

Economic Sociology Section Activities, 2006-2007

By Lisa A. Keister, Section Chair, October 13, 2007

The Economic Sociology Section had another active, productive year that was largely oriented around the annual ASA meetings held in New York City. The section also produced multiple issues of our newsletter (*Accounts*, see attached files), and we awarded two section prizes to recognize the excellent scholarship of our graduate students and regular members. The graduate student prize is awarded for a paper, and the award for a regular member is a best publication award that alternates each year between books and articles.

In New York, the section sponsored five sessions on a range of topics. Peter Levin from Barnard College organized twenty roundtable sessions. Rebecca Jean Emigh from UCLs organized an open submission session on history and economic sociology. Sarah Babb of Boston College organized a session on new directions in the economic sociology of development. The section sponsored two other open submission sessions: Mark Suchman (Cornell University Law School) organized a session on law and society, and Gret Krippner (University of Michigan) organized a session on the sociology of financial markets. Finally Viviana Zelizer from Princeton University arranged an invited panel who discussed issues related to culture and markets. These sessions were all very well attended.

Our meeting minutes (see below) demonstrate that there is continued enthusiasm and interest among section members. At the business meeting we also presented our two sections prizes (the details are also below in the meeting minutes).

This year, we have moved the publication of our newsletter, *Accounts*, to Duke University. At the annual business meeting, we thanked the outgoing newsletter editors from Cornell University and wished them well as they move on to new ventures including faculty positions and other activities. This autumn, the first issue from the newsletter's new location is scheduled to be published in October.

We will continue to use the same nominations procedures for electing new officers. Mary Blair-Loy is chairing this year's nominations committee. That committee will select candidates for all offices.

After many years of dramatic growth, the size of the section appears to be leveling off with a current membership that puts economic sociology among the top 3rd of ASA sections. The slowdown in growth was to be expected and has occasioned no particular worries or concerns among the membership. The final membership count before the meeting was 753 up from 717 the year before.

The following sessions are planned for the 2008 ASA as part of the sessions allocated to economic sociology section.

1. Gendering Economic Sociology: Expanding the Field's Scope and Analytic Frameworks

(OPEN SUBMISSION, Joint session with Gender section)

Organizer:

Leslie Salzinger

Gender and Women's Studies

University of California at Berkeley

2. Networks and Institutions

(INVITED PANELISTS)

Organizers:

Jason Owen-Smith

Department of Sociology

University of Michigan

Walter W. Powell

Department of Sociology

Stanford University

3. Sociology and Economics: Boundaries, Debates, and Progress

(INVITED PANELISTS)

Organizers:

Jason Beckfield

Department of Sociology

Harvard University

Roberto Fernandez

Sloan School of Management

MIT

4. The Sociology of Credit

(INVITED PANELISTS)

Organizer:

Akos Rona-tas

Department of Sociology

University of California, San Diego

These sessions promise to continue our tradition of offering lively sessions with broad appeal on topics that have contemporary theoretical and practical significance. The sessions also have the potential to attract interest from across the discipline. The session that we plan to co-sponsor with gender, for example will explore the ways that a gendered analysis expands the field of economic sociology. The session on networks and institutions is an example of a session that will highlight ideas that are attracting

considerable attention currently. Networks and institutions mutually shape one another, and over time, this co-evolutionary process creates, sustains, and transforms social worlds. This session will invite panelists who are exploring these issues in a range of contexts. Finally, the sessions will have international focus, consistent with one of our long-term objectives for the section. For instance, the session on credit will highlight the international significance of credit in economic life. In recent decades, credit markets have gone through major transformations, and this session will explore many of those including the rapid growth of retail loans, the formalization of corporate and consumer lending decisions, and the securitization of debt.

Minutes from Economic Sociology Council Meeting
August 14, 2007

Meeting convened in the Hilton New York, New York City, at 10:30 AM

In attendance:

Bruce Carruthers (outgoing Chair)
Lisa Keister (incoming Chair)
Mark Mizruchi (Chair-elect)
Mark Suchman (outgoing secretary-treasurer)
Section Council: Frank Dobbin; Ezra Zuckerman; Mary Blair-Loy; Marion
Fourcade; Kieran Healey

Welcome:

Bruce Carruthers welcomed the Council and reported that the section is in good shape. Bruce introduced the officers, incoming and outgoing. He thanked each person for their service and emphasized the importance of members participating in activities such as council to the vibrancy of the section.

Membership and budget:

Bruce Carruthers provided an overview of the section's membership and budget. He explained that membership is healthy and growing. We have 753 members – up from 717 at the end of the previous year – and this qualified us for 4 sessions at the annual meeting. We also received a bonus session because we were slated on the last day. If membership stays roughly the same for the next year, we will be entitled to 4 sessions at next year's meeting in Boston. However, if we grow more than 800 members, we will have 5 sessions.

The council then discussed ways to encourage colleagues and students to join the section, including encouraging students to join after they complete their qualifying exams.

Bruce Carruthers also reported that the section's budget is healthy and suggested that we might consider using some funds to enhance our presence at next year's meeting. The section treasurer, Mark Suchman, was unable to be present at the council meeting.

