

# Medical Sociology Newsletter

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 4

SUMMER 2008

A Publication of the Medical Sociology Section of the ASA

## RESULTS OF 2008 MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION ELECTIONS

Congratulations to our incoming section officers and council members! The Nominations Committee (Deborah Carr, Elaine Hernandez, Robin Simons, and Stefan Timmermans) extends its sincere thank you to all section members who agreed to run for office.

***Chair-Elect***: Bill Avison, University of Western Ontario

***Secretary-Treasurer***: Carol Boyer, Rutgers University

***Council Member at Large***: Sarah Burgard, University of Michigan

***Nominations Committee Chair***: Jeremy Freese, Northwestern University

***Nominations Committee Members***: Jennie Kronenfeld, Arizona State University; Kristen Springer, Rutgers University

***Chair, Health Policy and Research Committee***: Verna Keith, Florida State University

***Membership Committee Chair***: Heather Turner, University of New Hampshire

***Nominations Committee, Student Member***: Matt Gayman, Florida State University

***Student Representative***: Dawne Mouzon, Rutgers University

### Reminders:

- ***MSN Fall Deadline:***  
*September 12, 2008*
- ***2008 ASA Annual Meeting:***  
*August 1-4, 2008*  
*Boston, Massachusetts*
- ***2009 ASA Annual Meeting:***  
*August 8-11, 2009*  
*San Francisco, California*



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**SEE ASA  
PROGRAM  
NOTES  
WITHIN**

## SECTION-SPONSORED & RELATED SESSIONS AT THE 2008 ASA MEETINGS IN BOSTON

**Editor's note:** The following information was taken directly from the ASA website; my apologies if I unknowingly reproduced their errors. Please check online for details about scheduling, last minute changes, and other helpful information regarding the conference program at: <http://www.asanet.org/>.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

#### 8:30-10:10 Regular Session. Health Care and Care Delivery—Boston Marriott Copley Place

**Session Organizer:** *Dharma E Cortes* (Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School)

Doctor-Patient Communication in the Age of Internet Technology, *Gul Seekin* (University of Maryland-Baltimore County), *John G. Schumacher* (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)

Embracing, Selectively Accepting, and Strategically Complying: The Spectrum of Bariatric Surgery Patients' Negotiations with Medical Guidelines, *Patricia Drew* (University of California-Santa Barbara)

Socioeconomic Status and Health Care Behavior: How SES Impacts the Ways Parents of Children with Cancer Navigate Health Care Systems, *Elizabeth Ann Gage* (State University of New York-Buffalo)

Time for Compassion: Cultures of Care in Two Hospital Units, *John William Kaiser* (University of California-Berkeley)

#### 10:30-12:10 Regular Session. Health and Well-Being—Boston Marriott Copley Place

**Session Organizer & Presider:** *Ming Wen* (University of Utah)

A Comparison of Family Effects on the Overweight Status of Adolescent Boys and Girls, *Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld* (Arizona State University), *Mary Benin* (Arizona State University)

Chewing the Fat: Understanding Discourses of Childhood Obesity in the U.S. Public School System, *Angela M. Barian* (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Physical Education Requirements and Obesity Risk Among Elementary School Children, *Helen J. Lee* (Public Policy Institute of California)

Race, Gender, Body Image, and Unhealthy Eating, *Kim A. Logio* (Saint Joseph's University)

**Discussant:** *Kathleen Anne Cagney* (University of Chicago)

#### 10:30-12:10 Regular Session. Medical Sociology: The Illness Experience and The Patient-Doctor Relationship—Boston Marriott Copley Place

**Session Organizer:** *Elbert P. Almazan* (Central Michigan University)

**Presider:** *Ronica Nicole Rooks* (University of Colorado Denver)

How are Patient Characteristics Relevant for Clinical Decisions in Diabetes? Results from a Cross-National Experiment, *Karen Lutfeij* (New England Research Institutes), *Stephen M. Campbell* (University of Manchester), *Megan R. Rensfrew* (New England Research Institutes), *Lisa D. Marveau*, *Martin Roland* (University of Manchester), *John McKinlay* (New England Research

