The hallmarks of Contexts will be accessibility, broad appeal, and timeliness. By design, it is not a technical journal, but a magazine for diverse readers who wish to be current about social science knowledge, emerging trends, and their relevance. It regularly publishes letters and opinions, brief notes on recent findings, feature articles with comments, and essay reviews of books. While significant as scholarship, articles published in Contexts will be prepared in an easy and engaging style. It aspires to be a meeting place for discussion among social scientists and the public.

The principal audience will be sociologists across subfields of interest and work sectors. The journal aims to be a "must read" for sociologists, irrespective of their primary professional roles, who wish to remain current and engaged in sociological knowledge and its potential developments or use (e.g., researchers, teachers, survey researchers, program officers, academic or private foundation administrators, graduate students). The journal also seeks to gather an audience of social and behavioral scientists in aligned disciplines. Because of the intended readability and broad appeal of the articles, the journal expects over time to find a readership among policy makers, journalists and others in the media, social critics, public intellectuals, and the "educated citizen."

Contexts welcomes suggestions for articles that advance these goals. See accompanying box for submission information.

The publication of Contexts is a hallmark for the Association and its members, the discipline of sociology, and the wider public. We encourage all members to support this exciting new initiative by submitting ideas in 2001 and subscribing in 2002.
The Executive Officer's Column

Speaking Out for Human Rights

Major media outlets have covered the situation of Dr. Gao Zhan, American University scholar, who was detained in China on February 11. Knowledge of this arrest first became public on March 22. Since that time two other situations of sociologists detained in China have come to public attention: first, the situation of Dr. Li Shaochen, who is Princeton trained and teaches at the City University of Hong Kong, and Dr. Xu Zerong of Oxford University. Dr. Li was detained on February 25, and Dr. Xu last fall. All three sociologists are dedicated to scholarly work on academic subjects that bring them to do research in China. All reports appear to confirm that they are legitimate scholars conducting scientific research. As of this writing, only Dr. Gao has subsequently been charged with spying for foreign intelligence agencies, but the Chinese government has offered no evidence to support this claim.

ASA has expressed itself in the strongest possible terms since the news of Dr. Gao first reached us in March. President Massey and I sent a letter protesting that situation (see below), and we are coordinating closely with the Science and Human Rights Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as well as with the Academic Freedom Program of Human Rights Watch. We sent a second letter on April 2 in collaboration with Human Rights Watch and the New York Academy of Sciences on behalf of Drs. Gao, Li, and Xu. In monitoring this situation closely and working on it day-to-day, we are relying on the ASA’s homepage to communicate our views and keep our members informed. Therefore, between issues of Footnotes and for timely information, please check the ASA homepage at www.asanet.org.

For a scientific society like ASA, it is a fundamental value and responsibility of our body to speak out in the face of human rights violations of scholars and other infringements on the capacity of sociologists to pursue their ideas and present their work free of constraints. In speaking out, ASA has made the point that China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on October 1998, thus committing itself to strive to provide all individuals the right to be free from “arbitrary arrest or detention,” and to guarantee all the “freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds.” Essentially the ongoing detention of these scientists violates these fundamental rights.

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) learned of the situation of Dr. Gao through a posting on its listserv (as did I). ASA is well situated to monitor these situations, and I have worked closely with SWS President and long-time ASA leader Myra Marx Ferree in providing information and sharing our steps. SWS’ leadership has added an important voice. Dr. Gao’s work focuses on women’s roles in China and Taiwan, including a particular focus on women students who return to China after studying abroad. Thus, SWS’ stepping in is central to its mission and expertise. SWS has written a letter as well on behalf of Dr. Li.

We encourage sociologists to write individual letters expressing your concerns as part of the community of scholars. The AAAS Human Rights Action Network—known as AAASHRAN—provides briefing materials and sample letters on cases or developments where scholars’ human rights are being violated. Thus, those wishing to act or receive such updates can access AAASHRAN through the ASA homepage or directly at http://sh人权 www.asanet.org. If you take action, please send me a copy of your posting at levine@asanet.org.

I wish I could conclude this column with some sentiment that events like those in China are quite rare. AAASHRAN reports posting one case or issue each week. Indeed, those who scan the AAASHRAN homepage will now immediately learn of attacks on March 1 and March 10 against Professor Khadija Cherif, a sociology professor at the University of Tunis in Tunisia. I can conclude by saying—indeed promising—that, whatever the frequency of such events, ASA is paying close attention, and we will continue to take action and report. Please know that you can learn about these situations from us; please also keep us posted so that we can learn from you.—Felice Levine

March 24, 2001
Ambassador Yong Jiechi
Embassy of the People’s Republic of China
2200 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Jiechi:

On behalf of the American Sociological Association (ASA), we are writing to urge that authorities in the People’s Republic of China take immediate steps to release Dr. Gao Zhan who has been detained since February 11, 2001. Dr. Gao, a sociologist, has pursued her scientific research over the years in China. We understand that she has been confined without counsel and that members of her family have not been able to contact her. We ask that you assure her safety and well being and unconditionally release her from detention.

The American Sociological Association, the national membership organization of sociologists in the United States, is deeply concerned that Dr. Gao’s detention was motivated by an effort to limit her work as a scientist in her field. Dr. Gao holds an appointment as a Faculty Fellow at the American University. She conducts research on women’s issues and economic reforms in China. Although she was born in China, Dr. Gao is a Permanent Resident of the United States. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Sciences from Syracuse University and an M.A. in Sociology.

We would appreciate timely action to release Dr. Gao. Absent a change in these circumstances, we remain gravely concerned about the conditions under which scholarly inquiry and scientific exchange can occur in China.

Sincerely,

Felice S. Levine, PhD
Executive Officer

C.c.: Secretary of State Colin Powell
Ambassador Joseph W. Prueher, Beijing
AAAS Council
AAAS Science and Human Rights Program

Our Regular Features

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ASA Congressional Fellow Report
Congressional Committee System

by Larry Burnmeister
ASA Congressional Fellow

My work in Senator Kent Conrad's office has brought me into contact with the committee system in Congress. My major assignment has been to "staff" ongoing hearings of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (hereafter the Agriculture Committee). The job entails preparing written briefings for the Senator and other staff on issues likely to be covered in a scheduled hearing and attending hearings to monitor their legislative, regulatory, and/or administrative implications.

Political scientist William P. Browne (1973) argues that the Senate, as it was designed in 1774-77, often referred to as the "sub-committee bill of rights," undermined the influence of previously all-powerful committee chairs and devolved more legislative initiatives to subcommittees. This change, according to Browne, democratized the legislative process. The end result was a more individualized Congress. Inherent in the preference practices characterized by iron-fisted committee chairs who held sway over particular committees for decades and controlled the legislative agenda, now individual legislators have greater opportunities to engage in legisla
tive entrepreneurship.

My brief experience with the Senate Agriculture Committee suggests that there may be a lot of variation between committees and that the Senate situation may be quite different from that in the House. This Congress in particular, with the 50/50 party split in the Senate, is unique. Negotiations within particular Senate Committees between the Republican Chair and the Democratic Ranking Member have produced ad hoc Committee operational procedures. A brief Senate Agriculture Committee staff meeting was called several weeks ago to announce that Chairman Lugar (R-IN) and Ranking Member Harkin (D-IA) have reached agreement on Com-

mittee staffing and budgeting issues. Member assignments on the four subcommittees were quickly determined by the staffers present, with indications that many Senators were not consulted beforehand about their subcommittee assignments. It was noted in a matter-of-

fact aside that Senate Agriculture subcommittees rarely meet, so these assignments did not matter much. It is obvious that in the Senate Agriculture Committee, Chair Lugar and Ranking Member Harkin have called the shots regarding hearings I have staffed. This Committee, as do all Congressional committees, has its own majority and minority staff. From my brief observations, Agriculture Committee staff seem to function more as adjuncts to the offices of the Chair and Ranking Members than as coordinators who solicit input from other Committee members about how to conduct Committee business. As a result of the 50/50 split in the Senate, Democrats have been allocated an equal number of Committee staff. In normal times, the minority party is allocated only one-third of the committee staff. I was curious as to whether this new situation made a difference in the hearing agendas and the composition of the expert witness lists, but responses from insiders have so far produced a negative answer. Maybe this perception occurs because Lugar and Harkin have worked in tandem before as Chair and Ranking Member on this Committee and that they have similar ideas about how Committee business should be conducted. It is one of the numerous questions about how Congress works that have caught my attention and that I will continue to report on during the course of my Congressional Fellowship work.

References

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Tran and Waldron Selected as Media Fellows

Two advanced graduate students have been selected as ASA-AAAS Media Fellows:

Quynh-Giang Tran

Linda Waldron

ASA Advocates for Social and Behavioral Support at NIH ... As part of the Coalition for the Advancement of Health through Behavioral and Social Science Research, the American Sociological Association joined nine other societies in testimony submitted to the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, for the fiscal year 2002 budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that makes continued progress toward budget doubling goals and seeks a 15 percent increase (to $23.75 million) for the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research to effectively continue its important leadership.

