

Social Psychology

Newsletter of the Social Psychology Section of the
American Sociological Association



Remarks from the Chair

Jan E. Stets, *University of California, Riverside*
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Greetings from Riverside, CA where you can probably fry an egg on the sidewalk right now. Summers can be brutally hot, but it provides the

perfect excuse to take to the road and quickly arrive at any one of the beautiful Pacific Coast beaches. The ocean is such a majestic and powerful sight. When I walk the beach, I am always reminded that life is precious, that love is essential, and that both deepen with the passage of time.

As we approach August and our national meetings in New York, this issue of the newsletter highlights people and activities associated with the meetings. Our 2013 section award recipients are highlighted. We will honor these recipients at the business meeting on Sunday, August 11, from 11:30-12:10, immediately following the Cooley-Mead Address. I hope you will be able to attend and join us in congratulating them. Please take a moment and read about the recipients' research in the pages that follow. Their sociological work is very interesting and varied substantively and methodologically.

Gary Fine (*Northwestern University*), our Cooley-Mead Award recipient, is interviewed in this issue. Gary's research reminds us of how important it is to examine the production of culture and interaction in groups. This will be the topic of his Cooley-Mead address. Tim Hallett (*Indiana University*), the recipient of the outstanding recent contribution to social psychology, conducts an insightful ethnographic analysis of accountability in the school system. He reveals how a valued practice – accountability – is more challenging to implement than we might expect. Matt Andersson (*University of Iowa*), the winner of the graduate student paper award, encourages us to think about emotional well-being as a catalyst for capital. Finally, the first recipient of our graduate student investigator award, Trenton Mize's (*Indiana University*) dissertation may provide

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Note from the Editor

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Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds all of you enjoying a relaxing and productive summer.

This edition of the newsletter is filled with great news!

First, you'll find congratulations to three of the section's four award winners this year: Timothy Paul Hallett, winner of the Outstanding Recent Contribution to Social Psychology Award (pg. 4); Matthew Anders Andersson, winner of the Graduate Student Paper Award (pg. 5); and Trenton D. Mize, winner of the Graduate Student Investigator Award (pg. 6). Gary Alan Fine, winner of the Cooley-Mead Award for 2013 has also been kind enough to share his sociological story with me and the section (pgs. 7-8, 13).

Second, you'll find several pages devoted to the ASA meeting in New York, including sessions of interest to section members (pg. 9) and an engaging and immensely helpful Guide to New York, written by Stacy Torres, Ph.D. Candidate at NYU (pgs. 10-12). It definitely gives us all something to look forward to in August!

And, as always, thank you to all the newsletter contributors; your contributions are invaluable to making my job run smoothly.

Remarks from the Chair (cont. from pg. 1)

new insights into how leadership in groups may be undermined not only by one's gender, but also by one's sexual orientation and conformity (or non-conformity) to masculinity and femininity, each of which affects one's status in the group.

I want to remind you of some activities that you might want to keep on your calendar for the New York meetings. Section member and ASA President Cecilia Ridgeway has lots of activities planned for the meetings, so I hope you will keep those events on your calendar. All of our section sessions are on the social psychology website including the listing of the roundtables (co-sponsored with the Sociology of Emotions section)

(<http://www2.asanet.org/socialpsychology/>). We also have posted other sessions that might be of interest to section members including the ASA sponsored group processes session and the ASA regular social psychology session.

Our section day is the second day of the meetings: Sunday, August 11. The evening before is our joint reception with the Sociology of Emotions section. Please join us for some food and drink from 6:30 – 8:30pm on Saturday, August 10. It is a great time to reconnect with colleagues. Sunday morning is our first section session (8:30-10:10am). Bring your breakfast and listen to the papers I have organized for this first session on the self. I found all of the papers to be so very interesting. Following this session is the Cooley-Mead Award Ceremony and Address (10:30-11:30am). The business meeting follows the Cooley Address (11:30-12:10pm) where we will have our awards ceremony, and I will update you on section activities this past year. The second session on the self that is organized by Peter Burke follows the business meeting (12:30-2:10pm). So bring your lunch and listen to another set of great papers. Following this session, the 12 section roundtables that Scott Savage organized will convene (2:30-4:10pm). There are so many interesting table topics: identity processes, gender, emotions, race and ethnicity, education, networks and groups, norms, and work, volunteering and psychological functioning.²

Remarks from the Chair Concluded on page 3

Remarks from the Chair (cont. from pg. 2)

There is something for everyone! Our last section session is Monday, August 12 (10:30-12:10pm). This is Jon Turner's open topics in social psychology session. I hope you will attend this session as well.

