

Medical Sociology Newsletter

VOLUME 42, ISSUE 3

SPRING 2006

A Publication of the Medical Sociology Section of the ASA

Vote for Section Officers in Upcoming Election

Chair Elect

Chloe Bird (chloe@rand.org)
William Cockerham
(wcocker@uab.edu)

Secretary-Treasurer Elect

Carol Boyer
(caboyer@rci.rutgers.edu)
Eric Wright (ewright@iupui.edu)

Council Member at Large

Joanna Kempner
(jkempner@umich.edu)
Jason Schnittker
(jschnitt@soc.upenn.edu)

Student Council Member at Large

Ryan C. Reikwosky
(rcreikow@u.arizona.edu)
Laura Senier
(laura_senier@brown.edu)

Chair Elect, Nominations Committee

Deborah Carr
(carrds@sociology.rutgers.edu)
Maren Klawiter
maren.klawiter@hts.gatech.edu)

Nominations Committee (2 positions)

Abdallah M. Badahdah
(abdallah.badahdah@und.nodak.edu)
Rebecca Utz
(rebecca.utz@soc.utah.edu)
Angela Wadsworth
(wadsworth@uncw.edu)
Terri Winnick (winnick.3@osu.edu)

Student Member of Nominations Committee

Alexis Bender
(alexisbender@comcast.net)
Jennifer Moren-Cross
(jmcross@soc.duke.edu)

Chair, Membership Committee

Richard Carpiano
(carpiano@wisc.edu)
Jennifer Fosket
(Jennifer.fosket@mcgill.ca)

Chair, Health Policy Committee

Henry Perlstadt (perlstadt@msu.edu)
Jill Quadagno
(jqquadagn@cos.sfsu.edu)

Reminders:

- 2006 ASA Annual Meeting:
August 11-14, 2006
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- 2007 ASA Annual Meeting:
August 11-14, 2007
New York, New York
- MSN Summer Deadline:
June 9, 2006

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CALLS FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

LEO G. REEDER AWARD The Medical Sociology Section invites nominations for the 2007 Leo G. Reeder Award. This award recognizes scholarly contributions, especially a body of work displaying an extended trajectory of productivity encompassing theory and research. The Reeder Award also acknowledges teaching, mentoring, and training as well as service to the medical sociology community broadly defined. Please send your letter of nomination and nominee's curriculum vitae **as an email attachment to: R. Jay Turner, PhD, E-mail: jturner@fsu.edu**. Nominations should be received by **August 1, 2006**.

ROBERTA G. SIMMONS AWARD Nominations are being accepted for the 2006 award (self-nominations are acceptable). Eligible candidates for this award must have defended their dissertations within the two academic years prior to the annual meeting at which the award is made. To be considered for the 2006 award, the candidate should submit an article-length paper (sole-authored), not to exceed 30 double-spaced pages (11- or 12-pitch font), inclusive of references. This paper may have been previously published, in press, or under review. Submissions may be sent by e-mail as Word documents. Hard copies will also be accepted. Deadline for receipt of submissions is **June 1, 2006**. Send nominations to: **William R. Avison, Department of Sociology, 5327 Social Science Centre, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 5C2. E-mail: wavison@uwo.ca**.

ELIOT FREIDSON OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION AWARD The Freidson Award is given in alternate years to a book or journal article published in the preceding two years that has had a major impact on the field of medical sociology. The 2006 award will be given to a scholarly book which deals with any topic in medical sociology, broadly defined. Co-authored books are appropriate to nominate but edited books are not eligible. When making your nomination, please indicate (however briefly) the reason for the nomination. You do not need to include a copy of the book. Self-nominations are permissible and encouraged. Nomination letters are to be sent by **May 1, 2006** to: **Professor Maxine Thompson, Sociology and Anthropology Department, North Carolina State University, Box 8107, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695-8107**. Nominations may also be e-mailed to: **Maxine_Thompson@ncsu.edu** with the subject line: Freidson Award Nomination.

Career & Employment Column

by Carol Caronna and Deborah Glik

Welcome to this issue's Career and Employment Column. Deborah Glik and I have put together some information about postdoctoral and mid-career programs and fellowships of potential interest to medical sociologists, as well as some general internet search engines to help you with your attempts to find career opportunities. Good luck, and we will include more programs in future columns as we learn about them.