Amendment Aimed at Adding Funds for NSF ... On April 5, the Senate passed an amendment to the budget resolution led by Senators Christopher "K" Bond (R-MO) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and others that would increase the National Science Foundation's (NSF)'s 2002 budget over 2001 by $674 million (an increase of 15.3 percent). The amendment would keep NSF on a budget doubling strategy, but it is at odds with the Bush administration seeking only a 1.3 percent increase. ASA works as part of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) in advocating for NSF. For latest updates see www.asa.org.

New NSF Director Named ... On April 9, Sarah Hart was appointed Director of the National Institute of Nursing (NIH) at the Department of Justice (DOJ). A prosecutor in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office for 16 years, she has served since 1995 as the Chief Counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. The Directors of this important research agency and of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (among others) report to the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). The Bush administration filled the Assistant AG slot with Deborah Daniels, a partner in an Indianapolis law firm, who directed the Weed and Seed Program at OJP to reduce crime and improve communities in 1992.

Trends to Make Trends Release New Products Online ... Child Trends continues to make readily available timely data and analyses on children and families at www.childtrends.org. See "What Works" tables on effective strategies for improving school readiness based on an extensive body of research, a new research brief on Runaway Outside of Marriage: Perceptions and Reality, and the latest facts on how Hispanic chil-
dren and families are faring.

Speaking of Children, New Research Support Opportunity ... Responding to a 2001 Congressional directive, the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBSE) announced a program solicitation on The Children's Research Initiative: Integrated Approaches but with awards totaling $5 million expected. Proposals are due June 4, 2001. Large-scale, center-based research; planning grants in support of new center research projects; workshops and small conferences; and individual investigator research can be considered. For further information, see solicitation NSF 01-85 at www.nsf.gov or contact Dr. Rodney Cockling at rcockling@nsf.gov.

Coming in May from the ASA Issue Series in Social Research and Social Policy ... order now!


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American Sociological Review Focuses on Families

The April issue of the American Sociological Review (ASR) features articles on themes related to well-being of families, parenting, and marriage and divorce. The five articles are scholarly contributions based on research studies, but the topics covered include issues of wide public interest and debate, including: Does the sexual orientation of parents matter? What effects do divorced women have on the dissolution of marriages? What consequence does the dissolution of marriages have on the standard of living of men? Does motherhood affect an employed woman’s wages? How do parental influences affect the division of labor among their adult children? In their article on “How Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter?” Judith Stacey and Timothy J. Biblarz (University of Southern California) explore what prior research has shown about effects of parental gender or sexual orientation on children’s sexual preferences and behavior. Opponents of lesbian and gay parental rights claim that children of lesbian parents are at higher risk for negative outcomes. Most research in psychology, however, concludes that there are no differences in development between children raised by lesbigay parents and those raised by heterosexual parents. Yet, the authors argue, a narrow and directive research approach can constrained intellectual progress in this field. After considering various conceptual frameworks, they assess findings from 21 psychological studies conducted between 1981 and 1998 that addressed sociological questions about how parental sexual orientations matters to children, and suggest that interesting and stimulating research could be developed in the field.

Data on the Discipline Now on ASA Website

The ASA’s Research Program on the Discipline and the Profession has added a wide range of information and data to the ASA’s website, as part of their responsibility to develop and disseminate knowledge on sociology. These data are a result of the interest to scholars, students, faculty, administrators, or anyone needing data on the field of sociology. The Program’s section of the website (http://www.asanet.org/research/), visitors are provided with three main options: “Research: Data on the Discipline.” For additional information contact Roberta Spalter-Roth (spalter-roth@asanet.org) or Drew Sutter (research@asanet.org).

Selected Employment Characteristics of Doctoral and Sociological Scientists, 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Labor Force Participation Rate</th>
<th>Involuntary Out-of-Field Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>88.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political and Related</td>
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<td>87.6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Psychology</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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Source: National Science Foundation (Division of Science Resource Studies, 1999 Survey of Doctorate Recipients)

ASA Reaches Beyond the Borders

The ASA Council has reaffirmed its support of reciprocal registration at member rates between ASA and other national sociological associations outside of the U.S. Based on a request this year, ASA members who attend the British Sociological Association (BSA) or Australian Sociological Association (ASA) annual meetings will be allowed to register at the member rates for these associations. Conversely, international sociologists (from any country) attending the ASA meeting may register at member rates.

The Council was enthusiastic about the importance of reciprocally supporting international collaboration and will pursue other cooperative agreements with associations outside of the U.S. The ASA and the American Sociological Association has signaled an interest in a range of collaborative opportunities, which will be explored.

ASA members are encouraged to use their ASA membership to attend the BSA or TASA meetings and to suggest associations outside the U.S. with whom ASA should consider forming reciprocal arrangements.

The Annual Meeting has grown in size and energy over the last decade. We look forward to an even richer gathering in Chicago in 2006. The four-day meeting will enrich this gathering of the sociological community—more members, exhibitors, and guests—under one tent at one time.

ASA Council Continues Four-Day Annual Meeting

The ASA Council has approved a change to a four-day Annual Meeting. As we look ahead, this means a shorter but richer gathering in Chicago in 2002, Atlanta in 2003, San Francisco in 2004. The risk for ASA where ASA will observe its centennial year, is still to be determined.

The four-day span will be put in place for the 2001 Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. The four-day span is more typical of annual meetings for an association of ASA’s size. Council thought that a shorter meeting would maximize the presence of participants over more days of the meeting, increase the number of participants over the same days, and reduce membership costs. See September/October 2000 Footnotes, “Open Window,” for a discussion of the change.

For 2001, the Executive Office has worked with Sections to reconfigure their section days and session slots, including adding an additional session for those sections that meet on the final day. This practice of adding a session for sections slated on the final day will continue.

The Annual Meeting has grown in size and energy over the last decade. The four-day meeting will enrich this gathering of the sociological community—more members, exhibitors, and guests—under one tent at one time.
SDSN Has Join Forces

New NSF Award to Promote Undergraduate Data Analytic Skills

by Carla B. Hinsey

Executive Deputy Officer

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Primary Science, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) has awarded over $900,000 for a collaborative project work with the University of Michigan, in collaboration with the Social Science Data Network (SSDAN) at the University of Michigan, and the American Sociological Association (ASA) to support the integration of data analysis into the curriculum at all levels. This new project will introduce SSDAN approaches as department-wide interventions in the curriculum in 16 sociology departments. The data-based modules will be drawn from the Census data, including Census 2000, and other relevant data sets like the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the General Social Survey (GSS).

For many years, Frey has offered the Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN) project at the University of Michigan, which is led by principal investigators William H. Frey, University of Michigan, and Felice J. Levine, ASA Executive Officer. The project constitutes a collaboration between the successful Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN) at Michigan and the ASA major initiatives to work with departments on how best to achieve excellence and inclusiveness in education and training. Frey works primarily with college faculty and also high school teachers to transform their courses to integrate tailored, donor-specific educational modules into courses that students would implement the SSDAN modules in courses in the second year, we think it is progressing well. For several years the ASA has recommended research training "early and often" preferable, with several developmentally sequenced courses and programmes. Furthermore, sociology plays a major role for data literacy in curriculum in community colleges. The Task Force will have an open site visits to campus to work more intensively on the implementation plans the department has for itself. A second set of departments would cycle through the workshop and implementation in summer 2003. We are excited about working with departments, as we have done with those in the MOST program, to strengthen and make sociology undergraduate research preparation," says Levine. The lessons we have learned from our MOST departments will be helpful with this new project. Further, the ASA and the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) gives us a new vehicle to showcase faculty-student research, at the CUR annual conference or in their journal, as well as in the ASA itself.

The collaborative award is about equally split between the University of Michigan and ASA teams. The ASA grant for 2002 is $212,245, with $65,000 in overhead costs. More information about the project as well as application materials will appear in a forthcoming report on the ASA homepage in the fall 2002.

Council Approves New Task Forces

Response to member proposals, its February 2001 meeting, the ASA Council approved three new task forces on timely issues about the discipline and profession. Nominations, including self-nominations, are sought for these task forces. The deadline is Friday, May 25, 2001. Nominations should include a statement of interest, a biographical sketch on relevant background and expertise.

Council encourages the broad participation of members in these task forces. The Council.The Council on Contingent Employment in the Academic Workplace.

The purpose of this Task Force is to research current practices and make recommendations concerning employment issues related to the teaching of sociology, including attention to the preparation of graduate students to teach, hiring practices, faculty development, and possible policies on contingent employment (part-time, contract, and on the ASA report "Liberal Learning and the Curriculum," 2000). Task Force will present a preliminary report at the Chair Conference in August 2002. A final report will be submitted for Council's consideration at its winter 2003 meeting.

Task Force on Contingent Employment

The purpose of this Task Force is to address employment issues related to the teaching of sociology, especially in non-research departments, as we have done with those in the MOST program, to strengthen and make sociology undergraduate research preparation," says Levine. The lessons we have learned from our MOST departments will be helpful with this new project. Further, the ASA and the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) gives us a new vehicle to showcase faculty-student research, at the CUR annual conference or in their journal, as well as in the ASA itself.

