

# FACULTY POSITION OPPORTUNITIES IN SOCIOLOGY APPEAR TO HOLD STEADY

## POSITION POSTINGS FROM THE 2013 ASA JOB BANK

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### DATA BRIEF

#### OVERVIEW

Since 2009, the American Sociological Association's (ASA) Department of Research on the Discipline and Profession has conducted an annual analysis of U.S.-based academic and nonacademic positions placed in ASA's online Job Bank. Although the Job Bank is not a comprehensive source for all positions available to trained sociologists (particularly those seeking nonacademic or applied positions), it is a significant source of listings for academic sociology positions.

For assistant, associate, full, and open/multiple-rank positions posted in the Job Bank between 2008 and 2012, the Department of Research conducted annual surveys to determine the outcome of the hiring process for those jobs (e.g., whether a position vacancy was filled and, if so, whether it was filled by a sociologist).<sup>1</sup> Due to changes in staffing, this analysis of 2013 job postings is limited to descriptive statistics without a follow-up on the outcome of the postings. We hope to return to those follow-up surveys in future years.

#### SUMMARY

Figures 1 and 2 present assistant and open/multiple-rank (and unspecified rank; see Figure 2) professor positions placed in the ASA Job Bank from 2008 to 2013. After a precipitous decline (see Figure 1) in assistant and open/multiple-rank positions between 2008 and 2009 (presumably an effect of the Great Recession of 2008), those faculty positions steadily increased and exceeded their pre-2009 level in 2012, when assistant and open/multiple-rank position listings reached a high of 507. By

2013, that number rose slightly to 527. Figure 2 displays the increase in assistant professor position postings after 2009, with open/multiple-rank positions remaining somewhat steady in number. We note that these data are intended to provide a rough guideline for interpreting trends in the job market for academic sociologists, since many factors determine when and how faculty position vacancies are announced.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of academic and nonacademic positions posted in the Job Bank in 2013. The table includes five associate professor and four full professor positions. Typically, the numbers of associate and full professor position listings in the Job Bank are small—especially given that for full professors, those position searches might be part of closed or internal processes within academic institutions or departments. Table 2 presents postings for assistant and open/multiple rank faculty positions by the type of academic department in which the position is to be housed. Position postings were made by 163 non-sociology departments, which is not uncommon for the ASA Job Bank: for example, many departments of criminal justice or criminology place announcements. In contrast, 140 stand-alone sociology departments submitted positions, with another 126 joint sociology programs also making postings. Joint sociology programs typically include combined departments such as departments of sociology and anthropology. Only one department type could not be determined. We note that some institutions placed more than one position announcement.

Table 3 presents postings for assistant and open/multiple rank faculty positions by the institutional classification established by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advance-

<sup>1</sup>See [www.asanet.org/research/briefs\\_and\\_articles.cfm#careers\\_and\\_salaries](http://www.asanet.org/research/briefs_and_articles.cfm#careers_and_salaries).



ment of Teaching. Very High Research (Research I) institutions and Master's institutions placed the largest number of positions in the Job Bank in 2013, as they did in 2011 and 2012.

In Tables 4 and 5a-b, we report on areas of specialization listed in Job Bank postings for full, associate, assistant, and open/multiple rank positions in 2013. Specifically, Table 4 compares areas of sociological interest selected by ASA graduate student members on their 2013 ASA membership application with areas of specialization listed in Job Bank faculty position postings. Areas of specialization for those postings were coded from the qualitative description of each position, standardized to reflect the ASA membership form's areas of sociological interest. Where appropriate, we created new areas to reflect specialties in position descriptions that did not fit into the existing areas of interest. Those included general human health, globalization, global studies, interdisciplinary studies, population studies, general research methods, inequality, and social justice (we also created categories for positions whose required specialization was open). Table 5a presents the most frequently listed areas of specialization within each category of Carnegie institutional classification for departments that made faculty postings in the Job Bank. For example, among Master's institutions, crime/delinquency and criminal justice were the most sought-after areas of specialization. Table 5b takes the most frequently listed areas of specialization from Table 4, and presents them by institutional classification. We note that some position announcements called for more than one area of specialization; for those announcements, we coded anywhere from two to four areas of specialization.