Institutes)

Patient Trust and Professional Control, *Scott Savage* (University of Arizona)

The Interaction of Age and Gender in Illness Narratives, *Clive Seale* (Brunel University), *Jonathan Charteris-Black* (University of the West of England)

'The Missing Voice of Critical Illness' Ten Years Later: In Sociology, Still Missing, *David A. Rier* (Bar Ilan University)

**Discussant:** *Renee R. Anspach* (University of Michigan)

#### 4:30-6:10 Regular Session. Social Dimensions of AIDS—Boston Marriott Copley Place

**Session Organizer & Presider:** *Victor Agadjanian* (Arizona State University)

The Global Response to AIDS in Africa: the Dangerous Effects of Good Intentions, *Nicholas Simon Morfit* (University of California-Berkeley)

The Life Course of Nevirapine: Traveling in an Emergency, *Alton Phillips* (New York University)

The Symbolic Struggle over HIV/AIDS: Circumscribing the Body Politic of Post-Apartheid South Africa, *Claire Laurier Decoteau* (University of Michigan)

The Route to Compliance: HIV Testing in Antenatal Clinics in Rural Malawi, *Nicole Angotti* (University of Texas at Austin), *Kim Yi Dionne* (University of California, Los Angeles), *Lauren M. Gaydosh* (University of Pennsylvania)

**Discussant:** *Amy Kathleen Kaler* (University of Alberta)

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

#### 12:30-2:10 Career Workshop. Careers in Medical Sociology (Co-Sponsored by the ASA Section on Medical Sociology)—Sheraton Boston

**Session Organizer & Co-Leader:** *Carol A Caronna* (Towson University)

**Co-Leader:** *Deborah Glik* (UCLA School of Public Health)

#### 2:30-4:10 Section on Medical Sociology Council Meeting—Sheraton Boston

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

#### 8:30-10:10 Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session. Emerging Forms of Evidence in Medicine and Population Health: Opportunities to Shed Light on the Contribution of Sociological Knowledge to Health—Sheraton Boston

**Session Organizer:** *Allen M. Fremont* (RAND Corporation)

Epidemiological "Ethics": The Science of Health Disparities and Divergent Ways of Knowing, *Janet K. Shim* (University of California-San Francisco), *Katherine Thomson* (University of California-San Francisco)

Everything Old is New Again: Genetics, Professionalization, and

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Public Health, *Laura Senier* (Brown University)  
 Hot or Not? Recognizing and Preparing for Climate-Induced  
 Illnesses, *Sabrina McCormick* (University of Pennsylvania)  
 Multiplicities in Practice: Genes and Environments in  
 Environmental Health Research, *Sara N. Shostak* (Brandeis  
 University)

**10:30-12:10 Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session.  
 From Illness Experience to Disease Outcome: Qualitative  
 and Quantitative Contributions and Collaborations—  
 Sheraton Boston**

**Session Organizer & Presider:** *Stefan Timmermans* (University of  
 California-Los Angeles)  
 Stress, Coping, and Resilience in Breast Cancer Treatment, *Linda  
 E. Francis* (University of Akron), *Kristin R. Baughman* (NE OH  
 University College of Medicine), *Elizabeth E. Piatt* (Kent State  
 University), *Heidi Eye-Caboon* (Summa Health System)  
 "I'm a walking eating disorder": Framing and Collective Identity in  
 Eating Disorder Support Groups, *Jessica Powers Koski*  
 (Northwestern University)  
 Mind the Gap: Gender Differences in Child Health, *Valerie R.  
 Leiter* (Simmons College), *Patricia P. Rieker* (Boston University)  
 Toward a Sociology of Disease? *Stefan Timmermans* (University of  
 California-Los Angeles), *Steven Haas* (Arizona State  
 University)

**2:30-4:10 Section on Medical Sociology Invited Session. What  
 Medical Sociology Has to Contribute to Health Policy—  
 Sheraton Boston**

