Letter from the Chair

“What is Possible”

In my last letter, I referred to President Fox Piven’s chosen theme for our meetings this summer, “Is Another World Possible? Sociological Perspectives on Contemporary Politics” as “a topic that resonates strongly with the interests of our section.” I would like to briefly expand on those thoughts.

Our section was born out of the turmoil of the Vietnam War when the ASA Council established an ad hoc Committee on the Sociology of World Conflicts in 1969, which later became the World Conflict Section in 1979. (We are approaching our thirtieth anniversary!). Once again, sociologists bent their analytical skills to studying social problems, a tradition as old as the discipline itself, as President Fox Piven notes:

“The penetrating insights of Durkheim and Marx, Weber and Simmel, as well as the path-breaking empirical work of the early American sociologists who focused on social problems, reflected their immersion in the life of their societies, and their commitment to reducing the human suffering that societies can cause. Their work provided conceptual tools and data that contributed to the reform currents of their societies. Their work provided conceptual tools and data that contributed to the reform currents of their societies.”
Studying social problems with a vision to alleviating human suffering has been a principal motivation that has captured the commitment of countless students and scholars, and has sustained the discipline for nearly two centuries. Still, this dimension has not always been fully pursued, in part because of a disconnect that is captured in the focus of our annual meeting this year.

That the theme title emphasizes the “possible” while the accompanying abstract focuses on social problems is telling. A natural extension of approaching an issue as a social problem is the possibility of alternatives. However, we sociologists have tended to limit our efforts to the study of problems and the status quo, avoiding projects that might be construed as prescriptive, presumably for fear that they would bring into question the strengths of our theoretical and descriptive analysis. It is, of course, important that sociological analysis always be rigorous and thorough, and thankfully, the concern for “reducing human suffering” persists, even if sometimes obliquely.

But, what of the possible? The use of the term “possible” suggests a preferred vision of a future in which human suffering is diminished, and here President Fox Piven seems to be drawing us into uncharted and potentially uncomfortable territory. However, this terrain is not entirely unexplored. In establishing a World Conflict Section and renaming it the Peace and War section, sociologists made a commitment to study peace while continuing to study war.

Faced with the horrors of the World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam, not to mention the persistent specter of nuclear annihilation, sociologists chose to spend a portion of their energies studying a desirable or preferred form of human relations, nonviolent conflict, as an effective alternative to violence. Conrad Brunk (2000) describes the aim of peace studies thus, “…to analyze human conflicts in order to find the most peaceful (negatively peaceful [without direct violence]) ways to turn unjust relationships into more just (positively peaceful) [ones]” (p. 25). As I proposed in my last letter, sociology brings a wealth of intellectual resources to the task.

Today, as we find ourselves caught up in renewed cycles of war in Afghanistan and Iraq, we are all bound to ask, “How did this happen?” but we might also ask, “What was possible instead? What is possible next time we are faced with similar circumstances? What are the alternatives?” This could be a theoretical question and an empirical one. Certainly, theoretical sophistication is required as well as a measure of imagination and vision. There is always a moment of creativity that accompanies scientific discovery, but we can also empirically study peaceful alternatives, nonviolent constructive ways of conducting conflict and pursuing justice.

Kenneth Boulding, the economist and partner of one of our founding members, Elise Boulding, has been often quoted as saying, “What exists is possible,” opening up a world of case studies for sociologists who want to understand peaceful nonviolent conflict, even when it is not widely recognized or adopted. The possible in social relations, when it becomes common, will be as subject to sociological analysis as it was when it was a lesser known outlier or an experimental form of interaction.

When, for example, regime change became one of the several preferred justifications for going to war in Iraq, one could have easily asked how most dictatorial regimes over the past two to three decades have been overturned. One would have found that nonviolent resistance movements were involved in the majority of instances of regime change. Unfortunately, that question was not asked, but had it been seriously explored, the work of sociologists in our section would have inevitably been consulted.