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Teaching Enhancement Fund Supports New Projects

By standardizing the tenure review process, tenure-track faculty have a better idea of what to expect when they go before the Tenure Committee. The goal is to ease tenure-track faculty into their new professional life, help them to discuss the goals related to different data collection methods from the perspective of the researcher and mentor.

John Fonk (Smith College) proposes to develop a one-stop website for sociology teachers interested in using the "case method of teaching," a student-centered pedagogy involving collective analysis of factual texts. This user-friendly format standardizes the tenure review process. The aim is to ease tenure-track faculty into their new professional life, help them to discuss the goals related to different data collection methods from the perspective of the researcher and mentor.

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Change in Tenure Review Procedures Assists Tenure-Track Faculty at Middle Tennessee State University

The American Sociological Association and the Association for Teaching in Higher Education have announced a new initiative to help sociology departments make the transition to the new tenure review process. The initiative, called TIPS (Tenure Review Initiative for Sociology), will provide workshops on teaching for departments.

The goal is to ease tenure-track faculty into their new professional life, help them to discuss the goals related to different data collection methods from the perspective of the researcher and mentor.

Spotlight on Departments

An occasional column showcasing accomplishments and innovations in sociology

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Entering the Cyber Society: The GSS Internet Module

There have been many surveys and studies conducted to gauge the impact of the Internet on society. The Internet questions on the year 2000 General Social Survey (GSS) are an important new study (that has just been released).

The Internet questions was asked of a national cross-section of 2,363 adult GSS respondents interviewed in their homes in the Spring of 2000.

Among the initial findings from this important new study (that has just been released):

- Not quite half of GSS respondents (48.5%) reported using the internet, either for e-mail (42%) or for surfing the web (37%). That is somewhat lower than found in telephone surveys (50%) but somewhat higher than the 43% reported in the August 2000 CPS "Digital Divide" supplement conducted by the Census Bureau and NTIA.

- More than 40% of GSS respondents kept in e-mail touch with friends and relatives in the previous year; that is still much lower than the 96% contacted rate by phone, 94% in person and 75% by postal mail. E-mail, however, 23% reported being in e-mail touch with more than 15 friends or relatives—the same level as for posted mail (26%) and only 10 points lower than for phone (33%) in person (33%).

- Among the (43%) of GSS respondents who reported seeking health information on the Internet in the previous year, higher proportions reported using the Internet for that information (44%) than radio or television (34%), newspapers/blogs (28%), general magazines (37%) or health magazines (42%)—and almost as high as for conversations with friends and relatives (48%). While generally lower use was found for political information, almost as many (46%) read political news on the Internet (39%) as discussed politics in person (43%).

- E-mail users estimated receiving 15 messages a day, while sending about nine messages. Of these e-mail messages, about two-thirds were personal one-on-one messages rather than group or general postings.

- Some 30% of web users reported going to chat rooms, news groups or bulletin boards.

"These are just some initial findings from this rich source of data on changing American life," noted John Robinson of the University of Maryland, who directed the study along with Paul DiMaggio of Princeton University. "The real fun comes in seeing how these electronic communication activities relate to the many GSS questions on other social issues (like sex, race, religion, health, using media and having sex) and various social and political attitudes (like tolerance for drugs)."

Along with Maryland colleague, Alan Neustadtl, Robinson plans to reinterview several of these GSS respondents later this year to track the internet's further incursions into American life.
Publishing Social Science Research in Science

by A. Douglas Kincaid
Florida International University

Professional meetings in San Francisco are probably always more exhilarating than the norm, but the 2001 conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) had an especially electric quality to it. Held Feb. 15–20, the same week as the breakthrough reports on the mapping of the human genome were published in Nature and Science (see "a new era for the human genome"), the meetings were dominated (or maybe determined) by the genome. At the Genome Project Symposium, Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute and head of the international consortium of laboratories that worked on the project, classified the decoding of the genome on the same plane with Darwin's achievements, and laid out a series of predictions for rapid advances in medical science over the next three decades. A packed house of 1,500 scientists gave him a standing ovation.

As usual, social science was present at the AAAS meeting, and this year it had to look closely to find it. The most noteworthy social science event was Troy Persoons's talk titled "Wine in New Bottles or New Wine in Old Bottles." Noting that biogenetic research reports tend to reinforce an increasingly prevalent set of arguments that the concept of race has no scientific validity, except as a purely social construct, the Berkeley sociologist begged to differ. Citing evidence from blood typology and transfusion practices, forensic investigations into genetic markers of racial and ethnic groups, and methods of blood transfusion, Persoons argued that socially defined categories of race (or ethnicity, or religion) can have feedback loops into the biological organism, which can in turn produce new social consequences. Far from seeking to discredit them, he contended that social scientists should realize that such concepts will always be "a complex interplay of social and biological realities...and ideology and historical context." 

Behind the scenes, meanwhile, the AAAS Task Force on ASA/AAAS Relations was pursuing its agenda of seeking ways to raise the profile of sociology, and social science more generally, within the country's largest professional organization of scientists. Members of the Task Force, accompanied by ASA Executive Officer Father Levine and Howard Silver, Executive Director of the Consortium of Social Science Associations, met with Peter Raven, president of the AAAS for 2001–02, to discuss how the Task Force's objectives might intersect with his own presidential agenda. Raven, a renowned botanist and head of the Missouri Botanical Garden, had once been named "Science of the Year" for his theme the 2002 AAAS meeting in Boston. The preliminary outcome of the meeting was to make this the most social science-friendly AAAS meeting in many years. Planned thematic tracks for the symposium make up many of the program include "Science and the Public Trust in a Connected World", "Connecting Diverse Disciplines", "Communicating Across Boundaries", and others.

One thing that has hampered past efforts to promote this integration is the lack of data on existing levels of ASA member interest or involvement in the AAAS. In this context, our Task Force would like to hear from you. If you are or have been a member of ASA, have you had any experiences with the AAAS or Science in which you would like to share? or any other interest in getting involved, please let me know at kincaid@fdu.edu.

A. Douglas Kincaid, chair of the Task Force on ASA/AAAS Relations, is an associate for international studies and associate professor of sociology at Florida International University.

Can the Sociology of Sport Go for the Gold?
by Carla B. Hower
Deputy Executive Officer

In the season of March Madness, the marketing and promotional programs of sport have little need to find interesting research and teaching topics. The North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (NASSS) reflects the lively inquiry into the micro and macro world of sport.

The Association celebrated its 20th annual meeting in 2000 and has a lively membership. Founded in November 3, 2001 in San Antonio, TX. The group formed as a result of a conference of the Big 10 Symposium on the Sociology of Sport, held in 1978 at the University of Minnesota. About 20 sociologists of sport—such as Eldon Snyder, Susan Greendorfer, Lee Vender and Michael Malec, among others—that concerned itself with ways to continue this work. They planned a newsletter and another conference, which was held in 1980, and NASSS was born.

The Association's journal began in 1980, "Social Science. It was the primary outlet for scholarship in this specialty, a complementary publication to the Journal of Sport and Social Issues (published by Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport and Social Issues). Our intellectual agenda mirrors some of the trends in sociology more broadly," says current NASSS President Michael A. Malec, Boston College. "Areas of race, class, and gender are common topics of concern. Sport in the post-WWII era is a powerful social phenomenon—our time and money go into sport; sport has implications for forms of national identity, for socialization of children; our cultural ideals of masculinity and femininity are shaped by sport; and, for better or worse." In recent years, he notes more attention to critical studies, postmodernism, and the sociology of the body and sociology of emotions, and possibly less emphasis on race and class work. "For whatever reason, the heart of our scholarship centers on the collegiate level of sports," notes Malec, "even though these topics could apply to K-12 or professional athletics as well."

The Association currently has 350 members and 250 participants attend the annual meeting. "We have been fortunate to have many people from fields of physical education, kinesiology, exercise sciences, American and Canadian studies, and cultural studies participate," says Malec.

Malec does not yet see a tremendous amount of growth within the field of sociology or for NASSS. "Usually there is only one person in a department with an interest in sociology of sport, and it might be an faculty member research interest," he adds. In the ASA Guide to Graduate Departments, only three U.S. and one Canadian department have a specialty in "leisure, sport, or recreation.

Malec encourages students with an interest in sociology of sport to become a good sociologist with sport as an area of application and a teacher with an interest in sociological research.
Understanding Racial Inequality and Segregation Through a Virtual Laboratory

by Meghan Rich, Academic and Professional Affairs Program Assistant

For those of us who live in large metropolitan areas, ethnic and socioeconomic segregation is quite evident. While some cities in the U.S. have higher levels of ethnic segregation than others, all cities have a fair amount. We “know” that certain neighborhoods are predominantly black, white, Latino, or Asian; yet, the exact extent to which the urban landscape is shaped by racial discrimination, ethnic preferences for in-group contact, socioeconomic status or access to quality housing, and suburbanization is staggering.