database in spreadsheet format from the ASA Membership and Customer Service Department, including listings and descriptions of all jobs (U.S.- and non-U.S.-based) advertised in the previous calendar year, as well as position announcements that were emailed to ASA but originated through regional professional (sociological) societies and ASA Section listservs. To create the Job Bank database that is used for analysis, research staff first remove non-U.S.-based positions or positions posted by non-U.S. employers. Next, staff examine each posting placed in the database to verify whether employers submitted an announcement for the same position more than once; duplicates are removed. The database is then transformed into a flat file so that there is one record per each employer/institution that submitted a position posting(s), and fields are added for each position advertised by the employer, including position type. Staff then mine position descriptions for faculty postings (full professor, associate, assistant, and multiple/open rank) to code areas of specialization called for, based on the ASA membership form's "areas of sociological interest"; new areas of specialization are added if thematic areas not on the membership form appear in multiple position postings. Staff also code the type of academic department associated with each employer that posted a ranked faculty position: freestanding sociology, joint sociology, non-sociology, and unknown department type. Additionally, we code the Carnegie institutional classification of academic institutions that submitted faculty positions, by searching for the institution in the most recent data file from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).<sup>2</sup> "Carnegie Codes" are then collapsed into six categories: Very High Research, High Research/Doctorate, Master's, Baccalaureate, Associate's/Special Focus, and Unknown. Data analysis is conducted in *SPSS Statistics 20*.

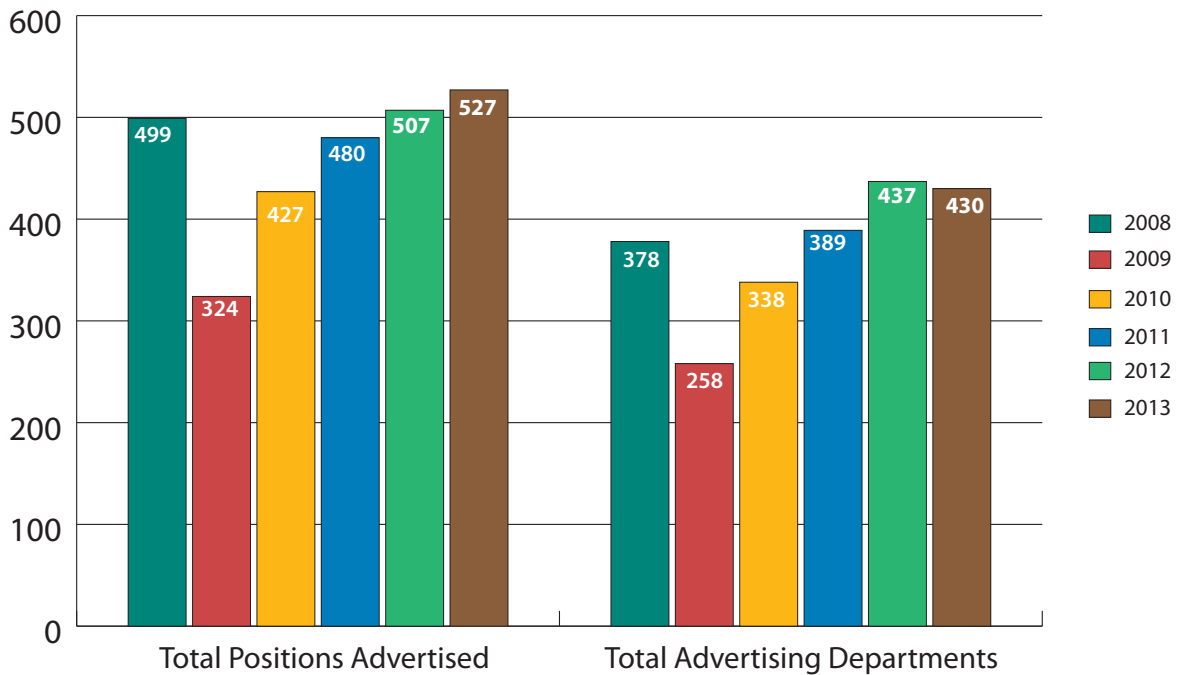
## METHODOLOGY FOR CONDUCTING THE 2013 JOB BANK ANALYSIS

To conduct an analysis of the ASA Job Bank postings, the ASA Research Department obtains an exported

<sup>2</sup>Available at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/DataFiles.aspx>.



