FOSTERING

POLICY-RELEVANT

PSYCHOLOGICAL

RESEARCH

Toolkit #4

Slaying Trolls: Navigating Your Online Presence When Doing Controversial Policy-Relevant Research

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This toolkit was designed to complement the second 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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SLAYING TROLLS: NAVIGATING OUR ONLINE PRESENCE WHEN DOING CONTROVERSIAL POLICY-RELEVANT RESEARCH

This toolkit complements a one-- hour webinar aimed at people who do policy/practice- relevant research in politically charged or controversial areas that may attract hostility, including on social media. Advice will be provided on how to handle this pressure, with guidance to resources and support (e.g., AAUP's "Faculty First Responders" project). Access a recording of the webinar by visiting: www.spssi.org/CODAPARpolicyseries.

Panelists:
- **LILIA CORTINA, PhD,** University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor of Psychology, Women's & Gender Studies, and Management & Organizations, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- **TANIA ISRAEL, PhD,** Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Professor of Counseling Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara
- **JENNIFER D. RUBIN, PhD,** Senior Researcher, foundry10

Moderator:
- **LINDA TROPP, PhD,** Professor of Social Psychology and Faculty Associate in Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA ENGAGEMENT FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

These readings provide primers on public engagement and social media. Most are written for psychologists, by psychologists.

Books:
- Allen, K.- A., Jimerson, S. R., Quintana, D. S., & McKinley, L. (2023). *An academic's guide to social media: Learn, engage and belong*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

- Carrigan, M. (2019). *Social media for academics* (2nd edition). SAGE Publications.

- Gorman, G. (2019). *Troll hunting: Inside the world of online hate and its human fallout*. Hardie Grant Books.

- Tropp, L. R. (Ed.) (2018). *Making research matter: A psychologist's guide to public engagement*. Washington D.C.: APA Books.

Articles:
- Calice, M. N., Beets, B., Bao, L., Scheufele, D. A., Freiling, I., Brossard, D., Feinstein, N. W., Heisler, L., Tangen, T., & Handelsman, J. (2022). Public engagement: Faculty lived experiences and perspectives underscore barriers and a changing culture in academia. *PLoS ONE*, *17*(6), e0269949. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0269949
- Jordan, K. (2023). Academics' perceptions of research impact and engagement through interactions on social media platforms. *Learning, Media and Technology*, *48*(3), 415–428. https://doi.org/10.1080/17439884.2022.2065298
- Klar, S., Krupnikov, Y., Ryan, J. B., Searles, K., & Shmargad, Y. (2020). Using social media to promote academic research: Identifying the benefits of twitter for sharing academic work. *PLoS ONE*, *15*(4), e0229446. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0229446
- Ozanne, J. L., Davis, B., & Ekpo, A. E. (2022). Research pathways for societal impact: A typology of relational engagements for consumer psychology research. *Journal of Consumer Psychology*, *32*(1), 127–144. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcpy.1269
- Peng, H., Teplitskiy, M., Romero, D. M., & Horvát, E.-- Á. (2023). The gender gap in scholarly self-- promotionon social media. *ArXiv*. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2206.05330
- Rogelberg, S. G., King, E. B., & Alonso, A. (2022). How we can bring I-- O psychology science and evidence-- based practices to the public. *Industrial and Organizational Psychology*, *15*(2), 259–272. https://doi.org/10.1017/iop.2021.142
- Schalet, A. T., Tropp, L. R., & Troy, L. M. (2020). Making research usable beyond academic circles: A relational model of public engagement. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, *20*(1), 336–356. https://doi.org/10.1111/asap.12204

TED Talks:
- Lorentzen, M. K. (2019, November). *Don't feed the trolls—Fight them*. TEDxCopenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

- Marantz, A. (2019, April). *Inside the bizarre world of internet trolls and propagandists*. TED 2019.
    - Example Teaching Resource for this TED Talk.

- Sutton, E. (2018, January). *Don't feed the trolls: How to handle jerks on social media*. TEDxOU, TEDxOU.

Non-- Academic Articles:
- Masket, S. (2021, April 7). Letters to a publicly engaged academic. *Mischiefs of Faction*.
- Brooks, A. C. (2022, March 17). Trolls aren't like the rest of us. *The Atlantic*.
- Anderson-- Stanier, N. (2023). Howto present research so stakeholders sit up and take action. Dscout.

HOW··TO GUIDES

There are many resources that help link your research to policy while also preparing for the potential backlash that may follow. These resources will help you get started at whatever stage of the process.

