

Medical Sociology Newsletter

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WINTER 2009

A Publication of the Medical Sociology Section of the ASA

Quadagno 2009 Reeder Award Winner by William R. Avison

The Leo G. Reeder Award for Distinguished Contributions to Medical Sociology will be presented to Dr. Jill Quadagno at the August 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco. The award is presented annually in recognition of scholarly contributions, especially a body of work displaying a trajectory of productivity and encompassing theory and research. The Reeder Award also acknowledges teaching, mentoring, and training, as well as service to the medical sociology community. The award is named after Leo Reeder, a chair-elect of the Medical Sociology Section when he died in a plane crash in 1978.

Jill Quadagno received her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in 1976 and is currently the Mildred and Claude Pepper Eminent Scholar in Social Gerontology and Professor of Sociology at Florida State University. She served as Vice President of the ASA in 1993 and as President in 1997-98. She is currently Associate Editor of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. She has received a number of significant honors, including the Medical Sociology Section's Eliot Friedson Outstanding Publication Award in 2005, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1994-95, and the ASA Section on Aging Distinguished Scholar Award in 1994.

Dr. Quadagno's record of scholarship is simply outstanding. She is the author of seven books and the editor of five others. Her 2005 book, *One Nation, Uninsured: Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance* has rapidly emerged as one of the most significant contributions to medical sociology. In addition, she has written close to 100 articles and book chapters. The importance of her work is reflected in the large number of these publications that have been reprinted in edited collections by others in the field. Her research addresses policy issues that are at the centre of debates about national health insurance, social security, and welfare policy.

Dr. Quadagno has been generous in her commitments of time and effort to the American Sociological Association. She has served as Chair of the Medical Sociology Section's Health Policy Committee. Jill Quadagno also has the distinction of having served as Chair of three different sections in the ASA as well as working on numerous ASA committees.

Dr. Quadagno's mentorship and support of her colleagues is also noteworthy. In his letter of nomination, her colleague, Jay Turner, states: "In my nearly 44 years in the field I have never met or heard of anyone of Jill's stature who has maintained such a quality of consistent contribution while managing a large graduate program, mentoring younger colleagues, and advising and collaborating with an unending stream of students on their way to notable research careers."

Clearly, Dr. Quadagno has made outstanding contributions to medical sociology in terms of her research, her impact on policy, and her mentorship. The Council of the Medical Sociology Section is proud to honor Jill Quadagno with the 2009 Leo G. Reeder Award.

Reminders:

- **MSN Spring Deadline:**
March 27, 2009
- **2009 ASA Annual Meeting:**
August 8-11, 2009
San Francisco, California
- **2010 ASA Annual Meeting:**
August 14-17, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia

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Extra Issue of *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*: "What Do We Know? Key Findings from 50 Years of Medical Sociology" by Janet Hankin

As part of the Golden Anniversary of the Section, we will produce an extra issue of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* to be published in 2010. We thank David Mechanic and Bruce Link who helped secure the funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the project. Pamela Russo of the Foundation was instrumental in working with us to make the extra issue a reality. At the ASA, Sally Hillsman and Karen Edwards were able to submit the proposal to the Foundation in less than twenty-four hours. The editorial journal expertise of Eliza Pavalko and Michael Hughes was invaluable in the process of writing the proposal for the extra issue.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTRA ISSUE

In the past half-century, medical sociologists have provided key insights and findings on social dimensions of health and health care ranging from causes and consequences of health disparities to the organization and financing of health care. Unfortunately, many policy-makers, funding agencies, and health scholars outside of sociology are unaware of the scope and breadth of these sociological contributions. Thanks to a generous grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the ASA, we will produce an extra issue of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior (JHSB)* that will review key findings on core topics from sociological studies of health, illness, and healing and suggest the policy implications of those findings. Leaders in each of the core topics will be invited to write short articles reviewing the key findings that have been produced in their subareas. The extra issue will seek to accomplish two specific goals. The first will be to provide a broad overview of the state of research on health, illness, and healing for sociologists and health scholars in other disciplines; this will be accomplished by the publication of the extra issue and the scheduling of sessions to be held at the 2009 and 2010 ASA annual meetings. The second goal will be to produce an executive summary highlighting three or four key findings for each topic. This executive summary will be written by a professional

science writer and disseminated widely to policy makers, funding agencies, media outlets, and other non-academic stakeholders.

