



THE STUDENT SOCIOLOGIST

Editor's Column

By: *Karina Havrilla, ASA Minority Affairs Program*

When I first started working at ASA, I was fresh out of college and often wondered what the point of attending a professional meeting such as the ASA Annual Meeting. Three meetings later, I now see the value in them. Here are my thoughts on what you gain out of these association meetings.

When I return to my alma mater and speak to juniors and seniors about my experience in the "real world," I try to get them to understand the impor-

tance of networking. Let's face it, staying connected and getting your name out there is important. Whether you are attending a career fair or a professional meeting, it's important to talk to people who can help you get connected in your field.

Another important point I learned since working at ASA and attending the meetings is the value in attending sessions, listening to presentations, and presenting your own work. By attending sessions in your area of inter-

est, you can find other students and/or professors to work with and collaborate with. The meeting offers many workshops to help students, and professors, develop professionally.

We hope that you will be in San Francisco this August and take part in the many sessions, workshops, and other activities. For more information on the meeting, visit www.asanet.org and click on "Meetings". See you in August!

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Student Forum Sessions in San Francisco

The Student Forum Advisory Board has organized the following sessions for the 2009 ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. We hope you can join us!

"Student Forum Paper Session: Children and Mothers," Saturday, Aug. 8 2009, 10:30am, Hilton San Francisco

"Student Reception," Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009 at 6:30pm, Hilton San Francisco

"Professional Workshop: The Confident Graduate Student: Successful Strategies for Dealing with Feelings of Self-Doubt," Sunday, Aug. 9 at 8:30am, Parc 55 Hotel

"Student Forum Roundtable Session," Monday, Aug. 10 at 8:30am, Hilton San Francisco

"Student Forum Paper Session: Contending with Institutions," Monday, Aug. 10 at 4:30pm, Hilton San Francisco

The Academic Job Market 101: Job Market Strategies and Advice for Graduate Students in Sociology (Part 2)

By: Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo & Daina Cheyenne Harvey

II. Applying for Jobs:

The Talk:

You will most likely be asked to give a presentation (usually a synopsis/chapter of your dissertation or to teach a class). Ask if your department will arrange for you to give a mock job talk a few weeks before you are scheduled for your visit. You should ask ahead of time if the chair/head of the committee would prefer that you speak on a particular topic (or if you are teaching a class what topic would they want you to prepare). You should also know ahead of time the length of the talk (both how much time they intend to give you and how much time you usually take to present--i.e. by now you should know if you are one of those people who tend to go over time limits). Try not to read your talk, but you should certainly keep it in front of you on the podium (number pages, don't staple it--you would be surprised). First and foremost identify the sociological importance of the research question. Also, address multiple areas of sociology, but emphasize your particular contribution to your primary area. If you drop names that might be unfamiliar to non-specialists, be prepared to briefly describe the work. Try and stick to three main



points--too few and the talk comes across as simple and too many and the audience leaves confused. You should connect your work to the larger questions that engage sociologists. When you finish the talk make sure everyone knows that you are finished. In other words have a good ending and bring some closure to the talk (do not just end the talk by stating "that's it" or "I guess I'm done"--again you would be surprised).

If you use powerpoint or keynote, and we recommend that you do, this is not the time to try and learn how to use the software (again practice beforehand). Use a large font and do not put too much information on any one slide. Use dark slides between slides (i.e. do not leave any slide up that you are not discussing). Projectors tend to invert colors, so stick with light on dark or dark on light presentations. Detailed charts and graphs are usually illegible when projected, so make sure you have handouts of each chart and graph. Technology happens! Be prepared for something to not work or not work well. Whether this means a projector or computer, have a back up or back up plan. And save your presentation (both the

lecture and powerpoint/keynote) to your website (or somewhere on the internet) and on multiple drives so that they will always be accessible.

During the q & a write down questions so that you can answer them carefully. When responding maintain eye contact with the entire audience. Some former colleagues have suggested having photographs of department members so that you can recognize who you are answering. If you do not know an answer to a question, do not invent one. Simply let your audience know that you do not have an answer but will certainly look in to it (and then do, as soon as possible follow up and answer the question via email). Most importantly do not become agitated during the q & a. Everyone--even the first year graduate student in the back--knows that this is a stressful event. Take hostile comments or questions in stride and remain courteous and professional.

