

Family Forum

FALL 2010 ~ ASA SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

SECTION COUNCIL, 2010-11

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Message from the Chair

Dear Family Section Members:

Once again, our section came through with a great set of sessions at the 2010 meeting in Atlanta. Thanks to everyone for your participation in all of our sessions and roundtables. The 2011 meeting in Chicago (August 13-16) has big shoes to fill, but the slate of sessions is more than promising. I want to thank all of you who suggested topics or submitted proposals for sessions in Chicago. We will have five sessions linked to the number of our members and one session that will be co-sponsored by the Population Section.

The topics to be covered in Chicago are broad. Kathie Harris will chair a session on Families and Social Policy; Megan Sweeney will host a session dealing with Families and Institutions; Rand Conger will craft a session on Families and Economic Stress; Jen Lundquist will head a session on Families and the Military. The section Roundtables will be organized by Kimberly Fox and Sarah Halpern-Meekin. The joint session with Population will be New Developments in Family Demography. ASA will soon post the call for papers, and I encourage each of you to consider submitting your work.

As the new section chair, I would like to thank the help of Judy Seltzer, the outgoing Chair of the section. Without her direction the 2010 meeting would not have been such a success. Thanks are also due to Dan Lichter for his work as Past Chair. I also want to thank our outgoing Council members, Jennifer Glick and Megan Sweeney, and our outgoing Student Representative, Jennifer Holland, for all of their hard work. Mary Noonan has volunteered to continue editing the Newsletter, and Sanjiv Gupta will stay on as Webmaster. Each of these individuals has spent long hours making the section as good as it is. Thank you all.

Congratulations to our new officers! Paul Amato is Chair Elect; Philip Cohen and Lynn



Casper are our new Council members; and Jennifer Turchi is our new Student Representative. I look forward to working with them to continue the successful mission of the section.

Even as we congratulate the new section officers, we must plan for the next round of elections. Gary Lee (grlee@bgsu.edu) is chairing the Nominations Committee, and I urge you to submit nominations for Chair Elect, two Council Members, and a Student Representative. Our other standing committees are also continuing their work: the Distinguished Scholar Committee; the William J. Goode Book Award Committee; and the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Committee. And, for the first time there will be an Article of the Year Award Committee. The call for nominations for these awards is included in this issue of the newsletter. Please send nominations to the chairs of these committees.

There is also an ad hoc committee this year charged with revising our bylaws, which are a bit out of date. More information about this task is forthcoming.

Best wishes for the coming year.

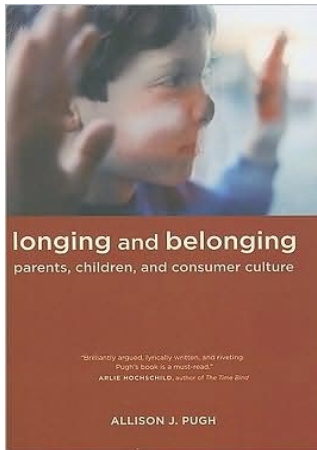
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Congratulations 2010 Family Section Award Winners

2010 William J. Goode Book Award Winner:

Allison J. Pugh. *Longing and Belonging: Parents, Children and Consumer Culture*. University of California Press, 2009.

Award Committee: Daniel Lichter (chair), Julia McQuillan, Melissa Milkie, Becky Pettit, Pamela Stone, and Megan Sweeney



Even as they see their wages go down and their buying power decrease, many parents are still putting their kids' material desires first. These parents struggle with how to handle children's consumer wants, which continue unabated despite the economic downturn. Why do children seem to desire so much, so often, so soon, and why do

parents capitulate so readily? To determine what forces lie behind the onslaught of Nintendo Wiis and Bratz dolls, Pugh spent three years observing and interviewing children and their families. Pugh teases out the complex factors that contribute to how we buy, from lunchroom conversations about Game Boys to the stark inequalities facing American children. Pugh finds that children's desires stem less from striving for status or falling victim to advertising than from their yearning to join the conversation at school or in the neighborhood. Most parents respond to children's need to belong by buying the particular goods and experiences that act as passports in children's social worlds, because they sympathize with their children's fear of being different from their peers. Even under financial constraints, families prioritize children "feeling normal". Pugh masterfully illuminates the surprising similarities in the fears and hopes of parents and children from vastly different social contexts, showing that while corporate marketing and materialism play a part in the commodification of childhood, at the heart of the matter is the desire to belong. Congratulations Allison for this well deserved award!

2010 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Winner: Youngjoo Cha, Indiana University

Paper: "Reinforcing Separate Spheres: The Effect of Spousal Overwork on Men's and Women's Employment in Dual-Earner Households." *American Sociological Review*, April 2010.