**Session Organizer:** *Jill Quadagno* (Florida State University)  
**Presider:** *Marc Dixon* (Dartmouth College)  
 Using Data to Enable Stakeholders to Address Healthcare  
 Disparities: Lessons from the National Health Plan  
 Collaborative, *Allen M. Fremont* (RAND Corporation)  
 The Contributions of Medical Sociology to Health Services  
 Research, *Donald W. Light* (University of Medicine &  
 Dentistry of New Jersey)  
 The Long Shadow of the Past: Risk Pooling and the Political  
 Development of Health Care Reform in the States, *Anthony S.  
 Chen* (University of California), *Margaret Weir* (University of  
 California-Berkeley)  
 Can States Lead the Way to Universal Coverage? *Benjamin Lennox  
 Kail*, *Marc Dixon* (Dartmouth College), *Jill Quadagno* (Florida  
 State University)

**4:30-6:10 Section on Medical Sociology Invited Session.  
 British Medical Sociology's 40th Anniversary: Advances and  
 Debates from Across the Pond—Sheraton Boston**

**Session Organizer & Presider:** *Patricia P. Rieker* (Boston  
 University)  
 Welfare, Wealth, or Health Care: What Impacts Individual Health  
 across Advanced, Industrialized Nations? *Sigrun Olafsdottir*  
 (Boston University), *Jason Beckfield* (Harvard University)  
 Would Single Payer Healthcare be the Panacea We Hope for in the  
 US? *Karen Lutfey* (New England Research Institutes), *Stephen  
 M. Campbell* (University of Manchester), *Lisa D. Marceau*,

*Martin Roland* (University of Manchester), *John McKinlay* (New  
 England Research Institutes)  
 Discussant: *Jonathan Quetzal Tritter* (University of Warwick)

**6:30-8:10 Section on Medical Sociology  
 Reception—Sheraton Boston**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 4**

**8:30-10:10 Section on Medical Sociology Refereed Roundtable  
 Sessions—Sheraton Boston**

**Session Organizer:** *Brian Karl Finch* (San Diego State University)  
**Table 01. Defining Health and Health Care**  
 Caring for and about the Work We Do: Reflections on the  
 Dialectics of Alienation and an Ethic of Care, *Robin G. Isserles*  
 (Borough of Manhattan Community)  
 Policy, Disadvantage, and the Value of the "Mentally Ill" Label,  
*Kerry Michael Dobransky* (Northwestern University)  
 Reiki: Illustrating Social Boundaries, *Jennifer Jean Esala* (University  
 of New Hampshire)  
 The Birth of AIDS: The Socio-Medical Construction of Sudden  
 Infant Death Syndrome, *Susan W. Hinze* (Case Western  
 Reserve University), *Robin Shura Patterson* (Case Western  
 Reserve University)  
 Table Presider: *Susan W. Hinze* (Case Western Reserve University)

**Table 02. Gender & Health**

Engendering and Gendering Illness: Men, Women, and  
 Fibromyalgia, *Annamarie S. Van Altena* (Loyola University  
 Chicago)  
 Gender, Stress, and Self-Rated Health in the 2004-2006 Midlife  
 Development in the U.S. Survey (MIDUS2), *Michelle R.  
 Walker* (University of Colorado at Boulder)  
 Illness Narratives of Early Retired Finnish Women Suffering from  
 Chronic Back Pain, *Annika Linnea Lillrank* (University of  
 Helsinki)  
 Table Presider: *Annika Linnea Lillrank* (University of Helsinki)

**Table 03. Global Health**

Correlates of Self-Rated Health Status in the Context of Sri Lanka,  
*Vani S Kulkarni* (Harvard University), *Veena Kulkarni*  
 (University of Maryland-College Park)  
 Self-Care Questions in Japanese OBGYN Practices, *Michie  
 Kawashima* (Saitama University)  
 Thai and American Doctors on Medical Ethics, 2004-2006:  
 Religion, Regulation, and Ethics Across Borders, *Hanna Grol-  
 Prokopczyk* (University of Wisconsin-Madison)  
 The Effect of Latrine Sanitation on Maternal and Infant Mortality  
 in Ethiopia, *Beza Enkenyelsh Ayalew* (Denison University)  
 Table Presider: *Beza Enkenyelsh Ayalew* (Denison University)