We should also remember that what we choose to study impacts the possible. In the case of the Peace, War, and Social Conflict section, our mission sets us apart, puts us on the cutting edge of the discipline, and expands and refines the range of alternatives to social problems.

Many thanks to all of you who have participated recently by applying for our graduate student fellowships and nominating candidates for our election slate and the Robin Williams Distinguished Career Award. Don’t forget that Elise Boulding Student Paper Awards submissions are due April 15.

~ Lee Smithey

Elise M. Boulding Student Paper Awards

Don't forget that Elise Boulding Student Paper Awards submissions are due April 15.

Full information about the award is available at www.peacewarconflict.org.

The Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section of the American Sociological Association invites undergraduate and graduate students to submit a paper on any topic related to the sociology of peace, war, military institutions, or social conflict for the 2007 Elise M. Boulding Student Paper Award competition.

AWARDS: Two awards are offered: one for best paper by a graduate student(s) (masters or doctoral level); and one for the best paper written by an undergraduate(s). Award winners are expected but not required to be present at the 2006 ASA meeting to present their papers. The winners will be officially introduced and presented with the award during the 2007 meeting of the Peace, War and Conflict Section at the ASA.

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open to any student or former student (within two years) with a high quality paper discussing the sociology of peace, war, or social conflict and related issues. Papers may be multi-authored.

SPECIFICATIONS: Papers must be written within the past two years. They must be typed, double-spaced with a 12-point font. The page limit is 25 pages including tables, references, and illustrations. Each submission should include a separate cover page listing the name of author(s), contact information (including mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address), paper title, and whether the paper was written as an undergraduate or graduate student paper. No student identifying information should appear in the body of the manuscript or on any other page. All students will be notified electronically about their submission and about the final selections.

JUDGING: The Elise M. Boulding Student Paper Award Committee is made-up of a group of members of the ASA Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict. The committee encourages papers on a broad range of subjects related to these themes. If you have questions please contact Joyce Apsel at jaa5@nyu.edu

DEADLINE: Students should send four (4) copies of their papers and a cover letter with name, affiliation, and contact information by April 15, 2007 to:

Dr. Joyce Apsel, Master Teacher of Humanities
New York University
Chair, Elise M. Boulding Student Paper Award Committee
General Studies Program
726 Broadway 6th floor
New York, NY 10003-9580

Essays and Research Notes

Apocalypse Now, Then and Again…
By James V. Fenelon

Movies such as Apocalypto and Dances With Wolves resemble American society’s often violent pre-occupation with historical indigenous peoples. Apocalyptic visions periodically arise in world history, especially with millenarian movements’ destruction from war and famine. The 1890 Ghost Dances are one such example, ending in the slaughter of Lakota at Wounded Knee. When genocide is operative, as in 1890, the dominant society redefines history in Good and Evil terms, or in the Spanish conquista of the Americas, with Civilization and Savagery.

Mel Gibson’s Passion of Christ can be understood this way, although it fails to see how Jews were subordinated by Romans, and can be used to deny apocalyptic realities of a Nazi Holocaust in Germany. As the US decries the recent Iranian denial conference, it turns a blind eye toward its own history, spanning five hundred years, with Columbus, Cortez, Pizarro and DeSoto, through English settlements Jamestown, Plymouth, Canadian colonies, and destruction of the plains Indians and brutal

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2 http://www.flickr.com/photos/jorgeq82/346078850/
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/
elimination of California Natives. These denials of genocide are also denying the apocalyptic visions of indigenous people.

Consider this from Catholic Exchange (Armstrong, December 12, 2006):

Mel Gibson released his epic movie, Apocalypto… I believe we can hope that many eyes are opened by this movie’s portrayal of the evil of human sacrifices practiced by the Aztecs and other Indian cultures in what would become Mexico… One of the last scenes in the film is the sight of the ships of Hernando Cortez of Spain — black crosses on their sails — landing on the beaches. What most viewers of Apocalypto probably do not know is that Cortez lands on Good Friday, April 22, 1519… It is my hope and prayer that Gibson’s film will serve as a catalyst to reveal why Cortez needed to stop the practice of human sacrifice and bring knowledge of the True God to the indigenous people of Mexico.