Award Committee: Judith Seltzer (chair), Ann Meier, and Maureen Waller

This year's winner, Youngjoo Cha, tackles a question many dual-earner couples ask of each other – how are we going to manage long work hours and still take care of our home and family? Her innovative study investigates whether overwork by one spouse – working for more than 50 or 60 hours a week – affects whether or not the other spouse leaves the paid labor force. The language of this question is gender-neutral, but the answer is not. Cha uses data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation to show that when a husband "overworks," this increases the chance his wife will quit her job. But when a wife "overworks," this does not affect whether her husband quits. Through her careful analysis and the clear logic of her argument, Cha shows that despite growth in mother's labor force participation, the work-family conflict many families face still disadvantages women in the paid work sphere. She does this with careful development of a theoretical argument and

creative and solid empirical work. Cha wrote and submitted her paper for this award when she was a graduate student at Cornell. She is now an assistant professor at Indiana University. Congratulations Youngjoo!



Congratulations 2010 Family Section Award Winners

2010 Distinguished Career Award Winner: Paula England, Stanford University

Award Committee: Michelle Budig (chair), Harriett Presser, as well as Shannon Cavanagh, Larry Ganong, Kelly Musick

Paula England is, and has been for decades, a leading scholar in the fields of gender and labor markets, work and family issues, the gendered division of labor and marital bargaining, and more recently, family formation and unintended fertility, and sexuality in romantic relationships among young adults. In 6 published books and more than 115 published articles and chapters, England has phenomenally enriched the body of knowledge and our understandings on these topics in multiple fields, including Sociology, Demography, Economics, and Feminist Studies. England's prolific and significant contributions have been recognized and honored with the 1999 Jessie Bernard Award for career contributions to the study of gender, the 2009-10 Silver Anniversary SWS Feminist Lecturer Award, and her recent election as the Francis Perkins Fellow in the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

A native Minnesotan, England received her graduate degrees from the University of Chicago and began her career at the University of Texas in Dallas. Her early work focused on occupational sex segregation, the sex gap in pay, critiques of neo-classical economic explanations for women's disadvantaged workplace outcomes, and comparable worth. She next developed a second area of research focused on division of labor within the household and marital power and bargaining dynamics. During this period, she joined the Sociology department at the University of Arizona and served as editor of the *American Sociological Review*. There, after years of bringing a feminist critique to economic theories, she began a fruitful collaboration with feminist economist Nancy Folbre, and produced an ever-developing body of work on the costs of providing care within families and in the market, as well as the social organization (or lack thereof) of care for children and other dependents.



Soon after joining the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, England published landmark research on the effects of motherhood on earnings, and turned her eagle eye to cross-

national analyses of the gendered performance of housework and its link to economic outcomes for women and families. In most recent years, she has contributed to research on the stability of romantic relationships in fragile families, class/education differences in intended and unintended fertility, and the sexual practices of young adults. England is now a Professor of Sociology at Stanford University, an affiliate of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, and a Network-Co-chair of the MacArthur Network on the Family and the Economy. Her dynamic and prolific research agenda continues to expand, but keeps at its heart gender inequalities in the family and intimate relationships, the workplace, and the broader economy.

During her epic career spanning multiple fields, roles, and institutions, England has shepherded a small army of junior scholars and graduate students with her dedicated mentoring. In addition, she has made immeasurable contributions to the editorial boards of leading journals, professional associations, advisory boards, universities, and to the ASA Family section. Congratulations Paula for the richly deserved 2010 Distinguished Career Award!

Family Sessions at the 2011 ASA Meeting in Chicago

SESSION TITLE	ORGANIZER
FAMILIES AND SOCIAL POLICY.....	KATHLEEN HARRIS, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL
FAMILIES AND INSTITUTIONS.....	MEGAN SWEENEY , UNIVERSITY OF CALIFONIA, LOS ANGELES
FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC STRESS.....	RAND CONGER, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
FAMILIES AND THE MILITARY.....	JENNIFER LUNDQUIST, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST
ROUNDTABLES.....	KIMBERLY FOX , UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, AND SARAH HALPERN-MEEKIN, FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE



Call for Nominations for 2011 Section Awards

Attention all Section Members! Please consider submitting nominations for our four annual section awards. Award winners will be honored at the 2011 ASA meeting in Chicago.

Distinguished Career Award. This award recognizes the collective career or major service contribution of a sociologist's work in family sociology. It recognizes the entire body of the person's work. Major service to the field is defined as developments that have a substantial impact on family research. To nominate, send a paragraph justification. The nominee's CV is helpful but not necessary. The deadline is **March 1, 2011**. Nominations to **Judy Treas** (email: lktreas@uci.edu).

