Reflected Appraisals

Vol. 31 | Issue 1 | Mar 2026

Chair's Remarks

David Melamed

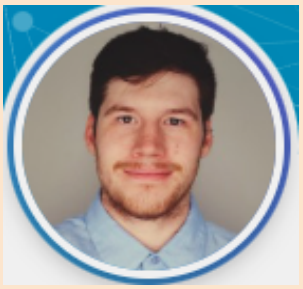
Fellow Social Psychologists,

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. Spring is in full swing here in Columbus and it is a welcome change after a harsher-than-normal winter. Spring is a time of renewed growth and perhaps optimism, despite the state of the world. I recently performed some of my organizing duties for our programming at ASA this August, and I found that to be both energizing and promising. As a sign of our vitality, my sessions received far more submissions that I could possibly accept. I am excited about the sessions I organized, and from what I have heard from the other Program Committee members, they are excited as well. I again want to thank the committee, including Malissa Alinor, Cindy Cain, Gary Alan Fine, and Susan Fisk, as well Craig Rawlings for organizing our joint session with Mathematical Sociology.

As a preview for what is to come, below you will see that Willie Jasso will be awarded the Cooley-Mead award this year. I want to congratulate Willie for winning the award. She has made many contributions to our field. Within our community, her work on justice and status processes is particularly notable, and her work has contributed to other areas of the field including methodology, particularly for her work on factorial survey methods that so many of us use, as well as to research on stratification and demography (like the Demographers, she is very good at counting, lol). I kid, but her work on exponential distributions is likely more generative than much of the work in that area. Like many of you, I look forward to her Cooley-Mead address this August. Notably, she will be introduced by another Cooley-Mead award winner, Murray Webster Jr., Willie's teacher, co-author and friend.

Editor's Remarks

Isaac Jamerson



Welcome to the spring edition of Reflected Apprisals. I am excited to be the new editor for the newsletter and hope I have helped to create an interesting one this time. I know I have big shoes to fill after Zara has left, so I will do my best to live up to the example.

In this issue we have the recent Publications by members of the Section (Page 2), then two new books being published that might be of interest (Page 3). We then have Remarks from SPQ (Page 5) and news about the newest Cooley-Mead Winner (Page 6), ending with section leadership (Page 7).

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Send News to Isaac Jamerson ijamerso@charlotte.edu

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Section Member Recent Publications

Feltham, E., Forastiere, L., & Christakis, N. A. (2025). Cognitive Representations of Social Networks in Isolated Villages. Nature Human Behaviour. doi:10.1038/s41562-025-02221-6.

Khalilian, M., Bardo, A. R., Reardon, C. M., Kostelic, A., Thiel, S., & Krause, R. W. (2026). Closing the loop: Design, implementation, and evaluation of a regular-feedback network intervention for social connectedness and mental health. Social Networks, 86, 88-103. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2026.02.002

Rekenthaler, N. (2026). Looking for Myself: A Qualitative Study of Choice Homophily in Psychotherapy. Social Psychology Quarterly, 0(0). https://doi.org/10.1177/01902725261418324

Melin, Julia L., Tiantian Yang, and Sofoklis Goulas. 2026. "With a Little Help from My (Girl) Friends: Field Evidence on Gender Homophily and Women's Training Outcomes in Remote Environments." Organization Science. https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/full/10.1287/orsc.2025.20602

Call for Nominations:
Graduate Student Paper Award: due March 15

New Books

Abril, J.C. (2026) "A Theory of the Culture of Crime: A Case Study of One Native American Indian Family" KDP

