

# Medical Sociology Newsletter

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SUMMER 2011

A Publication of the Medical Sociology Section of the ASA

## Notes from the Chair

by Stefan Timmermans



Dear Medical Sociologists,

You may have seen the article by Teresa Scherzer, Reiner Rugulies, and Niklas Krause published in *American Journal of Public Health* about the injury rate and work-related pain of Las Vegas hotel workers. Or maybe you ran across Kurt Borchard's work on the leisure activities of the homeless people in Las Vegas published in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. Or you noticed the case-study of the effects of tourism on the air-quality in Las Vegas published in the *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*. You didn't think much of it but, then, while sitting in yet another meeting or at the end of a long workday your thoughts started wandering. You wondered: what will I do when I get to Vegas?

Wonder no longer. We have a great Medical Sociology program for you. The newsletter lists all of the individual sessions sponsored by the Medical Sociology Section. Let me tell you a little more about the Chair's Session. The original plan was to discuss the latest round of health care reform, but because the reform keeps evolving and effects are still difficult to discern, I came up with a different idea. Inspired by the junior theorists symposium, the chair's session highlights the work of some promising junior medical sociologists, all recent PhDs. The only problem was the abundance of great potential presenters. I picked four scholars whose work I admire, but we could easily have filled all our sessions with recent PhDs doing high quality work. Apologies to those I should have invited as well. Some of those are presenting in other sessions across the program and I encourage you to seek out their work.

According to the program, our Awards Ceremony followed by the Section's Business Meeting will be held at **10:30 am on Monday, August 22**. We look forward to David Williams' Reeder address. The reception will follow the same day at **6:30 pm**. I want to acknowledge the generous contribution that Blackwell-Wiley has made to our reception on behalf of the journal *Sociology of Health and Illness*.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank every Council Member of the Section who contributed to the excitement and smooth functioning of the Section the past year. Thanks also to the session organizers and all others in putting a superb program together.

See you in Vegas,  
Stefan

### Reminders:

- **MSN Fall Deadline:**  
*September 16, 2011*
- *2011 ASA Annual Meeting*  
*August 20-23, Las Vegas, Nevada*
- *2012 ASA Annual Meeting*  
*August 17-20, Denver, Colorado*
- *2013 ASA Annual Meeting*  
*August 10-13, New York City*



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## SECTION-SPONSORED SESSIONS AT THE 2011 ASA MEETINGS IN LAS VEGAS

**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/>.

### **MONDAY, AUGUST 22**

**7:00-8:15 a.m. Section on Medical Sociology Council Meeting**

**8:30-10:10 a.m. Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session. From Patient-Physician Interaction to Health Policy: Controversies, Commodification, and Consumerism in Health Care (co-sponsored with the Section on Marxist Sociology)**

**Session Organizer:** Hyeyoung Oh (University of California-Los Angeles)

**Presider:** Hyeyoung Oh (University of California-Los Angeles)

**Advancing the Business Creed? The Framing of Decisions about Public Sector Managed Care**, Howard Waitzkin (University of New Mexico), Joel Yager (University of Colorado), Richard Santos (University of New Mexico)

**Patient, Parent, Advocate, Investor: The Contours of Markets, Medicine, and Government**, David Schleifer (New York University), Aaron L. Panofsky (University of California-Los Angeles)

**Cultural Health Capital: A Pilot Test of a New Approach to Understanding**

**Patient-Provider Interactions**, Janet K. Shim (University of California-San Francisco), Jamie Suki Chang (University of California-San Francisco), Leslie A. Dubbin (University of California-San Francisco)

**Exploring Direct-to-Consumer Genome Scans as a Potential Threat to the Profession of Medicine**, Marcie Lambrix (Case Western Reserve University)

**Listening to Lyrica: Contested Diagnoses and Pharmaceutical Validation**, Kristin Kay Barker (Oregon State University)

**10:30-11:30 a.m. Section on Medical Sociology Reeder Award Ceremony**

**11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. Section on Medical Sociology Business Meeting**

**2:30-4:10 p.m. Section on Medical Sociology Invited Session. Young Promising Medical Sociologists Symposium**

**Session Organizer:** Stefan Timmermans (University of California-Los Angeles)

**Residents' Storytelling Work in the Hospital**, Nancy Davenport (Columbia University)

**Charitable Activity in For-Profit Healthcare: Interlocking Directorates and the Funding of Health Industry Foundations**, Edward T. Walker (University of Michigan)

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**Emerging Conditions: Genetic Testing in Medical and Commercial Settings**, Rene Almeling (Yale University)

**The Social Dynamics Underlying the Temporal and Spatial Patterns of Autism: A Simulation Experiment**, Kayuet Liu (Columbia University)

**Discussant:** Bernice A. Pescosolido (Indiana University)

**4:30-6:10 p.m. Section on Medical Sociology Refereed Roundtable Session**

**Session Organizer:** Kerry Michael Dobransky (James Madison University)

**Table 01. Aging**

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

**Does Intergenerational Socioeconomic Mobility Affect Self-Rated Health and Functional Limitations in Old Age?** Rong Fu (Purdue University)