This article will be featured in three parts. "The first part, "Searching for Jobs," was in the March/April newsletter. Part 3: Applying for Jobs: The Interview and Accepting a New Position" will be featured in the July/August issue of the newsletter.

2009 Student Forum Paper Award Winners

By: Catherine Connell, SFAB Chair



Congratulations to this year's nominees for the Student Forum Advisory Board Best Student Paper! We had many impressive paper submissions this year, which made picking a winner especially difficult. Nonetheless, one paper stood out as exemplary for its theoretical innovation and methodological rigor. We are excited to announce that **LaTonya Trotter** from Princeton University has won our 2009 Best Student Paper award.

LaTonya's paper, "Childhood Socio-economic Position and Adiposity: Are There Race and Ethnic Differences?" furthers our understanding about the complex relationship between health and inequality. Building on

previous work which has shown strong correlations between socio-economic position (SEP) and health disparities, LaTonya's paper investigates how these relationships manifest themselves in children. Using data from the Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey, LaTonya explores the relationships between childhood weight, SEP, and race and ethnicity. While finding an expectedly strong inverse association between childhood body mass index and SEP, the paper tested several aspects of SEP discovering that some factors, like the occupational status of the head of household, had little effect on adult weight, while others, like maternal education attainment, were strongly associated with healthy adult weight. Not only does this work extend our knowledge of health and inequality, but it complicates our picture of SEP. We believe it will make a significant contribution to

the sociology of health and we are very pleased to acknowledge her important research.

We are also happy to recognize our runner up for the Best Paper Award

Ryan Finnigan of Duke University, who authored, "Investigating National Pride in East Asia." Ryan's paper addresses variations in the levels of national pride in East Asian nations from a sociological perspective.

Congratulations to our winner and runner up. If you are interested in being considered for next year's award, we encourage you to submit your paper to our Student Forum Advisory Board paper sessions for the 2010 ASA meetings. To submit a paper to a student session, please follow the on-line submission guidelines detailed on the ASA 2010 Annual Meeting website.

Recover Act Academic Research Enhancement Awards

NIH has released a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for an Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program supported by funds from the Recovery Act. The purpose of the AREA program is to stimulate research at educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees for a significant number of the Nation's research scientists, but that have not been major recipients of NIH support. AREA grants are intended to support small scale health related research projects proposed

by faculty members of eligible, domestic institutions otherwise unlikely to participate extensively in NIH's biomedical and behavioral research effort. This program will use the R15 grant mechanism.

NIH estimates that up to 50 AREA grants will be awarded in Fiscal Year 2010. The total amount allocated and number of awards will depend upon the quality, duration, and costs of the applications received.

Applications for the Recovery Act AREA

program are due by **September 24, 2009**.

Complete information can be found at the NIH Guide Notice (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-007.html>).

Call for Papers

International Feminist Journal of Politics

The International Feminist Journal of Politics seeks manuscripts for a special issue on new directions in feminism and human rights. Manuscripts are invited that capture the invocation of human rights strategies and discourses by feminist advocates, activists, and grassroots movements for politically radical ends as well as manuscripts that offer new critiques and challenges of human rights practices in struggles for justice. Contact: Sylvanna Falcon at sylvanna@ucr.edu.

Deadline: August 1, 2009

The Journal of Applied Social Science

The Journal of Applied Social Science is requesting submissions for future issues. The journal publishes original research articles, essays, research reports, teaching notes, and book reviews on a wide range of topics of interest to the sociological practitioner. Send as a Word attachment via email a file of the manuscript, an abstract (150 words), and a brief bio statement, and mail a \$15 processing fee. Contact: Jay Weinstein, jay.weinstein@emich.edu.

www.aacsnet.org for more information.

