

YEAR — IN — REVIEW — 2012 —

2012 was a great year for psychological science. In May, more than 4,000 researchers from around the globe gathered in Chicago to make the 24th APS Annual Convention the biggest ever. In September, *Clinical Psychological Science* — APS's newest journal — published its first article online. APS's established journals are thriving, too, and many studies and Members have been the subject of considerable media coverage this year. But to make sure that psychological research is not only interesting to the public but also accountable to science, APS has led the way in encouraging funding agencies and leading researchers to support transparency and replication.

APS also continued its efforts to "give psychological science away." More than 2,000 people have signed up to participate in the APS Wikipedia Initiative, including many university students, who are writing and editing Wikipedia articles as part of their coursework. APS's Twitter and Facebook followings are at an all-time high, and writer-in-residence Wray Herbert continues to share psychological science with a wide audience through his popular blogs, "We're Only Human" and "Full Frontal Psychology."

It would be impossible to acknowledge all the progress that APS Members made this year, but we hope that you enjoy this review of psychological science in 2012.

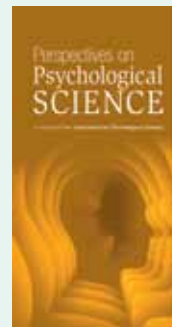
Journals

Most Read Articles in 2012



Psychological Science: **“Bright Minds and Dark Attitudes: Lower Cognitive Ability Predicts Greater Prejudice Through Right-Wing Ideology and Low Intergroup Contact”** by Gordon Hodson, and Michael A. Busseri. (February 2012; 23, 187-195)

56,109
downloads



Perspectives on Psychological Science: **“A Review of Facebook Research in the Social Sciences”** by Robert E. Wilson, Samuel D. Gosling, and Lindsay T. Graham. (May 2012; 7, 203-220)

3,432
downloads



Psychological Science in the Public Interest: **“Online Dating: A Critical Analysis From the Perspective of Psychological Science”** by Eli J. Finkel, Paul W. Eastwick, Benjamin R. Karney, Harry T. Reis, Susan Sprecher. (January 2012; 13, 3-66)

12,154
downloads

The report card is in, and the online dating industry won't be putting this one on the fridge. A 2012 scientific report concludes that although online dating offers users some very real benefits, it falls far short of its potential.

Unheard of just 20 years ago, online dating is now a billion-dollar industry and one of the most common ways for singles to meet potential partners. Many websites claim that they can help you find your “soulmate.” But do these online dating services live up to all the hype? Not exactly, according to *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*.



Current Directions in Psychological Science: **“Current Issues and Advances in Misinformation Research”** by Steven J. Frenda, Rebecca M. Nichols, and Elizabeth F. Loftus. (February 2011; 20, 20-23)

430
downloads

BUILDING A BETTER PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Psychological science has come of age. But the rights of a mature discipline carry with them the responsibility to maximize confidence in our findings while simultaneously ensuring that funding sources and publication outlets support best practices. This year, APS has taken meaningful action to address these challenges, including convening discussions with funding agencies and leading scientists, proposing changes to the journal *Psychological Science* that will encourage transparency and replication, and publishing an issue of *Perspectives on Psychological Science* (November 2012) with special sections on replicability and research practices, in which distinguished scientists discuss at length the topic of replication and its importance and implications for our field. In addition, we are bringing together luminaries from a variety of subdisciplines in psychological science to take part in an extended theme program at the 25th APS Annual Convention in May 2013, "Building a Better Psychological Science," which will continue the important conversation on replicability.