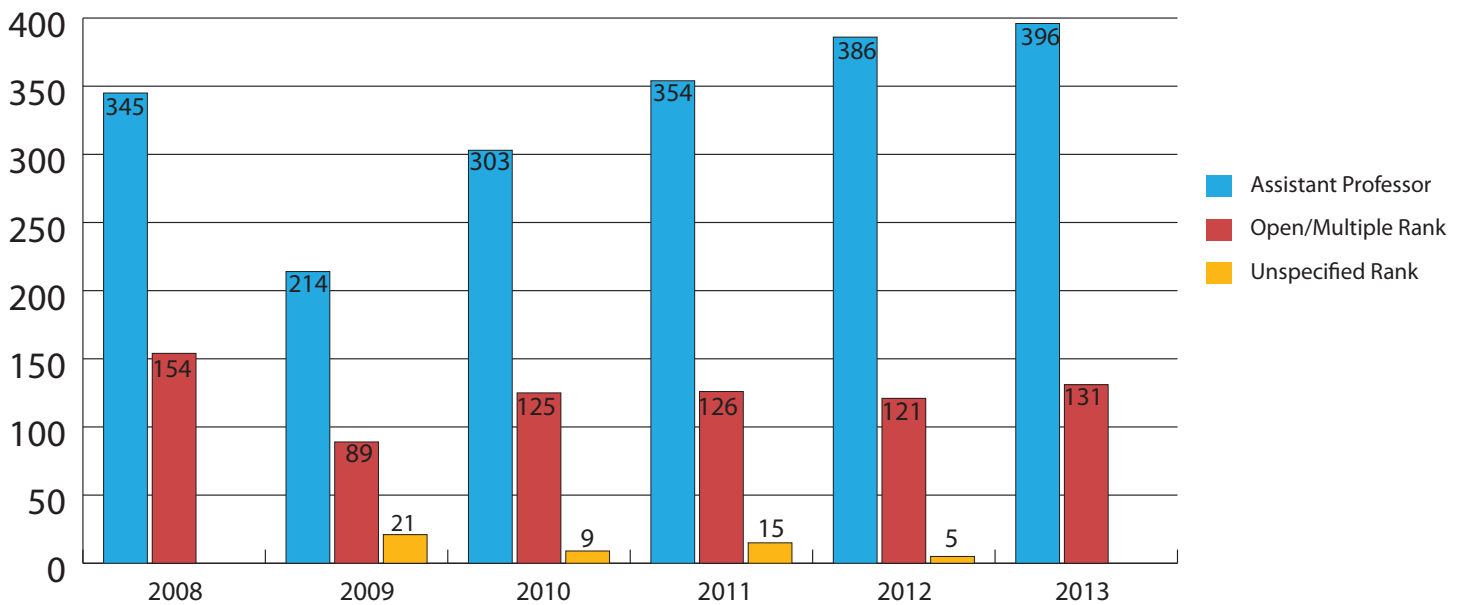
**Figure 1. Assistant and Open/Multiple Rank Faculty Positions Advertised in the ASA Job Bank: 2008-2013.**



**Note:** Excludes non-U.S. institutions and positions, full and associate professor positions, and positions of unknown rank.

**Source:** American Sociological Association Job Bank, 2008-2013.

**Figure 2. Assistant and Open/Multiple Rank Faculty Positions Advertised in the ASA Job Bank: 2008-2013.**



**Note:** Excludes non-U.S. institutions and positions, and full and associate professor positions. No positions of unspecified rank were placed in the Job Bank in 2008 and 2013.