Later in the newsletter, Stacy Torres (*New York University*) provides a great guide to traveling around New York City. I'd encourage you to give her column a close read. It provides some great tips on navigating yourself around. Thank you Stacy!

This is my last column as chair of the section. At the end of the business meeting on Sunday, I turn leadership of the section over to Jeremy Freese (*Northwestern University*). Jeremy will do a great job! I know that you will help him in whatever capacity he might need you. One of the things I have always admired about this section is how dedicated the members are to donating their time and expertise. Indeed, I experienced that up close this past year. Without the section members' help, things would not have run as smoothly as I think they did. So, to all of my colleagues listed on page 14 of this newsletter, thank you so much for working with me this past year! I couldn't have asked for a better group!!

I want to give a special thanks to Laura Aufderheide Brashears (*Cornell University*) who did an excellent job as the newsletter editor this past year. She helped me streamline the newsletter and keep it relevant and interesting to section members. We found that a lot of information could be disseminated more effectively on the section's website. Thus, with the help of Phillip Brenner (*University of Massachusetts, Boston*), our section webmaster, we developed the section's website a little more, and we moved the website to the ASA, where most section websites are now housed.

The section's council provided some good guidance this past year, and I want to thank them for their input and advice. I want to especially thank those members who are rotating off this year and who have served the section as council members for the past three years. These include Will Kalkhoff (*Kent State University*) and Robb Willer (*Stanford University*). Also rotating off is our student member, Traci Tucker (*Stanford University*). Thank you so much for your service to the section!

We welcome new council members Richard Serpe (*Kent State University*), Peggy Thoits (*Indiana University*), and student member Aaron Silverman (*Stanford University*). Please also welcome Jessica Collett (*University of Notre Dame*) to the three-year post of secretary/treasurer of the section. Finally, a warm welcome to our new chair-elect, Tim Owens (*Kent State University*).

I look forward to seeing you all in New York in August. Let's make this a great meeting for the section and for our section member and ASA President, Cecilia Ridgeway!

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Tim Hallett, Associate Professor at *Indiana University* (Ph.D., *Northwestern University*, 2003), is the recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Recent Contribution in Social Psychology Award. This year, the award was given for an article or chapter published between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012. Hallett was honored for his 2010 publication in the *American Sociological Review*, "The Myth Incarnate: Recoupling Processes, Turmoil, and Inhabited Institutions in an Urban Elementary School" (75:52-74).

This superb paper is the culmination of Hallett's development of "inhabited institutionalism," a paradigm that operates at the intersection of social psychology, organizations, and culture. By fusing the more external, macro focus of contemporary neo-institutionalism with insights from the "negotiated order" branch of symbolic interaction, Hallett brings social psychology and its emphasis on people, their relationships, and their joint day-to-day work activities

Outstanding Recent Contribution in Social Psychology Award Recipient

Timothy Paul Hallett

back into the study of institutions.

Hallett uses data from a rich, detailed ethnography of an urban elementary school, conducted over a two-year period, to examine how myths become incarnate—how they are given tangible flesh—inside organizations. He focuses on a particular myth, the myth of accountability, as a rationalized ideal of how schools should operate. He then shows how that myth came to dominate one school's environment when a new principal transformed the myth into a tangible reality that affected work activities, social interactions, and local meaning-making. The cultural ideal of accountability—once only loosely linked to organizational practices in the school—became closely "recoupled" to actual classroom policies and activities, disrupting the order and work routines that had previously existed for teachers and imposing new and shifting expectations. The result was what the teachers labeled "turmoil," consisting of epistemic distress, the loss of established meanings, and the construction of new meanings that established emergent battle lines between the different camps. The emphasis on accountability, intended to create greater certainty and transparency, ironically had the

opposite effect.