Students in sociology classes often come to sociology “knowing” about segregation, but they tend to have difficulty grasping the sociological hypotheses and statistical evidence that suggest why racial segregation may be so pervasive. To assist students’ comprehension of the different dimensions of segregation, Mark Fossett of the Department of Sociology at Texas A & M University developed the Interactive Virtual Laboratory in Racial and Ethnic Stratification (VLAB-RESI), thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation (Division of Undergraduate Education, Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement, Educational Materials Development Program). This laboratory is an interactive tool designed to reinforce the content of different programs with interactive maps, figures, and graphs. One program, “InterGen,” implements a sociological model of status attainment to provide a tool for exploring the impact of “status inheritance” dynamics on the persistence of racial inequality (http://vlab- resi.tamu.edu/intergen/overview.htm). The two inter-generationally linked status attainment equations are for education and socioeconomic status. Because the program is graphic in nature and can be manipulated, it is user friendly for the student who does not have a statistics or sociological background. It allows the student to manipulate the program for any high, or even a low level of racial segregation, for which the student can see racial segregation visually. “SegMaps” shows the racial segregation of 21 different cities, and the racial composition change over a ten year time span. Fossett usually begins his introduction to the concept of racial segregation with these maps by showing cities to the class that students may be familiar with. He then comparing contrasts a hyper-segregated city (such as Chicago, where the majority of the south side is Black and the north side is 80% or more White) with a less segregated city. The class is asked to come up with some predictions for this type of segregation. The program “SegMaps” allows Fossett to manipulate different predictors of segregation to simulate the outcomes of many different scenarios. For instance, Fossett takes the advice of his students and only economic factors are at play in a city, the “Sunbelt” city will not have very much racial segregation (shown instantly on the computer screen with each color representing a racial group). As the students suggest other variables that may affect segregation, the map transforms drastically with each manipulated variable. Access to higher-quality housing, suburbanization, racial discrimination, ethnic preferences for in-group and out-group contact are all variables that can be manipulated by students to create a virtual city, which can then be easily interpreted.

Because the Virtual Laboratory in Racial and Ethnic Stratification aims to demonstrate the inequality is created to be user friendly and accessible from the web, Fossett and his students prepare hypotheses and run experiments for homework assignments. They acquire hands-on experience with sociological methods yet do not have to actually understand very much about statistics to get some valuable knowledge out of the exercises. He currently utilizes the VLAB-RESI in his Urban Sociology and Minority Groups classes, where at least half of the students are not sociology majors. He is presently discussing the option to have the Methods in Social Research class at Texas A&M incorporate the VLAB-RESI programs to compute statistical tests. Faculty can incorporate data-based projects into the classroom without the longer lead time that primary data collection and human subjects review are required. The VLAB-RESI is being improved and updated for the next two to three years. Additional programs will be added if NSF funding continues. Fossett welcomes comments and suggestions from anyone regarding the beta-stage programs, especially from those who utilize them for teaching.

For additional information, contact, Mark A. Fossett, Department of Sociology, 311 Academic, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843 (979) 845-5313, email: m-fossett@tamu.edu; http://vlab- resi.tamu.edu/Faculty/FOSSETT/index.htm. Now available from the American Sociological Association! "Professing" Humane Sociocy

by Johanna Elmo, Public Information Assistant

With the hope of engaging more students in the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the discipline, the ASA Council approved the formation of a Student Forum in 1998. ASA realizes the importance of the next generation of sociologists and the early professional development of students. The Student Forum is an opportunity to strengthen the connections of students with the important opportunities and activities provided by the Association. It also connects students to ASA sections, the Annual Meeting, publications, and programs. All ASA undergraduate and graduate student members are automatically members of the Forum. Student Forum members receive mailings, electronic communication, and have access to the programming, which enables networking among students. In order to do this, the Forum proposes five sessions for the Annual Meeting, communicates and works with ASA members throughout the year, and provides a limited amount of funding to assist students with the cost of attending the Annual Meeting.

"The opportunities created through my engagement with the ASA have catapulted my academic career on many levels," said Kevin Irwin, a Student Forum representative. "From professional development, to networking, to training, and overall disciplinary familiarity, ASA-related involvement can only enhance any student's experience, if they so choose. It can also make the mission of the Student Forum all the more meaningful and vital to the future of the discipline."

John Kennedy, Director of the Center for Survey Research, Indiana University, is the Faculty Advisor to the Student Forum. Below is a brief description of the Student Forum Advisory Board representatives.

Lisa Garson, chair, is a PhD candidate in sociology at Michigan State University. She is also on the Travel Award Committee. She is a member of Sections on Family, Environment and Technology, and Social Psychology.

Celeste Akins is in her second year as a PhD program in sociology at the University of the Virgin Islands. She received her BA from California State University, San Bernardino in 1999 with high honors in the areas of political science, race and gender. Her research includes black women in film, rape in the black community, and pedagogical approaches to marginalized students.

Diane Bessel, secretary, is a PhD student at the University at Buffalo, SUNY where she also did her undergraduate studies in social psychology, and history. Her area of interest is family, especially adolescence, race and ethnicity, gender, and social psychology. Her dissertation is on adolescent social networks and sexual activity. She has been in the Student Forum since its inception.

Benjamin Bolger was one of the founding Board Members of the ASA Student Forum. He joined after completing the 1999 American Sociological Association Honors Program in San Francisco. He is currently a graduate student at Columbia University and an Affiliate Member at Queens College, Baruch College, and the Pratt Institute. He has a BA in sociology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor—graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA. He has gone on to study at the University of Oxford (Sociology), the University of Cambridge (Politics), Dartmouth College (Liberal Studies), and Stanford University (Education).

Lisa Martin, a PhD candidate in sociology at Case Western Reserve University, is pursuing her interest in medical sociology at the Center for Liver Diseases at INOVA Fairfax Hospital where she currently works as the Manager of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Her specific interest is in the Hepatitis C infection (such as its social construction, prevention, adherence to treatment, and stigma).

Ken Irwin joined the Student Forum in 1999 as an undergraduate at Syracuse University and is currently in his first year in the PhD program in sociology at Yale. His interests are in Medical Sociology, Sociology of Health and Illness, and Gender with particular interest in the political economy of HIV/AIDS research, prevention, intervention, treatment, relief and risk in social context.

Wit-Der Shu received his BA in 1991 from the National Taiwan University. His interests include race and ethnicity, collective behavior, and theory and methodology in the Sociological and Asian America Sections.

Emily Fairchild, a first year in the sociology PhD program at Indiana University, began her involvement with the Student Forum at the 1999 Annual Meeting. She currently works as the Manager of Student Affairs at Purdue University. Her interests are focused on gender, identity, and social psychology. She is in the Gender and Social Psychology Sections.

Sam Michalakos, PhD candidate in Sociology at CUNY, Hunter, has his teaching certificate and has been a K-12 teacher. He is currently working on the sociology of education for his dissertation. Other areas of interest include sociology of childhood, work and organizations, and qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Besides the Student Forum, he is a member of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Jeremy Vithin has an interest in cultural sociology, education, and alcohol and drugs. He is part of the Theory, Social Psychology, and Alcohol and Drugs Sections.

For additional information, contact, Kevin Irwin, Student Forum Chair, at the University at Buffalo, SUNY, (716) 645-3196, email: kevinirw@buffalo.edu.

For more information about the Student Forum, contact, Kevin Irwin, Student Forum Chair, at the University at Buffalo, SUNY, (716) 645-3196, email: kevinirw@buffalo.edu.
The AIDS Epidemic and Sociological Enquiry
by Bronwen Lichtenstein, University of Alabama-Birmingham

The AIDS epidemic captured the public imagination in an unprecedented way when it emerged in the U.S. in early 1980s. Widespread concern was fostered by iconicographic images of a “gay plague” and the cataclysmic spread of disease among “innocent populations” (assumed to be heterosexuals). These images of a new, deadly epidemic yielded a substantial body of literature on the biomedical, epidemiologic, and social aspects of HIV/AIDS. Sociologists have been active contributors to this literature, at the forefront of advancing academic understandings of the social dimensions of HIV/AIDS. Their work shaped governmental, state, and community responses to the epidemic, including in such agencies as the National Institutes for Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Despite an admirable record in public health policy and activism, there is the question about how well the sociology of HIV/AIDS has fared within our discipline. It has been suggested informally that sociologists seeking to publish on HIV/AIDS may have fared better in interdisciplinary forums than in sociology itself. The sociological contribution to the interdisciplinary literature on HIV/AIDS has, in fact, been praised as:

"...idoes not appear to have captured the sociological imagination of the journals in any meaningful way."

Figure 1 shows that journals, such as the American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, and Social Forces, published no articles on HIV/AIDS during the review period, and others such as Symbolic Interaction, Social Perspectives, and Qualitative Sociology published very few. Even the health-related journal of Health and Social Behavior published only 16 articles during the 14-year period of review. The British-based Sociology of Health and Illness faced better, with a total of 20 articles. Although not depicted in Figure 1, another British-based journal, Social Science and Medicine, had published 206 articles within the same period. However, Social Science and Medicine is an interdisciplinary publication, and its record on HIV/AIDS only serves to highlight the relative absence of articles on HIV/AIDS in the sociology journals. Whether this absence is due to lack of submissions or editorial disinterest is unclear. My inquiry to journal staff was unfruitful, with incomplete databases and editorial policy making this type of information unavailable for research purposes.