86
citations



Psychological Science: **"Fitness Effects on the Cognitive Function of Older Adults: A Meta-Analytic Study"** by Stanley Colcombe and Arthur F. Kramer. (March 2013; 14, 125-130)



55
citations



Current Directions in Psychological Science: **"Working Memory Capacity as Executive Attention"** by Randall W. Engle. (February 2012; 11, 19-23)

**Most Cited
Articles
in 2012**

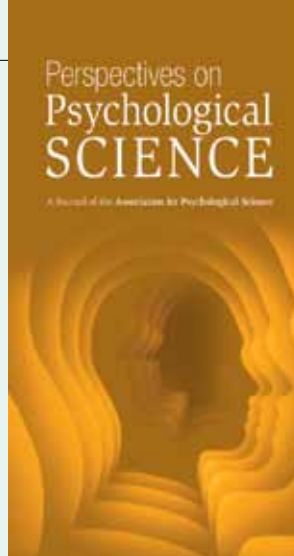


Perspectives on Psychological Science: **"Rethinking Rumination"** by Susan Nolen-Hoeksema, Blair E. Wisco, and Sonja Lyubomirsky. (September 2012; 3, 400-424)

82
citations

Our "Rising Star" Journal

In 2012, *Perspectives on Psychological Science* was named a Rising Star journal by Thomson Reuters for its impressive growth in citations. Driving the journal's popularity have been special sections on



YEAR IN REVIEW

**OVER
2,000
CITATIONS
OF 227 PAPERS
BETWEEN ITS FOUNDING
IN 2006 AND
FEBRUARY 29, 2012**

Sizes of Our Science (January 2012) includes discussion of the file-drawer problem as well as examinations of short reports in psychological science and the effects of journal Impact Factors.

Eyewitness Testimony (May 2012) features an article by Steven E. Clark on the costs and benefits of eyewitness testimony reform, along with four commentaries.

Political Diversity in Academic Psychology (September 2012) looks at how political ideologies are represented in the field of psychological science and especially whether (and why) conservatives are underrepresented and actively discriminated against.

Replicability in Psychological Science and Research Practices (November 2012) presents a range of views, analyses, and suggestions to address the complex challenges facing the field.

These special sections are bolstered by a lively mix of accessible, integrative articles that provide "one-stop shopping" to read about important issues across a wide range of psychological science's subdisciplines.





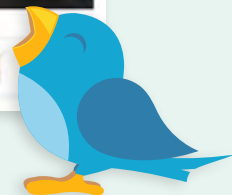
Psychological Science in the Public Interest

PSPI continued its track record of providing comprehensive state-of-the-science reviews on a wide range of topics in 2012

The Science of Training and Development in Organizations: What Matters in Practice (Vol. 13, No. 2)

Online Dating: A Critical Analysis From the Perspective of Psychological Science (Vol. 13, No. 1)

Misinformation and Its Correction: Continued Influence and Successful Debiasing (Vol. 13, No. 3)



ADVANCING MODERN CLINICAL SCIENCE

This year saw the launch of APS's ground-breaking new journal, *Clinical Psychological Science*, which both reflects and supports the modern era of clinical science in psychology. Under the leadership of Alan E. Kazdin, Yale University, and a distinguished team of associate editors — Tyrone D. Cannon, Yale University; Emily A. Holmes, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge, UK; Jill M. Hooley, Harvard University; and Kenneth J. Sher, University of Missouri — the journal began taking submissions in April and published its first articles online in September for the inaugural January 2013 issue. In October, the journal reached 100 submissions.



Psychological Science

Eric Eich began his term as editor of *Psychological Science* on January 1, 2012, enabling Editor Robert V. Kail to take a well-earned break after 5 years of soaring submissions. The changing of the guard went smoothly, and the first papers accepted by Eich and his new editorial team were published this past fall.