**Is Today's Hospice Compassionate Care or McDonaldized?** Donalee Unal (Lebanon Valley College)

**The Onset of Physical Function Limitations: The Impact of Gender, Weight, and Socioeconomic Status** Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld (Arizona State University), Boaventura Manuel Cau (Arizona State University)

**Table 02. Childhood and Youth**

**Table President:** Antwan Jones (George Washington University)

**Birth Weight Disparities in School**

**Readiness: Does Parental Investment Matter?** Jamie L. Lynch (The Ohio State University), Ryan C. Brooks (The Ohio State University)

**Have Schools Made U.S. Children Overweight?** Paul von Hippel (University of Texas)

**Small Talk: Discourses of Child Obesity in Health-Provider Literature**, Angela M. Barian (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**Socioeconomic Timing and Childhood Obesity Risk**, Antwan Jones (George Washington University)

**Table 03. Comparative Health Policy**

**Table President:** Tracey Anne LaPierre (University of Kansas)

**Comparing the Canadian and U.S. Systems of Health Care in an Era of Healthcare Reform**, Tracey Anne LaPierre (University of Kansas)

**The Logic of Reproductive Tourism: The United States as Destination**, Lauren Jade Martin (City University of New York-Graduate Center)

**The Political Economy of the National Health Insurance in Taiwan**, Meei-Shia Chen (National Cheng Kung University)

**Unintended Consequences to Health Reform: Patient Responses to Family Medicine and Village Health Committees in Kyrgyzstan**, Tricia S. Ryan (University of Texas), Inara Toktomushova (American University of Central Asia)

**Globalizing Depression in Chile: Psychiatry from Global Knowledge to Local Practice**, Courtney A. Cuthbertson (University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign)

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### **Table 04. Complementary and Alternative Medicine**

**Table President:** Betina Freidin (University of Buenos Aires)

**Incorporating Ayurveda in Medical Practice in Buenos Aires,** Betina Freidin (University of Buenos Aires)

**Medical Plurality and Social Ramifications,** Jae-Mahn Shim (University of Chicago)

**Mindfulness Meditation as “Good Medicine”: A New Epistemological Pluralism in Health Care,** Kaelyn Elizabeth Stiles (University of Wisconsin)

**Walking Their Talk: Holistic Health Providers’ Attitudes Towards and Access to Western Health Care,** Armand Diaz (California Institute of Integral Studies)

### **Table 05. Cross-Cultural Issues in Health and Health Care**

**Table President:** Amelie Quesnel-Vallee (McGill University)

**Assessing Threats to Equity in Comparative Perspective: The Health Insurance Access Database,** Amelie Quesnel-Vallee (McGill University), Emilie Renahy (McGill University), Tania M. Jenkins (McGill University), Helen Cerigo (McGill University)

**Biomedicalization or Health Social Movement? Chronic Fatigue Syndrome in the United States and Japan,** Miwako Hosoda (Harvard University)

**Reliving the Nightmare of Yesterday? Memories of SARS and Reaction to H1N1—A China-U.S. Comparison,** Wenjie Liao (University of Minnesota),

Liying Luo (University of Minnesota)

**The Medicalization of Childbirth: A Cross National Analysis,** Kerry R Mulligan (University of California-Riverside)

**The Practice of Guanxi in Getting Medical Services: New Understanding of Guanxi in this Field,** Zelin Yao (University of Hong Kong)

### **Table 06. Food, Diet, and Nutrition**

**Table President:** Katherine Clegg Smith (Johns Hopkins University)

**Alternative Pathway, New Social Movement, or Biomedicalization? Farmers’ Markets Through a Sociological Lens,** Krista Mary Smith Sigurdson (University of California-San Francisco)

**Social Stratification and Network Tastes in Food,** Mark A. Pachucki (University of California-Berkeley)

**Whole Grains or Whole Pizzas? A Look at College Students’ Eating Habits,** Adriana Marie Reyes (Pennsylvania State University)

**“I Come From a Black-Eyed Pea Background”: Incorporating History into Discussions of Diet and Health,** Katherine Clegg Smith (Johns Hopkins University)

### **Table 07. Health and Health Care in Africa**

**Table President:** Yordanos M. Tiruneh (Northwestern University)

**Medication Practices of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,** Yordanos M. Tiruneh (Northwestern University)

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**Social Health: Prevalence, Prevention and Control of Disease in East Africa and the US,** Teresa G. Labov (University of Pennsylvania)

**Women's Marital Power in the Context of HIV Testing in Rural Malawi,** Lauren M. Gaydosh (Princeton University)

### **Table 08. Health Care Inequalities**

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

**"I Said 'Don't Know' Because I Don't Know": Measuring Discrimination in Health Care,** Amy Irby (Indiana University-Bloomington)