By "inhabiting" the institution of education with a detailed examination of the people and interactions that make up schools, Hallett successfully links micro-level social psychological processes with macro-level institutionalism. In doing so, he demonstrates the value of a social psychological analysis for addressing questions of interest to scholars in organizational sociology, cultural sociology, and the sociology of education. Already a highly cited paper, with important implications for both theory and institutional practice, "The Myth Incarnate" is a worthy recipient of the Outstanding Recent Contribution in Social Psychology Award.

Members of the Award Committee were Linda Molm, Chair (*Arizona*), Matthew Hunt (*Northeastern*), Amy Kroska (*Oklahoma*), Jeffrey Lucas (*Maryland*), and Timothy Owens (*Kent State*). Gary Alan Fine (*Northwestern*) nominated Hallett's paper for the award.

Submitted by Linda D. Molm

GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD WINNER

Matthew Anders Andersson



Matt Andersson, *The University of Iowa*, the winner of this year's graduate paper award, researches personal well-being at the intersection of social psychology and social stratification. In his award paper (now titled "More than a Feeling: Emotional Well-Being and the Activation of Education"), Andersson argues that emotional well-being represents a promising approach to understanding the nature and extent of the use of capital, what he refers to as capital activation. This paper demonstrates that capital activation is a stage of social stratification which rivals the importance of possessing capital in the first place, detailing how people with greater well-being demonstrate flexibility, support and persistence during activation efforts. Using a panel sample of middle-aged adults, as well as an auxiliary sample of identical twins, he finds that emotional well-being serves to activate education (a prime indicator of human capital), leading to especially favorable gains in health, sense of control and voluntary social involvement. This paper expands stratification theory by suggesting how individual orientations interact with capital to explain inequality. Andersson's work has

appeared in *Social Forces*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Social*

Indicators Research, *Stress and Health* and other outlets. Andersson's general approach focuses on mechanisms, theories and methodological issues relevant to personal well-being. Before turning to sociology, Andersson had researched well-being from a clinical standpoint as an undergraduate, analyzing using an experimental design under what circumstances the disclosure of traumatic events leads to gains in physical well-being and renewed social connections (with Colleen Conley). Andersson retains his undergraduate interest in personal well-being, reflected across a range of sociological projects: examining how social connections shape and reflect trust in diverse others (with Jennifer Glanville and Pamela Paxton), how dispositional optimism shapes social network composition and buffers life setbacks durably; how parental warmth experienced during childhood conditionally shapes mental and physical health during adulthood; methodological design and contextual effects relevant to happiness (with Jennifer Glass and Robin

Simon); the utility of vignette data for shedding light on mental illness stigmatization processes (with Sarah Harkness); and links between various indicators of personal well-being and the subjective experience of dignity (with Steve Hitlin).

Next year, Andersson will be finishing his dissertation, and working on an NSF-funded project creating a mixed-methods dataset on peer citation dynamics in sociology and medicine (with Freda Lynn and Michael Sauder). After finishing at Iowa, he aims to work at a research university.

Many thanks to the members of the Graduate Affairs Committee for their hard work selecting Andersson's paper from the many deserving papers that were submitted: John DeLamater (Chair), *University of Wisconsin*; Matthew Brashears, *Cornell University*; Steve Hitlin, *University of Iowa*; Monica Johnson, *Washington State University*; David Melamed, *University of South Carolina*; Traci Tucker (Student Member), *Stanford University*



GRADUATE STUDENT INVESTIGATOR RECIPIENT

Trenton D. Mize

As most of you are aware, the section has a new award this year: The Social Psychology Section's Graduate Student Investigator Award. The Graduate Student Investigator Award was established to provide financial support for innovative research that addresses an important theoretical or empirical social psychological research question. It is my pleasure to introduce you to this year's winner: Trenton D. Mize, a doctoral student at Indiana University.

Trenton's proposal ("Status Disadvantages for Gay and Lesbian Leaders: Orientation or Masculinity?") impressed the Graduate Student Investigator Award Committee (Alicia Cast, Chair, Timothy Hallett, Jason Schnittker, and Shane Thye) with its theoretical and methodological import, but also its creativity. Committee members described the proposed research as an "important," "unique", and "clever" project.