Association for Humanist Sociology

Association for Humanist Sociology 2009 Annual Meeting, Nov. 12-15, 2009 in New Orleans, LA. "Doing Change Work: The Many Paths to Peace, Equality, and Justice." Proposals for papers, special sessions, panels, workshops, or more creative formats that reflect the conference theme or related humanist concerns should be sent to Greta Pennell, Program Chair, at gpennell@uindy.edu. For more information, visit www.humanistsociology.org.

Deadline: June 15, 2009

ASA Pre-Conference: Teachers are Made, Not Born: A Workshop for New Sociology Instructors

The ASA Pre-conference, "**Teachers are Made, Not Born: A Workshop for New Sociology Instructors**," will be held from 8:30am to 5:30pm on Friday August 7, 2009.

The conference will combine presentations, panels, and roundtable discussions on teaching and learning issues, all led by experts in the field.

[Download an application in PDF format](#), or contact Idee Winfield (winfieldi@cofc.edu; 843.953.4899).

Participants will be admitted on a rolling basis until we fill all available spaces. A \$50 registration fee covers conference materials, snacks and Section membership.

Check the website for more information: <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionteach/annual-mtg.html>

Upcoming Meetings

August 7, 2009: **The Care Network's Sixth International Carework Conference** in San Francisco, CA

Theme: "Bridging Worlds of Care" The Carework Network is sponsoring a one day conference that brings together researchers, policymakers, and advocates involved in various domains of carework. For more information, visit: www.carework-network.org.

September 20-30, 2009: **XVIII International Conference-Seminar on Sobriology, Preventive Maintenance, Social Pedagogy and Alcology**

Sevastopol, Crimea. Theme: "Legislation and Lawmaking in Protection of the Healthy, Sober Person."

For more information, visit www.stopdrogama.net/images/ukraina.pdf.

November 12-15, 2009: **Association for Humanist Sociology 2009 Annual Meeting**, in New Orleans, LA

Theme: "Doing Change Work: The Many Paths to Peace, Equality, and Justice"

For more information, visit www.humanistsociology.org.

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Student Forum Advisory Board



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Call for ASA Honors Program Roundtable Presidents

Attention Graduate Students: We need your help! Every year, the Honors Program hosts a roundtable session for the undergraduate students who are chosen to participate in the program. We are looking for volunteers to serve as presidents for this session. This session will be held on Saturday, August 8 at 10:30am in the Hilton San Francisco. We are looking for approximately 10 volunteers. Each table will have between 3-5 students and we will have abstracts for you to review.

It is a very laidback session and the students would appreciate any feedback you can give them on their work! If you are interested, send an email to **Karina Havrilla** at minority.affairs@asanet.org as soon as possible.



Save the Date: "New Directions in the Sociology of Education"

The ASA section on the Sociology of Education will be holding a full day conference titled "New Directions in the Sociology of Education" on Friday, August 7, 2009 at the ASA Hotel in San Francisco. Registration will begin at 9:30am and the conference will end around 6pm.

The goals of the conference are two-fold: to provide professional guidance for young scholars in the discipline and to serve as a forum for stimulating discussion about the future education and our discipline in this period of transition and change.

First the conference will mentor sociologists who are in the early phases of their careers. Themed workshops will assist junior scholars in the mechanics of publishing in peer reviewed journals, writing book proposals, and crafting grant appli-

cations. Plenary panels will encourage junior scholars to think broadly about the kinds of problems sociologists should address, and the kinds of work settings in which they can profitably develop careers.

Second, on the occasion of a new U.S. Presidential administration and in the midst of heightened national interest in school reform, the conference will challenge attendees to revisit core questions, specifically: why do sociologists study school and educational processes? What can sociology contribute to current debates on education policy and school reform? These are questions well worth asking; in recent years sociologists have ceded much of the problem space of education policy to other disciplines, specifically economics, thus narrowing dis-

cussions about the purposes and processes of education.

In terms of its goals, this conference is a hybrid of two recent, successful mini-conferences sponsored by the Soc of Ed Section (the 2005 NCLB Conference and the 2003 Early Career Workshop). A buffet lunch and closing reception will provide opportunities for networking and informal discussion among new members and long-time members alike.

Detailed information and a registration form for the conference will be sent via the listserv.