*In February 2012, Psychological Science content was downloaded an average of every **3.74** seconds 24/7 for the entire month!*

2012

APSWI

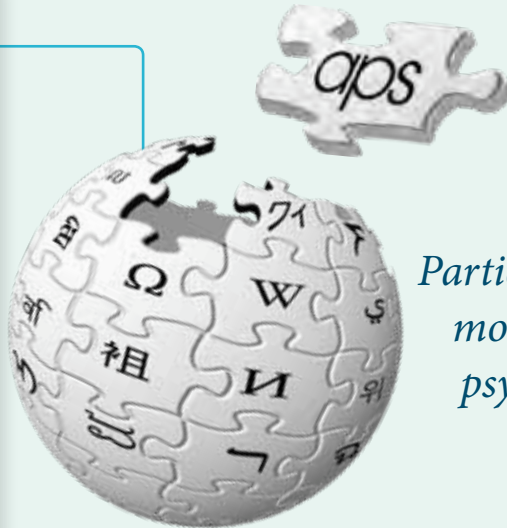
More than **2,000** psychological scientists have signed up to participate in the APS Wikipedia Initiative.

The APS Wikipedia Initiative supports the Association's mission to deploy the power of Wikipedia to represent scientific psychology as fully and as accurately as possible and thereby to promote the free teaching of psychology worldwide. Psychological scientists are improving Wikipedia articles as volunteer editors and raters as well as using Wikipedia articles as classroom writing assignments. www.psychologicalscience.org/apswi

Paula Marentette, University of Alberta-Augustana, Canada, used Wikipedia entries on vocabulary development and joint attention for writing assignments in her Language Acquisition senior seminar. Her students' work elevated those entries to "Good Article" status, one of Wikipedia's highest article rankings. Those two articles are among only 30 psychology-related entries ranked as "Good Articles" in Wikipedia.

Wikipedia writing assignments go beyond the goals of a typical writing assignment and have the potential to reach a wider audience. The vocabulary development entry alone was viewed nearly 14,500 times in a recent 90-day period.

"Writing for the public shifted [the students'] thoughts to their responsibility to potential readers, something they took very seriously. It helped them understand the privilege they have to access a wide range of information in academic libraries and the skill they have developed to be able to understand and interpret academic writing," Marentette said.



Participants have edited more than **1,600** psychology articles.

Postdoc Exchange

"I'm really glad I posted the ad on this website. It broadened the pool of applicants, and it did so quickly."

-Jean-François Bonnefon
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Toulouse, France

APS POSTDOC EXCHANGE

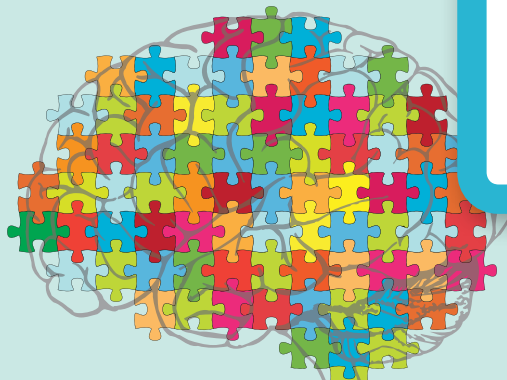
Since the Postdoc Exchange opened in August 2011, nearly **400** postdoc positions have been posted.

Blogging Psychological Science

Full Frontal PSYCHOLOGY

More than **55**
columns in *The Huffington Post*

We're Only Human



One of the ways that APS promotes psychological science, and the association's journals, is through its blogs. Wray Herbert, writer-in-residence, launched the "We're Only Human" blog in early 2006 and later added the "Full Frontal Psychology" blog. The idea was to attract readers to the APS website and improve the public understanding of psychological science, and to that end, each of these blogs has also been published on popular media websites to reach broader audiences. "Full Frontal Psychology" appeared on the *True/Slant* blogging network, which was later acquired by *Forbes* magazine. "We're Only Human" first ran on the *Newsweek* website, where it remained for 3 years until that news magazine was sold and reorganized. Since 2007, "We're Only Human" has appeared as a regular feature in the print and online editions of *Scientific American Mind*, where it reaches an audience of dedicated psychological science readers. It also appears regularly in the science page of *The Huffington Post*, one of the most popular media outlets on the Web.