Broadly, Trenton is interested in understanding gender and interactional inequalities. Indeed, this proposed research will extend his current research that examines the factors that lead group members to undermine female leaders.

In his proposal, Trenton plans to expand our understanding of the mechanisms of discrimination by examining the effects of sex category, sexual orientation, and masculinity on interaction with group leaders. He suggests that in addition to sex category, sexual orientation and gender conformity (masculinity/femininity) are important sources of interactional disadvantage for leaders in groups because of their effects on status. More importantly, however, is the recognition that in many cases, sex category, sexual orientation, and masculinity/femininity are intimately connected in making status evaluations. Thus, it becomes important to disentangle their independent effects.

To disentangle these effects, Trenton will conduct an experiment in which subjects work on a collective task about workplace decisions with a 'partner.' Subjects are introduced to their interactional

partner using Facebook pages that manipulate sex category, sexual orientation, and masculinity/femininity. On a variety of different decisions, subjects are asked to either agree or disagree with the decision of their partner, who is in a leadership position. Thus, his study examines status in terms of the degree of deference to individuals within these different theoretically significant categories. The study also examines evaluations of leadership quality, influence, strength, competence, and likeability. Investigating these different processes in groups significantly contributes to our understanding of how the sexual orientation of group leaders influences group interaction but examines this within the context of the sex and gender system as well.

Trenton will be formally recognized with this award at the annual ASA meetings this August in New York City and will be awarded \$1,000 to support his research. Please join me in congratulating Trenton!

Submitted by Alicia Cast



Voices of Experience with 2013 Cooley-Mead Award Winner:

Gary A. Fine, Northwestern University

What life experiences have contributed to your interest in social psychology in general and/or your specific research areas?

My father was a Freudian psychoanalyst in New York City. So I grew up in a home in which issues of psychology, and even to some degree social psychology, were present. And so that certainly developed my interest in psychology and psychoanalysis. But at the same time, there's often an attempt to move away from, reject, and question the beliefs of one's parents. So at the University of Pennsylvania, where I was an undergraduate, I was assigned in a section of Introduction to Sociology to read Goffman's book Asylums, with a very wonderful teaching assistant, who shaped my interest in sociology. I found Asylums extremely stimulating, persuasive, and useful, because it takes a very skeptical view of psychiatry; it provided exactly the kind of familial distance that I needed. It was a way of

incorporating ideas of psychiatry, while still questioning them. So that book certainly shaped my perspective. And at that point, Erving Goffman was coming to the University of Pennsylvania as a faculty member, and I wound up taking two of his graduate seminars, even though I was an undergraduate at the time, which further shaped me. So there's a real sense in which I was more shaped by my undergraduate education at the University of Pennsylvania than I was by my graduate education at Harvard. At Pennsylvania, I was influenced by Goffman, E. Digby Baltzell, Ray Birdwhistell, Jane Piliavin, Allan Teger, Albert Pepitone, and a number of other scholars who worked in this broadly defined social psychological perspective: a perspective that crossed sociology and psychology.

Attending Harvard in Social Relations certainly further shaped who I am and what I've become. My mentor was Robert Freed Bales. Bales was a leading small-group researcher, and it was through the combination of my undergraduate education and my graduate education that I became interested in the relationship of culture, structure, and interaction, and in particular looking at the

ways that small groups produce cultures. That was something that I was interested in as far back as my first year in graduate school, which is now some forty years ago. So even though my research has covered a lot of different substantive communities (for example, Little League Baseball, mushroom collecting, restaurant kitchens, high school debate, meteorology, chess), my core interests have remained very similar. In 1979, I published a paper in the *American Sociological Review* on small group cultures that used data from my Little League Baseball research. The original draft was a paper that compared the culture of the Manson family and Little League baseball. But the first set of reviews said it had too much data, and the point could be made with a single case. So for the sociology community, I used the Little League research. But I'm also a folklorist; my Ph.D. minor was in folklore and mythology, and I had taken courses in folklore at the University of Pennsylvania. So I was publishing in folklore, and I used the data on the Manson family to talk about small group cultures and small group traditions in such a way as to be useful for folklorists.

