Dear SPQ Subscribers,

We would like to highlight the articles in the September 2016 issue of SPQ and share with you other SPQ news. The September issue includes six research articles; three are qualitative and three are quantitative. These papers cover a wide range of social psychological topics such as gender socialization, network ties and cyber aggression, the management of risk and uncertainty, and emotions and trust.

The first article by Betsie Garner and David Grazian entitled “Naturalizing Gender through Childhood Socialization Messages in a Zoo” identifies how adults use the spatial and symbolic aspects of a zoo to transmit gender socialization messages. They find three patterns. First, parents attribute stereotypic feminine and masculine characteristics to the zoo animals, thereby giving their children a view of animals as gendered beings. In doing this, they naturalize a biological deterministic view of gender rather than a social construction of gender. Relatedly, they find that parents use the animals as props to display their own normative views of gender. They do this by calling attention to animals they think are female or male, and they use gendered language to describe their appearance or behavior to their children. Finally, they see how parents respond to their children’s behavior differently on the basis of their sex by, for example, giving their sons more freedom to explore the zoo compared to their daughters. We see that differential treatment of boys and girls within the context of gendered interaction within the zoo further reinforces gender expectations. Overall, this study demonstrates how adults utilize both the public setting of a zoo and the animals to reinforce biological deterministic socialization messages regarding gender roles.

In the second article, “Negotiating the Diagnostic Uncertainty of Genomic Test Results,” Tanya Stivers and Stefan Timmermans examine video-recordings of parents receiving results of genetic tests from clinicians. The genomic tests attempt to address the cause(s) of a patient’s symptoms and reduce the diagnostic uncertainty of the illness. They find that a care relationship often develops between the clinician and the parents that works to reduce the underlying feelings associated with diagnostic uncertainty when the clinician must report ambiguous findings. The clinician and parent appear to work in a collaborative way to determine the genetic cause of illness, thereby getting parents involved in the uncertainty surrounding their child’s illness.

The third article by Marci Cottingham and Jill Fisher, “Risk and Emotion Among Healthy Volunteers in Clinical Trials,” investigates the experiences surrounding paid volunteers who participate in pharmaceutical drug trials. Using semi-structured interviews with volunteers, the authors uncover two main findings. First, what
motivates their participation, particularly for lower-class individuals, is economics (they need the money) and staying out of prison. Among other things, being paid for their participation bypasses the illegal activity that they might otherwise resort to in order to earn a living. Second, emotions played a role in their decision to participate. For example, if they consider the risks involved with being involved in a drug trial, the risk is felt rather than experienced on an intellectual level as in weighing the benefits and costs. Perhaps not surprisingly, they find that the primary participants for these pharmaceutical drug trials are men and racial minorities.

In the fourth article, “Toxic Ties: Networks of Friendship, Dating and Cyber Victimization,” Diane Felmlee and Robert Faris analyze friendship, dating, and aggression using longitudinal data from online social networks to address the risk of cyber aggression and victimization in youth from 8th to 12th grade. Those in close relationships (friendships and romantic relationships) experience higher rates of cyber aggression than friends of friends, former friends, and previous dating partners. Additionally, LGBTQ youth experience cyber aggression at a rate four times higher than heterosexual students. Further, female students are more likely to be victims of cyber aggression than male students.

In the fifth article, “Identities, Goals, and Emotions,” Ryan Trettevik investigates different predictions that stem from identity theory in sociology and the control model of affect in psychology to understand the emotional experience following the verification process. Identity theory predicts that identity non-verification results in distress because individuals’ goals have not been met. The control model of affect predicts that what is more important is people’s progress toward their goals. The findings demonstrate that it is both the degree of non-verification (how different individuals think that others see them compared to how they see themselves) and the rate at which they are moving toward identity verification that influences their emotional state. Specifically, participants who experienced a larger identity discrepancy showed more intense negative emotions than those who experienced a smaller identity discrepancy. Additionally, participants who reported that they were moving faster towards identity verification reported more positive emotions than those who were progressing slower than they had expected. Thus, Trettevik finds support for both theories, suggesting that the processes that underlie both theories should be considered in future research.

The final article in the September issue by Blaine Robbins entitled “Probing the Links Between Trustworthiness, Trust, and Emotion: Evidence From Four Survey Experiments,” explores the complexity of the trustworthiness-trust process. Robbins does this by examining four current models, two of which reflect expressive motivations (that is, goodwill and virtuous dispositions) and two of which reflect instrumental motivations (that is, encapsulated interests and social constraints). He examines two vignettes that situate conditions where trustworthiness-trust can vary: a car repair and a group project scenario. Using these vignettes, he carries out two studies; one which examines the influence of these four models on the trustworthiness-trust process, and one which studies the mediating role of emotions given the different motivations (expressive and instrumental). In the first study, he finds that expressive motivations produce greater levels of trust than instrumental motivations. Further, trustworthiness is based more on the internal dimensions embedded in the exchange relationship, that is, goodwill, virtuous dispositions, and encapsulated interests more than the external dimension or social constraints. In the second study, he finds that the other-praising emotions of gratitude and admiration have a mediating effect. However, they have a greater effect on the expressive motivations than the instrumental motivations. Further, gratitude has a stronger effect than admiration.
Taken together, we find these six articles rich not only theoretically but also substantively in advancing our field. And, we see this rich contribution irrespective of the method that researchers employ.

We are adding another article to our SPQ SNAPS collection:

- “Toxic Ties: Networks of Friendship, Dating, and Cyber Victimization.” As discussed above, this article offers insights into how close relationships, including friendships and romantic friendships, influence the likelihood of cyber aggression and victimization (Diane Felmlee and Robert Faris).

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Finally, as you know, our term as coeditors will end December 2017. ASA is currently looking for our replacement. Please consider applying! You can find more information at [http://www.asanet.org/research-publications/journal-resources/asa-editorships/upcoming-editorships](http://www.asanet.org/research-publications/journal-resources/asa-editorships/upcoming-editorships). We have enjoyed serving the social psychology research community, and we look forward to passing the baton to another individual or team. If you are considering applying and would like to discuss editing or coediting the journal, please contact us. We are happy to help in any way we can.

Kind Regards,

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