General Search Engines

Grants.gov provides a free "one stop shop" for 26 Federal grant-making agencies and over 900 individual federal grant programs. <<http://www.grants.gov/>>

The Foundation Center collects and communicates information on U.S. philanthropy, including information on grants and programs. <<http://www.foundationcenter.org/>>

GrantsNet, part of the ScienceCareers.org website, is a free source of information on research funding, scholarships, fellowships, and internships, including international grants and fellowships. <<http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding?CFID=425188&CFTOKEN=66631060>>

The Community of Science website includes a search engine for grants and programs. <<http://www.cos.com/>>

IRIS is a search engine for grants and programs. It is available free of charge to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign community and by subscription for other institutions. <<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/iris/>>

U.S. National Institutes of Health Awards

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (U.S. National Institutes of Health F32), for biomedical and behavioral research. <<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-03-067.html>>

NIH National Research Service Awards for Senior Fellows (U.S. National Institutes of Health F33), for biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research. <<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-00-131.html>>

Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (U.S. NIH K01), career development in a new area of research. <<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-001.html>>

International Research Scientist Development Award (U.S. NIH), for biomedical, social, and behavioral scientists researching developing countries. <<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-04-058.html>>

Academic Career Award (U.S. NIH K07), supports individuals interested in introducing or improving curricula in a particular scientific field as a means of enhancing the educational or research capacity at the grantee institution. <<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-00-070.html>>

The NIDA Scholars Program, for new investigators in the areas of biomedical, clinical, or population-based studies of drug abuse. <<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-00-092.html>>

Transition to Independent Positions (TIP), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, for researchers studying the impact

of environmental exposures on human health. <<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-98-001.html>>

Residential Programs

Larson Fellowships, John W. Kluge Center, postdoctoral residential fellowship at the U.S. Library of Congress in the field of health and spirituality. <<http://www.loc.gov/loc/kluge/kluge-fellow-larson.html>>

AcademyHealth, Health Policy Fellowship, visiting scholars in health services research-related disciplines, at the National Center for Health Statistics in Maryland. <<http://www.academyhealth.org/nchs/>>

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowships Program, for mid-career health professionals and behavioral and social scientists with an interest in health, includes a 12 to 16 month full-time work assignment in Washington D.C. in either the legislative or executive branch of the federal government. <<http://www.iom.edu/rwj/>>

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Program, a two-year program in the multidisciplinary field of "population health" at one of six nationally prominent universities. <<http://www.healthandsocietyscholars.org/>>

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research Program, two-year program in health policy research within the disciplines of economics, political science, and sociology, at one of three nationally prominent universities. <<http://www.healthpolicyscholars.org>>

Institute for Advanced Study's School of Social Science (Princeton, N.J.), Visiting Member Awards, one academic year in residence to pursue own research. <<http://www.sss.ias.edu>>

School of American Research, Resident Scholar Program, for scholars who have completed their research and analysis and need time to think and write about topics important to the understanding of humankind. <<http://www.sarweb.org/>>

University of Illinois at Chicago, Institute for Health Research and Policy, Center for Research on Health and Aging, Postdoctoral Fellowships in Gerontological Public Health. <<http://www.uic.edu/depts/ovcr/hrpc/>>

University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health, Health Services Research Training Program, postdoctoral and mid-career fellowships, supported by an NRSA research training grant funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Postdoctoral Fellowships in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Systems and Services Research. <http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research_programs/mental_health/training/postdoc/index.html>

University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine, Institute for Health Policy Studies, Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Services and Health Policy Research. <<http://ihps.ucsf.edu/servlet/HtmlTemplateTextServlet?LinkName=Admissions>>

Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Residential Fellows program, <<http://casbs.stanford.edu/about.php>>

New Section

The Evolution and Sociology Section-in-Formation of the American Sociological Association is designed to help reconnect sociology with the life sciences. Supporting this section means supporting a biologically-grounded, scientific sociology—a great development for the 21st century. For more information about this section-in-formation, go to Evolution & Sociology Section Web Page <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionevol/>, or contact rlhopcro@email.uncc.edu. You must be a member of the American Sociological Association to join the section, which then costs only \$5. Student memberships in the association cost only \$17 (plus the cost of one journal). Please encourage your students to join!

Symposia, Post-Docs, and Courses

Intergenerational dependent care will be the focus of **Penn State's 14th Annual Symposium on Family Issues, October 5-6, 2006**. "Caring and Exchange Within and Across Generations" will be addressed by top scholars from major institutions in the disciplines of sociology, economics, demography, human development, and gerontology. Information and registration at <http://www.pop.psu.edu/events/symposium/2006.htm>, or contact Carolyn Scott, Phone: (814)863-6806, E-mail: css7@psu.edu.

The Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research offers postdoctoral opportunities for research and training in mental health research. The National Institute of Mental Health provides funding for the program: trainee stipends range from \$35,568 to \$51,036 per year depending on years since completion of the doctorate. Specialized fields of interest include Conceptual Foundations of Mental Health and Mental Health Practice, Psychiatric Disorder and Help Seeking Processes, Cultural and Ethnic Variations in Mental Health and Mental Health Services and Systems Research, and Interorganizational Perspectives in Mental Health Services. Only citizens, non-citizen nationals, or persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence are eligible for these positions. Applicants should send CV, statement of research interests, and three letters of reference by **April 15, 2006**. For further information write or email: Allan V. Horwitz, Professor, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 30 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, E-mail: avhorw@rci.rutgers.edu.

We have the pleasure to announce the fourth edition of the **Summer School on Modern Methods in Epidemiology and Biostatistics**. Courses on both introductory and more advanced course in epidemiology and biostatistics, given in a two-week program, will be run by faculties from the Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Karolinska Institutet and the Departments of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. Two "one day" courses on basics and programming in Stata will be also offered. The school will be held from **June 18 to July 1, 2006** at CastelBrando, in Cison Di Valmarino, Treviso, Italy. Please visit the course homepage for more information about the course: <http://www.bioepi.org/>

Member News

Constructing Grounded Theory: A Practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysis. Kathy Charmaz. Sage Publications. Available in hard cover or paperback. 208 pp. *Constructing Grounded Theory* takes readers on a research odyssey through qualitative analysis in an engaging, accessible guidebook that draws on multiple examples in medical sociology. Kathy Charmaz offers students and seasoned researchers step-by-step guidelines beginning with data collection and proceeding through analytic steps to report writing. Readers will find useful guidelines, questions, and suggestions in this volume but not rigid prescriptions or technical procedures. Instead, Charmaz engages her readers in a dialog about qualitative analysis because she views grounded theory as an inherently interactive method. She takes a fresh look at grounded theory methods and creates a cutting-edge exegesis of what qualitative analysis means and how to do it. This book makes the clearest statement to date of how to move from qualitative description to theorizing. Throughout the chapters, Charmaz dispels misunderstandings about grounded theory and establishes its renewed significance for qualitative inquiry in the twenty-first century. The book focuses on grounded theory but speaks to anyone interested in qualitative methods, theorizing as practice, and knowledge construction.

When Friendship Hurts. Jan Yager. Simon & Schuster, Inc., Fireside Books, 2002, will be translated into Indonesian. It is already available in French, Dutch, simple and complex Chinese, Korean, Greek, Arabic, Hebrew, Italian, and Turkish. (Russian, Spanish, Japanese, and Czech translations are in development). For more information on the book and the author, go to: <http://www.whenfriendshiphurts.com>.

Call for Papers and Proposals

Call for papers on Comparative Health Care/Medical Systems. The *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* seeks papers on comparative health care systems or comparative medical systems for a special section of the journal. Papers that consider Canadian, European, or non-Western systems are encouraged. Submit manuscripts to **Peggy A. Thoits, Editor, JHSB, Dept. of Sociology, CB #3210, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3210, by June 1, 2006.** Guidelines for manuscript formatting and submission procedures are found at the ASA website for journals or in the most recent March issue of *JHSB*.

Call for Proposals: Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) 2006-07 Pilot Project Grant Program.

Two pilot project grants will be awarded for innovative interdisciplinary research on adult health and well-being, with an emphasis on integrative approaches to understanding life course and subgroup variations in physical, socio-emotional, and cognitive functioning. All research must be based on the National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS) data set, or its satellite studies including the National Study of Daily Experiences (NSDE) and sibling/twin sub sample studies. Grants of up to \$15,000 (total costs) will be awarded to investigators from a variety of disciplines. For further information on the MIDUS study and pilot grant competition criteria, please see: http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~carrds/midus/midus_home.htm. Applications should be sent **NO LATER than July 5, 2006** to: **Dr Deborah Carr, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy & Aging Research, Rutgers University, 30 College Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901.** For further information, call 732-932-4068, or send E-mail to: carrds@sociology.rutgers.edu.

Student News & Views

by Claudia Chauhan

My First Real Rejection Letter

I guess I might as well start with the bad news: I received my first rejection letter. No, I do not mean one of those impersonal letters stating that although your curriculum was impressive, your research fascinating, and your letters of recommendation terrific, they were no longer considering your application, and they wished you the best in your academic endeavors. I mean a *real* rejection letter; the one that comes *after* you've visited the site, met your prospective employers, dined with them, given your job talk (finally...), and been told *in person* that your curriculum is impressive, your research fascinating, and your letters of recommendation terrific, somehow leading you to believe that you would be ideal for the job. Indeed, even when it may not be the dream job, or the dream place to live, and the last thing you want is to move your family (including hunting for a new job for your partner, new schools

for the kids, and so forth), you are so excited to have been invited to visit the campus and anxious to get started in that first job, that you would have done your best to make it the "dream" job and place.

