



Toolkit #3

How Do You Make Your Research Matter to Policy Makers and Practitioners?

**Developed by
Fostering Policy-- Relevant Psychological Research project team
members:***

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This toolkit was designed to complement the third webinar in the five-- part webinar series on Fostering Policy-- Relevant Psychological Research. To download this toolkit, other toolkits, and to watch all of the webinars as they are released, visit:
www.spssi.org/CODAPARpolicyseries.

COMMISSION

Commissioned through a 2022 Committee on Division/APA Relations (CODAPAR) grant awarded to:

Division 8	The Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
Division 9	The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)
Division 35	The Psychology of Women and Gender Division
Division 27	The Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA)
Division 44	The Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity
Division 45	The Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race

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HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR RESEARCH MATTER TO POLICY MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS?

This webinar illuminates for psychologists the importance of research in informing policy and practice. Learn why you should care about policy and how to make your research useful to policy makers. View the recording here: [link to be added after webinar here]

www.spssi.org/CODAPARpolicyseries.

Panelists:

STEVE NEWELL, PhD, Assistant Director for Innovation and Equity, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

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Moderators:

- **JACQUELYN W. WHITE, PhD** UNC Greensboro, Division 35
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WHY PSYCHOLOGISTS SHOULD CARE ABOUT POLICY

Policy provides psychologists with opportunities to translate their work into practical solutions. The research that we do can help inform policymakers about the potential impact of their decisions. These resources highlight the importance of incorporating psychological research into the realm of policymaking.

- The American Psychological Association's Stand for Science Campaign:
<https://www.apa.org/advocacy/guide/stand--for--science>
- Consortium of Social Science Associations' Why Social Science Blog: <https://www.whysocialscience.com/>

INTRODUCTION TO POLICY FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

These readings provide primers on policy, policymaking, and translating research for policymakers. Most are written for psychologists, by psychologists.

Books

- Bogenschneider, K., & Corbett, T. (2010). *Evidence-- based policy making: Insights from policyminded researchers and research-- minded policymakers*. Routledge.
- Maton, K. I. (2016). *Influencing social policy*. Oxford.
- Tropp, L. R. (2018). *Making research matter: A psychologist's guide to public engagement*. American Psychological Association.

Articles

- Scott, J. T., Larson, J. C., Buckingham, S. L., Maton, K. I., & Crowley, D. M. (2019). Bridging the research-policy divide: Pathways to engagement and skill development. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 89(4), 434–441.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000389>
- Shinn, M. (2007). Waltzing with a monster: Bringing research to bear on public policy. *Journal of Social Issues*, 63(1), 215–231.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540--4560.2007.00505.x>

- Tseng, V. (2012). *The uses of research in policy and practice*. Society for Research in Child Development.
<https://wtgrantfoundation.org/wp--content/uploads/2015/10/The-- Uses-- of-- Research-- in-- Policy-- and-- Practice.pdf>

EXAMPLES

From Mary Koss:

An Op-- Ed

The 2018 op-- ed on differentiating sexual abuse, sexual assault and sexual harassment has received more than 1.5 million views
<https://theconversation.com/whats-- the-- difference-- between-- sexual-- abuse-- sexual-- assault-- sexual-- harassment-- and-- rape-- 88218>

A podcast:

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/770/my-- lying-- eyes>

A webinar:

One Standard of Justice (2021). Experience from Practicing Restorative Justice for Sexual Harm.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apTShtlJ7lo>

RESOURCES

General:

- <https://www.congress.gov>
- <https://clerk.house.gov>
- <https://www.senate.gov/about/index.htm>
- <https://justfacts.votesmart.org>
- <https://www.americanprogress.org>

- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-regulatory-affairs/broadening-public-engagement-in-the-federal-regulatory-process/>

LGBTQ+ Specific:

- <https://www.lgbtmap.org>
- <https://www.aclu.org/know--your-rights/lgbtq--rights>
- <https://glma.org/advocacy.php>
- <https://www.hrw.org/topic/lgbt--rights>

HOW-TO GUIDES

These are many ways for psychologists to better link their research to policy. This includes not only designing and conducting policy-relevant research, but also translating that research for policymakers and educating the general public. These resources will help you get started.

Advocacy Guides for Scientists and Practitioners

- Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA): Advocacy Handbook for Social & Behavioral Sciences: <https://cossa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-Advocacy-Handbook.pdf>
- Advocacy with Local and State Governments: https://scra27.org/index.php/download_file/view/2278/288/
- A Guide to Advocacy for Personality and Social Psychologists: COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus' address at SPSP 2023: <https://vimeo.com/802292548/1a84c93291>

Translating Research for Policymakers

How to write a policy brief:

- Wong, S. L., Green, L. A., Bazemore, A. W., & Miller, B. F. (2017). How to write a health policy brief. *Families, Systems, & Health*, 35(1), 21–24. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fsh0000238>
- Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Policy Resources: <https://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&pageId=1698>

How to develop relationships and communicate effectively with policymakers:

- RESULTS's Advocacy Resources: <https://results.org/volunteers/lobbying-how-tos>

Translating Research for the Public

How to write op-eds:

- The Op-Ed Project's Resources: <https://www.theopedproject.org/resources>
- Duke's Communicator Toolkit: <https://commskit.duke.edu/writing-media/writing-effective-op-eds/>

How to write letters to the editor:

- The Community Toolbox's Writing Letters to the Editor Guide: <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/advocacy/direct-action/letters-to-editor/main>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