**Source:** American Sociological Association Job Bank, 2008-2013.

<b>TABLE 1. POSITIONS ADVERTISED IN THE ASA JOB BANK: 2013.</b>	
<b>Academic Positions</b>	<b>Number Advertised</b>
Assistant Professor	396
Associate Professor	5
Full Professor	4
Open/Multiple Rank	131
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>536</b>
Postdoctoral Position	116
Instructor/Lecturer	67
Visiting or Part-time Assistant Professor	63
Other Academic*	62
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>308</b>
<b>Total Academic Positions</b>	<b>844</b>
<b>Nonacademic Positions</b>	
	<b>Number Advertised</b>
Sociological Practice	38
Multiple Non-faculty Position Types	4
<b>Total Nonacademic Positions</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>886</b>
<p><b>Note:</b> Excludes non-U.S. institutions and positions.            *"Other Academic" includes academic administration positions such as deans, chancellors, provosts, and program/institute/center directors.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> American Sociological Association Job Bank, 2013.</p>	

**TABLE 2. ASSISTANT AND OPEN/MULTIPLE RANK FACULTY POSITIONS ADVERTISED IN THE ASA JOB BANK IN 2013, BY TYPE OF ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT.**

Department Type	Number of Departments
Freestanding Sociology	140
Joint Sociology	126
Non-sociology	163
Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>

**Note:** Excludes non-U.S. institutions and positions, and departments that posted associate and full professor positions (eight departments accounted for a combined nine associate and full professor position postings).

**Source:** American Sociological Association Job Bank, 2013.

**TABLE 3. ASSISTANT AND OPEN/MULTIPLE RANK FACULTY POSITIONS ADVERTISED IN THE ASA JOB BANK IN 2013, BY TYPE OF INSTITUTIONAL CLASSIFICATION.\***

Institutional Classification	Total Advertising Departments
Very High Research	153
High Research/Doctorate	80
Master's	126
Baccalaureate	59
Associate's/Special Focus	7
Unknown	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>

**Note:** Excludes non-U.S. institutions and positions, and departments that posted associate and full professor positions (eight departments accounted for a combined nine associate and full professor position postings).

\*Academic institution types are determined according to (consolidated) classification data provided by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; data available at <http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/resources>.

**Source:** American Sociological Association Job Bank, 2013.

**TABLE 4.** COMPARISON OF AREAS OF SOCIOLOGICAL INTEREST SELECTED BY ASA GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS ON 2013 ASA MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION LISTED IN POSITION ADVERTISEMENTS IN 2013 ASA JOB BANK.

<i>ASA Graduate Student Member Areas of Interest*</i>		<i>2013 Job Bank Position Postings**</i>	
<i>Interest Area</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Area of Specialization</i>	<i>Count</i>
Sex and Gender	108	Crime/Delinquency	89
Education	83	Criminal Justice	70
Medical Sociology	83	Human Health	56
Race, Class, and Gender	79	Research Methods	50
Racial and Ethnic Relations	75	Quantitative Methodology	47
Cultural Sociology	68	Racial and Ethnic Relations	43
Crime/Delinquency	66	Global Studies	41
Environmental Sociology	65	Environmental Sociology	34
Social Psychology	65	Interdisciplinary Studies	33
Family	56	Sex and Gender	31
Political Sociology	56	Cultural Sociology	30
Migration/Immigration	48	Open Specialization	30
Urban Sociology	45	Theory	29
Economic Sociology	38	Family	28
Demography	36	Inequality	26
Sexualities	34	Urban Sociology	24
Religion	34	Statistics	23
Stratification/Mobility	30	Organizations, Formal and Complex	22
Comparative Sociology/Historical Sociology	28	Stratification/Mobility	20
Work and Labor Markets	26	Demography	18
Development	22	Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization	17
Aging/Social Gerontology	21	Social Psychology	17
Theory	20	Medical Sociology	15
Criminal Justice	19	Race, Class and Gender	15
Mental Health	18	Children and Youth	14
Law and Society	18	Migration/Immigration	14
Science and Technology	18	Other	14
Political Economy	16	Social Justice	14
Organizations, Formal and Complex	16	Law and Society	13
Latina/o Sociology	15	Public Policy	12
Labor and Labor Movements	14	Science and Technology	12
Social Networks	14	Qualitative Methodology	11
Marxist Sociology	13	Economic Sociology	10
Peace, War, World Conflict, and Conflict Resolution	13	Social Organization	10
Child/Youth	12	Globalization	10
Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization	11	Population Studies	10

*Table continued on next page.*

**TABLE 4 (CONTINUED).** COMPARISON OF AREAS OF SOCIOLOGICAL INTEREST SELECTED BY ASA GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS ON 2013 ASA MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION LISTED IN POSITION ADVERTISEMENTS IN 2013 ASA JOB BANK.

