History of Sociology in Las Vegas

Message from the Chair

Gary Alan Fine, Northwestern University

The primary task of the chair of the History of Sociology section is to insure that the section has a lively and engaging program for the annual meeting. Given the move from Chicago to Caesar’s Palace, Las Vegas, we can be sure that the meeting will be lively.

Unfortunately when one attempts to invite scholars such a move can be difficult. Although we still have an impressive set of panels, we have faced some challenges. The section had planned a special session on “Words and Numbers in the History of Sociology,” but unfortunately with the changes neither invited colleague could attend the Las Vegas meetings. It is my hope that the session can be rescheduled sometime in the future. Perhaps in 2015 the session will be possible, when we will next meet in Chicago—if not before.

However, we still have three sessions for your intellectual pleasure—if we can draw you away from the other pleasures that Las Vegas may offer. We scholars operate on the assumption that knowledge shared in Las Vegas will not remain in Las Vegas.

Specifically we have organized a special thematic session on “Engaging War: Sociologists Confront National Conflict.” This session will be chaired by Ann Hironaka with papers by Daniel Chirot, Gregoire Mallard and Reut Paz, and Hans Joas and Wolfgang Knoebel. The theme of the 2011 session is on “Conflict” (under the presidency of Randall Collins) and we are grateful that the ASA program committee approved the session.

Second, we have a section-sponsored session, organized by former chair Chas Camic, that honors and remembers the 75th Anniversary of Karl Mannheim’s Ideology and Utopia. Papers will be presented by Robert Antoninio and Stephen Turner with commentary by Harvey Goldman.

Finally we will have an open session for submitted papers that deal with the history of sociology. I am grateful to Larry Nichols for organizing this session for the section.

In the next few months you will receive a ballot for new section officers. This year George Ritzer is chair-elect, and he and I will be working together to insure a smooth transition.

HoS Has a New Website

Adjust your bookmarks. The Section’s website has in recent years been generously hosted by Mount Holyoke College. The new, updated website is now located at:

www.historyofsociology.org

The new site was made with WordPress, the open-source blogging software. Please send feedback and suggestions—cosmetic and/or substantive—to Jeff Pooley, pooley@muhlenberg.edu.
Recent Publications

Articles, chapters and books on the history of sociology. Please send citations to Jeff Pooley (pooley@muhlenberg.edu).

--- "Not just capital and class: Marx on non-Western societies, nationalism and ethnicity." Socialism and Democracy 24, no. 3 (2010): 7-22.


Bortolini, Matteo. "The 'Bellah Affair' at Princeton." The American Sociologist (Online First 2011): http://www.springerlink.com/content/d7k2h8i3255l615.


Conway, Brian. "Catholic Sociology in Ireland in comparative perspective." The American Sociologist (Online First 2011): http://www.springerlink.com/content/n6l6k4x20g635123.


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Membership News

Please send news items to Jeff Pooley (pooley@muhlenberg.edu).


Sandro Segre (University of Genoa) has a book, *Talcott Parsons: An Introduction*, forthcoming from the University Press of America.

Julie Zimmerman (University of Kentucky), recently became Historian for the Rural Sociological Society (RSS) (http://www.ruralsociology.org). Part of the work associated with the position included developing the RSS Oral History Project and initiating a website with resources and information on the history of rural sociology and the Rural Sociological Society.

Calls & Conferences

Please send calls & conference announcements to Jeff Pooley (pooley@muhlenberg.edu).

ANR Project: Cross-disciplinary Research Ventures in Postwar American Social Science, two two-year postdoctoral positions are available with the History of Social Science Group (H2S) at École normale supérieure de Cachan, France, starting in fall 2011. Contact Philippe Fontaine at philippe.fontaine@ens-cachan.fr for details.


CFP: “Postcolonial Sociologies,” a special issue of *Political Power and Social Theory: A Research Annual*. The body of theory known as “postcolonialism” has had profound impact on the humanities (especially literature and history), but for social science, and in particular sociology, its implications and impact are less clear. How has social theory or sociological theory, from so-called “classics” to more recent contemporary theory (including anyone from Parsons to Foucault to Bourdieu) occluded or elided the insights that postcolonial theory provides? Submissions by July 1, 2011, http://www.bu.edu/sociology/ppst.