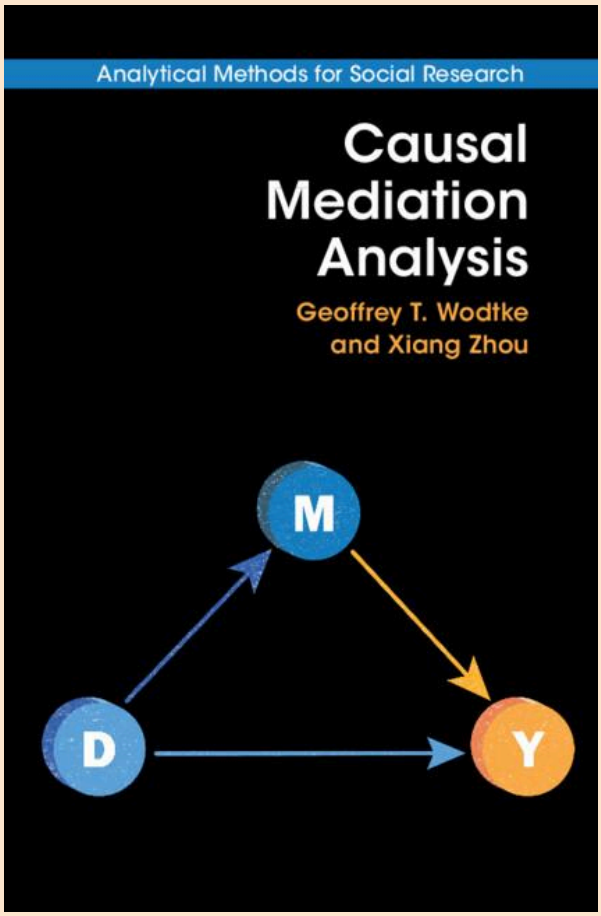
A *Theory of the Culture of Crime* is a theoretical summation of the work first published in Bad Spirits (2008) and, within Yaqui Woman (2024). A Theory of the Culture of Crime examines and discusses the family home environment that contributed to seven different generations of violent criminal careers and, thus, was foundational to the intergenerational transmission of violence and psychopathology within this single family. The American Indian family highlighted here is discussed from an anthro-criminological framework to better facilitate development of measures for use in identification of families for social assistance. The development of culture-specific prophylactic measures to intercede in future psychopathology within other similarly-situated families is the primary goal of this work. Bad Spirits is held by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries and Archives National Museum of the American Indian, as an auto-biographical account of violence and victimization common in 20th century American Indian life, a significant problem continuing into the 21st century.

This book is a description of and a proposed theoretical basis for the CULTURE OF CRIME. While much literature reports on the role and relevance of males to criminal careers, the role and relevance of females is less well-discussed, if at all. This book is a proposal to fill that gap in scientific knowledge on the etiology of the CULTURE OF CRIME. In furtherance of this goal, the nuclear family is refocused as a sub-component of society - out of which a CULTURE OF CRIME develops and is fostered from one generation to another - a cultural system that facilitates, fosters, and perpetuates intimate family and intergenerational violence. Various pillars of the CULTURE OF CRIME are delineated, and how these were taught and integrated into behavioral expectations (a parenting ethos) for each member of this family unit, the subculture. Further research directions are offered to better refine the emerging field of cultural criminology to include the substantive content of culture - the specific values, identities, and practices - that influence criminal behavioral norm acquisition and criminal career maintenance.

New Books

Wodtke, Geoffrey T. and Xiang Zhou. 2026. Causal Mediation Analysis. Cambridge University Press.

This book offers a comprehensive yet accessible guide to causal mediation analysis for social scientists. It explores why an exposure affects an outcome by quantifying the processes and mechanisms through which a causal effect operates. Covering everything from traditional methods through machine learning techniques and experimental designs for analyzing mediation, the authors make these methods broadly accessible through clear explanations, practical examples, and the inclusion of extensive Stata and R code, allowing readers to replicate all the empirical illustrations and apply the methods directly to their own data. Rich in examples from across the social sciences, including sociology, psychology, political science, and economics, the authors demonstrate the application of cutting-edge methods to real-world empirical research, providing practical tools and examples for rigorous empirical research across disciplines. The release of the book is accompanied by an extensive suite of software. The cmed module for Stata and the cmedR package for R enable users to estimate natural, controlled, interventional, and path-specific effects using a range of approaches, including regression, weighting, simulation, multiply robust methods, and debiased machine learning. These resources, along with additional materials, are available at the book's website: https://causalmedanalysis.github.io/.