Compare that with a passage we wrote for American Behavioral Scientist:

Since Hernan Cortez arrived on the shores of present day Veracruz, a new model for the treatment of indigenous peoples would be introduced to the world. In a roughly two-year period from 1519 to 1521, Cortez, with the assistance of the Tlaxcalteca mercenaries, Malintzin (La Malinche), and a variety of warfare including germs, lead Spanish conquest of Tenochtitlan and the Aztecs. (Cortez slaughtered over five thousand Cholulans as prelude to the Aztec assault). These events, along with the proliferation of racist ideologies cultivated in the West, resulted in creation of a hierarchical system situating dominant European elites at the top, mestizo population in the middle, and indigenous peoples on the bottom — replicated and recreated throughout Latin America.

Apocalyptic visions of Quetzalcoatl (Aztec) and the Popol Vuh (Mayan) indeed came to fruition, but were exacted by the European cross and sword, rather than “civilizing” forces suggested by this latest version of the West saving the Indigene. We know Mayans and Aztecs engaged in blood sacrifice, which I compare with Shakespeare’s “dis-membering” of prisoners before cheering crowds in London and Europe. We also know Mayan and Aztec pyramids were a wonderfully complex society with universities, court systems, and the greatest markets the world had known, larger than anything in Europe at the time. We know Mayan confederacies dissolved or self-destroyed, which I compare to civil wars in Europe or the United States, (if the South had won, we would have a very different world indeed). We also know that Spanish and English fleets brought incredible destruction, mass killing, enslavement, and brutal oppression for profits, which movies suggest were the sole province of the Maya elite, yet witness a genocidal erasure of Taino-Arawak on Hispaniola within fifty years, where race-based slavery first occurs, before the conquest of Mexico.

Good Indian / Bad Indian dichotomies are central icons in retelling history, like civilization / savagery, noble or otherwise. Dances with Wolves is another example how duality can reinforce dominant societal imagery while appearing sensitive to indigenous perspectives. I first saw this film at Harvard, with an Asian colleague pointing out why the film was so popular with the American mainstream, (it should represent quasi-genocidal destruction of northern plains peoples). He observed that we never see soldiers kill Indians in the film, although we see lots of Bad Indians killing settlers, Indians, and even soldiers (Good Indians do this too, but to defend the Costner character, apparently they will risk everything for the Good White Man). I had to see the movie again to be sure this was true, indeed it is. Central historical realities of military conquest and killing by soldiers is averted even as Good Indian / Bad Indian and Civilized / Savage constructs are reinforced at every instance. And the White Man helps the Lakota to find buffalo, to defend their village against Bad Indians, even marrying an Indian woman (turns out she is White, victim of Bad Indians), although his last self-sacrificing act is to leave his new-found brethren, telling us the U.S. will “hunt him down like no other” (rather than the Lakota resisting invasion of their lands).

Like Apocalypto, attention is paid to verisimilitude, down to small details and using indigenous languages, in ways startlingly accurate and very progressive. Yet, viewers are left with age-old icons and a sense Western civilization has again saved the day, for new world settlers and old world innocents. These movies would have us believe that Cortez’s conquistadores were saving the savage Indian from themselves, that Custer and U.S. soldiers were bringing civilization to un-reconstituted Indians. This becomes a denial of the apocalyptic visions of indigenous peoples, denying killings and land-takings, conquering, raping and resource extraction. The 1980’s mass-killings in the U.S.-supported Guatemala regime rose to a small-scale genocide, with Robert Parry (Truthout, December 17, 2006), calling it “Ronald Regan’s Bloody Apocalypto.” Thus the Apocalypse’s recurrent visions of the past, present and future is visited upon the indigenous.