"We're Only Human" first ran in *The Huffington Post* in March of 2010, and since that time it has appeared more than once a week on average. In the first 10 months of 2012 alone, more than 55 posts have appeared in *The Huffington Post*. The goal of these short write-ups is to connect psychological research to people's real lives, and these posts have run the gamut from personal finance and retirement to the obesity epidemic and junk food cravings to race and election-year politics.

We're Only Human

MAKING TIME STAND STILL. AWESOME.

Posts from APS writer-in-residence Wray Herbert appear regularly in *The Huffington Post* and *Scientific American Mind*. The following article was originally posted in his blog "We're Only Human" on January 26, 2012.

Check out this photograph. That's aurora borealis, or the northern lights, as seen from the upper regions of Norway earlier this week. This spectacular display was fueled by one of the most potent solar storms in a decade. One can only imagine what it must have been like to actually witness this event. It must have been truly awesome.

I know. I know. *Awesome* is a tired, overused word these days, when everything from breakfast to a pair of sneakers can be described as awesome. Awesome is no longer connected to awe, that rare and overwhelming emotion inspired by vast and moving events. Sneakers aren't life-altering, but awe-inspiring events and vistas and personal experiences really can alter the way we think about the world. We need to put the *awe* back in *awesome*.

Psychological scientists think so, too, and indeed there has been burgeoning interest in this powerful but neglected emotion. One team of scientists — Melanie Rudd and Jennifer Aaker of Stanford and Kathleen Vohs of Minnesota — have come to believe that experiencing awe may have all sorts of tonic effects, including a better sense of perspective on time and priorities, more patience and charity toward others, and generally more satisfaction with life.

It all has to do with time perception, these scientists believe. Modern life is plagued by what's been called "time famine" — the sense that we have way too much to do and way too little time to do it. Everyone seems to feel this sometimes overwhelming sense of having too few minutes, hours, and days — and it leads to all sorts of untoward consequences. Perceived time scarcity has been shown to disrupt sleep, to sap our self-discipline and ability to delay rewards. It undermines health, leading to more fast food consumption and skipped medical exams. Rationing out our precious time leads inevitably to self-centered disregard for others. The list goes on.

These scientists were wondering if there might be a way to shift this common misperception of time — and counter these damaging consequences. The fact is, most of us do have enough time, but it's maddeningly difficult to keep perspective on this. These scientists suspected that stopping time — somehow keeping people in the moment — might alter overall perceptions of time scarcity. And how do we go about stopping or expanding time? With jaw-dropping, awe-inspiring experiences.



At least that's their theory, which they tested in a series of experiments. All of the experiments were basically the same, with slight variations to explore different nuances of the idea. Each used an experimental manipulation to prime some volunteers' sense of awe; they watched, wrote or read about an awe-inspiring experience, while others focused on neutral or merely happy (but not awe-inspiring) events. Then afterward, the volunteers

answered questions about their perceptions of time: Is time plentiful? Is it slipping away? Am I pressed for time? The idea was, first, to establish the link between awe and time perception. And indeed, those who were primed to feel awe — those volunteers also saw time as much more expansive, less constricted. They felt free of time's pressure.

And what were the downstream results of this new time perspective? There were several, which the scientists describe in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Psychological Science*: Those who felt they had more available time were less impatient; they were more willing to volunteer their time to help others; and they were less materialistic, preferring new experiences like a Broadway show over new goods, like a watch. Overall, the awe-inspired volunteers were much more satisfied with their lives.

Importantly, the scientists ran the experiments in a way that verified the order of psychological events: That is, experiencing awe diminished time pressure in the volunteers' minds (not the other way around), and this freedom from time's constraints in turn triggered the other positive outcomes. It's notable that the awe-inspired volunteers became more likely to volunteer, but not more likely to donate cash — underscoring the importance of time perception in these changes.