The papers of Robert K. Merton (1910-2003), housed at Columbia University's Rare Book & Manuscript Library, were officially opened to researchers last fall. The opening was timed to coincide with Merton's centennial, and was marked by a special exhibit and a panel discussion in mid-November. The panel, “Robert K. Merton at 100: Reflections & Recollections,” featured Bernard Bailyn (Harvard), Jonathan Cole (Columbia), Richard Sennett (NYU), Stephen Stigler (Chicago) and Harriet Zuckerman (Andrew W. Mellon Foundation).

The extensive collection was donated by Zuckerman, Merton’s widow and prominent sociologist, who also helped to fund the processing of the papers. The collection’s finding aid indicates the papers’ depth and scope, which span his professional and academic career, beginning with his formative years as a student in the early 1930s and documenting his notable contributions in the field of sociology through the mid-to-late twentieth century. The papers as a whole portray the many facets of Merton’s lengthy career including writings and studies, public and classroom lectures, research, and professional affiliations. Included are extensive course lecture notes, edits and drafts of published and unpublished writings, and items related to Merton’s early work with Paul F. Lazarsfeld at the Bureau of Applied Social Research. Incoming and outgoing correspondence comprises a large portion of the collection. These letters, with key sociologists, authors, publishers, and prominent figures in a range of disciplines, detail the formation of many of Merton’s original ideas and concepts, in addition to covering Merton’s numerous academic and scholarly endeavors. Merton’s varied interests and broad achievements are reflected in correspondence, notes, drafts, memoranda, and clippings. Merton meticulously organized his material and the arrangement presented here closely follows the original order.

The papers are kept off-site, so researchers need to request material at least 24 hours in advance. The detailed finding aid is online, at http://findingaids.cul.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ludp_6911309/summary.

BSA 2011 Conference: 60th Anniversary Celebration

Jennifer Platt, University of Sussex

The British Sociological Association’s 2011 conference celebrates the 60th anniversary of the BSA’s foundation, and so has a considerable number of historical activities. These include stream plenaries on these topics:

- Education - Where have we been and where are we now? 60 Years of the Sociology of Education
- Medicine, Health, Illness - The origins of BSA Medical Sociology Group
- Methodological Innovations - 60 years of Sociological Methodologies
- Religion - Commemorating the last 60 years of the Sociology of Religion
- Science & Technology Studies - STS and Sociology
- Theory - Sociological Theory before and after the ‘Practice’ Turn
- Work, Economy & Society - Celebrating 60 years of the sociology of work and economic life

The conference will be held from April 6-8, at the historic London School of Economics (in central London). For registration and program details, see the BSA web site, http://www.britsoc.co.uk.
Mary Jo Deegan Gives Invited Lecture on Jane Addams at Nobel Museum

In late November 2010, Mary Jo Deegan of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln gave an invited lecture on the American Nobel Laureate Jane Addams under the watchful eye of a bust of King Gustav III in the rooms of the Swedish Academy at the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, Sweden—the place where the Svenska Akademien meets each year to deliberate when selecting the Nobel Prize for Literature. Deegan spoke extemporaneously for nearly two hours on “Jane Addams and the Nobel Peace Tradition,” using a series of detailed charts showing the complex intellectual and personal relationships between Addams and three other American Nobel Laureates: Barack Obama, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Emily Green Balch. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Addams’ birth. At an earlier meeting of scholars in Uppsala, Sweden, Olav Amelin, Director of the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, concluded that Addams, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, was — during her era — the most important woman in the world.

In Stockholm, Deegan was introduced by Dr. Margrit Wettstein, Nobel Museum Curator, who explained the important connection between the lecture and the invited keynote address given by Deegan earlier that month, at the Jane Addams Conference on Social Entrepreneurship held at the University of Uppsala. Deegan, said Wettstein, is one of the world’s most highly regarded authorities on Jane Addams’ life, work, and ideas. In Uppsala, Deegan presented a lecture on Addams and her Chicago neighbors at Hull-House, focusing specifically on matters of race, social class, gender and world peace from 1889 to 1935. Deegan was earlier lauded by Dr. Vessela Misheva, of the University of Uppsala, for illustrating the connections between American intellectual history and social movements today, especially the emerging field of social entrepreneurship.