**Ambiguous Jurisdiction: Governmental Relationships that Impact Indian Health,** Tennille L. Marley (University of New Mexico)

**Conceptualizing the Problem: The Role of Hegemony in Preventing the Eradication of Health Inequity,** Sonia Patricia Bettez (University of New Mexico)

**Social Class and Cultural Capital in Health Care,** Jennifer Malat (University of Cincinnati), Kelli R. Chapman (University of Cincinnati)

### **Table 09. Health Social Movements**

**Table President:** Richard K. Scotch (University of Texas-Dallas)

**Conflicted Alliances: Fat/Size-Acceptance Advocates and Activists in the Context of the "Obesity Epidemic,"** Carla A. Pfeffer (Purdue University North Central), Christabel L. Rogalin (Purdue University North Central)

**Creating Healthy Clinics: Collective Action, Social Capital, and the Governance of**

**Community Health Centers,** Richard K. Scotch (University of Texas-Dallas), Kristine Lykens (School of Public Health University of North Texas Health Science Center), Gilbert Gonzalez (School of Public Health, University of Minnesota)

**Paths to Policy Implementation: Differential Paths of Needle Exchange and Housing First Programs,** Abigail Olson (Bryn Mawr College), Nathan D. Wright (Bryn Mawr College)

**The HIV Prevention Field in Two Regimes: Analyzing Institutional Practices in Relation to Black Mobilization,** Kevin M. Moseby (University of California-San Diego)

**Autism Health Social Movements and the Production of Genetic Knowledge,** Jennifer S. Singh (University of California-San Francisco)

### **Table 10. Illness Experience**

**Table President:** Duane A. Matcha (Siena College)

**An Autobiographical Account of Uncertainty and Chronic Illness,** Duane A. Matcha (Siena College)

**Sociologist as Patient: An Autoethnographic Analysis of Major Issues in the Doctor-Patient Relationship,** Leslie M. Rott (University of Michigan)

**What To Do Now? How Women with Breast Cancer Make Fertility Preservation Decisions,** Karrie Ann Snyder (Northwestern University)

### **Table 11. Immigration and Health**

**Table President:** Jesus Sanchez (Florida)

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International University)

**Gender and Physical Health: A Study of African American and Caribbean Black Adults**, Christy Erving (Indiana University-Bloomington)

**Health Disparities and a Sense of Well-Being between Multi- and Mono-Ethnic Asian Americans in Hawaii**, Wei Zhang (University of Hawaii)

**Health Status, Needs, and Access among a Cohort of Hispanic Migrant Workers in South Florida**, Jesus Sanchez (Florida International University)

**Inter-Group Differences in Health Service Utilization among New Hispanic Immigrants**, Pedro Hinojosa (University of Texas-San Antonio)

### **Table 12. Labeling and Stigma**

**Table President:** Tanni Chaudhuri (Texas Wesleyan University)

**Configuring the Stigma Process: Factors Predicting Attitudes among Women towards Individuals Living with AIDS in India**, Tanni Chaudhuri (Texas Wesleyan University)

**Medical, Legal, and Moral Gatekeeping: Pharmacists' Construction of the "Deserving Patient,"** Elizabeth Chiarello (University of California-Irvine)

**Sexual Orientation Disclosure to Health Care Providers among Urban and Non-Urban Southern Lesbians**, Erika Laine Austin (University of Alabama-Birmingham)

### **Table 13. Leaders in the Field: The Organizational Context of Health Care**

**Table President:** Teresa L. Scheid (University of North Carolina-Charlotte)

**Table President:** W. Richard Scott (Stanford University)

**Table President:** Peter Mendel (RAND Corporation)

**Abstract:** The structure and functioning of the formal organizations in which health care is delivered – at the macro, meso, and micro levels – are key factors in understanding how health care occurs (or doesn't occur), and ultimately, in explaining health outcomes. In this session, W. Richard Scott, Peter Mendel, Teresa Scheid, and other leading figures in the study of the organizational context of health care will discuss key findings in the field as well as directions for future research.

### **Table 14. Marriage and Family**

**Table President:** Sowmya V. Rajan (Duke University)

**Household Structure, Roles, and Physical Health of Men and Women in India**, Sowmya V. Rajan (Duke University)

**Households, Socioeconomic Status, and Suicide: Combined Effects on Mortality**, Justin T. Denney (The University of Colorado-Boulder)

**Marital Transitions and Weight Changes**, Dmitry Tumin (Ohio State University), Zhenchao Qian (Ohio State University)

**The Impact of Infertility on Women's Self-Rated Health**, Nicole Weller (Arizona State University)

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**Wealthy Women Who Deserve Children:  
Media Framing of the Infertility Patient,**  
Alexandra Rodney (University of Toronto)

### **Table 15. Medical Knowledge and Medical Science**

**Table President:** Joshua Klugman (Temple  
University)

**Every Body Counts: The Underreporting  
of Maternal Mortality in the United  
States,** Jennifer Bronson (Howard  
University)