The ASA national meetings are also an important venue for sociological work on HIV/AIDS. Figure 2 offers an insight into the trends in AIDS-related work at these meetings. The total number of presentations in all sessions is shown in light shading over a 15-year period from 1986 to 2000. The darker shading at the top of each column represents the proportion of AIDS-related papers for each year. Few AIDS-related papers were presented at national meetings before 1986.

There are two trends of interest to sociologists in Figure 2. First, the number of papers on AIDS-related topics (for example, AIDS and drug use, AIDS care, HIV prevention, community activism) modestly increased from 1986 to 1994, and then began to decline. The percentage of contributions on HIV/AIDS stands at 5.5 percent of the total after peaking at 10.7 percent in 1997. In contrast, the number of presentations in all categories has increased more than twofold over the review period.

When combined, the trends show a more definitively the steady rise in all categories of presentations at ASA national meetings and the declining number of presentations for HIV/AIDS. This decline may be due to disciplinary reasons, such as fewer submissions on HIV/AIDS, or it could be influenced by broader trends, such as the prevailing belief that HIV/AIDS is “treatable” or “curable,” and therefore of less concern to the general public. The comparison data of ASA presentations and sociology journals in Figure 3 show more definitively that interest in HIV/AIDS is waning, particularly in the reviewed journals.

The comparison data reveal parallel trends, such as increasing attention to HIV/AIDS during the late 1980s and early 1990s, then a modest decline during the late 1990s. Overall, there are more articles and paper presentations now than at the beginning of the review period, especially at ASA meetings. However, the recent decline in published work has occurred at a time when it may be more important than ever to present HIV/AIDS as a sociological issue. The structural dimensions of the epidemic are becoming more apparent, even as HIV/AIDS is being presented in media and popular discourse as a chronic social problem like crime, prostitution, or illicit drug use. The stigma, blame, and marginalization that are associated with HIV/AIDS are socially constructed phenomena that afflict people with AIDS and those who are at risk of HIV transmission. Increasingly, the AIDS epidemic is disproportionately affecting minorities in the U.S., and the sociological perspective is important for social policy initiatives affecting this sector of the population. The death of AIDS-related articles in the reviewed journals suggests that AIDS has never truly been perceived to be a sociological issue, and thus, sociologists writing about HIV/AIDS may feel compelled to publish in the interdisciplinary literature. The data presented here strongly suggest that sociology journals are not the best venue for work on HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately for the sociologists seeking to publish AIDS-related work outside the discipline, there are signs that HIV/AIDS may be losing ground in the interdisciplinary literature as well (Bloor, 1995).

This review presents a challenge for the new millennium. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is not waning, but it should not be perceived to be an intractable problem beyond the realm of sociological analysis or intervention. Sociologists should therefore not be reactive by popular conceptualizations about AIDS as “intractable,” “chronic,” or “hopeless,” which makes the impact of HIV/AIDS easier to discount or dismiss. Instead, we, as sociologists, should be creating an independent epidemiology of AIDS to explicate the macro-structural factors that shape the epidemiologic patterns of HIV/AIDS, and we should also seek to refresh popular discourse on HIV/AIDS to reflect sociological conceptualizations. This course of action would seem crucial if claims by sociologists about the social construction of disease and its representations are to be heeded. The sociology journals, in particular, could advance this agenda by actively fostering a scholarly interest in writing and publishing on HIV/AIDS. It may also be time for a new journal that addresses the sociology of HIV/AIDS and other emerging diseases with an epidemiologic focus in what is often referred to as “social context.”

For more information, contact: Bronwen Lichtenstein, PhD, Assistant Research Professor, Department of Sociology, 237 Ullman West, University of Alabama-Birmingham, 1212 University Boulevard, Birmingham, AL 35294-3350; e-mail blichten@uab.edu.

Footnotes
1The methods and data gathered for this analysis are available upon request from the author.
Sociology Well Represented in Indiana Teaching Awards

Five sociologists from various Indiana University sociology departments received awards this year for outstanding teaching, food mentoring.

President’s Award
Patrick J. Ashton, Indiana University – Purdue University, Fort Wayne
Ashton is a dedicated teacher who works in the Summer Bridge program, a program designed to assist students of diverse backgrounds navigate their way through college. He is mentor to four Bridge students and teaches a sociology course in the program. He also assists high school sociology teachers by organizing teaching workshops. In 1999, he received the John F. Ulmer Outstanding Service to Minority Students Award and the North Central Sociological Associations’ Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award. He is a member of the University Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching (PACET) and works with the Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELLT) and the Faculty Leadership Institute.

President’s Award
Charles P. Gallmeier, Indiana University, Northwest
Gallmeier’s lively teaching methods have made him a popular teacher, and one of the most respected candidates for this year’s “sociological imagination.” His lectures draw on current events, his research experiences, and his own life experiences to illustrate theories and concepts. He teaches classes for Swingshift College, an outreach program for steel workers in local mills. Gallmeier also advises the Sociology Club and Alpha Kappa Delta, the university’s outreach program for steel workers in local mills. Gallmeier also advises the Sociology Club and Alpha Kappa Delta, the university’s outreach program for steel workers in local mills.

President’s Award
Jay R. Howard, Indiana University – Purdue University Columbus
Howard is an extremely active instructor and advisor at Purdue University Columbus, where he is the only full time sociologist. He is responsible for the coordination of sociology classes, teaching five classes a year, and advising 30 2001 NSF Doctoral Fellows. He enjoys doing original research and publishing on the topic of religion and popular culture, and encourages students to become actively involved in sociology, and since 1993 has sponsored 25 students to present their research papers at the Midwest Student Sociology Conference. Four students have co-authored refereed publications with him. As an active educator, Howard participates in national and regional teaching initiatives sponsored by the American Sociological Association and the North Central Sociological Association.

Winner’s Mentoring Award
Brian Powell, Director of Graduate Studies, Indiana University-Bloomington
An encouraging faculty member, people tend to flock to Powell for advice. His informal open-door policy means that anyone who feels uncomfortable can seek out his help. Powell’s guidance, the Preparing Future Faculty program (sponsored by the American Sociological Association) was created to assist graduate students become excellent teachers and mentors themselves by providing classes and instruction on issues of teaching, the university community, and academic careers.

Lieber Memorial Teaching Associate Award
Camilla V. Saulsbury, Indiana University—Bloomington
An instructor in the area of the sociology of mental illness, Saulsbury won the 2000 Edward H. Sutherland Award as an outstanding instructor in the Department of Sociology, two Teaching Excellence Recognition Awards, and the 1998 Instructor of the Year Award from the Division of Recreational Sports. A person with diverse interests, she also teaches kickbox and cooking. She has been involved in the Preparing Future Faculty project as well.

Deadline May 10
New NSF Director’s Award for Distinguished Teaching Scholars

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently submitted proposals that deals with distinguished records of educating undergraduates for their NSF Director’s Award for Distinguished Teaching Scholars (DTS). Scholars who have substantially impacted research in a science, mathematics, engineering, or technology (STEM) discipline and made an impact on undergraduate education are appropriate candidates for this grant. This is the highest honor NSF bestows for teaching and research in STEM fields. NSF’s goal is to encourage collaboration among STEM faculty, departments, and students.

The proposal is due May 10, 2001 and may be submitted for any amount up to $30,000 for a four-year project. Examples of educational activities that would be appropriate as a focus are the improvement or development of student learning experiences, SMET courses, the translation and incorporation of faculty’s disciplinary research scholarship into successful undergraduate classroom teaching, the creation of interdisciplinary courses, and the enhancement of educational opportunities for students that will nationally impact undergraduate SMET education. For more information and a full description of the NSF Director’s Award, go to <http://www.nsf.gov/schools/rego/itopic>.  

Public Forum

Different Views on About.com

In reaction to an announcement in the Guardian, a full page mention of the About.com Web site, as it appeared in the February 2001 issue of Footnotes, I wish to inform you that the online business About.com, which portrays a “sociology section,” is a commercial website that is primarily interested in making more scholarly knowledge available to the public. This company has just sponsored an academic series with Primedia, itself a dubious enterprise.

On February 1, 2001, the Wall Street Journal reported that Primedia was pouring more and more money into all kinds of business in the hope of getting out of its dire financial situation. But Primedia’s share actually plummeted 25% the day its merger with About, Inc. was announced.

About.com is also public, listed on Nasdaq (BOUT), where its shares have gone near-zero, from more than $90 a share last year to about $2 a share in December 2001. I am absolutely sure that neither the editors at About.com did not intend to participate in this, but About.com, posting in Footnotes was nothing more than a dot-com advertising ploy of yet one more troubled e-business.