EDITORS AND ADVISORY BOARD

The Guest Editors for the Extra Issue are Janet Hankin, Wayne State University, and Eric Wright, Indiana University-Purdue University (Indianapolis). Eliza Pavalko, Indiana University, is the editor of *JHSB*; she will work closely with the guest editors on all phases of the project and will be in charge of administering the review and publication processes. An advisory board for the extra issue is in formation. The advisory board will 1) finalize the list of topics covered in the extra issue, 2) propose appropriate authors to be invited to write the articles, and 3) serve as potential reviewers for the invited articles. Thus far, the advisory board includes the *JHSB* editor, the two guest editors, the four *JHSB* Deputy Editors (Pamela Braboy Jackson, Bernice Pescosolido, Jill Quadagno, and Scott Schieman), Sarah Burgard (from the Health and Society Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), Michael Hughes, the chair of the Publications Committee of the Medical Sociology Section, Stephanie A. Robert, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Sid Stahl, National Institute on Aging.

TIMELINE

The advisory board will identify topics and authors in the next two months. In August 2009, Janet Hankin will chair an Invited Session on the Medical Sociology Section Program where authors will be invited to present key findings and policy implications. At the August 2010 Medical Sociology Section meetings at ASA, William Avison, Section Chair in 2009-2010, will chair an invited session that will highlight the extra issue. In November 2010, the extra issue will be mailed to all *JHSB* subscribers. The entire issue will be posted on the ASA website for all ASA members. The executive summary will be distributed to policy makers, funding agencies, media outlets and other non-academic stakeholders.

MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION

2009 Slate of Candidates

Robin Simon, Chair, Nominations Committee (rsimon@fsu.edu)

Committee Members: **Jeremy Freese, Northwestern University** (jfreese@northwestern.edu); **Jennie Kronenfeld, Arizona State University** (jennie.kronenfeld@asu.edu); **Kristen Springer, Rutgers University** (kspringer@sociology.rutgers.edu); **Matt Gayman, University of North Carolina** (mgayman@schsr.unc.edu)

Section Chair:

Michael Hughes, Virginia Tech (mdh@vt.edu)
Stefan Timmermans (stefan@soc.ucla.edu)

(rlevins@emory.edu)

Dawn Upchurch, UCLA (upchurch@ucla.edu)

Chair Elect, Nominations Committee:

Anne Barrett, Florida State University
(abarrett@fsu.edu)
Andrew London, Syracuse University
(anlondon@maxwell.syr.edu)

Student Council Member-at-Large:

Robin Lewis, Florida State University
(rkl05@fsu.edu)
Jennifer Ailshire, University of Michigan
(ailshire@umich.edu)

Nominations Committee Members (2):

Manacy Pai, Kent State (mpai@kent.edu)
Mary-Clare Lennon, CUNY
(MLennon@gc.cuny.edu)
Nancy Kutner, Emory (nkutner@emory.edu)
Karen Kaiser, University of Illinois-Chicago
(karkaise@indiana.edu)

Chair, Career and Employment Committee:

Karen Lutfey, New England Research
Institutes (klutfey@neriscience.com)
Jen'nan Read, Duke University
(jennan.reed@duke.edu)

Nominations Committee, Student Member:

Jennifer Caputo, Florida State University
(jlc07e@fsu.edu)
Abigail Sewell, Indiana University
(aasewell@indiana.edu)

Chair, Publications Committee:

Peggy Thoits, Indiana University
(pthoits@indiana.edu)
Bob Johnson, University of Miami
(rjohnson@miami.edu)

Council Member-at-Large:

Richard Levinson, Emory University

Chair, Teaching Committee:

Teresa Schied, University of North Carolina,
Charlotte (tlschied@uncc.edu)
Sigrun Olafsdottir, Boston University
(sigrun@bu.edu)

Calling all former Medical Sociology Section Chairs and Reeder Award Winners! We would like to recognize you at the Medical Sociology Section Reception on Saturday evening, August 8th. Please help us celebrate our 50th anniversary as we honor your contributions to the section and the discipline.