**Knowing about the Existence and  
Acceptability of Maternal Request  
Cesarean Birth,** Christie A. Barcelos  
(University of Massachusetts Amherst)

**Navigating Autism, Family, and Future:  
Science, Experience, and the Emergent  
Meanings of Cause,** Martine Lappe  
(University of California-San Francisco)

**The Role of Medicolegal Systems in  
Reporting Biases in Official Suicide  
Rates,** Joshua Klugman (Temple  
University), Gretchen A. Condran (Temple  
University), Matt Wray (Temple University)

**Validity of Self-Reported Adult Height,  
Weight, and Body Mass Index,** Ming  
Wen (University of Utah), Lori Kowaleski-  
Jones (University of Utah)

### **Table 16. Mental Health**

**Table President:** Daphne Pedersen (University  
of North Dakota)

**Education, Social Relationships,  
Depression, and Mortality in Taiwan,**  
Wei-Pang Wang (Tunghai University)

**Gender Differences in College Binge  
Drinking: Examining the Role of  
Depression and School Stress,** Daphne

Pedersen (University of North Dakota)

**Gendered Responses to Stress:  
Discrimination and Mental Health  
among Asian Americans,** ManChui Leung  
(University of Washington)

**Spousal Mental Health Concordance,** Mieke  
Beth Thomeer (University of Texas),  
Tetyana Pudrovska (University of Texas-  
Austin)

**Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms  
across Adult Ages: Evidence for Positive  
and Negative Associations with Age,**  
Jessica Sautter (Duke University)

### **Table 17. Neighborhood Context and Health I**

**Table President:** Amy M. Burdette (Florida  
State University)

**Neighborhood Context, Diet, Physical  
Activity, and Birth Outcomes,** Lee Anne  
Flagg (University of Alabama-Birmingham)

**Neighborhood Environment and BMI  
Trajectories from Adolescence to  
Adulthood,** Amy M. Burdette (Florida State  
University), Belinda L. Needham (University  
of Alabama-Birmingham)

**Neighborhood Social Capital, Network  
Social Capital and Mental Health,** Valerie  
A. Haines (University of Calgary), John J.  
Beggs (Louisiana State University), Jeanne S.  
Hurlbert (Louisiana State University)

**Pounding the Pavement: How does  
Neighborhood Environment Influence  
Physical Activity?** Lori Kowaleski-Jones  
(University of Utah), Ming Wen (University  
of Utah)

### **Table 18. Neighborhood Context and Health II**

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**Table President:** Megha Ramaswamy

(University of Kansas School of Medicine)

**On the Frontline of HIV: Examining the Roles and Responses of Community Based Organizations,** Robert B. Peterson (Case Western Reserve University)

**Relative Position, Perceived Trust, and Self-Rated Health within Neighborhood Context,** Eileen E.S. Bjornstrom (University of Missouri)

**Understanding the Role of Violence in Incarcerated Women's Cervical Cancer Screening and History,** Megha Ramaswamy (University of Kansas School of Medicine)

**Table 19. Networks and Health**

**Table President:** Nancy G. Kutner (Emory University)

**An Ego-Centered Analysis of Selection and Causation Processes in Peer Networks on Adolescent BMI,** Gertrude Robin Gauthier (Duke University), Steven Rytina (McGill University)

**Network Relationships, Clinical Decision-Making and Evolving Contexts of Health Disparities,** Nancy G. Kutner (Emory University)

**Networks in Time: Leprosy in Taiwan,** Yi-lung Hung (University of California-Los Angeles)

**The Implications of Neighborhoods and Social Networks for Sexual Risk Behaviors among Urban Gay Men,** Brian Christopher Kelly (Purdue University), Richard M. Carpiano (University of British Columbia), Adam Easterbrook (University of British Columbia), Jeffrey T. Parsons

(City University of New York-Hunter College and Graduate Center)

**Table 20. Patient-Provider Relations**

**Table President:** Linda R. Weber (State University of New York-Utica)

**Beginning the Conversation on the Politics of Difference in the International Medical Graduate – Patient Relationship,** Linda R. Weber (State University of New York-Utica)

**Confronting Threats to Medical Authority: How Medical and Mental Health Providers Make Decisions with Trans-Identified Patients,** Jodie Marie Dewey (Concordia University)

**Saving Lives, Saving Money: Medical Decision-Making in End-of-Life Care,** Lianna Hart (University of California-Los Angeles)

**The Influence of Social Class on Patterns of Interacting with Health Care Providers,** Elizabeth Ann Gage (Roswell Park Cancer Institute)

**Who's Too Tired to Sleep? Age and Associated Effects on Insomnia-Related Physician-Office Visits,** Mairead Eastin Moloney (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), Catherine Zimmer (University of North Carolina), Thomas R. Konrad (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

**Table 21. Population Health**

**Table President:** Deborah Carr (Rutgers University)

**Does Size Matter? The Effect of Body Mass Index on Sexual Well-Being among U.S. Adults,** Deborah Carr (Rutgers University), Kristen W. Springer

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(Rutgers University), Lauren Murphy (Rutgers University), Heather Batson (Rutgers University)

**Gene-Environment Interplay: Genetic Selection and Causation in the Role between Socioeconomic Status and Risky Health Behaviors,** Jonathan K.