Remarks from Social Psychology Quarterly

By Joseph Dippong and Lisa Slattery Walker

Hello again from Lisa and Joseph! We're happy to report that things at SPQ are moving along pretty much as smoothly as we could possibly hope! We continue to receive a number of excellent manuscripts, from both Social Psychology section members and beyond the section. Our deputy editors (Amanda Gengler and David Schaeffer) and editorial board members continue to provide amazing help and support. And, of course, we are always grateful for the contributions of the many, many reviewers we rely on to help guide our decisions and who keep the pages of SPQ filled with some of the most theoretically and methodologically innovative research happening within the field of social psychology.

In case you have not yet heard, we recently announced an upcoming special issue of SPQ focusing broadly on the social psychology of status. Will Kalkhoff, Shane Thye, and Zara Jillani will be guest editing the special issue, and we can't wait to see how that issue shapes up–we expect great things! For those interested in contributing to the special issue, manuscripts are due by December 15, 2026. When you submit your manuscript in Scholar One, please make sure that you indicate that your paper is a candidate for the special issue (there is a dropdown box to indicate this). We anticipate that the special issue on social status will appear in print in the latter half of 2027, which conveniently aligns with the fiftieth anniversary of the release of Berger et al's groundbreaking 1977 volume on status characteristics and expectation states. That being said, the special issue is open to social psychologists of all persuasions, and all approaches to studying and theorizing about social status are welcome!

And in one other bit of good news (at least we think so), the ASA publications committee has recently invited us to extend our term as editors, and we accepted. As such, we will remain at the helm until December 2029. We are grateful for this vote of confidence from the publications committee, and we look forward to continuing to serve!

The March 2026 issue should be hitting your mailboxes soon, and we have a number of great articles this time around:

- "What Are the Channels of Equality of Opportunity Perceptions in Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom?" by Alexi Gugushvili and Arno Van Hootegem
- "Looking for Myself: A Qualitative Study of Choice Homophily in Psychotherapy" by Nick Rekenthaler
- "Framing Effects in Informal Communication Networks and the Problem of Embeddedness" by Fedor A. Dokshin and Sébastien Parker
- "Morbid Talk: Emotional Suffering and Local Interaction Order During the Contemporary Youth Mental Health Crisis" by Jienian Zhang
- "The Impact of Differing Identity Meanings on Fears of Death" by Justin Huft

As always, thank you all for making SPQ such an outstanding journal!

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Announcing the 2026 Cooley Mead Award Winner

The Cooley Mead Award Committee (Joseph Dippong, Richard Serpe, Jessica Collett, Joshua Doyle, and Kim Rogers) is excited to announce that we have selected Willie Jasso (New York University) as this year's recipient! Although we received multiple nominations, the committee was exceptionally impressed by those we received for Willie. As one nomination letter noted, "Professor Jasso has been a profoundly influential scholar in sociological social psychology, as well as in other fields (e.g., mathematical sociology, stratification/inequalities, and demography). She is nationally and internationally recognized for her transformational scholarship on distributive justice and comparison processes—scholarship that beautifully demonstrates the power of merging core theoretical insights with mathematical models." Other letters noted her years of dedication and service to the Social Psychology Section and her decades committed to mentoring young scholars. Please join the committee in congratulating Dr. Jasso! We look forward to hearing her Cooley Mead address this August, quite fittingly in New York!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
Submission deadline: Friday, 1 May 2026 at 11:59 PM (Pacific)

The 38th Annual Group Processes mini-conference will be held in conjunction with the 2026 American Sociological Association meetings in New York on Thursday, August 6th. This one-day conference brings together researchers from multiple disciplines to present theoretically grounded and empirically rigorous research on the relationship between small group dynamics and macro structural realities. The event provides researchers with the opportunity to hear and present cutting-edge research on group processes in a discussion-oriented, expert audience setting.

We encourage submissions on all topics relevant to group processes. We ask for an extended abstract (approximately 500 words), listing all coauthors and affiliations, and indicating the desired submission type (research presentation, flash presentation, or roundtable submission). To submit an abstract, please send an email to groupprocesses2026@gmail.com. Abstracts may be included as an attachment or pasted directly into the body of the email.

In the coming weeks, we will share additional information, including links to the conference website and registration form. In the meantime, please contact Bianca Manago with any questions: bianca.manago@vanderbilt.edu.

We look forward to seeing you all in New York!

Bianca and Jenny

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