William J. Goode Book Award. This award is for a book published on the family in 2009 or 2010. To nominate a book, write a letter briefly stating why the book should be considered. Self nominations are appropriate. Textbooks and edited volumes are not eligible. The deadline is **January 15, 2011**. Please send nominations to **Judy Seltzer** (email: seltzerj@ucla.edu).

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Graduate students are invited to submit an article-length paper on the family. The paper may be completed work or work-in-progress, but not a proposal for future work. The paper can be based on a Master's or Doctoral thesis, course paper, or a journal or conference submission. Co-authored papers are acceptable if all authors are students, but the prize must be shared. Send the paper by **March 1, 2011** to **Jay Teachman** (email: Jay.Teachman@wwu.edu).

Article of the Year Award. This award recognizes a journal article that has made a significant contribution to the field of family sociology. The award committee will accept nominations for articles published in 2008, 2009, or 2010. Nominations may be submitted by the author or others. To nominate an article, please send a letter of nomination not to exceed two pages that details the contribution of the article to the field of family sociology, as well as an electronic copy of the article to the chair of the award committee, **Ted Greenstein** (Ted_Greenstein@ncsu.edu). The deadline for nominations is **March 1, 2011**.

Renewing or joining the Family Section is easy!

Just complete the ASA membership form online at <http://www.asanet.org> or return the form via regular mail.

Check the box next to the "Family Section" on the form.

Section Dues are just \$12 per year (\$5.00 for student members).



Upcoming Conferences

Penn State's 18th Annual Symposium on Family Issues (co-organized with the National Center for Family and Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University.) Theme: *Early Adulthood in a Family Context*. **October 12-13, 2010** at University Park Campus, Penn State, PA. For more information, see: <http://www.pop.psu.edu/events/symposium/2010.htm>.

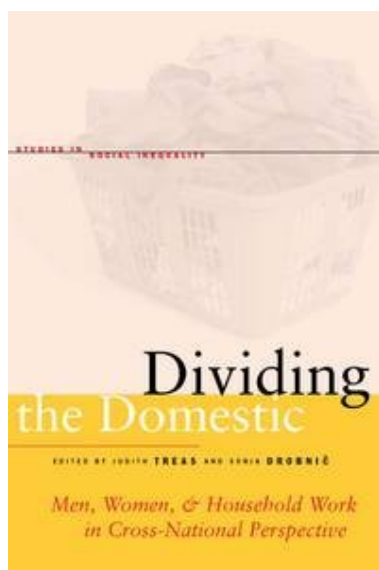
What Mothers Want: Innovative Policies for the 21st century. This innovative, half-day conference, scheduled for **October 19, 2010** is designed to bring academics and practitioners together to speak about these issues in a thoughtful, productive way. The conference will be held in the Roosevelt-Perkins Room at the Heldrich Center, 30 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ. To learn more, go to: <http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/>.

The 20th Annual Building Strong Families Conference. Presented by the Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations (MACFR), in collaboration with Elizabethtown College's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Themed "Families in Economic Uncertainty," the conference will provide human services professionals, educators and students with tools to help families survive and thrive in tough economic times. The conference will be held on **October 19, 2010**, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on the Elizabethtown College campus (Elizabethtown, PA). For more information: <http://www.etown.edu/SociologyAnthropology.aspx>

National Council on Family Relations' 72nd Annual Conference. Theme: *Families and Innovation*. **November 3-6, 2010** at Minneapolis Hilton and Towers, Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information, please go to: <http://www.ncfr.org/conf/current/annual.asp>.

New Books by Family Section Members

Judith Treas and Sonja Drobnic (Editors). *Dividing the Domestic: Men, Women, and Household Work in Cross-National Perspective*. (Stanford University Press, 2010).



In *Dividing the Domestic*, leading international scholars roll up their sleeves to investigate how culture and country characteristics permeate our households and our private lives. The book introduces novel frameworks for understanding why the household remains a bastion of traditional gender relations - even when employed full-time, women everywhere still do most of the work around the house, and poor women spend more time on housework than affluent women. Education systems, tax codes, labor laws, public policies, and cultural beliefs about motherhood and marriage all make a difference. Any accounting of "who does what" needs to consider the complicity of trade unions, state arrangements for children's schooling, and new cultural prescriptions for a happy marriage. With its cross-national perspective, this pioneering volume speaks not only to sociologists concerned with gender and family, but also to those interested in scholarship on states, public policy, culture, and social inequality.