The council discussed how to continue to internationalize the section. The NYC location helped attract international participants. We discussed ways to continue moving in that direction. Boston will be a good draw for international sociologists as well, but we might want to keep this in mind as a potential issue when we meet in other cities that do not attract people from abroad.

New Business:

Mary Blair-Loy reported on selecting the winners of the student paper and commented that there were quite a few high quality submissions. We also selected chairs for next year's committees. Mary will run the nominations committee, Kieran Healy will run the student paper award committee, and Marion Fourcade will run the regular member award committee.

We discussed possible ideas for sessions for next year's annual meeting, including a session drawing on local economists. We also discussed the possibility of hosting an off-site reception next year, and Frank Dobbin and Ezra Zuckerman agreed to look into possible venues.

Finally, we discussed the use of the section listserv for forwarding job announcements. Because some members are enthusiastic about receiving the messages, it is difficult to discontinue them. We agreed to let the incoming chair decide on a policy but suggested at least using a flag in the email subject to allow filtering.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 11:25, for the start of the Business Meeting

Minutes from Economic Sociology Business Meeting
August 14, 2007

Meeting convened in the Hilton New York, New York City, at 11:30 AM

In attendance:

Bruce Carruthers (Chair)
Lisa Keister (Chair-elect)
Mark Mizruchi (Chair-elect, 2008)
Mark Suchman (outgoing secretary-treasurer)
Section Council: Frank Dobbin; Ezra Zuckerman; Mary Blair-Loy; Marion
Fourcade

53 additional section members

Bruce Carruthers opened the meeting with introductions of the outgoing and incoming officers including:

- Lisa Keister incoming chair
- Mark Mizruchi chair-elect
- Mark Suchman secy/treas
- Paula England (nominations committee)
- Session organizers
- Prize committees (Mary Blair-Loy, Ezra Zuckerman)

Mary Blair-Loy awarded the Zelizer Prize. Woody Powell (Stanford University), Doug White (University of California, Irvine), and Jason Owen-Smith (University of Michigan) received the Zelizer award for their 2005 American Journal of Sociology article "Network Dynamics and Field Evolution: The Growth of Interorganization Collaboration in the Life Sciences (110: 1132-1205).

Ezra Zuckerman and Laura Miller then presented the student awards. Rene Almeling (University of California, Los Angeles) won the award for "Selling Genes, Selling Gender: Egg Agencies, Sperm Banks, and the Medical Market in Genetic Material," and Eunmi Mun (Harvard University) won for "Sex Segregation and Social Closure: Evidence from Japan."

Lisa Keister thanked the outgoing newsletter editors for the service to the section. Nicolás Eilbau, Kyle Siler, Min-Dong Paul Lee, and Chris Yenkey edited the newsletter for three years and will be followed by Ryan Denniston and a team of graduate students at Duke.

Bruce Carruthers provided an overview of the section's membership and budget. He explained that membership is healthy and growing. We have 753 members – up from 717 at the end of the previous year – and this qualified us for 4 sessions at the annual meeting. We also received a bonus session because we were slated on the last day. If membership stays roughly the same for the next year, we will be entitled to 4 sessions at next year's meeting in Boston. However, if we grow more than 800 members, we will have 5 sessions.

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Bruce opened the floor for comments.

- Mark Suchman reminded the section that he a group of researchers, including Chris Yenkey, Greta Grippner, Rachel Dwyer, Dan Steward, and Solon Simmons, are conducting a survey of economic sociology. He thanked members for participating and asked for their cooperation with future requests.
- Sarah Busse suggested that we host a mini-conference before the annual meeting next year. Lisa Keister agreed to look into it.
- Sarah Busse requested that we create an unmoderated email list. Lisa Keister reminded the section that we have such a list and agreed to send a reminder.
- Chris Yenkey suggested that the European Newsletter on Economic Sociology has excellent content including great international content. He encouraged members to subscribe through the Max Planck institute website.
- Leslie Salzinger suggested that we co-sponsor a session with gender.

With no further comments from the floor, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

| Section Budget as Encumbered | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| | | | | |
| | 2006 | | 2007 | |
| Item | Projected | Actual | Projected | Actual |
| | | | | |
| Newsletter | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| | | | | |
| Zelizer plaque | (\$125.00) | (\$125.00) | (\$50.00) | |
| Burt award | (\$500.00) | (\$500.00) | (\$500.00) | |
| Burt plaque | (\$125.00) | (\$125.00) | (\$50.00) | |
| 2005 plaque | (\$125.00) | (\$125.00) | (\$50.00) | |
| | | | | |
| Reception: | (\$800.00) | (\$700.00) | (\$900.00) | |
| | | | | |
| Total outlays | (\$1,675.00) | (\$1,575.00) | (\$1,550.00) | |
| | | | | |
| Carryover | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$773.00 | |
| ASA Allocation | \$2,000.00 | \$2,348.00 | \$2,250.00 | |
| | | | | |
| Net balance | \$325.00 | \$773.00 | \$1,473.00 | |
| | | | | |