The activities of About.com in sociology are dubious. The site links to other (often distinctively scholarly) websites while displaying advertisements. If you want to see webpages on Dworkin, Giddens, or crime, linked from academic servers but at the same time also displaying banners advertising Hotwire.com or Booksonline and much more, then About.com is for you! Logging into the About.com site will also open a new window with contents to win lucrative prizes!

I hope that as sociologists we can work to keep our discipline and profession and on and off the internet free from the commercialism that dominates the word of e-commerce. We can and should develop our own sociologically appropriate webpages, in our departments, as individual teachers and researchers, in the ASA sections, and through other non-commercial means.

If we remain autonomous in controlling sociology’s presence on the internet, we can contribute in upholding the dignity of our profession and the standards of our discipline to advance sociological interests and the interests of sociology even in the cyber age.

Mathieu Deflem, Purdue University, e-mail ddeflem@bob.purdue.edu <http://www.sla.purdue.edu/people/soc/mdeflem/ About.com>.

As the editor for About’s Social Sciences GuideSites, I have been aware of the activities of About.com in sociology. The activities of About.com in sociology are dubious. The site links to other (often distinctively scholarly) websites while displaying advertisements. If you want to see webpages on Dworkin, Giddens, or crime, linked from academic servers but at the same time also displaying banners advertising Hotwire.com or Booksonline and much more, then About.com is for you! Logging into the About.com site will also open a new window with contents to win lucrative prizes!

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As the editor for About’s Social Sciences GuideSites, I have been aware of the activities of About.com in sociology. The activities of About.com in sociology are dubious. The site links to other (often distinctively scholarly) websites while displaying advertisements. If you want to see webpages on Dworkin, Giddens, or crime, linked from academic servers but at the same time also displaying banners advertising Hotwire.com or Booksonline and much more, then About.com is for you! Logging into the About.com site will also open a new window with contents to win lucrative prizes!

I hope that as sociologists we can work to keep our discipline and profession and on and off the internet free from the commercialism that dominates the word of e-commerce. We can and should develop our own sociologically appropriate webpages, in our departments, as individual teachers and researchers, in the ASA sections, and through other non-commercial means.

If we remain autonomous in controlling sociology’s presence on the internet, we can contribute in upholding the dignity of our profession and the standards of our discipline to advance sociological interests and the interests of sociology even in the cyber age.
the car" as opposed to the individual. Unfortunately local law enforcement and business owners have failed to recognize this culture by its participants as opposed to the cars. Since the modified cars are often flashy with custom paint or clear lights, they draw attention on the road. In Orange County, it is commonly understood that, if one has an import car and looks Asian American, he will have problems with the police. There have even been documented cases of racial profiling involving Asian American young men and import cars in parts of Orange County. Some local residents see the car crews more as gangs—thereby labeling them as oppositional or deviant groups. The ironic part is that most import racers are college students and live with their parents in middle or upper class neighborhoods. The few instances of violence occur from the illegal drag racing that takes place completely apart from organized events. Asian Americans and Asian immigrants have large populations in Orange County, especially in cities like Irvine and Westminster. Since many of the local high schools now have Asian populations well over 50 percent, there is an anti-Asian sentiment from some parts of the community. Import racing highlights the significance of race, thereby causing discrimination.

Import racing is an expensive hobby. Participation depends on one's socio-economic background. Youths typically receive a car from their parents as a gift, but later they have to spend their own money from part time jobs fixing up their cars. While in school, many Asian American youths are not involved in after school sports or leadership roles, which leaves them plenty of time to work on their cars. Participants typically leave this hobby after college graduation when they begin their first job. When the racers leave home and start their career, it becomes difficult to keep up with the maintenance of their vehicles and lifestyle. Though they may still have an import car like an Acura or a Nissan, they will not fix it up enough to make a statement of identity. There is also less time to work on a car or go to events because many start full-time jobs right after graduation. While some complain that these participants spend too much time and money on their hobby, there is such a huge market for these cars that the sellers often end up profiting and putting that money into their future vehicles.

Import racing is a hobby, sport, and lifestyle to thousands of high school and college students in southern California. Racers will spend thousands of dollars on additions and modifications to make the cars look flashy and louder, and race at a higher performance. There are chat rooms online like "O.C. Racers," where importers can network to trade parts or find events. You can find import car magazines at grocery stores in Orange County. There is also a connection with hip-hop and dance music and some of the import shows seem more like nightclubs with their strobe lights and loud music. These events also draw thousands of young women who are either there to participate, hang out with friends, or work.

As with any male dominated sport like drag racing, boxing, or wrestling, females play a sidelined role that is typically sexual. Import racing is no different. Corporate sponsors like Budweiser and Toyo Tires hire scantily clad women to dance and pose with cars and participants. Flyers and ads for import events always feature a girl and a car to attract attention. Some of the women are Asian American, but most are Anglo. There are also female attendees (not hired to be there) who flash cameras and pose with cars. Like Budweiser, Asian American male import racers commented that they felt strange watching Asian American women play this role. While the Asian American males assert their masculinity, they often alienate and exploit female counterparts in the process.

On the other end of the spectrum are the women who race and fix up cars themselves. There are car clubs like "Go Gyr Racing," which are there strictly for serious racers. While female participation only makes up around ten percent of the events, judges have added separate female categories because of the high influx. The culture is currently hyper-masculine and hyper-heterosexual, but the female racers are shifting things over time. Like their male counterparts, female racers see these events as a way to meet and socialize with friends and new people. Many Orange County youths mention that they live in suburbia and are bored. Import racing gives them a chance to have fun and feel part of something that is important and meaningful.

Import racing is a reconstruction of a cultural form. When a few Asian American youths felt excluded by the V-8, Anglo dominated muscle car culture of the seventies and eighties, they decided to start their own events with their own cars. Ten years later, import racing has become the most distinct identity for Asian Americans in Orange County. In addition to being a sport and hobby for many, import car racing and its lifestyle culture has become a socializing tradition for Asian American youths. While import racing has no political agenda, I believe there are parallels to hip-hop culture and African Americans. Like hip-hop, import racing provides a sense of identity and empowerment for Asian American youths who typically feel marginalized from the mainstream. Import car racing made its mark in 1991 and shows no signs of slowing down. Unlike other Asian derived sports, like NASCAR, import car racing is clearly Asian American, and Orange County participants assure you that this is just the beginning.

About the author: Victoria Namkung received her master degree in Asian American studies from UCLA in 2000. She has taught journaling at UC-Santa Barbara and currently writes for US Style and Los Angeles magazine.  

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Sport Racing, from page 7

Sport which first carved out this new specialty in the 1970s, "Sociology of sport in a wonderful hook to attract undergraduate students to sociology," he notes. If it is offered as a freestanding elective, students will come from all corners of the campus. "Sociology of Sport is the course where I get the most 'ah-ha' experiences with students who now see the world, or at least the world of sport, through the lens of the sociological imagination."

Of course sociology of sport has some predictable image problems that the NASSS hopes to remedy. It is not a well-funded specialty. At the moment, most scholars receive support from such places as the American Athletic Federation, a spin-off of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. The Women's Foundation in New York City has funded some research. "On the one hand, there are some excellent recent books on sport, such as Shulman and Bowen's The Game of Life," says Male, "but, because the authors are not sociologists, the acclaim does not feed back into our discipline."

NASSS seeks to strengthen its place within sociology and in the larger society. The Association has a list of experts on its website as part of its commitment to reach out to the media and offer a new slant on sporting events. Recently, NASSS members have been tapped to comment on NASCAR races and the strong identification fans have with them. Sociologists of sport have a strong identification with NASSS, enjoy the camaraderie and exchange of ideas, and consider themselves an important part of the sociology team.

For more information, contact playlab@unc.edu/nas.html.
Call for Papers

CONFERENCES

California Sociological Association will meet October 19-20, 2001, at the Holiday Inn Capitola Plaza in Sacramento, CA. Theme: "Sociology for the New Century." Deadlines are April 15 to volunteer to organize sessions, panels, workshops, or special events (but the earlier, the better), and July 1st in the last chance to submit abstracts for re- search sessions or roundtables. For more information, contact Elizabeth Nelson, e-mail eliz@california-soc.org or (599) 431-2630.


Information Technologies in Health Care: Sociotechnical Approaches, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, September 6-7, 2001. This conference brings together academics from diverse areas such as Social Studies of Science and Technology, Health Informatics and Information Systems. To contribute to this conference, you should submit a title for your con- tribution and a one-page abstract before April 20, 2001. Please send all queries, applications and submissions electronically to: info@ergen.org. Conference website: http://www.ergen.eu/nl/conf/k2.htm.

International Institute of Social His- tory, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, January 25-26, 2002. The IISH invites PhD students, involved with historical research on gender and welfare states in the 20th century, interested in reconsiderations of materialism and gender to discuss the pitfalls of international comparisons, to participate in a two-day workshop "Maternalism Reconsidered: Mothers and Method in 20th-Century European Social Science." Abstracts are due by 15 May 2001 to: Marian van der Klein International Institute of Social History, Singel 9191 AT, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; e-mail: mrvdsk@iisestival.nl. Website: http://www.iis.nl/iis/ research/maternal.html.