By James V. Fenelon (Dakota/Lakota enrolled on Standing Rock), Professor of Sociology at California State University, San Bernardino.
The UN is an institution struggling to maintain its relevancy and importance in an age where the parameters for global conflict and violence are in flux. Inter-state warfare is now the exception rather than the rule and humanitarian and development concerns often trump the need for military action. In order to assist conflict-affected populations more appropriately, feminists have argued that the UN and its departments, agencies, and funds must acknowledge these monumental changes and the role gendered institutions, identities, and interactions play in the perpetuation and resolution of conflict. Part of the UN’s response to these appeals has included attempts to mainstream a gender perspective throughout the UN system as a whole and in its peacekeeping missions in particular. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has initiated the deployment of gender advisers to UN peacekeeping missions with the goal of providing assistance to the various units within the missions as they attempt to meet these requirements. However, the UN has met with major bureaucratic, ideological, and practical obstacles to the implementation of its gender mainstreaming policy, both at headquarters and in its peacekeeping missions, and has been largely unsuccessful in its efforts thus far.

Although the gender advisers play a key role in the implementation of the gender mainstreaming policy, no current research has approached the problem from their perspective. Therefore, one of the primary goals of my just completed dissertation is to examine how the UN gender advisers approach their work and how the realities of life in the missions impact their choices, strategies, and perceptions. From a broader perspective, it also investigates the gendered nature of the UN and its policies in order to uncover how this influences gender mainstreaming efforts in its peacekeeping missions, particularly those by the gender advisers. In other words, this research examines the problem from three different angles: 1) the gender politics within the UN system, 2) the engendered nature of peacekeeping missions and post/conflict settings, and 3) the role of the gender advisers in UN gender mainstreaming efforts in its peacekeeping missions.

Data analysis revealed several reasons for the UN’s failure to mainstream gender in its peacekeeping missions. I argue that its lack of success stems from: 1) the masculinized nature of the UN system and its peacekeeping missions, 2) the marginalization of women’s and gender issues within UN institutional and mission culture and practices, 3) the confusion and/or hostility toward gender initiatives on the part of UN mission staff and members of the local populations where peacekeeping missions are deployed, and 4) the complications posed by a complex, stressful, and fast-paced post/conflict environment in the missions. This research is not only significant for the work of the UN and its peacekeeping missions, but also suggests important lessons for the process of engendering peace and conflict studies in general.

By Colleen Keaney-Mischel, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Northeastern University, October 2006

Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/goodness/161642464/in/pool-peacekeeping/
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“Do Videogames Kill?”


In the most recent issue of the ASA’s magazine, Contexts, Karen Sternheimer presents a critique of the hypothesis that the proliferation of increasingly violent videogames leads to a parallel growth in middle-class teenage homicide. Sternheimer points out that in the decade following the release of [the videogame] Doom, “homicide arrest rates fell by 77 percent among juveniles.” She proceeds to argue that media coverage of school shootings and other juvenile homicides vilifies youth as adults project their fears of technology and new media onto adolescents. According to Sternheimer, much media coverage and media-effects research “attempt to decontextualize violence,” overlooking factors such as
alienation and depression, poverty, race, and mental illness.

Photo by Yoshifumi Harada

General Announcements

2ND Annual Conference of Muslim Peacebuilding, Justice, and Interfaith Dialogue (MPJID)

Organized by: Islamic Society of North American (ISNA) & Salam Institute for Peace and Justice. Co-Sponsored by: American University’s Center for Global Peace

Conference Registration: $30.00 (after April 1st). To register online please visit: http://www.ildc.net

Salam Institute and ISNA will be holding the Second Annual Conference of MPJID on May 5 – 6, 2007 at American University, in Washington, D.C., Butler Board Room to enhance the capacity of Muslim peacebuilding scholars and practitioners.