Daw (University of North Carolina), Michael J. Shanahan (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), Jason D. Boardman (University of Colorado)

**Revisiting the Relationship between Socioeconomic Status and Self-Rated Health in an International Context,** Jun Xu (Ball State University), Fang Gong (Ball State University)

**The Impact of the 2008/2009 Economic Recession and Unemployment on Physical Activity,** Rachele Hill (University of Minnesota)

**Table 22. Race, Ethnicity, Caste, and Health**

**Table President:** Ming Wen (University of Utah)

**Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Leisure-Time Physical Activity in California: Patterns and Mechanisms,** Kelin Li (University of Utah), Ming Wen (University of Utah)

**Racial Residential Segregation and Access to Health Insurance: A Multilevel Analysis,** Kathryn Freeman Anderson (Oklahoma State University)

**Reflected Appraisal of Race: Implications for Self-Rated Health,** Irena Stepanikova (University of South Carolina)

**Varying Forms of Discrimination: Caste and Malnutrition in India,** Valerie A. Lewis (Harvard University)

**Table 23. Religion and Health**

**Table President:** Terrence D. Hill (Florida State University)

**Does a Cancer Diagnosis Influence Religiosity? Integrating a Life Course Perspective,** Michael Jason McFarland (University of Connecticut), Tetyana Pudrovskaya (University of Texas-Austin), Christopher G. Ellison (University of Texas-Austin), Alex E. Bierman (University of Calgary)

**Impact of Social Factors in an African American Church-Based Diabetes Prevention Program,** Rebecca Wells (Mercer University)

**Religiosity, Psychological Resources, and Physical Health,** Joonmo Son (National University of Singapore), John Wilson (Duke University)

**Religious Involvement and Biological Risk,** Terrence D. Hill (Florida State University), Sunshine Marie Rote (Florida State University), Amy M. Burdette (Florida State University), Christopher G. Ellison (University of Texas-Austin)

**Table 24. Technology and Medicine**

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

**Associations Between Electronic Support, Self-Efficacy, Health Pessimism, and Self-Rated Health Among Online Women,** Gul Seckin (University of Maryland-Baltimore County), Annie Krieger (University of Maryland-Baltimore County)

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**HIV/AIDS Stigma: How State Public Health Departments Combat Stigma on Their Websites**, Robin D. Moremen

(Northern Illinois University)

**The Holy Grail of Neuroscience: Phantom Limbs and the Mind-Body Connection**, Cassandra S. Crawford (Northern Illinois University)

**The Meanings of Exposures: Making and Living with Biomonitoring Data in the Absence of Diagnosis**, Rachel S. Washburn (Loyola Marymount University)

### **Table 25. Theory and Method in Medical Sociology**

**Table President:** Rick S. Zimmerman (Virginia Commonwealth University)

**Allostasis as a Model for Studying Social Inequality Disease**, Gregory Smithsion (City University of New York-Brooklyn College)

**Efforts at Designing “Structural Interventions” for HIV Prevention Need More Input from Sociologists**, Rick S. Zimmerman (Virginia Commonwealth University)

**Foucault’s Archaeology: Uses and Limitations**, David Skubby (University of Akron)

**How Can Genetic Data Help Social Survey?** Yi Li (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), Yilan Fu (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), Guang Guo (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

**Theorizing Social Capital in Health Research: From Relationist Thinking to the Durkheimian Revival and Back**, Valerie A. Haines (University of Calgary)

**6:30-8:10 p.m. Section on Medical Sociology Reception**

### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 23**

**8:30-10:10 a.m. Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session. Exciting New Medical Sociology that Every Sociologist Should Know**

**Session Organizer:** Karen Lutfey (New England Research Institutes)

**President:** Karen Lutfey (New England Research Institutes)

**An Unnatural History: The Rise and Fall of the Fundamental Causes of Disease**, Sean Clouston (McGill University), Jo C. Phelan (Columbia University), Marcie Rubin (Columbia University), Bruce G. Link (Columbia University)

**Do Pharmaceutical Companies Persuade Doctors to Adopt their Products?** Daniel A. Menchik (University of Chicago)

**Habitus, Cultural Capital, and Everyday Practices of Empowerment among Immigrant Patients**, Ming-Cheng M. Lo (University of California-Davis)

**Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status and Coronary Heart Disease Risk Prediction in a Nationally Representative Sample**, Craig Evan Pollack (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine), Mary Ellen Slaughter (RAND Corporation), Beth Ann Griffin (RAND Corporation), Tamara Dubowitz (RAND Corporation), Chloe E. Bird (RAND Corporation)