How to Handle Harassment Guides for Scientists and Practitioners:
- [Faculty First Responder Project](#) led by Trinity College provides resources for faculty and administration that are targets of harassment.
- [Response and Prevention Guidelines for Faculty's Research, Teaching, and Public Engagement](#) by University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- [Resources to Support Academics Targeted by Online Harassment](#) by University of California, Irvine

Advocacy Guides for Scientists and Practitioners:
- [Advocacy Handbook for Social and Behavioral Science Research](#), created by the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)
- [Community Advocacy: A Psychologist's Toolkit for State and Local Advocacy](#), created by APA Divisions 17, 27, 36, and 45
- Address by COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus at SPSP 2023 entitled [A Guide to Advocacy for Personality and Social Psychologists](#)

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.
- [SPSSI's Policy Resources webpage](#), which includes brief writing guides and brief exemplars

How to develop relationships and communicate effectively with policymakers:
- RESULTS's "[Lobbying How To's](#)"

Translating Research for the Public:
- [The Academic Minute](#) is a two-- and-- a-- half minute daily radio module which features researchers from colleges and universities around the world, keeping listeners abreast of what's new and exciting in the academy.
- The [Women's Media Center's Progressive Women's Voices media and leadership training program](#) can help scholars position themselves as media spokespeople in their fields.

How to write op-- eds:
- The [Op-- Ed Project's Tips andTricks](#) for writing op-- eds
- [Duke's Communicator Toolkit](#)

How to write letters to the editor:
- The [Community Toolbox's Writing Letters to the Editor Guide](#)

EXAMPLES OF POLICY⋯RELEVANT RESEARCH

There are many psychologists and other social scientists out in the world doing policy- relevant research, or using research to inform policy. Here are just a few examples:

- The [California Reducing Disparities Project](#) is a state-- wide,cross-- agency, culturally responsivemental health initiative that involves many project partners, including universities and the Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition
- [Written testimony from the Asian American Psychological Association](#) (AAPA). In March of 2021, AAPA submitted testimony before a U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Hearing on "Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans."

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 a policy lens in your work or fully engage in policy work.

For undergraduate and graduate students:
- [African American Policy Forum's Fellowship Program](#)
- SPSSI's [Dalmas A. Taylor Memorial Summer Minority Policy Fellowship](#)
- APA's Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) [Psychology Summer Institute](#)
- MDRC's [GSP Undergraduate Internship](#)
- [Research-- to-- Policy CollaborationInternships](#)
- [Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship](#)

For postdoctoral professionals, full--time:

- [APA Congressional Fellowship](#)
- [APA Executive Branch Science Fellowship](#)
- [Jacquelin Goldman Congressional Fellowship](#)
- [Springfield LGBTQIA+ Policy Congressional Fellowship](#)
- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows](#)
- American Association for the Advancement of Science [(AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellowships](#)
- Society for Research in Child Development [(SRCD) U.S. Policy Fellowship Programs](#)
- SPSSI's [James Marshall Public Policy Postdoctoral Fellowship](#)

For postdoctoral professionals, part--time:

- [Research-- to-- Policy CollaborationInternships](#)
- [Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship](#)

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: The 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, the nation, and the increasingly important problems that have no national boundaries. Learn more at www.spssi.org

Division 8: The 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: The 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: The 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, we have chosen to use the term "womxn." 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

social justice; and seeks to empower womxn in community, national and global leadership. Learn more at https://www.apadivisions.org/division-35

Division 44: The 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 the annual Distinguished Contribution Awards. Learn more at https://www.apadivisions.org/division-44

public policies that advance equality and

Division 45: The 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. Thedivision promotes public welfare throughresearch and encourages professional relationships among psychologists who share these concerns and interests.
Learn more at www.division45.org

The **Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS)** advocates for science at the federal level, educates policymakers andthe public about science, and provides awealth of informational resources for scientists who are interested in learning more about how to become advocates.

FABBS publishes the peer-- reviewed journal *Policy Insights from the Behavioral and Brain Sciences (PIBBS)*, hosts webinars and public lectures, and shares teaching resources on its website. https://fabbs.org/

The **Scholars Strategy Network** is dedicated to connecting journalists, policymakers, and civic leaders with America's top researchers to improve policy and strengthen democracy. (They also provide training on op-- ed writing.) https://scholars.org/

The **Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)** is a nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes 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. Learn more at www.cossa.org

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Washington Center for Equitable Growth (Graduate and Postgraduate)
- Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Research Scholars (Graduate)
- MDRC GSP Doctoral Fellowship
- Center for Engaged Scholarship Dissertation Fellowship

ABOUT THIS WEBINAR AND TOOLKIT SERIES

This five-- part webinar and toolkit serieson **Fostering Policy-- Relevant Psychological Research** covers five topics:

1. Why Policy? Understanding the Critical Link Between Research and Policy
2. Taking the First Steps Toward Policy-- Relevant Research
3. How Do You Make Your Research Matter to Policy Makers and Practitioners?
4. How Do You Manage Your Presence to Non-- academic Audiences if Your Research Is Relevant to Policy and Practice?
5. Creating a Policy-- Relevant Psychology: Best Practices for Research and Mentoring

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