CALLS FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

LEO G. REEDER AWARD The Medical Sociology Section invites nominations for the 2010 Leo G. Reeder Award. This award is given annually for “Distinguished Contributions to Medical Sociology.” The award recognizes scholarly contributions, especially a body of work displaying an extended trajectory of productivity and 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 submit a letter of nomination and the nominee's curriculum vitae to William R. Avison, Chair-Elect of the Medical Sociology Section, at wavison@uwo.ca. While email is preferred, you may also mail the nomination letter and vitae to William R. Avison, Department of Sociology, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5C2. Deadline is **June 1, 2009**.

ROBERTA G. SIMMONS AWARD Nominations are being accepted for the 2009 Roberta G. Simmons Outstanding Dissertation in Medical Sociology Award. The award is given each year by the American Sociological Association's Medical Sociology Section. Self-nominations are acceptable. Eligible candidates must have defended their doctoral dissertations within the two academic years prior to the annual meeting at which the award is made. To be considered for the 2009 award, the candidate should submit an article-length paper (sole-authored), not to exceed 35 double-spaced pages (11- or 12-pitch font), inclusive of references. This paper may have been previously published, or may be in press or under review. We also require a letter of recommendation from a faculty mentor familiar with the candidate's work. Electronic submissions of the paper (MS Word or PDF) are preferred, but hard copies (please send 5 copies) will also be accepted. Letters of recommendation should be sent directly by the recommender, either as an email attachment or hard copy. Deadline for receipt of all submission materials is **March 1, 2009**. Please send to: Sarah Burgard, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan, 500 South University Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1382, burgards@umich.edu.

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 2009 award will be given to a scholarly article in a journal published in either 2007 or 2008. The article may deal with any topic in medical sociology, broadly defined. It need not be published in a sociology journal. Co-authored articles are appropriate to nominate; book chapters are not eligible. When making your nomination, please indicate (however briefly) the reason for the nomination. Include a copy or reprint of the article if available. Self-nominations are permissible and encouraged. Nomination letters are to be sent by **March 1, 2009** to: Professor Michael Hughes, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Nominations may also be emailed to mdh@vt.edu with the subject line: Freidson Award Nomination. Please attach a copy of the article as an attached document or provide a full reference to the article.

Auerbach Receives Award for Career Contributions to the Sociology of AIDS

The Sociologists' AIDS Network (SAN) is honored to recognize Dr. Judith Auerbach as the 2008 winner of the Award for Career Contributions to the Sociology of HIV/AIDS. Dr. Auerbach currently serves as Deputy Executive Director for Science and Public Policy at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), where she is responsible for developing, leading, and managing SFAF's local, state, national, and international policy agenda. Dr. Auerbach received her Ph.D. in Sociology in 1986 from the University of California, Berkeley. She has taught Sociology at Widener University and the University of California, Los Angeles and published and presented in the fields of AIDS, health research and science policy, and family policy and gender. For the last two decades, Dr. Auerbach has been devoted to working on health policy issues, occupying various positions including: Congressional Policy Fellow in the office of Representative Pat Schroeder in Washington (1988), Director of the Institute for the Study of Women and Men at the University of Southern California (1989-

1990), Associate Director for Government Affairs at the Consortium of Social Science Associations, Assistant Director for Social and Behavioral Sciences in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (1998), and Senior Program Officer at the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, where she served as Study Director for the Committee on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in AIDS Research. In addition, Dr. Auerbach joined The Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR) in 2003, serving as Vice President, Public Policy and Program Development after serving from 1995-2003 as Director of the Behavioral and Social Science Program and HIV Prevention Science Coordinator in the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Auerbach's work in the Sociology of HIV/AIDS has often focused on women and girls and she received the 2004 Feminist Activist Award from Sociologists for Women in Society in recognition of this work. We at SAN are pleased to congratulate Dr. Auerbach on her important accomplishments and contributions to the study of HIV/AIDS.