**Table 04. Health Behavior**

Exploring Healthcare-Seeking Behavior in Vietnam, *Dzung Thi  
 Kieu Vu* (Vietnam National University)  
 Health, Positive Health Behaviors, and Neighborhood Disorder:  
 An Exploration of Perceptions of Specific Disorder Cues and

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their Changes Over Time, *Danielle Marie Wallace* (University of Chicago)

Race-Ethnicity, Gender, and Health Behavior Engagement between Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood, *Adrienne Frech* (The Ohio State University)

Stigma's Long-Term Impact: The Effects of Behaviors on Sanctions and their Impact on Well-being in Young Adulthood, *Nathaniel Cole* (University of Maryland, College Park)

Table President: *Nathaniel Cole* (University of Maryland, College Park)

#### Table 05. Health Care

Adding Fuel to the Fire: Where is Culture in the Structure-Agency Debate on Health Care? *Rachel Elaine Bryant* (Case Western Reserve University)

Canadian Family Physicians and Complementary/Alternative Medicine: The Effects of Work Setting, Education, and Provincial Policy, *Kristine A. Hirschhorn* (McMaster University), *Robert Andersen* (University of Toronto), *Ivy Lynn Bourgeault* (McMaster University)

Temporal Aspects of Remission: The Experiences of Patients Diagnosed with Lymphoma, *Hilary Thomas* (University of Hertfordshire), *Julie Evans* (University of Oxford), *Sue Ziebland* (University of Oxford)

The Effects of Physician's Attitude on Patient's Satisfaction with Medical Care, *Joongbaeck Kim* (University of Tennessee-Knoxville)

Table President: *Joongbaeck Kim* (University of Tennessee-Knoxville)

#### Table 06. Health Care Disparities

Ethnic Composition of Provider Practices and Disparities in Treatment of Depression and Anxiety, 1995-2005, *Isabel T. Lagomasino* (USC), *Susan E. Stockdale* (University of California-Los Angeles), *Jeanne Miranda* (UCLA Semel Institute Health Services Research Center)

Medicare Managed Care and Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities, *Noah J. Webster* (Case Western Reserve University)

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Physician Visits: The Consequences of Age and Chronic Conditions, *Ronica Nicole Rooks* (University of Colorado Denver)

Racial Ideology and Cultural Competence in Health Care, *Jennifer Malat* (University of Cincinnati)

Table President: *Jennifer Malat* (University of Cincinnati)

#### Table 07. Health Care Policy

Caring Labor, Intersectionality, and Worker Satisfaction: An Analysis of the National Nursing Assistant Study (NNAS), *Carter Rakowski* (California State University Fullerton), *Kim Price*

DTC Prescription Drug Advertising in a Global Context, *Joshua Murray* (State University of New York-Stony Brook)

New Health Geographies of Complementary, Alternative, and Traditional Medicines in Primary Health Care, *Daniel Benjamin Hollenberg* (McMaster University & University of Toronto), *Ivy Lynn Bourgeault* (McMaster University)

Pharmaceuticalizing Childhood: Ritalin Usage in France and the United States, *Manuel Vallee* (University of California-Berkeley)

Table President: *Manuel Vallee* (University of California-Berkeley)

#### Table 08. Health Perceptions

"Mirror, Mirror on the Wall"...Body Image, Self-Feelings, and Social Life: Specification of Structure among Latent Constructs, *Nicole Mixson-Perez* (University of Miami)

Alternative Health and the New Health Consciousness, *Matthew L. Schneirov* (Duquesne University)

Patients as Experts of their Own: A German Case Study of Body Techniques in Infertility Treatment, *Charlotte Ullrich* (Ruhr-University Bochum)

Table President: *Charlotte Ullrich* (Ruhr-University Bochum)

#### Table 09. Health Policy Analysis

A Comparative Analysis of Health Care Needs Of Housed- and Housing-Distressed High School Students, *Yvonne M. Vissing* (Salem State College)