This conference creates an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to discuss and clarify main concepts and approaches to peacebuilding, conflict resolution, human rights, democratization and development rooted in the Islamic tradition; to contribute to effective policy development in the Muslim world in the fields of governance, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding; and too provide a platform for Muslim peacebuilding practitioners to share their experiences with the wider community of Muslim and non-Muslim scholars and practitioners in order to contribute to theory building and practice of conflict resolution in the Muslim world.

For more information:
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abunimer@american.edu
http://www.upf.com/SPRING2003/ABU-NIMER.HTM
http://www.american.edu/sis/peacebuilding
http://american.edu/cgp/jpd2/Index.htm
www.aupeace.org/faculty/abu-nimer

The Collective Behavior and Social Movement (CBSM) Section of the ASA is organizing a workshop.

The workshop will be held at Hofstra University (Hempstead, NY) Thursday August 9th and Friday August 10th, 2007 immediately prior to the national conference in NYC. The theme is “Movement Cultures, Strategies, and Outcomes.” Members of the PWSC section are organizing workshop sessions related to the
peace movement. For further information on the workshop's call for papers and schedule of panels, visit our website: www.hofstra.edu/CBSM. Please direct questions to Greg Maney at socgmm@hofstra.edu

Call to Public Sociology: US Social Forum Writing Team Needs Sociologists!

Activists around the U.S. are now mobilizing for the upcoming United States Social Forum this summer. Sociologists without Borders and other networks of scholar-activists have been active supporters of the USSF, and we encourage Section members to join our colleagues in this effort. There are several ways you can be involved in supporting the USSF. The most basic way is to simply talk to friends, colleagues, and neighbors about the event and stimulate interest within your local networks. You can also send financial support and/or sign up to attend the forum as a delegate from your community or organization (see www.ussf2007.org). But if you can do more, I hope you’ll agree to join the USSF writing team, a group of scholar-activists who have agreed to devote at least an hour or so per month to help write pieces that spread the word of the USSF to social movement and mainstream audiences.

As coordinator of the writing team, I serve as a liaison between the USSF national planning team and our writers. I also work to help writers in the network get their work out into mainstream and web-based media outlets. Each week I send out suggestions of topics or ‘news hooks’ that writers can use to pitch the USSF story to various local media outlets. Participating in this network is not only a way to support progressive social change activism in this country, but it also can help you hone your skills as a public sociologist. For instance, I’m learning new ways to try to get my work published in a variety of media outlets, and this will be invaluable to my future work to study and further social justice and peace work. Please encourage your colleagues, students, and writer-friends to join our writer’s network. To join, contact Jackie Smith at jsmith40@nd.edu.

About the USSF: “The USSF will take place June 27-July 1, 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia. The World Social Forum committee delegated Grassroots Global Justice (GGJ) to coordinate a US Social Forum that represents those most adversely affected by the ravages of globalization and neoliberal policies. GGJ is an alliance that grew out of people-of-color-led grassroots groups who participated in the first WSF. These grassroots leaders initiated a process to create a US Social Forum Planning Committee, and Atlanta was selected as the USSF host city. We call those who fight for justice from within the US borders to converge and act. We call you to reflect on the potential of our position and the power of our connections. Though movement leaders have built organizations that push forward an integrated, multi-issue, multiracial strategy, we have yet to build our movement on a scale relative to our brothers and sisters in the global South. The first USSF offers a historic opportunity to gather and unify these growing forces. We must seize this moment and advance our collective work to build grassroots leadership, develop collective vision, and formulate strategies to grow a strong movement.” http://www.ussf2007.org.