Where did you spend the early part of your sociological career as a faculty member?

I taught as a lecturer at Boston College, where I met David Karp, who trained me in ethnography.

He, not Goffman, not anyone at Harvard, was responsible for me becoming the kind of ethnographer that I am. And also at Boston College, I got to meet and know Everett Hughes. Karp and Hughes helped to shape me.

And then for my first teaching job, I went to the University of Minnesota, and it was in Minnesota that I became more involved in the symbolic interaction tradition. Now Goffman was obviously part of that, and Everett Hughes to some extent, but the real symbolic interactionist community surrounded Gregory Stone at Minnesota, and a number of his students. It was there that I got exposed to the traditional symbolic interactionist perspective.

How have your specific interests in sociology changed over time?

In the main, my interests in sociology and social psychology have pretty much remained constant. I began in graduate school to study small group cultures, and that remains a central part of what I do. In graduate school, I started writing papers about

rumor and gossip, and I've continued that over the course of my career. The one area that I'm known for that came a little bit later was my research on collective memory and reputations. And that came from the time that I was on the

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faculty at the University of Georgia, and I got to meet and work with Barry Schwartz. It was a very strong connection and still is. While Barry was studying the great heroes of American culture and American history, I decided that my contribution could be the villains and the controversial figures. My first article that dealt with reputation was about Benedict Arnold; Barry was writing about George Washington, so I wrote about Benedict Arnold. And during that time he was doing research on Abraham Lincoln, so I studied John Brown. I was kind of Barry's dark twin. Certainly one reason I decided to accept a position at the University of Georgia was because of Barry's presence. I was hired in 1990 as department head, so I served a term, and after it ended, we decided to move back north to Northwestern. And from 1997 on, I've been on the faculty at Northwestern.

What is your current (or recent) research focus?

In theoretical terms, I remain interested in small groups, their cultures, and the way that local

interaction systems operate. This will be the topic of my Cooley-Mead address in August. However, I'm always looking at different empirical domains, and looking at them through a set of theoretical questions. So I'm finishing a book on competitive chess, and in that I'm interested in the way that local communities create status systems. That book will hopefully be completed this summer. And my current empirical ethnographic research is on MFA students in the visual arts. I am interested in going back to some of the old studies on occupational socialization, and looking at the ways that local cultures inform how occupational socialization gets achieved.

What interests and/or activities, outside of sociology, are important to you?

There's a sense in which I really love sociology, so sociology is my interest outside of sociology. But going a little further than that, I have an interest in the arts. I'm interested in culinary issues, theatre, visual arts, and literature. When I was an undergraduate I started writing theatre reviews for the University of Pennsylvania newspaper. Then, after two years I was hired by an entertainment weekly to write theatre reviews for them, and subsequently they also asked me to write restaurant reviews. I like doing reviews, and for a period of about five years I had

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SESSIONS at 2013 ASA in NEW YORK

Saturday, August 10

- 6:30p.m. – Joint Reception: Section on Social Psychology and Section on Sociology of Emotions

Sunday, August 11

- 8:30a.m.-10:10a.m. - The Self in Social Psychology: Session I
- 10:30a.m.-12:10p.m. - Cooley-Mead Award Ceremony & Address and Business Meeting
- 12:30p.m.-2:10p.m. - The Self in Social Psychology: Session II
- 2:30p.m.-4:10p.m. – Social Psychology Roundtables (co-sponsored with Sociology of Emotions)

Monday, August 12

- 8:30a.m.-10:10a.m. - Group Processes Session
- 10:30a.m.-12:10p.m. - Open Topics in Social Psychology Session

Tuesday, August 13

- 10:30a.m.-12:10p.m. - Social Psychology Regular Session

2012-2013 Social Psychology Section Officers

Chair: Jan Stets, *University of California, Riverside*

Chair-Elect: Jeremy Freese, *Northwestern University*

Past-Chair: Brian Powell, *Indiana University*

Secretary-Treasurer: Pamela Braboy Jackson (2013), *Indiana University*

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- Tim Hallett (2015), *Indiana University*
- Will Kalkhoff (2013), *Kent State University*
- Melissa Milkie (2014), *University of Maryland*
- Robin Simon (2014), *Wake Forest University*
- Robb Willer (2013), *Stanford University*
- Traci Tucker (2013), *Stanford University* – student member of council