International Research Foundation for Development (IRFD), 21st Interna- tional Conference, Columbia University, Center for Urban Research and Policy, New York City and Public Af- fairs, June 4-6, 2001. Theme: "Urb- anizing World and UN Human Habi- tability? in conjunction with the United Nations Special Sessions of the Habitat Forum and Istanbul+5. The IRFD invites acade- mic communities, urban researchers, policymakers, urban settlement planners, and practitioners to contribute to this global dialogue. ASA members are invited to present papers and organize panel and plenary ses- sions for the Habitat Agenda and for the Scott Green honorary sessions. Final deadline for these proposals and abstracts is April 15, 2001. Contact, IRFD, 2050 South Hall, Cambridge, MA 02139; (781) 861-7007; e-mail: neville@irfd.org or jeremy@irfd.org.

ISA Research Committee on Mental Health and Illness, RC94 Intercon- ference on "Psychology, Mental Health and Peacetime Violence in the Persian Gulf," Tehran, Iran, April 26-28, 2002. RC94 conference will be held as a satellite meeting of the International Conference of Health Behavioral Science. Abstracts for individual papers, panels, or roundtables welcomed. Ac- cepted presentations will be published in a book of proceedings. To have your proposal considered, please send before May 20, 2001 to: Conference organizer Dr. Akbar Ansari, Tehran, Iran. Paper abstracts for this conference should be submitted by May 15 to: RC94 Research Committee, University of Tsukuba Institute of Health and Sports Science 305-8578, Tsukuba, Japan; fax: (81-29) 852-2625; e-mail munkatsuki@iis.tsukuba.ac.jp.

ISA Research Committee on Sociol- ogy of Childhood, RC33 Conference on "Investigating Childhood," Kivenlahti/Espoo (near Helsinki), Finland, August 28-30, 2001. RC33 conferences on Themes and Methods of Inter- generational Understanding, Parent-Child Relationships and Childcare. To propose a paper, please send (preferably electronically) a 50,000 word abstract to RC33 before May 31, 2001. Contact, RC33, University of Turku, Children's Development Laboratory, Turku, Finland; e-mail: rc33@utu.fi.

ISA Research Committee on Sociolo- gy of Childhood, RC33 Conference on "Latin American Children and Youth," Marilia (Sao Paulo), Brazil, November 5, 2001. Sociologists who work on Latin American children and youth are invited to submit session and paper proposals before May 31, 2001 to the organizing committee. Contact: marilia@com.br or <WWW.wgs.org.br>.

ISA Research Committee on Mental Health and Illness, RC94 Intercon- ference on "Psychology, Mental Health and Peacetime Violence in the Persian Gulf," Tehran, Iran, April 26-28, 2002. RC94 conference will be held as a satellite meeting of the International Conference of Health Behavioral Science. Abstracts for individual papers, panels, or roundtables welcomed. Ac- cepted presentations will be published in a book of proceedings. To have your proposal considered, please send before May 20, 2001 to: Conference organizer Dr. Akbar Ansari, Tehran, Iran. Paper abstracts for this conference should be submitted by May 15 to: RC94 Research Committee, University of Tsukuba Institute of Health and Sports Science 305-8578, Tsukuba, Japan; fax: (81-29) 852-2625; e-mail munkatsuki@iis.tsukuba.ac.jp.

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Our Current Open Registration Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 21, 2001</td>
<td>Intro to ATLAS.ti Work Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22-25, 2001</td>
<td>Intro to HyperResearch 2.0 Work Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28-30, 2001</td>
<td>Intro to ATLAS.ti &amp; Work Session</td>
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</tbody>
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Look for our summer schedule!

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Substance Use & Misuse. Researchers are invited to contribute a target article and possible inclusion in a special is- sue concerned with the social epidemiol- ogy of substance use. Manuscripts should be submitted in tripartite special issue format. Guest Editor: Timothy Johnson, Direc- tor, Survey Research Laboratory, Uni- versity of Michigan, 3010 Peco Street, Chicago, IL 60607 (312) 996-5130; e-mail tjohnson@uic.edu.

Teaching Medical Sociology. Call for Papers. ASA, 2001. To submit a paper contact: Diana Papademas, Department of Sociology, University of Illinois, 1400 W. Congress Plaza, Chicago, IL 60607. (312) 996-5130; e-mail dina@uic.edu; Website: www.uic.edu.

Teaching Sociology. Call for Papers. ASA, 2001. To submit a paper contact: Diana Papademas, Department of Sociology, University of Illinois, 1400 W. Congress Plaza, Chicago, IL 60607. (312) 996-5130; e-mail dina@uic.edu; Website: www.uic.edu.

Call for Papers, continued
emerge from this "unbecoming pro-
cess," invites research articles and dis-
cussion papers that address critical de-
bates on workers who live or work far
apart from their children and the im-
lications for changing family struc-
ture. Deadline for submissions Septem-
ber 1, 2001. Send to Diana L. Gustafson,
Sociology and Sociology of Religion,
Bowdoin College, 2052 Bloor Street
West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M5S 3V6; e-mail diana.gustafson @ sympatico.ca.

Visual Sociology and Using Film/Video
in teaching are the focus of the next
supplement volume, edited by Diana
Papademas, will emphasize new tech-
nologies, multi-media, and the broad
range of visuals, including the web.
Types of submissions include course
syllabi (teaching visual sociology; teach-
ing sociology with visual media on
topics), essays on projects and activi-
ties from courses that focus on
information contact A. Javier
Drake, Fulbright
Alumni Office.

Funding
Civilian Research and Development
Foundation (CRDF), 2001 Cooperative
Grants Program. This program allows
joint teams of U.S. and former Soviet
Union/PBS & W engineers to apply for up
to two-year support for cooperation in
any area of civilian research and
development in the natural sciences,
mathematics, engineering, and
humanities and social and behavioral sci-
ences. Deadline for proposals is May
18, 2001. For full program announce-
ment and application forms, see the
CRDF website: <http://www.crdf.org/.

Institute for Research on Social Sci-
ence provides grants of up to 12 fully
defined PHD positions available at the
universities of Groningen, Niemegen and Utrecht,
In the Netherlands. They offer a post-
graduate program for a small selection of
excellent graduates in the social sciences.
For information see <http://
www.psw.rug.nl/ics/>. The applica-
tion deadline is May 7, 2001.

Social Science Initiatives Foundation
provides grants of $5,000 to $15,000
to support research and social action
projects. Areas of interest include
husbands are not limited to social welfare, human
rights, literacy, language learning and use, and
ideas about current and future issues.
Brown is also interested in supporting research
by sociologists and linguists whose work may provide practical documenta-
tion of innovations that may be useful to communities.

Competition
Fullbright Scholar Program offers Loc-
turing/Research Awards in 140 coun-
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of Scholars (CIES), 300 Tilden Street,
NW, Suite 5L, Washington, DC 20008-
3009; (202) 686-7877; e-mail
appqueens@cies.iie.org; www.cies.iie.org.

National Council for the Social Stud-
ses invites nominations for its major
grants and awards. NSCS annually
honors the outstanding performance of
teachers, researchers, and other worthy
individuals and programs, and encour-
ge unique and innovative social stud-
es education projects through its award
and grants programs. For a list of the award and grant descriptions
contact Ana M. Chiappello Post,
Manager of Recognition Programs and Spe-
cial Projects; (202) 966-7940, ext. 114; fax
(202) 966-2061; e-mail app@ncss.org.

In the News
Theo Bjornlassen, University at Albany,
co-author of the "European School Sur-
vey Project on Alcohol and Drugs," was quoted in a February 21, 2001
New York Times article about the report,
which compares drug use by U.S. teens with
that of European teens.

Diane R. Brown, Wayne State Univer-
sity, had her research on Black Chris-
tian women with disease using spiri-
tual-medical model featured in a Janu-
ary 10, 2001 Detroit News article.
Lee Clarke was interviewed in Febru-
ary by French television and radio
media for his keynote speech, "Risk, Di-
sasters, and Expertise in an Organiza-
tional Society." The speech was given
at France's National Center for Scien-
tific Research.

Robert Freymeyer, Presbyterian Col-
lege, was quoted in an article about the
2000 election and its aftermath entitled
"Diversity for All" in the December 16,
James M. Jasper, New York University,
had discussed his latest book, Restles
Nations, on radio networks and shows,
including the Australian Broadcasting
Company, "Marketplace" on Public Radio
International, WNYC's "New York
and Company," the Todd Mundt
show from WKOM in Arboe, and
KPCG's "Talk of the City." The book has been reviewed in Publishers Weekly,
the New York Times, and the New Leader,
and has been discussed in columns in the
Times and the Daily Telegraph of London,
the Chronicle of Higher Educa-
tion, and the American Scholar.

Milliano Kang, Skidmore College,
was featured in the February 12 Albany
times Union newspaper in an article describing the difficulties of securing affordable qual-
ity child-care in the Albany, NY area.