While in Sweden Deegan gave a third invited lecture, at a two-hour seminar at the Institutionen för socialt arbete (Department of Social Work) at the University of Stockholm. In the talk, Deegan explored the intellectual and applied connections between sociology and social work. These two, often separately conceptualized fields were constructively united in the work and ideas of Jane Addams. Deegan’s lecture tour in Sweden ended with some archival research at the Labor Movement Archives in Stockholm.

Deegan, who earned her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, is the author of the classic study, *Jane Addams and the Men of the Chicago School*, and is now a 35-year veteran of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Sociology Department where she is also a founding member of the UNL Women’s and Gender Studies Program. Deegan has published twenty books — and more than 175 articles — on a wide variety of scholarly subjects. Her writings have four times garnered the Section’s Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award. Her research is increasingly cited in introductory and advanced sociology textbooks throughout the world and she was honored in 2002 with the Section’s Distinguished Scholarly Career Award. She was again honored, in 2008, with the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Award for Distinguished Contributions to Scholarship, Teaching, and Service bestowed by the ASA’s Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict. (Note: article adapted from Nobel Museum press release.)
The Section

Call for Award Nominations

Graduate Student Paper Award
This award recognizes excellence in graduate student research in the field of the history of sociology. Students who were actively enrolled (full- or part-time) in a graduate sociology program as of December 15, 2010 may submit one scholarly paper for consideration for this award. The submission may be an unpublished manuscript, an article submitted or accepted for publication, or a single chapter from a thesis or dissertation, and should address a theoretical or empirical problem central to the history of sociology. Members of the current Graduate Student Award Committee are ineligible for the award. The paper, along with a cover letter, must be submitted electronically to the chair of the committee, Kristen Haltinner (University of Minnesota), haltinner.m.kristin@gmail.com, no later than March 15, 2011. Nominees will be notified of the Committee’s decision at the beginning of May 2011. Other members of the committee are: Tyler Crabb (University of Maryland), Marcus Hunter (Northwestern), Terri LeMoyne (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga), Anne Rawls (Bentley University).

Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award
This award honors sociologists who have made significant contributions to the History of Sociology by writing books or articles on the ‘cutting edge’ of sociological inquiry. Only monographs, articles, or edited works published in 2009 or 2010 are eligible. The author(s) or editor(s) must be sociologists. All texts submitted for consideration should be accompanied by a letter of nomination highlighting the texts’ significant contributions to the history of sociology. Self-nominations are welcome if accompanied by a letter of

Section Mission Statement
The purpose of the Section on the History of Sociology is to provide a forum for sociologists and other scholars interested in the study of the historically specific processes shaping the development of sociology as a profession, an academic discipline, an organization, a community, and an intellectual endeavor. The Section serves its members as a structure 1) to disseminate information of professional interest, 2) to assist in the exchange of ideas and the search support from another member of the ASA. Members of the current Distinguished Scholarly Book or Article Award Committee are ineligible for this award. To nominate a book or article, write highlighting the item’s significant contribution to the history of sociology to the committee chair, Professor Kay Richards Broschart (Hollins University; kbroschart@hollins.edu), to arrive no later than March 15, 2011. Nominees will be notified of the Committee’s decision at the beginning of May 2011. Other members of the committee are Stephen Kalberg (Boston University) and Suzanne Vromen (Bard College).

Lifetime Achievement Award
This award recognizes sociologists who have made outstanding contributions to the History of Sociology throughout their careers, or who have made ground-breaking innovations or produced significant bodies of scholarly work in the History of Sociology. Nominees must be sociologists. Letters of nomination should highlight the nominee’s outstanding innovation(s), career, and contributions to the History of Sociology. Self nominations are welcome if accompanied by a letter of support from another member of the ASA. Members of the current Distinguished Award Committee are ineligible for the award. To nominate an individual, send a nomination letter, the nominee’s vitae, and samples of the nominee’s work to the committee chair, George Ritzer (University of Maryland; ritzer@socy.umd.edu). Nominations must arrive no later than March 15, 2011. Nominees will be notified of the Committee’s decision at the beginning of May 2011. Other members of the committee are: Robert J. Antonio (University of Kansas), Peter Beilharz (La Trobe University), Valerie Haines (University of Calgary), and Stephen Turner (University of South Florida).
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