Editors SPQ: Karen Hegtvedt and Cathy Johnson, *Emory University*

Newsletter Editor: Laura Aufderheide Brashears, *Cornell University*

Webmaster: Philip Brenner, *University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Book News



New Book Release: *Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences* (Sage, 2013). Two members of the Social Psychology Section have entries in this recently published volume: Peter J. Burke is the author of “Identity, Social,” and Michael G. Flaherty is the author of “Time, Social Theories of.”

Guide to New York *Submitted by Stacy Torres, NYU*

In some ways I'm probably the worst person to write this guide because I'm a born and raised native New Yorker. Like many native born sons and daughters who take the city's sights for granted, I didn't visit the Empire State building until my mid-20s and have yet to visit other renowned landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty or Ellis Island. But hosting ASA and out of town visitors provides a welcome opportunity to reacquaint myself with everything my hometown has to offer.

Even frequent visitors to the city find it difficult to squeeze everything in. Google "NYC tourist attractions" and you can find page after page of the usual things to do, the Empire State building, Broadway Shows, the World Trade Center Memorial. ASA also offers some "regional spotlight" tours worth checking out. Spoiled for choice, both in Manhattan and the surrounding outer boroughs, I'll focus this guide mostly on the immediate area surrounding the conference hotels, midtown east and west.

New York is one of the great pedestrian cities, and "the grid" is easy to navigate. In midtown, numbered streets run East-West and numbered avenues North-South, so it's difficult to get lost. As you head further downtown, below 14th Street on the West side and below Houston Street on the East side, the numbered grid begins to disappear and things get trickier but more fun if you're up for getting a little lost and open to discovery. You definitely want to pack comfortable walking shoes. If walking in the heat grows weary or you need to travel greater distances, it's a snap to hop on a bus or subway. One benefit of ASA's midtown location is that it's close to everything, and that includes most major subway lines: A, C, E, B, D, F, M, N, Q, R, 1, and 7. You can ride anywhere in the system for \$2.50, and buying fares in ten-dollar increments gives you a 5% bonus. One tip: hang onto your metro card for the duration of your trip and refill it or you will be hit with a dollar surcharge to buy a new card.

Trip Advisor ranks New York City as the second most expensive city to visit in the U.S. after Honolulu. But there are plenty of ways to save money on food and entertainment if you know how. Venture outside tourist-clogged Times Square to find cheaper food options. Stop at a local supermarket, Rite Aid or CVS pharmacy, to stock up on cold drinks and snacks that can be stored in your hotel room's mini-fridge. Supermarkets are also great places to grab a reasonably priced sandwich, salad, or hot food, as they often have buffet type hot and cold food offerings. Whole Foods in the lower concourse of the Time Warner Center at 59th Street and Broadway and Morton Williams on 57th Street between 7th Ave and Broadway both offer air-conditioned seating areas. Other nearby supermarkets are Gristedes (8th Ave between 53rd and 54th streets) and Food Emporium (8th Ave between 48th and 49th streets).

Though Manhattan has experienced rapid and widespread gentrification, along with the influx of chain stores and restaurants (most recently the expansion of 7-Eleven), a dwindling number of mom and pop businesses continue to survive. I encourage you to support them when possible, and patronizing these long time establishments is usually the better value and more rewarding experience. The blog *Jeremiah's Vanishing New York* (<http://vanishingnewyork.blogspot.com/>) is a great way to find these longtime businesses and discover great archival photography and film footage of now "vanished" New York. The city's surviving greasy spoon diners are usually open 24 hours and offer 10