Jayan Mortimer, University of Minne-
sota, and Steven Hamilton, Cornell
University, were interviewed on NPR
radio's "Talk of the Nation." The show
was hosted by the National Research Coun-
cil's report, "Protecting Youth at Work,"
J. Timmons Roberts, Tulane Univer-
sity, was quoted in the Times Picayune,
July 11, 2001, in an article about neigh-
borough opposition to unwanted de-
velopment in New Orleans.

Eli R. Silverman and Andrew Karzmen,
John Jay College of Criminal Justice,
Harold Takooshian, Fordham Univer-
sity, and Georgetria Williamson-Dawson,
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay,
were all cited in a New York Times ar-
ticle February 16, 2001. "A Sign of the
Times: No More Signs.

Robert Mark Silverman, Wayne State
University, was quoted in the Detroit
News, and was a guest on "The Mitch
Albom Show" on WXYZ Detroit," on
March 7, 2001. Both news items were
related to the recent frenzy among con-
sumers over Nike XI Retro Air Jordan
sneakers.

Zili Loboda and Richard Stephens,
University of Akron, have received a $13.7
million grant to study a new D.A.R.E. curriculum as reported in the
Columbus Dispatch February 8, 2001.

Awards
Ron Aminzade, University of Minne-
sota, received the 2000-01 Award for
Outstanding Contributions to Postbac-
caulaurate, Graduate and Pro-
fessional Education.

Continued on next page
1. Michael Deluchi, University of Hawai­i-West Oahu, was elected Vice President of the Hawaii Sociological Association (HSA) for 2001 and is President-elect of the HSA for 2002.

2. Peter Dreier, Occidental College, will be a visiting professor at the University of Oregon during its spring quarter.

3. Jacqueline Go has begun a tenure-track po­sition as assistant professor in the De­partment of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Beginning Au­gust 2001-2002 she will take tem­porary leave of the University of Illinois to serve as an Academic Scholar at Harvard University, a two-year visiting position.


5. Barry Johnston, Indiana University Nor­thern, was selected as a William Fulbright Scholar and will be in Mos­cow August-December 2001.

6. Andrew W. Jones will join the faculty in the De­partment of Sociology at the University of Vermont as assistant pro­fessor in fall 2001.

7. Erickson Nepstad, Duquesne University, is a Post-doctoral Fellow at Prisciana’s Center for the Study of Be­lief from the 2000-2001 academic year.

8. George Ritzer was named Distinguished University Professor at the Uni­versity of Maryland.

9. Charles W. Willis, the Charles William Eilott Professor of Education (Emeriti­ta) at the Harvard Graduate School of Edu­cation, was elected chairmen of the Board of Trustees of Judge Baker Children’s Center. He previously served as a trustee and first vice­chairman of the Center.

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**Deaths**

Tpin Enoch Kyllonen, University of Mus­tical-Colorado, died February 9, 2001.


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**Obituaries**

Charles M. Barresi (1928-2000)

"Chuck" Barresi would not cite his long and varied career in urban sociol­ogy, theory, and social gerontology as his most important life achievement. "Most important" were his contribu­tions to the productive, caring, fulfill­ing lives of his children, Eileen, Chuck Jr., Dorothy, Timothy and Patrick; to their children’s lives; and to his personal gains...

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**Members’ New Books**


Ingrid Arnet Connidis was selected as the 2000-2001 Petersen Visiting Scholar in Gerontology and Family Studies at Oregon State University.

Maureen T. Hallinan, University of Minne­apol­lis, accepted a two-year post-doc­toral position as assistant professor in her Spring 2001.

Doug Hartmann, University of Minne­apo­lis, accepted a two-year post-doctor­al position as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Scholar at the University of Michigan.

John Go has begun a tenure-track po­sition as assistant professor in the De­partment of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Beginning Au­gust 2001-2002 she will take tem­porary leave of the University of Illinois to serve as an Academic Scholar at Harvard University, a two-year visiting position.


Universiteit van Amsterdam, 6th Sum­mit Institute for European Social Policy and Practice, October 18-21, 2001. The Institute of Social Research, 300 N. University St., UNIVER­SI­TY, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47405, continued on next page
Robert E. Franz (1939-2000)

Robert E. Franz, Associate Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Arizona, gave a Citation of Merit in 1966 for "outstanding contributions to the field of sociology." He served as Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Arizona and as a member of the American Sociological Association (ASA). He also served as the Chair of the Sociological Research Association in 1940. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Political Science Association. He served in the American and Asiatic-Pacific Theaters. His military career continued to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Ready Reserve with special- ties in research, historical analysis, and national affairs. He entered retired status in 1970.

Following active military service, Ray served as a Deputy Executive Director and Executive Director of the Committee on Human Resources, Research and Development at the Social Science Research Council. He became Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Minnesota in 1985. He died in 1986. In 1968 he became the founding director of the Center for Intergroup Studies, based in Cape Town and re- mained its Executive Director until 1992, serving as Senior Consultant for two more years. He retired in 1994. In 1992, he became Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand. He was a member of many international associations and was involved in several conflict resolution projects. He was active in the anti-apartheid movement and played a significant role in forcing the whites-only South African Sociological Society to become more inclusive. He organized many regional, national and international conferences and workshops where he brought together political opponents who otherwise did not meet. Thus, he was an active participant in both government-sponsored and private initiatives. He died in 1996.

Dr. Ray served as a consultant to numerous institutions in Africa and the United States. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Political Science Association. He served in the American and Asiatic-Pacific Theaters. His military career continued to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Ready Reserve with specialties in research, historical analysis, and national affairs. He entered retired status in 1970.

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June 15 Deadline
Time to Nominate Colleagues for ASA Awards
ASA Members and interested persons are encouraged to submit nominations for the 2002 ASA Awards. The deadline for all award nominations is June 15, 2001. The Award Selection Committees will make their final decisions in August 2001 and awards will be given in August 2002 at the ASA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.

Jesse Bernard Award
Dwight-Johnson-Frazier Award
Award for Public Understanding of Sociology
Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology
Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award
Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award
Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award

For a description of the award criteria and to whom materials should be submitted, see page 5 of the February 2001 issue of Footnotes, or consult the ASA Homepage (http://www.asanet.org/members/01awardscall.html).

Deadline Extended to May 1
2001 ASA Dissertation Award
The ASA Dissertation Award honors the best PhD dissertation from among those submitted by advisors and mentors in the discipline. Dissertations defended in the 2000 calendar year will be eligible for consideration for the 2001 ASA Dissertation Awards. Nominations must be received from the student’s advisor or the scholar most familiar with the student’s research. Nominations should explain the precise nature and merits of the work. Send nominating letters, six copies of the dissertation, and nominee’s curriculum vita (with current address) to: Anthony Orum, c/o Governance Coordinator, American Sociological Association, 1307 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 383-9005, ext. 327; fax: (202) 638-0882; e-mail amorum@asu.edu or governance@asasert.org. The deadline for nominations for the 2001 Award is May 1, 2001.

Association of Black Sociologists
American Sociological Association
Reader/Writer Partner
Didactic Seminar
The President-Elect of the Association of Black Sociologists and the President of the American Sociological Association are pleased to announce a Reader/Writer-Partner Didactic Seminar to be held in Anaheim, California, at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. This seminar is intended to assist junior scholars with manuscript-in-progress, offering criticism, feedback, and suggestions from editors of several leading social science journals, including the American Sociological Review, City and Community, Race & Society, and Gender & Society. Seminar-related activity will begin before the Annual Meeting, which will allow reader/writer partners to begin to correspond and work on manuscripts prior to meeting formally in Anaheim.

To ensure that participants and reviewers interact on a one-on-one basis as much as possible, enrollment will be limited to no more than 25 participants. Applicants interested in participating in this writing seminar should submit the following application materials: (1) a cover letter that includes the author’s contact information, including current institutional affiliation, and specifies which journal the author would like to work with; (2) a draft manuscript in the journal’s format; and (3) a $25 check made payable to ASA for the seminar fee. The application deadline is May 24, 2001. Send application materials to: ASA Meeting Services, Attn: AJS/ASA Writing Seminar, 1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005-4701.

The selection of reader/writer partners to participate in the seminar will be made by the journal editors. Applicants should be aware that acceptance into the seminar is not a promise of manuscript publication. Because of limited space and pairing needs, persons interested in signing up for this special seminar should submit their applications as soon as possible. Applicants will be notified by June 15 regarding the status of their applications.

American Sociological Association
1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005-4701

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August 18-21
Anaheim, California

2002
August 16-20
Chicago, Illinois

2003
August 16-20
Atlanta, Georgia

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Article submissions are limited to 1,000 words and must have journalistic value (e.g., timelines, significant impact, general interest) rather than be research-oriented or scholarly in nature. Submissions will be reviewed by the editorial board for possible publication. "Public Forum" contributions are limited to 800 words. "Obituaries," 500 words; "Letters to the Editors," 400 words; "Department" announcements, 100 words. All submissions should be typed double-spaced and sent to: American Sociological Association, 1307 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005-4701; (202) 383-9005; fax: (202) 383-9006; e-mail footnotes@asanet.org; http://www.asanet.org

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