**Social Network Dynamics: The Case of “First Timers” with Mental Illness**, Brea

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Louise Perry (University of Kentucky)

**Discussant:** Mark Peyrot (Loyola University Maryland)

**10:30-12:10 a.m. Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session. Health, Health Care, and Migration**

**Session Organizer:** Donald W. Light (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Center for Migration and Development)

**Presider:** Ivy Lynn Bourgeault (University of Ottawa)

**Reconstruction of Health Care Seeking Behaviors: A Comparative Study of Three Asian Pacific Immigrant Groups,** Jin Young Choi (Sam Houston State University)

**Healthcare Inequities: Immigrant Generational Status of Children across Diverse Subpopulations,** Ethan J. Evans (University of California-Davis)

**Gender Differences in Immigrant Health: The Case of Mexican and Middle Eastern Immigrants,** Jen'nan G. Read (Duke University), Megan M. Reynolds (Duke University)

**Depression, Discrimination, and Unmet Health Needs Among Hmong Enrollees of Public Health Care Programs in Minnesota,** Nathan Shippee (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research), Tetyana Pylypiv Shippee (University of Minnesota)

**Discussant:** Patricia Fernandez-Kelly (Center for Migration and Development)

**12:30-2:10 a.m. Section on Medical**

**Sociology Paper Session. Mechanisms of Health: Qualitative and Quantitative Perspectives**  
**Session Organizer:** Sara N. Shostak (Brandeis University)

**Presider:** Sara N. Shostak (Brandeis University)

**The Promotion of Unhealthy Habits in Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Intimate Partnerships,** Corinne E. Reczek (University of Texas-Austin)

**Relationship Characteristics, Gender, and Condom Use among Black Youth in South Africa,** Sarah Burgard (University of Michigan), Yasamin Kusunoki (University of Michigan), N. Michelle Hughes (University of Michigan)

**Embedded Health Models and Provision of Social Support: Rethinking How Social Relationships Shape Health,** Elyse Kovalsky (Northwestern University)

**Racial Differences in Patterns of Having and Using a Doctor among the Elderly Poor,** Corey Michael Abramson (University of California-Berkeley), Martin Sanchez-Jankowski (University of California)

**From a Hybrid Biomedical Field to a New Kind of Illness: The 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome,** Daniel Navon (Columbia University), Uri Shwed (Ben Gurion University)

**Abstract:** In recent years, an interdisciplinary array of scholars have called for research that identifies the mechanisms behind health behaviors and health outcomes. This panel highlights how medical sociologists have responded to this challenge. Drawing on qualitative and quantitative analyses, these papers make important contributions to our understanding of how social relationships, networks, and institutions shape the possibilities - and realities - of health and illness, both in the U.S. and internationally.

# Sarah Burgard Incoming Editor of Medical Sociology Newsletter

By Robin Moremen, Current Editor

Congratulations and best wishes are in order for Sarah Burgard, the Section's new Newsletter Editor. As she assumes the editorship, Sarah will be Associate Professor of Sociology and Epidemiology, and Research Associate Professor at the Population Studies Center, at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the ways that stratification by socioeconomic position, gender, and race/ethnicity influence life chances and how this translates into health and health disparities. She uses large-scale social surveys and other data to examine a variety of health outcomes that chart the boundaries of the healthy life course, with the long-term goal of understanding how policy and intervention could reduce social disparities in health.

Sarah's published work has examined racial and gender inequalities in maternal and child health in South Africa, Brazil, China, and elsewhere. A second strand of research focuses on the association between employment instability – job losses, job insecurity, and bad jobs – and workers' health. Recently, she has also become interested in the social determinants of sleep quality and quantity. Papers she has written or coauthored have received the Dorothy S. Thomas Award from the Population Association of America, and the Best Student Paper Award and Distinguished Sociology of Population Paper Award from the Sociology of Population Section of the American

Sociological Association. This summer, Sarah is helping to collect the second wave of the Michigan Recession and Recovery Study, a survey of Southeastern Michigan residents designed to understand the health consequences of job, debt, and housing problems. She is also helping to collect the fifth wave of the American's Changing Lives Study, started by Jim House in 1986, set to enter the field in October.

Sarah was raised in Wisconsin and then moved to Portland, Oregon for a B.A. from Reed College. She received a Ph.D. in Sociology and M.S. in Epidemiology at UCLA. Sarah came to the University of Michigan as a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar in 2003 and became a faculty member in 2005. She enjoys a good run or yoga class and likes to bake cakes, cookies, and cupcakes for her friends.

Over her coming term as Editor of the Medical Sociology Newsletter, Sarah hopes to continue efforts put forth by past editors, as well as explore communication ideas from other Sections within the ASA and from other organizations to keep us on the cutting edge. Your suggestions are welcomed and appreciated – Sarah can be reached at [saraburgards@umich.edu](mailto:saraburgards@umich.edu) and you can find out more at her website: [www.sarahburgard.com](http://www.sarahburgard.com).