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great opportunities for people watching. Some favorites include the Westway Diner on 9th Ave (between 43rd and 44th streets); the Morning Star Restaurant and the Flame Restaurant, both within a block of each other on 9th Ave (between 57th and 58th streets); the Chelsea Square Restaurant (at 23rd Street and 9th Ave); and the Greek Corner (28th and 7th Ave). Hell's Kitchen has a few overlooked gems like Tehuitzingo Deli Grocery (a hole-in-the-wall Mexican grocery on 10th Ave between 47th and 48th streets that makes a mean taco). Amy's Bread (9th Ave between 46th and 47th streets) will help satisfy your sweet tooth. For a splurge, head over to Victor's Café (52nd Street between Broadway and 8th Ave), where the Del Corral family has served up excellent Cuban food since 1963. My favorite places for heaping portions of Latin food that won't break the bank are Tina's Cuban (Madison Ave between 33rd and 34th streets), Pio Pio Riko (Peruvian rotisserie chicken on 8th Ave between 30th and 31st streets) and La Taza de Oro (8th Ave between 14th and 15th streets).

As far as entertainment goes, the conference hotels are located in the heart of Times Square, a stone's throw from dozens of Broadway theaters and the popular TKTS ticket stand, where you can purchase day-of-performance discount tickets to Broadway and off-Broadway shows. With ample pedestrian-only areas in Times Square, the best show in town may be the people watching you can do while taking advantage of the seating available in these outdoor plazas.

Central Park offers a number of entertainment options. The park itself, beautifully designed by Frederick Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1857, is an oasis in the middle of the city that offers respite from the concrete chaos of Manhattan streets and yes, a break from a national sociology conference as well. The park begins at 60th Street at its Southern tip and ends at 125th Street in Northern Manhattan, running west to east from Central Park West to 5th Avenue. The park offers endless scenic spots and activities, so I'll only mention a few. If you are traveling with children, I recommend taking them to the Ancient Playground just north of the Metropolitan Museum of Art or Heckscher Playground near 7th Ave and Central Park South. Both parks offer a lot of play space and a variety of playground equipment for all ages as well as public restrooms. Don't pass up the opportunity to ride the vintage Carousel (mid-park at 64th Street). If you want to avoid shelling out Broadway ticket prices, Shakespeare in the Park is free and puts on productions throughout the summer. *Love Labour's Lost: A New Musical* plays in August and free tickets (2 per person) are distributed at noon each performance day at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park and available via virtual lottery on their website: <http://www.shakespeareinthepark.org/#!virtual-ticketing/c20b9>. The theater is located Mid-Park at 80th Street on the southwest corner of the Great Lawn. Get there early...

Museums offer a great way to take in some culture while staying cool. Both the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the and Museum of Natural History offer "recommended" admission fees, so don't be daunted by the sticker price of \$25 for the Met and \$19 for the Natural History Museum. Just pay what you can. Admission to the Met also includes same-day admission to The Cloisters museum of European medieval art and architecture as well, located near the 190th Street stop on the A train. Closer to the conference hotels is the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) on 11 West 53rd Street. Required admission for adults is \$25. and the museum offers discounts for students 11



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(\$14), Seniors (\$18), and Children under 16 (free). On Fridays you can go for free from 4-8pm. The website "Museum Free Days" offers a calendar of days when several New York City museums offer free or "pay what you wish" admission (<http://www.museumfreedays.com/calendar/2013-08/?city=New%20York%20City&keys=>). Of course, you want to double check with each museum first before heading over. The main branch of the New York Public Library is also worth checking out and conveniently located at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue. The library offers free exhibitions, and the lovely Beau-Arts building is an architectural wonder in itself. Free one-hour building tours are also available daily at 11am and 2pm, Monday to Saturday. During August the scheduled exhibition is the *ABC of It: Why Children's Books Matter*. Adjacent Bryant Park offers a relaxing green place to sit and on Mondays free outdoor films.

There's a reason for the expression, "It's so hot you could fry an egg on the sidewalk." August is hot and humid and in Manhattan; the sidewalks and buildings trap heat so it's possible to walk a few blocks and melt if you're not careful. The usual hot weather advice applies: Dress in light colors, apply sunscreen when taking a longer walk, stay hydrated, and seek shade along the buildings or take advantage of our wonderful public transportation system when faced with a long trek. With so many options in New York, the challenge is never having too little to do but too much. Plan wisely and you won't get overwhelmed but don't be afraid to take some detours and let your feet lead the way. See you in August!