Aberrant Access to Care in the Oregon Health Plan, *Pooya Shann-Darius Naderi* (University of Kansas)

The Relationship Between News Coverage of Tobacco and Four 'Quit-Relevant' Behaviors, *Katherine Clegg Smith* (Johns Hopkins University), *Catherine Siebel* (University of Illinois-Chicago)

Specialty Care Utilization: The Importance of Examining Sequential Movements within the US Health Care System, *Chioun Lee* (Arizona State University), *Stephanie Ayers* (Arizona State University), *Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld* (Arizona State University), *Jemima Frimpong* (University of Pennsylvania), *Patrick A. Rivers* (Southern Illinois University), *Sam Kim* (Arizona State University)

Table President: *Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld* (Arizona State University)

#### Table 10. Health Workforce

Characteristics of African-American Male Caregivers in a Study of Oral Health in Detroit, *Susan Reisine* (University of Connecticut), *Kristine J. Ajrouch* (Eastern Michigan University), *Sungwoo Lim* (University of Michigan), *Woosung Sohn* (University of Michigan), *Amid Ismail* (University of Michigan)

The Significance of Workplace for Constructing Professional Roles and Relationships: An Analysis from Sport Medicine, *Nancy Theberge* (University of Waterloo)

The "Big Dip": Decrements in RN Satisfaction at Mid-Career, *Suzanne Coshov* (Press Ganey Associates, Inc.), *Robert Wolosin* (Press Ganey Associates, Inc.), *Paul Davis* (Press Ganey Associates, Inc.)

Table President: *Suzanne Coshov* (Press Ganey Associates, Inc.)

#### Table 11. HIV and AIDS

Identities in Formation: A Study of AIDS Awareness and Beliefs among Women in Andhra Pradesh India, *Tanni Chaudhuri* (University of Miami), *Jomills Henry Braddock* (University of Miami)

One Starfish at a Time: Reducing HIV/AIDS Stigma Using Fundamentals in Sociology, *Robin D. Moremen* (Northern

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Illinois University)  
Table Presider: *Robin D. Moremen* (Northern Illinois University)

### Table 12. Mental Health

Does Weight Change Lead to Higher Levels of Depression for Obese Individuals? *Krista Marie Clark Cline* (University of Missouri-Columbia), *Michelle Renee Rainey* (Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis), *Rachel Smederovac* (Purdue University)

Insomnia and Mental Health as Gendered Co-Morbidities: Do Differences in Mental Health by Race and Gender Explain Differences in Insomnia? *Lauren Elizabeth Hale* (State University of New York-Stony Brook), *D. Phuong Do* (University of Michigan), *Brian Karl Finch* (San Diego State University), *Ricardo Basurto* (RAND), *Melanie Heron* (Centers for Disease Control), *Tamara Dubowitz* (RAND), *Nicole Laurie* (RAND), *Jose Escarce* (UCLA), *Teresa Seeman* (UCLA), *Chloe E. Bird* (RAND)

Table Presider: *Megan E. Gilster* (University of Michigan)

### Table 13. Sexuality & Health

Health and Sexual Status in an Urban Gay Enclave: An Application of the Stress Process Model, *Adam Isaiah Green* (University of Toronto)

Health Lifestyle Behaviors among Southern Lesbians: The Roles of Social Support and Community Integration, *Erika Laine Austin* (University of Alabama at Birmingham), *Jay Irwin* (University of Alabama at Birmingham)

The Influence of the ABC HIV Prevention Strategy on the Social Normative Sexual Behavior of University Students in Uganda, *Dorothy J. Kalanzi* (Texas Women's University), *Ami Moore* (University of North Texas), *Sikora Okure* (Makerere University), *James L. Williams*

Table Presider: *Dorothy J. Kalanzi* (Texas Women's University)

### Table 14. Social Determinants of Health

Rising U.S. Income Inequality and Individual Self-Rated Health, 1972-2004, *Hui Zheng* (Duke University)

Social Contact, Social Support, Social Integration, and All-Cause Mortality: A Meta-Analysis, *David John Roelfs* (Stony Brook University), *Eran Shor* (Stony Brook University)