We wish Sarah the very best in her new position serving the Section!



## MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY BOOK RAFFLE

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: **Susan E. Stockdale**, Raffle Chair, HSR&D Center of Excellence, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (152), 16111 Plummer Street, Building 25, Room A-103, Sepulveda, CA 91343.

If you have any questions about potential donations, please contact me at [susan.stockdale@va.gov](mailto:susan.stockdale@va.gov). Please send books by **August 15, 2011** so that I can transport them to the ASA meeting. Thank you for your generous support!



## GRADUATE STUDENT AND RECENT PHD LUNCH AT ASA MEETINGS IN LAS VEGAS

Come meet other graduate students and recent Ph.D.'s from the Medical Sociology Section at an informal lunch on **Monday, August 22, 2011, at 12:15 p.m.**, immediately following the Medical

Sociology Section Business Meeting at Caesar's Palace Hotel. We will gather outside of the meeting room at 12:10 p.m. and then walk together as a group to *The Munchbar* located inside of the hotel, where we will be able to purchase lunch. Join us for this opportunity to make great connections with others who share similar interests! For any questions, please feel free to contact: **Christy Erving** ([cerving@indiana.edu](mailto:cerving@indiana.edu)) or **Elaine Hernandez** ([hern0120@umn.edu](mailto:hern0120@umn.edu)).

## Teaching Tips

by Teresa Scheid

I have had a great deal of success having students complete research projects as part of a joint class project. I generally do this as one of the last assignments, or as a final exam project. The goal is to design a general health status questionnaire, and distribute it to various groups (students, faculty, staff) on campus. Here are the steps:

1. Select several topics covered in class that would be interesting to collect data on (lifestyle and health, health-related quality of life, attitudes toward health reform, etc.). You can use one of the many available instruments, or have students construct their own questions – depending on the level of the class. Construct a questionnaire, using class input to educate students about the merits of interviews versus having respondents filling out their own questionnaires. Keep it short – no more than 20 questions for ease of compilation of data.
2. Divide the class into teams of 10 students each (and this works with larger classes). Each team is to select a group to collect data from, and each team member will collect 10 questionnaires from individuals in that group. In terms of groups, you want diversity so as to see differences between

groups (i.e., undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, etc.). The goal is for each team to have 100 completed questionnaires.



3. Have each team member collate their own data, and then have the teams combine their data and write a report which will be presented to the class.
4. In terms of IRB, you generally do not need IRB approval for in-class projects, but it's worth the effort to obtain approval in case you can use the data for some other purpose – a thesis or independent study. One year I had two students take a research tutorial with me, and they input all the data collected the previous fall, analyzed the data, and wrote a report which was published in the campus newspaper.

The research project can be easily modified to fit many types of Medical Sociology classes, and courses taught at various levels, although I like it best for upper-level undergraduate classes.

## Career & Employment

by Karen Lutfey

In lieu of a regular column, I would like to recommend reading an article recently published in *Contexts* which might be useful to students/job seekers (I was interviewed in it along with others). The article may be found at: <http://contexts.org/>

[articles/spring-2011/embedded-sociologists/](http://contexts.org/articles/spring-2011/embedded-sociologists/). Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Career and Employment Committee these past two years, and to author this column in the Medical Sociology Newsletter.

## Ezra Susser to receive Rema Lapouse Award for 2011

Ezra Susser, M.D., Dr. P.H., Professor of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health and Professor of Psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute, has been selected to receive the 2011 APHA Rema Lapouse Award. The Rema Lapouse Award, presented annually to an exemplary scientist in the field of psychiatric epidemiology who has made significant

contributions to the scientific understandings of the epidemiology and control of mental disorders, is granted by the APHA Mental Health, Biostatistics and Epidemiology Sections. The award will be presented during the APHA Annual Meeting by former Rema Lapouse awardee and Chair of the Rema Lapouse Awards Committee, Dr. C. Hendricks Brown. The



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## Student News & Views by Vanessa Lopes Munoz & Miranda Waggoner

### Engaging Subfields

One of the challenges during the early years of graduate school is finding a niche in sociology. Qualifying exams usually mark our formal identification with specialty areas. But if the exams begin as a process of gaining mastery over a set of subfields, they typically culminate in a prolonged reflection on how these subfields connect with one another.

Sometimes we are delving into fields that have had a longstanding dialogue (i.e., studies of professions and medicine). Other times we are finding linkages between fields that traditionally have not been in conversation with one another. In both instances, locating points of intersection between medical sociology and other fields can lead to interesting research questions and exciting areas of study. Our dissertation projects are grounded in medical sociology and also engage literatures in the sociology of families. We enjoy finding concepts in medical sociology that add to our thinking about families and vice versa. Engaging in crosstalk among different sociological subfields is a salient aspect of graduate school, particularly to the extent that it enriches our conversations with colleagues. We also find it beneficial to contemplate how our work as medical sociologists reaches beyond the ivory tower.