<i>ASA Graduate Student Members Areas of Interest*</i>		<i>2013 Job Bank Position Postings**</i>	
<i>Interest Area</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Interest Area***</i>	<i>Count</i>
Communication/Information Technology	10	Aging/Social Gerontology	9
Alcohol and Drugs	9	Community	9
Animals and Society	8	Education	9
Teaching and Learning in Sociology	7	Applied Sociology/Evaluation Research	8
Community	7	Ethnography (Anthropology)	8
Qualitative Methods	7	Social Change	8
Disabilities	6	Social Welfare/Social Work	8
Public Policy	6	Policy Analysis	7
Asians/Asian-Americans	6	Sexualities	7
Knowledge	6	Labor and Labor Movements	5
Occupations/Professions	6	Latina/o Sociology	5
Rural Sociology	5	Unspecified	5
Social Change	5	Development	4
Mass Communications/Public Opinion	5	Religion	4
Ethnography (Anthropology)	5	Comparative Sociology/Historical Sociology	3
Quantitative Methods	5	Peace, War, World Conflict, and Conflict Resolution	3
Statistics	5	Political Sociology	3
Applied Sociology/Evaluation Research	4	Rural Sociology	3
Leisure/Sports/Recreation	4	Asians/Asian-Americans	2
Military Sociology	3	Communication and Information Technologies	2
Penology/Corrections	3	Human Ecology	2
Small Groups	3	Occupations/Professions	2
Policy Analysis	2	Political Economy	2
Social Welfare/Work	2	Social Networks	2
Sociological Practice	2	Work and Labor Markets	2
Social Control	2	Disabilities	1
Art/Music	2	Mathematical Sociology	1
Social Organization	2	Penology/Corrections	1
Mathematical Sociology	2	Small Groups	1
Biosociology	1	Social Control	1
Emotions	1		
Visual Sociology	1		
Ethnomethodology/Conversational Analysis	1		
Language/Social Linguistics	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,079</b>

\*Based on 1,527 areas of sociological interest selected by ASA graduate student members on their 2013 ASA membership form.

\*\*Excludes non-U.S. institutions and positions; based on 536 postings for full, associate, assistant, open/multiple rank positions.

\*\*\*Three (3) postings called for four areas of specialization; 167 postings called for three areas; 208 postings called for two areas, 150 postings called for one area, and eight (8) postings did not explicitly call for an area of specialization.

**Source:** American Sociological Association Job Bank, 2013, and American Sociological Association Membership database, 2013.

**TABLE 5A. MOST FREQUENTLY LISTED AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION IN POSITION ADVERTISEMENTS WITHIN EACH INSTITUTIONAL CLASSIFICATION\* OF DEPARTMENTS PLACING POSITIONS IN 2013 ASA JOB BANK.**

Very High Research	High Research/ Doctoral	Master's	Baccalaureate	Associate's	Unknown						
Specialization	No.	Specialization	No.	Specialization	No.	Specialization	No.				
Human Health	25	Crime/ Delinquency	22	Crime/ Delinquency	38	Crime/ Delinquency	16	Human Health	2	Quantitative Methodology	2
Racial and Ethnic Relations	20	Quantitative Methodology	15	Criminal Justice	35	Criminal Justice	14	Sex and Gender	2	Research Methods	2
Environmental Sociology	19	Criminal Justice	14	Research Methods	21	Research Methods	10	Asians/Asian- Americans	1	Criminal Justice	1
Interdisciplinary Studies	19	Human Health	13	Global Studies	15	Theory	9	Cultural Sociology	1	Crime/ Delinquency	1
Quantitative Methodology	19	Open	9	Racial and Ethnic Relations	12	Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization	6	Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization	1	Global Studies	1
Organizations, Formal and Complex	18	Sex and Gender	8	Theory	11	Human Health	6	Family	1	Inequality	1
Global Studies	17	Research Methods	7	Human Health	10	Racial and Ethnic Relations	6	Migration/ Immigration	1	Social Welfare/ Social Work	1
Cultural Sociology	16	Inequality	6	Sex and Gender	10	Open	5	Occupations/ Professions	1	Stratification/ Mobility	1
Crime/Delinquency	12	Statistics	6	Statistics	10	Education	4	Population Studies	1	--	--
Demography	12	Cultural Sociology	5	Family	9	Environmental Sociology	4	Racial and Ethnic Relations	1	--	--

**Note:** Based on postings for full, associate, assistant, and open/multiple rank positions. Excludes non-U.S. institutions and positions.