Thus, the goals outlined by the USSF Communications workgroup include:

• Promote the USSF to broad likely ‘audiences’ to dramatically increase the numbers of people aware of and attending the Forum;

• Create an effective network that links together traditional, non-traditional, grassroots, and other progressive media practitioners to disseminate messages and stories that advance USSF goals up to and after the 2007 Forum

• Effectively frame the USSF as part of a larger, successful global movement in ways that build hope and momentum for social change and helps reduce beliefs of US “exceptionalism” among key, persuadable segments

The USSF writing team consists of individual scholars and writers who commit to do the following (and other) actions in support of the USSF:

• Write [at least one per month] essays, op-eds, news analyses, or other pieces in general audience news sources that serves to educate the wider U.S. public about the USSF, the people it involves, and the issues it addresses;

• Write at least [three] analyses, poems, opinion pieces, announcements, etc. in specialized publications targeting particular audiences of activists, special interest groups, professionals, or other publics who should know about the USSF and/or who can contribute to the work of the USSF.

Writer’s network pieces will be published on the USSF website and we will work to help get them placed in local newspapers and other media outlets. To join the USSF-writers’ network, contact Jackie Smith (jsmith40@nd.edu)

Global Movement Provides Opportunity for New Antiwar Strategies

By Rachel V. Kutz-Flamenbaum, Stony Brook University & Jackie Smith, University of Notre Dame

On January 25, the 7th World Social Forum drew to a close. Tens of thousands of activists met in Nairobi, Kenya to present alternatives to the agenda being set by global elites at the World Economic Forum. The next
day, more than 100,000 people took to the streets of Washington, D.C. to protest the war in Iraq. Many of those peace activists have been gathering every week, every month, or every few months in small towns and urban centers for the past several years. The demand is to bring an end to the war in Iraq. While their numbers have grown dramatically, the influence of protesters is limited. The largest anti-war protests in history failed to prevent the war, and it is clear that far more than street demonstrations are needed to force politicians to take serious steps towards ending hostilities in Iraq.

The juxtaposition of these two events suggests possibilities for a new strategy for resisting war and militarism in this country and around the world. Perhaps it is time for U.S. activists to think about global solutions for ending the War in Iraq. Perhaps too, it is time for U.S. activists to think about a new kind of politics. The first U.S. Social Forum (Atlanta, June 27-July 1), will provide an opportunity for peace activists throughout the U.S. and the world to come together to develop a platform for ending the war in Iraq, preventing an expansion of the war on terrorism and promoting global justice. In order to sustain pressure on political leaders, anti-war activists must work to sustain popular mobilization for alternatives. The U.S. Social Forum provides a focal point for such action. It provides a space for peace activists to forge new alliances with activist groups working on issues of poverty, immigration, human rights, and other important issues that can be linked to a broader social justice agenda.

Along with several leading peace organizations, we’re helping support an initiative for a Peace Caucus at the upcoming United States Social Forum (USSF), which will be held in Atlanta Georgia this summer (June 27-July 1, see www.ussf2007.org). The USSF seeks to build a stronger coalition of forces within the U.S. to resist unilaterism and militarism in U.S. foreign policy. We are currently looking to build the Peace Caucus through individuals and organizations of all sizes. If you are a member of a peace organization or a peace activist, we hope you will join the Peace Caucus. For more information or to participate, please contact: ussfpeacecaucus@sbcglobal.net.

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**PWSC Section Member**

**Research and Publications**


**Deflem, Mathieu, Ed.** 2007. Sociologists In A Global Age: Biographical Perspectives. Ashgate, Aldershot, UK. ISBN: 0 7546 7037 6. This volume brings together sixteen leading international sociologists to share their experiences of becoming practitioners in the field. Selected for their comparative and transnational interests and experiences, the contributors include: Martin Albrow, Karin Knorr Cetina, Diane E. Davis, Pierpaolo Donati, Leon Grunberg, Horst J. Helle, Eiko Ikegami, Tiankui Jing, Hyun-Chin Lim, Ewa Morawska, Richard Münch, Saskia Sassen, Joachim J. Savelberg, Piotr Sztompka, Edward A. Tiryakian and Ruut Veenhoven. Each contributor provides an auto-biographical review of their journey into the discipline with special attention paid to the intellectual and social-political contexts in which their work matured. Each chapter concludes with comment on the future direction in which they see their area of sociology heading.