### Policy Initiatives

Specifically, we often think about how the intersection between health and families is taken up in public policy. There are numerous examples of contemporary issues that engage relevant themes in medical sociology and the sociology of families. Michelle Obama has launched the “Let’s Move” initiative to address the childhood obesity “epidemic” through encouraging healthy eating and exercise. Another of the first lady’s initiatives, “Joining Forces,” has as one of its goals the improvement of the health of military service members and their families. Policies geared toward improving population health are ripe for critical examination. How these health initiatives construct familial responsibility connects critical questions in medical sociology and sociology of families. We find it fruitful to engage in discussions about how these kinds of intersections occur and with what consequences.

### Intersections in Action

The annual meetings are a great place to hear about leading research in various subfields and we are looking forward to seeing this crosstalk in action there as well. We are excited that our home section is promoting a dialogue between medical sociology and the broader field of sociology in the “Exciting New Medical Sociology that Every Sociologist Should Know” session (**Tuesday, August 23, 8:30am**). Another way to learn about the linkages between subfields is to attend jointly-sponsored sessions. One of particular interest, “From Patient-Physician Interaction to Health Policy: Controversies, Commodification, and Consumerism in Health Care” (**Monday, August 22, 8:30am**), is co-sponsored by the Section on Marxist Sociology. The sessions on health policy also offer an opportunity to critically reflect on pressing questions that cross multiple subfields.

Other occasions to network with scholars include the ASA graduate student reception (**Saturday, August 20, 6:30pm**) and welcome reception (**Friday, August 19, 9pm**). Most sections also have their own receptions, which are great venues for meeting others with similar research interests (Medical Sociology Reception, **Monday, August 22, 6:30pm**). Last but not least, don’t shy away from the Medical Sociology Business Meeting (**Monday, August 22, 10:30am**). It is a wonderful opportunity to hear the Reeder Award Lecture, learn about how the Section works, meet other Medical Sociologists, and (if you’re lucky!) win a free book in the book raffle.

### Thanks

On a final note, we’ve thoroughly enjoyed being student editors for the Medical Sociology Newsletter this year. It’s been a great opportunity to work with the Section leadership, especially Robin Moremen. We hope that our columns about the postdoctoral experience, summer writing schedules, medical sociology resources, and engaging subfields have contributed to graduate student dialogue about these issues. We appreciate being part of this tight-knit community and hope to see many of you in the near future!

A Publication of the Medical Sociology Section of the ASA

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**Section Officers**

**Chair**

Stefan Timmermans, Ph.D.  
UCLA  
Department of Sociology  
266 Haines Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1551  
Phone: 310-206-6526  
Email: [stefan@soc.ucla.edu](mailto:stefan@soc.ucla.edu)

**Chair-Elect**

Eric R. Wright, Ph.D.  
Director, Center for Health Policy  
Professor and Division Director for Health Policy and Management  
Department of Public Health, IU School of Medicine  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)  
410 W. Tenth Street, HS 3100  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Phone: 317-274-3161  
Email: [ewright@iupui.edu](mailto:ewright@iupui.edu)

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Carol Boyer, Ph.D.  
Rutgers University  
Institute for Health  
30 College Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Phone: 732-932-8374  
Email: [caboyer@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:caboyer@rci.rutgers.edu)

**Newsletter Editor**

Robin D. Moremen, Ph.D.  
Department of Sociology  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
Phone: 815-753-6439  
Email: [rmoremen@niu.edu](mailto:rmoremen@niu.edu)

**Student Newsletter Editors**

Miranda R. Waggoner  
Email: [waggoner@brandeis.edu](mailto:waggoner@brandeis.edu)  
Vanessa Lopes Munoz  
Email: [vmunoz@brandeis.edu](mailto:vmunoz@brandeis.edu)  
Department of Sociology  
MS 071  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02453

APHA Annual Meeting will take place beginning October 29, 2011 through November 2, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

One theme in Dr. Susser's early research was to study the course of psychoses and the potential for partial or full recovery. A second theme in his early research was the investigation of prenatal exposures that might influence the development of schizophrenia in adulthood. A third theme in his early research was cross-cultural research. Currently, in addition to co-leading a Global Mental Health Program, Dr. Susser heads the Imprints Center for Genetic and Environmental Lifecourse Studies, which fosters collaborative research and intellectual exchange among investigators studying developmental origins in birth cohorts across the globe. Finally, Dr. Susser is President of the American Psychopathological Association in 2012, arguably the professional organization most closely related to psychiatric epidemiology and public mental health (not counting specific sections of larger bodies such as the Mental Health Section of APHA).

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

We want to thank Miranda Waggoner and Vanessa Lopes Munoz for their thoughtful "Student News and Views" columns this past year, and wish them the very best in their future careers.

We are now soliciting applications from graduate students who might want to hold this position for 2011-2012. 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 **Sarah Burgard, Incoming Editor**, at [burgards@umich.edu](mailto:burgards@umich.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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