Rural-Urban Differences in the Shape of the Socioeconomic Gradients in Health in China, *Ke Liang* (University of Pennsylvania)

Social Support, Quality of Support, and Depression, *Jimwoo Lee* (University of Texas at Austin)

Table Presider: *Jimwoo Lee* (University of Texas at Austin)

### Table 15. Social Epidemiology

Differentiating Work-Related From Generalized Psychological Distress and Negative Affective Wellbeing, *Bill Magee* (University of Toronto)

Project-Induced Migration, Secondary Stressors, and Health: A Panel Analysis of Migrants of the Three Gorges Dam Project, China, *Yue Cao* (University of Alabama at Birmingham), *Sean-Shong Hwang* (University of Alabama-Birmingham), *Juan Xi*

(University of Alabama-Birmingham)  
Socio-Economic Status and Occupational Differences in the Experience of Mortality, *Jonathan H. Westover* (University of Utah)

Table Presider: *Jonathan H. Westover* (University of Utah)

### 10:30-12:10 Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session.

#### Work, Care, and Health: How are Changes in Employment Policy, Technology, and the Workplace Affecting Health and Well-Being—Sheraton Boston

**Session Organizer:** *Pamela Braboy Jackson* (Indiana University)

Negative Behaviour in the British Workplace, *Ralph Fevre* (Cardiff University, UK), *Duncan Lewis* (Glamorgan University, UK), *Amanda Robinson* (Cardiff University, UK), *Trevor Jones* (Cardiff University, UK)

Workplace Violence in Community Care Group Homes: Management and Union Responses, *Reuben Roth* (Laurentian University)

Constraints on Care Work: Managed Care, Emotional Labor, and Psychological Burnout, *Teresa L. Scheid* (University of North Carolina-Charlotte)

Relationships Between Timing and Duration of Work Hours and Multiple Measures of Health, *Sibyl Kleimer* (Indiana University), *Eliza K. Pavalko* (Indiana University)

When Should I Work?: Work Sequencing, Financial Well-Being, and Mental Health, *Pamela Braboy Jackson* (Indiana University), *Tiffani N. Saunders* (Indiana University-Bloomington), *Ryotaro Uemura* (Indiana University)

### 12:30-1:30 Section on Medical Sociology Award Ceremony—Sheraton Boston

### 1:30-2:10 Section on Medical Sociology Business Meeting—Sheraton Boston

### 2:30-4:10 Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session.

#### Advances in Understanding the Contribution of Neighborhoods to Health and Health Disparities—Sheraton Boston

**Session Organizer:** *Stephanie A. Robert* (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**Presider:** *Kathleen Anne Cagney* (University of Chicago)

An Examination of Processes Linking Perceived Neighborhood Disorder and Obesity, *Terrence D. Hill* (University of Miami), *Amy M. Burdette* (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

Come Take a Walk with Me: The “Go-Along” Interview as a Novel Method for Studying the Implications of Place for Health and Well-being, *Richard M. Carpiano* (University of British Columbia)

Neighbourhood Interactions and Suicide in Stockholm: A Multilevel Study, *Ka-yuet Liu* (Columbia University)

The Neighborhood Effect of Poverty on Adolescent Suicidal Behavior, *Jon Gunnar Bernburg* (University of Iceland), *Thorolfur Thorlindsson* (University of Iceland), *Inga Dora Sigfusdottir* (Reykjavik University)

## Career & Employment

By Sara Shostak

With the annual meeting of the ASA before us, many of our colleagues are considering the job market. Of course, the most important advice you'll get in this process is from your mentors. However, below is a sample of resources that may be helpful to sociologists seeking, interviewing, and negotiating for new positions.