How come nobody warned me when I entered the academic world that it was going to be so difficult? How come I didn't ask?? Two months have passed since my first interview, and although I have only received one formal rejection letter, I lose hope by the minute about the other schools I visited. And yet, in all honesty, as days go by, I am beginning to enjoy the idea of having fewer stresses to deal with over the summer preparing for that new job, especially after the very stressful period of having to work through, and "clean up," the last version of my dissertation. I will have the time with my family that I have been craving for; I will be able to prepare well for, and enjoy, my summer teaching; I will head off to

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A Publication of the Medical Sociology Section of the ASA

Section Officers**Chair**

Rose Weitz, Ph.D.
 Professor of Women's Studies and
 Sociology
 Arizona State University
 Box 87-3404
 Tempe, AZ 85287-3404
 Phone: 408-965-6579
 FAX: 480-965-2357
 E-mail: rose.weitz@asu.edu

Chair-Elect

R. Jay Turner, Ph.D.
 Marie E. Cowart Professor of
 Sociology and Epidemiology
 Center for Demography and
 Population Health
 Florida State University
 Tallahassee, FL 32306-2240
 Phone: 850-644-3108
 E-mail: jturner@fsu.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Debora Paterniti, Ph.D.
 Center of Health Services Research
 in Primary Care
 2103 Stockton Blvd.,

Grange Building, Suite 2224
 University of California, Davis
 Medical Center
 Sacramento, CA 95817
 Phone: 916-734-2367
 FAX: 916-734-2349
 E-mail: dapaterniti@ucdavis.edu

Newsletter Editor

Robin D. Moremen, Ph.D.
 Department of Sociology
 Northern Illinois University
 DeKalb, IL 60115
 Phone: 815-753-6439
 FAX: 815-753-6302
 E-mail: rmoremen@niu.edu

Student Newsletter Editor

Claudia Chaufan, M.D. (Argentina)
 Sociology Department
 College Eight #226
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 Santa Cruz, CA 95064
 Phone/FAX: 831-420-1874
 E-mail: chaufan@ucsc.edu or
 chaufan@mailblocks.com

Students – Apply to be the 2006 Louise Johnson Scholar!

The Medical Sociology Section will choose a student member of the section to be the 2006 Louise Johnson Scholar. The scholar will receive travel funds up to \$350 to present at the annual ASA meeting and to attend section events. The scholar will be chosen based on academic merit and the quality of an accepted ASA paper related to medical sociology. Applications are due on **June 1, 2006**. To apply, send: 1) a copy of your acceptance notification to present at the 2006 ASA meeting, 2) a copy of your paper, 3) your CV, and 4) a letter of recommendation from a professor who can write about your academic merit. Applications should be sent to: **Eliza Pavalko, Department of Sociology, Indiana University, Ballantine Hall 744, 1020 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405-7103**. The Louise Johnson Scholar fund was established in memory of Louise Johnson, a pioneering medical sociologist whose mentorship and scholarship we are pleased to honor. The fund was made possible by Sam Bloom of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and a former colleague of Louise Johnson.

Student News & Views

(Continued from page 5)

Montreal in August to present those papers and delight in French-speaking Canada; and I may even begin to think beyond the boundaries of my captive audience of readers (i.e., my committee members, my husband...), and try to put the hundreds of pages of my dissertation into manageable bits that *others* might want to read—and publish! And, what is best, my family and I won't have to move! At least not for another year...

“So you studied so much for *what*...? I'm sure you can get *some* job in the area!” said my mother the other day, as I tried to explain to her the unexplainable, that is, the quasi-monastic life of academia, including the fact that you don't just walk into the first school around the corner saying: “Good afternoon, I'm a sociologist, an expert in such and so, and a terrific teacher!” after which you get hired. I still have to prepare the five minute version of the answer to the questions: “What

are you going to do with your PhD?” and “How long will it take you to get a job?”

I guess I have no option but to trust my professors and mentors when they tell me that a ratio of one to ten invitations is something to feel proud of (that is, one invitation for every ten letters of application, forty in all!), even if you don't get a formal offer. I have to trust them when they tell me that it is not unusual to get rejected the first “round,” and that I will land a job eventually. I have to trust them when they tell me to count on the right mix of talent, excitement for the task, and life experience (my age, always my age!!) to do so. They have walked me this far. I need to trust them at this crucial moment.

And now the good news: despite the stress and the uncertainties (intellectual, emotional, economic, you name them...), it feels wonderful to have made it to the “finish” line! (To have completed that dissertation, I mean...!).