2009 AWARD FOR CAREER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIOLOGY OF HIV/AIDS

This award honors outstanding contributions to the Sociology of HIV/AIDS. The award may recognize work that has significantly advanced our understanding of social aspects of the pandemic, or that has contributed to prevention, treatment, or policy interventions. Nominees should have pursued substantial research and/or applied work related to HIV/AIDS, and should have worked in the field for at least eight years. Nominations (of yourself or others) should include a statement of up to two pages about the nominee's qualifications and an electronic copy or web link to her/his CV. Nominations (and questions) should be submitted to the committee chair, Sherry Larkins, at slarkins@mindspring.com (attachments in .doc or .pdf format only, please) by **May 15, 2009**. Scholars who have been nominated before will be automatically re-considered this year, but nominators should feel free to submit additional materials.

2009 SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY AWARD

The Sociologists AIDS' Network (SAN) Scholarly Activity Award aims to nurture scholarly interest in the Sociology of HIV/AIDS by supporting the work of emerging scholars in the field. One applicant will be chosen each year to receive a one-time award of up to \$250 and a year of free membership in SAN. All graduate students working on topics in the Sociology of HIV/AIDS are eligible to apply. Supportable activities include,

but are not limited to, research expenses (incentives, transcription, copying) and conference travel. Applicants should submit the following items to the award committee chair, Jorge Fontdevila (jfontdevila@fullerton.edu), by **May 15, 2009**: (1) a letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor; (2) a project proposal of 2-4 pages, including a description of the research, how your activity contributes to the Sociology of AIDS, description of how funds will be used, and when the activity will be completed, and (3) a complete budget for your conference travel, research project, or other scholarly activity (including other funding applications).

2009 MARTIN LEVINE STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

Sociology students are invited to submit an original, 20-page (double-spaced) essay on the social dimensions of HIV/AIDS for the annual student essay competition. The topic is broadly defined and can include any aspect of HIV/AIDS from a sociological perspective. The student must be the first author and must have written most, if not all, of the manuscript. The deadline for submission is **May 15, 2009**. The winner will receive an award of \$100 and a five-year membership to SAN. All students who enter the competition will also receive a one year membership to SAN. Papers should be submitted by e-mail to Anne Esacove (esacove@muhlenberg.edu).

Teaching Tips

by Rachel Kimbro

Voices from the Classroom

For this edition of the column, I interviewed Phil Brown, Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies at Brown University. We focused on his training of graduate students and his teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level. Professor Brown's research interest in health social movements means that he and his students work with a wide variety of environmental, community, and labor groups.

RK: Can you tell me about how you incorporate service-learning into your undergraduate environmental justice course?

PB: Working with a community group was a major component of the course. My TA and I coordinated their service projects, through our contacts in the community from our research projects. At the beginning of the course, we would pass out a two to three page handout on the projects that were available, and students would choose which they wanted to work on. The course was a three-hour seminar, and so part of class time was spent in their working groups, coordinating their work on the projects. The time students spent working at their organization varied, for an average of about four hours per week, although some students who were very involved would work much more than that. Students would have a specific project to accomplish at their organization over the semester. Sometimes they would stay connected and involved after the course, as well.

RK: What is the framework for your graduate Social Movements in Health course?

PB: We start with an introduction to general social movement theory, with about 60 percent of the first few classes devoted to that and the other 40 percent to health social movements (HSMs). Gradually, we shift the focus to mostly HSMs. I start every class with music.

RK: Every class with music? Tell me about that!

PB: Well, I spend a lot of time in my own life on music, so it's important to me, but social movements have a huge music influence – think of the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement, even the women's movement – they're all reflected in music. So there's always at least one song that sets the stage, gives you metaphors, gives you themes – and it's relaxing.

RK: That's great. What texts do you focus on in the course?

PB: I would say that my favorites are Sandra Steingraber's *Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*, and Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner's book *Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution*.

RK: It sounds like you do a lot of successful integration of your research projects into your teaching and training of students. Can you tell me more about how that works?

PB: My students get trained with a broad, interdisciplinary approach in medical sociology, environmental sociology, social movements, and science studies. They write about those topics, and publish in those different areas, which is important because they learn that they can incorporate a lot of theoretical and empirical traditions and be prepared to get jobs in different fields. They go to a wide array of conferences, not just ASA. In this way, they gain experience in multiple areas, and they also work on different kinds of grants. They learn about how grants are administered, they help write grants, and they often collaborate with one another.