For many students and psychologists alike, policy work can seem intimidating. Here is a short list of opportunities that incorporate varying levels of mentorship on how to incorporate policy lens in your work or fully engage in policy work:

For undergraduate and graduate students:

African American Policy Forum's Fellowship Program <https://www.aapf.org/fellowship>

APA Minority Fellowship Program Policy Fellowship (sub fellowship)
<https://www.apa.org/pi/mfp>

MDRC Gueron Scholars Undergraduate Internship: <https://www.mdrc.org/gueron--scholars-program/undergraduate-internship>

Research to Policy Collaboration:
<https://research2policy.org/interns-fellows/>

Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship
<https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards/FPPF>

For postdoctoral professionals, full-time:

APA Congressional Fellowship:
<https://www.apa.org/about/awards/congress-fellow>

APA Executive Branch Science Fellowship:
<https://www.apa.org/about/awards/science-fellowship>

Jacquelin Goldman Congressional Fellowship:
<https://www.apa.org/about/awards/goldman-fellow>

Springfield LGBTQIA+ Policy Congressional Fellowship:
<https://www.apa.org/about/awards/springfield-congressional-fellowship>

Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows <https://healthpolicyfellows.org/>
AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship
<https://www.aaas.org/programs/science-technology-policy-fellowships/become-fellow-application>

Society for Research in Child Development U.S. Policy Fellowship Programs
<https://www.srcd.org/professional-advancement/srcd-us-policy-fellowship-programs>

The James Marshall Public Policy Postdoctoral Fellowship:
<https://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&PageID=747>

For postdoctoral professionals, part-time: Research to Policy Collaboration:
<https://research2policy.org/participating-researchers/>

Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship
<https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards/FPPF>

CONNECT WITH APA DIVISIONS AND OTHER INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

One way to get started in bridging the gap between research and policy is by meeting with other psychologists and researchers in your content area. Intermediary organizations, such as APA Divisions, can provide support. Below are brief descriptions of and links to the organizations involved with the development of this webinar series:

Division 9: Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues welcomes psychologists and allied social scientists who share a common concern with research on psychological aspects of important social issues and social subjects to bring theory and practice into focus on human problems of the group, the community, and the nation, and the increasingly important problems that have no national boundaries. Learn more at www.spssi.org

Division 8: Society for Personality and Social Psychology seeks to advance the progress of theory, basic and applied research, and practice in the field of personality and social psychology. Members are employed in academia and private industry or government, and all are concerned with how individuals affect and are affected by other people and by their social and physical environments. Learn more at www.spsp.org

Division 27: Society for Community Research and Action: Division of Community Psychology encourages the development of theory, research, and

practice relevant to the reciprocal relationships between individuals and the social system which constitute the community context. The Division supports 23 regional groups promoting communication among community psychologists in six U.S. regions, Canada, Western Europe, and the South Pacific. Learn more at www.scra27.org

Division 35: Society for the Psychology of Women provides an organizational base for all feminists, of all genders and of all national origins, who are interested in teaching, research, or practice in the psychology of womxn. To demonstrate our commitment to inclusivity of feminists of diverse genders, the presidential trio have chosen to describe the division's purposes and activities using the term "womxn." The division recognizes a diversity of womxn's experiences which result from a variety of factors, including ethnicity, culture, language, socioeconomic status, age, and sexual orientation. The division promotes feminist research, theories, education, and practice toward understanding and improving the lives of girls and womxn in all their diversities; encourages scholarship on the social construction of gender relations across multicultural contexts; applies its scholarship to transforming the knowledge base of psychology; advocates action toward public policies that advance equality and social justice; and seeks to empower womxn in community, national and global leadership. We welcome student members and affiliates. Learn more at [https://www.apadivisions.org/division-- 35](https://www.apadivisions.org/division--35)

Division 44: Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity focuses on the diversity of human sexual orientations by supporting research, promoting relevant education, and affecting professional and public policy. Division 44 has task forces on

accreditation, bisexuality, professional standards, public policy, youth, families, ethnic/racial issues and science. The Division supports the Maylon-- Smith Award for student research and presents annual Distinguished Contribution Awards. Learn more at <https://www.apadivisions.org/division--44>

Division 45: Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race

encourages research on ethnic minority issues and the application of psychological knowledge to ethnic minority issues. The division promotes public welfare through research and encourages professional relationships among psychologists who share these concerns and interests. Learn more at www.division45.org

In addition to these divisions, psychologists may turn to other intermediary organizations. For example, the **Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)** is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote and advance the social and behavioral sciences in federal policymaking. Headquartered in Washington, DC, COSSA serves as a united voice for organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. COSSA's policy experts work with a broad network of advocates to ensure sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and the widespread use of our sciences in policymaking. The COSSA membership includes professional associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, colleges and universities, and industry affiliates. Learn more at www.cossa.org

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Often it can be difficult to obtain funding for policy work, particularly as junior scholars. However, opportunities do exist! Here are some to consider, particularly for graduate students.

Washington Center for Equitable Growth (Graduate and Postgraduate):
<https://equitablegrowth.org/>

Rober Wood Johnson Health Policy Research Scholars (Graduate):
<https://healthpolicyresearch--scholars.org/>

MDRC GSP Doctoral Fellowship:
<https://www.mdrc.org/gueron--scholars-program/doctoral--fellowship>

Center for Engaged Scholarship Dissertation Fellowship
<https://cescholar.org/>

To access webinars that have already been recorded and toolkits that have already been created, visit:
www.spssi.org/CODAPARpolicyseries