Awe-inspiring experiences do not need to be as cosmic as the northern lights. The birth of a child can stop time in its tracks, as any parent can attest, as can listening to a beautiful symphony. And even smaller things: As these studies demonstrate, even exposure to brief video images and stories and short walks down memory lane can help us right-size our sense of time and life. We can't order up awesome experiences on demand — at least not the heavenly kind — but we can stay mindful of such common opportunities for awe, which might alter the pervasive time-starved perspective that is distorting our modern sensibilities in so many unhealthy ways.

News



Belfast Telegraph

“Why Police Officers Can Forget,”

March 13, 2012

During 2012, advances in psychological science made the news — a lot. From research on foreign languages and time perception to facial expressions and awe, dozens of media outlets in the US and around the globe reported on studies published in APS journals. The media coverage of four *Psychological Science* studies is highlighted below.



“Witness in Action: The Effect of Physical Exertion on Recall and Recognition” by Lorraine Hope, William Lewinski, Justin Dixon, David Blocksidge, and Fiona Gabbert. (April 2012; 23, 386-390)



“El Cansancio y Los Encuentros Agresivos Afectan la Memoria de los Policías (Tiredness and Aggressive Encounters Affect Police Officers’ Memory),” March 25, 2012

Irish Independent

Ireland’s National Quality Daily.

“Memory Hit by Physical Exertion,”

March 14, 2012



Smithsonian

“How Well Do We Really Remember a Crime Scene?”

March 15, 2012

WIRED

“Thinking in a Foreign Language Makes Decisions More Rational,” April 24, 2012

“The Foreign-Language Effect: Thinking in a Foreign Tongue Reduces Decision Biases” by Boaz Keysar, Sayuri L. Hayakawa, and Sun Gyu An. (June 2012; 23, 661-668)



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

“How Knowing a Foreign Language Can Improve Your Decisions,” July 3, 2012

The Economist

“Foreign Languages and Thinking: Oprima Dos for Better Cognition,” May 8, 2012





"Awe Expands People's Perception of Time, Alters Decision Making, and Enhances Well-Being" by Melanie Rudd, Kathleen D. Vohs, and Jennifer Aaker. (October 2012; 23, 1130-1136)

the Atlantic

"Study: Awe-Inspiring Experiences Change Our Perception of Time," July 23, 2012

The Sydney Morning Herald

"Awe Therapy 'Could Make Us Nicer'," July 23, 2012

The Telegraph

"Jaw-Dropping Moments Really Do Make Time Appear to Stand Still," July 22, 2012



"Pressed for Time? Take a Moment to Feel Awe," July 23, 2012

17,000 Followers



+7,000 Followers since December 2011



"Grin and Bear It: Smiling May Reduce Stress," August 10, 2012



"Si Vous Vous Sentez Stressé, Souriez! (If You Feel Stressed, Smile)," August 3, 2012

"Grin and Bear It: The Influence of Manipulated Facial Expressions on the Stress Response" by Tara L. Kraft and Sarah D. Pressman. (November 2012; 23, 1372-1378)



"Smiling May Reduce Stress Levels," July 30, 2012



"To Avoid Stupid Mistakes, Think in French," April 25, 2012

9,840 Followers



+3,640 Followers since December 2011



CBCtelevision

"What's Your Default Facial Expression," August 1, 2012

Convention

**BIGGEST
CONVENTION
EVER**
MORE THAN
4,000
ATTENDEES



With more than 4,000 attendees, this year's convention was our biggest ever. Even **Albert Bandura's** famous Bobo doll made an appearance at the 24th APS Annual Convention in Chicago, where scientists shared their research, networked, and jammed out at a special concert.

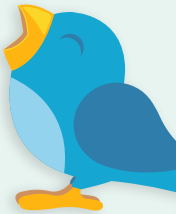


APS @PsychScience

Bobo is coming to convention! bit.ly/wFhVcr #aps2012

Expand

18 M



Margaret Beale Spencer argued that diversity in researchers and research methodologies can truly reflect diverse communities at the 2012 Presidential Symposium: "Who Owns Science? Scientists From Diverse Perspectives Answer."