**Hart, Julie.** 2006. Introduccion al Análisis y Transformacion del Conflicto Interpersonal and Creando Grupos Saludables: Facilitacion y la Transformacion de Conflictos, CLARA Press. Knew Spanish textbooks on the analysis and transformation of interpersonal conflicts and creating healthy groups. These are approximately 80 page texts designed for continuing education among church leaders throughout Central and South America. CLARA is a Mennonite Press in Bogota, Colombia.


**Maney, Gregory M., Ibtisam Ibrahim, Gareth I. Higgins, and Hanna Herzog.** 2006 “The Past's Promise: Lessons from Peace Processes in Northern Ireland and


### Members In The Media

**Deflem, Mathieu.** He was mentioned in a January 16, 2007, New York Sun op-ed on the ISM project at New York University, “Art Project Adds to List of ‘Isms’.” He was also interviewed on the U.S. House passage of a new anti-terrorism bill on CBS News Radio, New York, on January 9, 2007.

**Ender, Morten.** He was quoted in a February 3 National Review article. He provided explanations for socio-demographic disparities among U.S. service member fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was quoted by the Associated Press on January 21, 2007, in an article on how troops communicate with people back home. Ender was quoted in a January 11 Associated Press article on the uses of high technology devices bridging service-members’ family and friends around the world. The story was distributed on the newswires and appeared in at least two newspapers including the Bradenton Herald and the Air Force Times.

**Firestone, Juanita.** She appeared on the syndicated radio show “A World of Possibilities” hosted by Mark Sommer on “Imperial Overstretch: The Disempowerment of the American Armed Forces?”

**Lembcke, Jerry.** He was interviewed on the NPR program “On the Media” about the Times story that a Iraq War veteran had been spat on at the anti-war march and rally last week. The segment, “Great Expectorations” is at [http://www.onthemedia.org/](http://www.onthemedia.org/).


**Louis Kriesberg** was the guest on a local PBS program (WCNY - Central NY), “Central Issues,” hosted by Dan Cummings. He was interviewed about the “surge” in Iraq undertaken by President Bush, and related issues. The program was shown at 10:00-10:30 PM, Friday, Feb. 2, 2007.

**Segal, David R.** He was quoted in an op-ed column in the New York Times by Bob Herbert on January 4 regarding soldiers’ attitudes toward the war in Iraq. He was quoted in editorials in several newspapers on this topic, including The Day on January 7 and 8. On January 11 he was quoted in the Kansas City Star and on January 12 in the San Jose Mercury-News regarding the disparity between the sacrifice that soldiers and their families are making in contrast to the rest of the nation. This story was also carried in other McClatchey newspapers. On January 11 he was quoted in the Atlantic Free Press (Netherlands) on research that shows the small percentage of Americans who know anyone who was killed in Iraq. He was interviewed on WUNC (National Public Radio, Chapel Hill) on January 9 and on WYPR (NPR, Baltimore) on January 16 on the projected troop surge in Iraq, and on Open Source on WGBH (Public Radio International, Boston) on January 23 on the future of the all-volunteer military.

### Peace, War and Social Conflict Section Slate for 2007

**Chair-Elect**

**NAME: David S. Meyer**

**SECTION: Peace, War and Social Conflict**

**SECTION OFFICE: Chair-Elect**

**PRESENT POSITION: Professor of Sociology, University of California, Irvine (1999-present).**

**PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS: Associate Professor, University of California, Irvine (1999-2003); Assistant-Associate Professor, Political Science, CUNY/City College of New York (1994-1999).**


NAME: Thomas Scheff
SECTION: Peace, War and Social Conflict
SECTION OFFICE: Chair-Elect
PRESENT POSITION: Prof. Emeritus, UCSB, (1964-present).

Council Seat #1

The following three candidates are slated to run against one another for one seat on the PWSC council.

