Begin thinking about your master's thesis and secure your thesis committee (including all paperwork). Help coordinate the lab.

**Third (Summer) Semester:** Find a conference to submit your first year project or other research findings. Prepare your

submission and apply for funding if accepted. Update your reading list and begin outlining and drafting your master's thesis. Submit IRB for your thesis. If invited, help with write-up for submissions to journals.

**Fourth (Fall) Semester:** Present your thesis idea to MAD-PALS and brown bag and get feedback. Begin thesis data collection. Coordinate the lab and all undergraduate RA's. Attend a conference. Apply to Ph.D. programs!

**Fifth (Final) semester:** Finish data collection, analyze, write up, and defend your thesis. Complete other research projects. Attend a conference. Go to graduation... and say a tearful g'bye! You did it!

I \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge and accept the terms and expectations of working with the social  
psychology faculty

(print name)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_