CONGRATULATORY NOTES

- **Caitlin Patler**, a Ph.D. Candidate at *University of California – Los Angeles*, was awarded a Community Action Research Award from the ASA Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy for her project "Assessing the Educational and Economic Trajectories, Civic Engagement, and Health Status of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program Applicants." This is a collaborative project with Dream Team Los Angeles.
- **Gretchen Peterson**, *California State University – Los Angeles*, was promoted to the rank of Professor and has agreed to serve as the Department Chair for Sociology.
- **Daniel Shank**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the *University of Alabama - Birmingham*, has accepted a 3-year postdoctoral research position at the *University of Melbourne, Australia* in the Department of Psychological Sciences.
- **Stacy Torres**, *New York University*, was awarded a fellowship for 2013-14 through the ASA's Minority Fellowship Program. She has also won the Outstanding Student Paper Award given by the ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course for her paper "Where Everybody May Not Know Your Name: The Importance of Elastic Ties."

Voices of Experience Concluded

a restaurant blog (www.vealcheeks.blogspot.com) and for a time contributed many restaurant reviews.

Given your success in the field, how do you balance professional and personal demands?

I think to be successful in a disciplinary sense one has to emphasize professional opportunities. I'd rather stress opportunities, rather than demands, because demands make it seem like there's something you don't want to do. When one has children and one is married, there is a certain balance that comes into one's life. So, as a professor I did a lot of the childcare. My wife was in business, and my time was a lot more flexible than hers. But my younger son graduated from high school in 2002, and at that point, we were empty nesters, and that allows me, to some measure, emphasize the professional.

If you had to leave academia, what career would you choose?

I wouldn't wish to leave academia. If I did, I suppose I would wish to be some kind of arts critic. I don't think I have the talent to be a visual artist or a novelist. But I have skill as a critic, and I like it. I don't know if I could write a long form novel that our great novelists can do, but shorter writing I can do with much greater facility.

Do you know something today that you wish you had known when you started in sociology? What is it?

That question can either be answered substantively, or it can be answered personally. Substantively, I wish that over the course of the past forty years I had more directly emphasized the importance of small

group culture as a theoretical matter, even more than I did. In 2012, I published a book *Tiny Publics: A Theory of Group Culture and Group Action*, and part of me wishes that I had written that book twenty years before, to get small groups back to center stage of sociology. That is the case that I will be making in August at ASA. In 1954, *ASR* published a special issue, which was entirely devoted to small group research. That has largely disappeared, and I wish that when I started writing about small groups in 1979 and before, that I had kept on doing that much more explicitly.

What one piece of advice would give a graduate student or an assistant professor?

Every year at Northwestern, faculty members come into the proseminar for our first-year students and I have a lecture that I give, the 10 Commandments of Sociology. Most important, it's useful early in your career to decide what you're interested in, what that motivating question is going to be for you. And then it is also important for you to love our discipline, which gets back to this question of balance. If I had free time, I'd read, write, or think sociology. So that would be the core of the advice that I would give. If you don't love this discipline, this line of work, then it might not be the best choice.

It's certainly not the case that an assistant professor must work 15 hours a day. But it can't hurt, unless you get burned out. The more you love, and the more you do your work, the better off you're going to be. Of course there are people who are more able or luckier than others. But all things being equal, if you love what you're doing, and you work at it long and continuously and with enthusiasm, you will make a more substantial lifetime contribution.

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Who We Are

The Social Psychology Section of the ASA works to keep the spirit of social psychology alive in sociology. We are over 600 scholars whose interests include self-conceptions and identity, social cognition, the shaping of emotions by culture and social structure, the creation of meaning and the negotiation of social order in everyday life, small group dynamics, and the psychological consequences of inequality.

While we also identify with other areas of sociological research, we all bring to our research and teaching a special interest in the individual as both a social product and a social force. Our common desire is to understand the many connections between individuals and the groups to which they belong.

We invite all sociologists who are interested in social psychology, or who take a social-psychological approach to some other area of research, to join the Social Psychology Section and to get involved in Section activities.