\*Academic institution types are determined according to classification data provided by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; data available at <http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/resources>.

**Source:** American Sociological Association Job Bank, 2013.



<b>TABLE 5B. MOST FREQUENTLY LISTED AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION IN 2013 ASA JOB BANK ADVERTISEMENTS BY INSTITUTIONAL CLASSIFICATION.*</b>					
<b>Area of Specialization</b>	<b>Very High Research</b>	<b>High Research/ Doctoral</b>	<b>Master's</b>	<b>Baccalaureate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Crime/Delinquency	12	22	38	16	<b>88</b>
Criminal Justice	6	14	35	14	<b>69</b>
Human Health	25	13	10	6	<b>54</b>
Research Methods	10	7	21	10	<b>48</b>
Quantitative Methodology	19	15	7	4	<b>45</b>
Racial and Ethnic Relations	20	4	12	6	<b>42</b>
Global Studies	17	5	15	3	<b>40</b>
Environmental Sociology	19	5	6	4	<b>34</b>
Interdisciplinary Studies	19	5	7	2	<b>33</b>
Sex and Gender	7	8	10	4	<b>29</b>
<p><b>Note:</b> Based on postings for full, associate, assistant, and open/multiple rank positions. Excludes non-U.S. institutions and positions.</p> <p>*Academic institution types are determined according to classification data provided by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; data available at <a href="http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/resources">http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/resources</a>. Associate's-level institutions and those of undetermined classification are not shown, due to the small number of positions advertised by them.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> American Sociological Association Job Bank, 2013.</p>					

The following are selected research briefs and reports produced by the ASA's Department of Research on the Discipline and Profession for dissemination in a variety of venues and concerning topics of interest to the discipline and profession. These and all research briefs are located at [www.asanet.org/research/briefs\\_and\\_articles.cfm](http://www.asanet.org/research/briefs_and_articles.cfm). You will need Adobe Reader to view our PDFs.

Title	Format	Year
Sociology Faculty Salaries Appear to Be Better Off: 2013 - 2014 Faculty Salary Brief for Sociology and Other Social Science Disciplines	PDF	2014
Sociology, Criminology Concentrations, and Criminal Justice: Differences in Reasons for Majoring, Skills, Activities, and Early Outcomes?	PDF	2014
Strong Ties, Weak Ties, or No Ties: What Helped Sociology Majors Find Career-Level Jobs?	PDF	2013
Some Sociology Faculty Salaries Edge Up: 2012-2013 Faculty Salary Brief for Sociology and Other Social Science Disciplines	PDF	2013
Social Capital for Sociology Majors: Applied Activities and Peer Networks	PDF	2013
Postdocs: Another Stage in the Sociology Pipeline?	PDF	2013
Sociology Majors: Before Graduation in 2012	PDF	2013
Recruiting Sociology Majors: What Are the Effects of the Great Recession?: Concepts, Change, and Careers	PDF	2012
What Leads to Student Satisfaction with Sociology Programs?	PDF	2012
What Do We Know About the Dissemination of Information on Pedagogy?: 2008, 2010, and 2011	PDF	2012
Mothers in Pursuit of Ideal Academic Careers	PDF	2012
Research about Minorities in Sociology: Surveys, Datasets, and Measurement	PPT	2012
The Effects of New Technology on the Growth of a Teaching and Learning Network	PDF	2011
The Future of Sociology: Minorities, Programs, and Jobs	PPT	2011
The Impact of Cross Race Mentoring for "Ideal" and "Alternative" PhD Careers in Sociology	PDF	2011
Sociology Master's Graduates Join the Workforce	PDF	2011

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