ASA's research brief on sociology faculty salaries, 2007-2008:

<http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/ASA%20Salaries%20Brief%202007-08.pdf>

ASA's salary trend data:

<http://www.asanet.org/galleries/Research/SalaryRschBrief51807.pdf>

AAUP's data on faculty salaries (includes nine years of average faculty salaries at more than 1,300 institutions.):

<http://chronicle.com/stats/aaup/>

The Chronicle also offers a cost of living calculator:

<http://chronicle.salary.com/>

ASA provides overviews of issues of race, gender, and careers in Sociology:

[http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/Minorities\\_Career\\_Pipeline.pdf](http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/Minorities_Career_Pipeline.pdf)

<http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/RBGender.pdf>

And a brief on the timing of reproduction and sociological careers:

<http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/RBbaby.pdf>

For those of you (re)constructing your CVs:

<http://chronicle.com/jobs/tools/cvdoctor/2007/>

For virtual companionship in your search, there are searchable advice columns at the Chronicle:

<http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/>

You may also share your experiences at the sociology rumor mill:

<http://wikihost.org/wikis/academe/wiki/sociology>

And compare notes and share information at the sociology job market wiki:

<http://socrumormill2007.blogspot.com/>

[NOTE: The above two sites are from last year's market, but should help you find 2008-2009 sites when they launch]:

May you soon be negotiating a job offer! Here are negotiation tips from the Chronicle:

<http://chronicle.com/jobs/2005/11/2005110801c.htm>

And Joseph Dumit of UC Davis:

<http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/files/lqKgjM/Job%20Negotiations%20Dummit.doc>

Books that have been recommended to me re: negotiating include the following:

Babcock, Linda & Sara Laschever. 2003. *Women Don't Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Sample chapter available at: <http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/i7575.html>

Fisher, Roger, William Ury, & Bruce Patton. 1991. *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Books.

Preview at Google Books:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=sjH3emOkC1MC&dq=getting+to+yes&pg=PP1&ots=3jJ3H8Gu95&sig=QRWY-E5UxattfKpu5YJJDHDS3g&hl=en&prev=http://www.google.com/search%3Fq%3Dgetting%2Bto%2Byes%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox%26ie%3DUTF-8%26oe%3DUTF-8%26sourceid%3Die7%26rlz%3D117SUNA&sa=X&oi=print&ct=title&cad=one-book-with-thumbnail>

Best wishes!

## Student News & Views

William A. Anderson, MPA, MPH

### Makings of a Future Sociologist?

In the middle of working on this piece, my train of thought was interrupted – by the birth of my son, Walter. (Of course I had to mention this, right?) One of my fellow graduate students sent around his picture along with pictures of several notable sociologists, to each of which Walter bore a striking resemblance. (Think receding hairline, pudgy cheeks.) The subject of the message was “The Makings of a Future Sociologist?” As I contemplate this new beginning, I give thought to what makings were present in me as a future sociologist.

A driving interest of mine, before I even really knew what to call it, was the role that the social plays in the choices and actions of individuals. Individualist explanations have always seemed odd to me. Recently, for example, my home city has decided to employ gunshot-detecting microphones in certain neighborhoods – an attempt to “crack down” on those citizens who are shooting at other citizens. I recognize the appeal, but am continually disheartened that absent from the discussion (such as it is) is any consideration of the social factors that give rise to the perceived need for these microphones.

The microphones are based on the theory of the individual bad person; a theory, by the way, that must assume that no matter how bad things get, no matter how hopeless, we each must continue to conduct ourselves completely within the confines of civility and law. Of course, I am not excusing the act of shooting someone, but I am asking that we discuss the idea that, just maybe, the ways in which we all live our lives and the decisions we make that shape our communities, cities, and societies, might have something to do with rates of violence. These are factors that will be picked up by voice-detecting microphones, not gunshot-detecting ones. Moreover, the discussion and exploration of these factors takes work and sometimes-difficult introspection, neither of which would grab many headlines.

In my previous column, I wrote “It strikes a discordant tone for

one to suggest that somehow, just by living our everyday lives the best we know how, we are contributing to patterns of health and illness that can be extremely difficult for an individual to overcome. Solutions to health problems are found in doctors’ offices and hospitals, not the sociologist’s office.” Replace health and illness and doctors and hospitals with any number of social ills and their associated offices and the same sentence can apply to just about anything.