Inside the Psychologist's Studio with Brenda Milner

Brenda Milner, a pioneer of memory and language science, sat down with **Carol A. Tavris** for an "Inside the Psychologist's Studio" interview.

Watch the full interview: www.psychologicalscience.org/Milner-ITPS



Breakthroughs for Trauma Survivors

Dirk Helbing thinks outside the box during the Disaster, Response, and Recovery theme program at the 24th APS Annual Convention. As psychological scientists' understanding of traumatic events improves, so might the psychological outcomes of people who endure trauma.

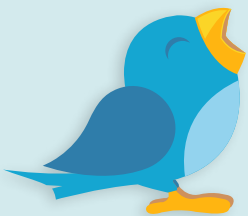


Victor Wooten @VictorWooten

26 May

I'm speaking on a panel with Dan Levitin at the APS convention in Chicago. Lots of smart people and me. I'm honored.

Expand



Researchers and Rock Stars Jam All Night Long

For one night, Sheraton Ballroom V turned into a swinging club featuring the musical talents of five-time Grammy Award-winning bassist **Victor Wooten** (right) and a band made up of professional musicians and musically gifted psychological scientists, including **Daniel J. Levitin** (left; McGill University), **Robert W. Levenson** (University of California, Berkeley), **Bianca Levy** (McGill University), and award-winning musicians **Dale Boyle** and **Kevin Feyen**.

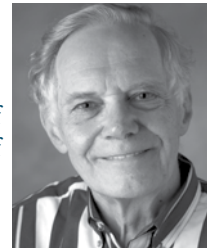
In Memoriam

No year, however successful, is without grief. Let us pause to remember lost colleagues. Here, in brief, are some of the greatest among greats. Although their passing diminishes our science, their lives enriched it far more. Please look for full remembrances in the *Observer*.



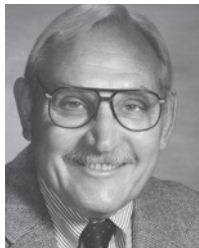
National Medal of Science winner and APS William James Fellow **George A. Miller** was a pioneer of cognitive psychology. Miller delivered the Keynote Address at the first APS Annual Convention in 1989 and was a leader in the study of short-term memory and linguistics, demonstrating that short-term memory is subject to certain limits (Remembrance, October 2012 *Observer*).

APS Fellow **Ulric Neisser**, the “father of cognitive psychology,” was instrumental in demonstrating that memory is a reconstruction of the past, not an accurate snapshot of it. Neisser was the Susan Linn Sage Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, at Cornell University (Remembrance, May/June 2012 *Observer*).



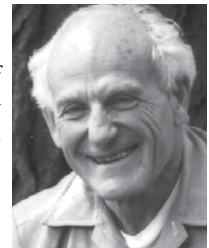
APS William James Fellow **R. Duncan Luce** was an APS Board Member, who received the National Medal of Science in 2003. Luce was the Distinguished Research Professor of Cognitive Science and Research Professor of Economics at the University of California, Irvine. He was an eminent figure in the field of mathematical psychology.

APS William James Fellow **Edward E. Smith** served on the APS Board of Directors from 2009 through 2012. Smith’s research focused on working memory, cognitive control, and the cognitive symptoms of psychiatric disorders. He was the William B. Ransford Professor of Psychology at Columbia University and the Director of the Division of Cognitive Neuroscience at the New York State Psychiatric Institute.



APS James McKeen Cattell Fellow **Robert Glaser** was an educational psychologist and Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. His work on standardized testing influenced the US government’s strategies for evaluating student learning by state.

APS Fellow **Herbert L. Pick, Jr.**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota’s Institute of Child Development, was a pioneer in the study of spatial cognition — that is, how children and adults learn and make judgments about space.



APS Fellow **Alice M. Isen** studied how affect — especially happiness — influences cognitive process and social interaction. She was a professor of psychology and S. C. Johnson Professor of Marketing at Cornell University.