I train them to take the initiative, suggest new ideas. We meet every week with the research group – when I started, I was going to do four articles and a book – and that became twenty-four articles! There is a lot of collaboration within the group, but I also encourage them to get involved with other projects at the university. This way, they get a broader perspective on the way others work. The students also learn how to contribute to the groups they are studying – one student, Rebecca Altman studied biomonitoring in different locales, including Alaska, where she examined the work of Alaska Community Action on Toxics. She wrote a pamphlet for the group, on environmental factors and reproductive health, which was sent to each physician in the state. Another, Laura Senier studied a labor/environment coalition in Boston – revolving around using green cleaning products in public schools – and published both an article in a sociology journal and also a report for the community partners. She recently was selected by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' Superfund Basic Research Program for the 11th Annual Karen Wetterhan Award, which is a testament to her excellent work integrating research and community engagement.

RK: Thanks very much!

* **Correction:** In the last edition of the newsletter, the affiliation of the medical sociology graduate program *
* at the University of California, San Francisco, was incorrect. It should have read, "University of California, *
* San Francisco, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, <http://sbs.ucsf.edu/medsoc/>". We are *
* sorry for the misinformation. Thank you! Rachel Kimbro *

Student News & Views

by Kelly Rhea MacArthur, MA

Although academia is not the only option, the general career trajectory after obtaining the Ph.D., and perhaps a post-doc, is to attain an assistant professor's job and then work towards tenure, associate professor, and eventually full professor. These may seem like clear steps on the professional ladder and in some respects they are. However, from the point of view of this graduate student, the life of an academic seems more about process than outcomes, most often the process of waiting. We seem always to be in the process of waiting for an outcome in which we likely have a great deal invested – a job, journal article, grant proposal, presentation, or promotion. Once we, as graduate students, realize that waiting for outcomes is a large part of an academic job, we can begin to develop the difficult skill of loving the process.

Since I have not quite developed this skill myself, I wondered if it was my impatient nature or if this struggle is typical of academics more generally. Because it is easier said than done to simply put something that you cannot control out of your mind, I solicited insight and advice on how to cultivate patience as a graduate student from eight people at different stages in their careers: one full professor, two associate professors, two assistant professors, one part-time instructor, and two graduate students. I asked them how they deal with waiting to hear back about various things and what advice they have for graduate students.

The first consensus among those I spoke with is that while coping with waiting is difficult, it gets easier with time. Waiting is more difficult to do in the early stages often because individuals are not confident about their work. One associate professor said the waiting was tortuous the first time he submitted an article to a journal. He attributes this anxiety to a lack of confidence that the article was of high quality and executed correctly. Now that he has had success in this area, "It's no longer a waiting period, it's a respite." Once he submits an article to a journal, he feels relieved because it is in somebody else's hands and he then uses the

time he has for the many other things on his plate. As several people indicated, success and understanding the process, whether it is in publishing or in other regards, helps to ease the waiting process.

Another important aspect is to consider the nature of *what* we are typically waiting for, which is to be evaluated. A few quotes illustrate this point, such as, "We're a heavily evaluated profession, so the time period for evaluation has to become something you're comfortable with." Similarly, "Everything an academic does is up for public evaluation." Finally, another individual said that she did not know in graduate school that, "70 percent of the job is evaluating others and being evaluated – good thing I liked it." Given that evaluation is a large part of academia that does not cease once one reaches a given stage, as graduate students we have to realize that this is a continuous part of the job. The idea that every level you achieve makes it easier is a myth. Certainly one feels satisfaction with achievement, but rejection is still as meaningful each time. Since many achievements typical of academia can seem "anticlimactic," one person suggests rewarding *yourself* at each stage.

People indicated different things that are particularly difficult to wait for and various reasons for them being difficult, such as the stakes being particularly high. For some, it is the job market; for others it is journal articles, especially before tenure; and for others it is grant applications. Since confidence that comes with time and success is key, the point is not to look forward to a lifetime of disappointment, but rather to become more aware of the reality of the processes involved. Furthermore, "Those who are more comfortable with the process are more successful." Since "we don't have instant gratification in this profession" and "we have to wait for validation," the best advice is not to take it personally; use what may seem as 'waiting' as time to start or finish other projects, be reflexive, and use it as a learning experience.

CONFERENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO FEBRUARY 6, 2009

Adele Clarke, Director of the UCSF Graduate Program in Medical Sociology, is pleased to announce the February 6 celebration of the Program's 40th anniversary and almost 50 years of sociology at UCSF. Events for the day feature faculty, alum, and student talks on the Program's history and accomplishments. One of the first U.S. sociology graduate programs focused on medical sociology, UCSF faculty did pioneering work in health and illness, medical care institutions, gender and health, aging, qualitative methods, and health policy. Those continue, as do newer traditions in science, technology, and medicine; race and health disparities; and globalization. The only U.S. medical sociology program structurally based in a School of Nursing, it has graduated doctorally-prepared nurses as well as sociologists. To view the program on **February 6, 2009**, go to: <http://dept.kent.edu/sociology/asamedsoc/>. For further information, contact: Adele.Clarke@ucsf.edu.

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Call for Papers *Work and Occupations* invites papers for a special issue, "Changing Worlds of Professional Work: New Markets, New Morals, New Models." Recent years have seen profound transformations in the landscape of professional work. Organizations that employ professionals are changing form and growing larger and more profitable. Markets for professional labor and services are globalizing; some clients and third-party payers are becoming more sophisticated. New groups of workers are making claims to professional status, and boundaries between professions are being renegotiated. The entry of women, ethnic and racial minorities, and other historically excluded groups has generated new interests, challenges, and pressures. Amidst these changes, professionals are rethinking the business of professional service, the nature of professional ethics, the role of regulation, and their identities as professionals. At the same time, sociologists are developing new perspectives on professional work. While the traditional sociology of professions has become quiescent, researchers in the broader fields of organizations, work, and inequality have begun to extend their questions and models to the professional context. This new work emphasizes the agency of actors at different levels – individual professionals and clients, employing and client firms, professional associations, and regulatory agencies – within their economic, technological, and cultural environments. The co-editors invite papers that seek to understand new empirical developments, offer new conceptual lenses, or employ new ideas and innovative approaches to push the boundaries of the sociology of professions and professional work. We welcome both theoretical contributions and empirical papers utilizing diverse methods. Review of manuscripts will commence on **March 1, 2009**. The co-editors welcome and encourage inquiries; contact: Elizabeth H. Gorman at egorman@virginia.edu or Rebecca L. Sandefur at sandefur@stanford.edu.

Students – Apply to be the 2008 Louise Johnson Scholar!

The Medical Sociology Section will choose a student member of the section to be the 2009 Louise Johnson Scholar. The scholar will receive travel funds up to \$350 to present at the annual ASA meetings in San Francisco 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. Papers with faculty co-authors are ineligible. Applications are due on **March 27, 2009**. To apply, send: 1) a copy of your acceptance notification to present at the 2009 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. Submissions may be sent by e-mail as Word documents or PDFs. Hard copies will also be accepted. Applications should be sent to: Jason Schnittker, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, 3718 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6299, jschnitt@ssc.upenn.edu. 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.

New Section-in-Formation: Disability in Society

We are proud to announce a new ASA Section-in-Formation: Disability in Society. Scholars in this field are exploring many issues that are well known to medical sociologists such as experiences of health/illness/disability and the stigma, discrimination, or prejudice which often accompanies them. However, what is new about critical perspectives on disability is that they specifically engage with notions of a disabling society, the development of a social movement around disability rights, the rise of identity politics associated with disability, and the development of disability-specific legislation, databases and policies, as well as drawing on a range of theoretical insights that explore and complicate the study of embodiment, identity, and representation. This new Section-in-Formation is a great place to network, engage with other scholars, discuss recent events, and pursue avenues for grants, teaching, research, and service. The Disability section is also pleased to offer FREE membership to 40 graduate students who are current members of ASA. We encourage potential members to contact the chairs of the membership committee: Liat Ben Moshe: benmosh@maxwell.syr.edu or Mark Sherry: markdsherry@yahoo.com.