Our society of so-called “rugged individualism” perhaps more easily accepts explanations for human behavior from other social and behavioral sciences because we can always exclude ourselves from those explanations. “People” may act a certain way, but “I” don’t. The problem with the sociological explanation is that a good one really never excludes anybody. It’s a difficult thing to be told that you’re part of the problem. On the other hand, a truly good social response never excludes anyone, either. To sound trite, we can all be part of the solution.

What brought me to sociology was a desire to see things changed for the better, especially concerning health and illness. Obviously I have my own views as to what “better” is. We all do. But my role for sociology is not in defining a singular, universal better. My role for sociology is to provide the knowledge and context necessary to have meaningful, informed discussions – the kind that lead to neighborhood renewal, rather than to gunshot microphones. I am not calling for us all to be activists, but we have to go further than simply publishing a finding and hoping that it catches the attention of someone who can do something about it. It seems to me that the practical usefulness of sociological research lies in thoughtful, contextual interpretation; being willing to tell policy makers, politicians, and the public when we think they’re wrong and when we think they’re right and back it up with evidence. It might be opinion and it might make some of us more political than we would otherwise be, but at least it would be informed opinion and informed politics, neither of which is ever a bad thing. I hope to raise Walter to expect no less.

### FORTHCOMING BOOK SERIES

#### *Social Disparities in Health and Health Care*

**Series Editors:** Ronald Angel, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin; William Avison, Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario. **Publisher:** Springer.

*Social Disparities in Health and Health Care* series will publish books, both edited and authored, by leading researchers in the discipline. These books will consider issues at the forefront of research in medical sociology and the sociology of mental health in this burgeoning area of research. The objective of this series will be to highlight the leading research in these areas and to identify emerging issues for future sociological research on health and health care. The primary audience for this series will be sociologists with research interests in health, mental health, or health care. Books in this series will be valued resources that

address contemporary issues and problems in health from a sociological perspective. They will make important contributions to theory and research in **medical sociology** and **the sociology of mental health**. Some potential ideas for volumes in this series include: identifying social sources of disparities in health and health care, understanding the causal processes that link disadvantage to health disparities, examining health disparities across the life course, understanding how variations in health perceptions and health behaviors influence health disparities, and investigations of methodological issues that arise in comparative research involving groups that differ greatly in culture, education, and income, as well as demographic and disease profiles. It is recommended that you contact the series editors with your ideas first before submitting a proposal: William Avison ([wavison@uwo.ca](mailto:wavison@uwo.ca)); Ronald Angel ([rangel@mail.la.utexas.edu](mailto:rangel@mail.la.utexas.edu)).

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**BOOK RAFFLE  
SOLICITATION!**

The time has come, once again, to consider donating a book to the ASA Medical Sociology Section's Annual Book Raffle. You may contribute your own (people often have extra copies of books they have written) or extra copies of other people's books that you may have received. **PLEASE, CURRENT TITLES ONLY AND NO TEXTBOOKS.** Remember, these donations are going to a worthy cause—to provide support for the Leo G. Reeder and Roberta G. Simmons Awards. Please send your donated copies to: Sarah Burgard, Raffle Chair, University of Michigan, Department of Sociology, 3001 LSA Building, 500 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1382. If you have any questions about potential donations, please contact me at burgards@umich.edu. Please send books by **July 25, 2008** so that I can transport them to the ASA meeting. Thank you for your generous support.  
~Sarah Burgard

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**THANKS TO CURRENT STUDENT EDITOR AND CALL FOR NEW STUDENT EDITOR**

We want to thank William A. Anderson for his thoughtful "Student News and Views" columns this past year, and wish him the very best in his future career.

We are now soliciting applications from graduate students who might want to hold this position for 2008-2009. This is a wonderful opportunity for a graduate student

to become visible to members of the section and to contribute her or his ideas in the form of four columns in the *Medical Sociology Newsletter*. If you are interested in the position, please send an email to **Robin Moremen, Editor**, at [rmoremen@niu.edu](mailto:rmoremen@niu.edu). Please address the following questions in your email:

1. Why are you interested in this position?
2. What are some of your ideas for the "Student News and Views" column?
3. How might these ideas increase student interest in the Medical Sociology section?

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