NAME: Matthew Johnson
SECTION OFFICE: Council Member
PRESENT POSITION: West Virginia Wesleyan College, Department Chair, Sociology, Poli. Sci., Crim. Jus., Associate Professor of Sociology (8/04 present).
PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS: Associate Professor of Sociology, U. Maine Presque Isle (4/04-8/04); Assistant Professor of Sociology, U. Maine Presque Isle (9/00-4/04); Assistant Dean of Students, Siena College (12/97-8/99).

NAME: Daniel Ritter
SECTION: Peace, War, & Social Conflict
SECTION OFFICE: Council Member
PRESENT POSITION: Doctoral student, University of Texas at Austin (2004-present).

Name: Lizabeth A. Zack
SECTION: Peace, War and Social Conflict
SECTION OFFICE: Council Member, PWSC Section
PRESENT POSITION: Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of South Carolina Upstate (2003-present).


OFFICES, COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS, AND EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS HELD IN ASA: none.


Council Seat #2

The following three candidates are slated to run against one another for one seat on the PWSC council.

NAME: Mathieu Deflem

SECTION: Peace, War, and Social Conflict

SECTION OFFICE: Council

PRESENT PROFESSIONAL POSITION: Associate Professor, University of South Carolina (since 2005).

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS: Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina (2002-2005); Assistant Professor, Purdue University (1997-2002); Visiting Assistant Professor, Kenyon College (1996-1997). Education: Ph.D., University of Colorado (1996); M.A., University of Hull, England (1990); M.A., Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven, Belgium (1986).


Name: Meredith A. Kleykamp

SECTION: Peace, War and Social Conflict

SECTION OFFICE: Council member

PRESENT POSITION: Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Kansas (Aug 2006-present). Previous Professional Positions: Summer Associate, RAND Corporation, (2002); Lecturer, United States Military Academy, Dept. of Social Sciences (2001-2002).

EDUCATION: PhD, Princeton University (expected 2007); M.A., Princeton University (2002); B.A., University of Texas, Austin (1998).


Name: Jack Nussan-Porter

SECTION: Peace, War and Social Conflict

SECTION OFFICE: Council member

Section Listservs

Section Announcement Listserv:

Please send your announcements to any of the following officers and they can post your announcement to the listserv: Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and immediate Past Chair. Announcements are automatically sent to all section members via email. Messages are routed via peace_war-announce@listserv.asanet.org.

To be excluded from the list, email infoservice@asanet.org. A marker will be placed on your record so that your e-mail address will be excluded when the distribution list is refreshed. ASA will refresh the distribution list on a bi-monthly basis or as needed.

Section Discussion Listserv:

To join the section discussion listserv you must send an email as described below:

1. In the address field type in majordomo@listserv.asanet.org; leave subject field blank;
2. In the text of the message type subscribe peace_war
3. Make sure there is nothing else in the message (no signature)
4. Send the message. You will receive confirmation, and an authorization key with which to confirm that you really want to join the list. Once you reply positively to that you will get a welcome message.

The section’s discussion list, at peace_war@listserv.asanet.org, unlike the section announcement list, is not “prepopulated” with e-mail addresses of section members. Individuals must subscribe.

Join the Section on Peace, War and Social Conflict, or Renew Your Membership

If you are a member of the ASA, now is the time to consider showing your support for the work of the Section on Peace, War and Social Conflict by joining the section or renewing your membership. To do either online, you can go to https://www.e-noah.net/ASA/Login.asp

If you are not already a member of the American Sociological Association, and would like to join the Association and the Section, you can do so online by going to https://www.e-oah.net/ASA/Profile/General.asp?S=1

Any questions you might have regarding membership in the association can be addressed to membership@asanet.org; or you can telephone the ASA at 202-383-9005, ext. 389.

Questions about membership in the section may be directed to Yuko Whitestone at ywhitestone@socy.umd.edu

Crossword Puzzle Answers

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