ASA Congressional Briefing Examines Policy Implications Regarding Disasters

by Lee Herring, Public Affairs and Public Information Office

By defining events as natural disasters or acts of God, we emphasize the inevitability of catastrophe and fail to recognize both the human-made sources of our vulnerability and the social fault lines that determine who is at risk.


What do the World Trade Center, the Challenger Space Shuttle, Hurricane Hugo, and the Loma Prieta Earthquake have in common? These spectacular disasters captured the attention of the media, the American people, and government agencies as we asked how the loss of human life and damage to property could have been prevented. Yet these distinct events emerge from very different social and natural contexts.

Two of these events would be considered natural disasters—products of our natural geologic and atmospheric worlds. Recent human induced disasters include the World Trade Center/Pentagon attacks involving fully fueled aircraft willfully steered toward terrorist targets—a process facilitated by other human and organizational failures in air transportation security. The 1986 Challenger explosion has been attributed to malfunctions of "O" rings and the poor judgment of NASA engineers. The 2003 Columbia crash has human origins in the inherent complexity of space aircraft technology and the evolution of NASA's organizational culture surrounding See Briefing, page 9.

The second article in a series highlighting the sociological context of ASA’s next Annual Meeting location . . . San Francisco, California

2004 Annual Meeting . . . Public Sociologies

Still Booming: Prisons in California

by Megan L. Comfort, University of California-San Francisco

When you arrive at the 2004 ASA Annual Meeting’s San Francisco hotel, you will be approximately 18 miles from California’s oldest penitentiary, San Quentin State Prison. Constructed with convict labor between 1852 and 1856 as a “free staff,” with San Quentin’s first prisoner arriving in 1852, the facility occupies 432 acres of prime real estate in Marin County, an affluent area north of the San Francisco Bay.

Apart from its enviable location and aside from housing the 608 men serving time at San Quentin, the prison also houses gymnasiums, a movie theater, a library, a store, and a few restaurants, and attend sessions. As a result of the staggering rise in incarceration rates, large numbers of low-income, African-American, and Latino communities now experience arrest and criminal detention as routine events. For men, particularly those in their late teens and early twenties, this often means going to prison for a couple of years and then getting caught up in the "revolving door" of corrections, cycling between being released on parole and being locked-up for violating parole conditions. In 2000, two-thirds of California’s 119,000 parolees were "returned to custody," the majority of them for failing to meet administrative requirements such as maintaining gainful employment, steering clear of other ex-convicts, or paying off their fines and court-ordered restitution. Hindered by their criminal records and the glaring gaps in their employment histories, those parolees able to find work typically do so in occupations where few questions are asked and limited skills are required—washing dishes, cleaning buildings, supplying temporary heavy labor, and—ironically—acting as security guards.

Virtual Prisoners

For thousands of women, the ever-widening net of the criminal justice system triggers a similar cycle of arrest, detention, release, and re-arrest. However, given that about 5% of California’s prisoners are female, the majority of women experience “mass incarceration” as mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, or girlfriends of inmates. Although legally free, these women live in the long shadow of the penitentiary when they spend hours behind bars visiting loved ones, adjust their work schedules and personal logistics to be available for expensive (and monitored) collect phone calls, engage in voluminous (and again, monitored) correspondence, and otherwise become transformed into “quasi-inmates” through the penal regulation of their daily lives.

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Democratic candidates use dissertation research in their speeches and debates.

Social Science Education
An NSF workshop brainstormed “Improving Education in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences.”

Sociologist at the U.N.
Cedric Herring presented research at the United Nations comparing views about foreign policy.

MFP Success Story
Jesse Diaz escaped drugs and the temptation of gangs in favor of higher education and making a difference.

FAD Grants
The ASA Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline awards six new grants.

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The Executive Officer’s Column
Membership as a Public Good

While many of you renew your ASA membership as a matter of conviction (or habit), I am also sure that, with ever-increasing professional and personal challenges, many colleagues also calculate the broader benefits to the profession that their ASA membership permits. With nearly four decades of personal membership in the Association, I am unbridled in my enthusiasm for those broader advantages we reap by being a part of the ASA community. But some of those benefits that you, your colleagues, and students receive throughout the year, are not always visible. This is budget-planning season at ASA, a source of feedback about an organization’s priorities. As I scrutinize the budget and plan ASA’s calendar, I am struck by the breadth of activities ASA undertakes for the good of the field. Your membership sustains this commitment of work, not only by ASA staff, but also by your elected leaders, and the many members who volunteer scarce professional time to benefit us all.

A steady stream of news items about some of those efforts appears on ASA’s main homepage. Unlike the New York Times, we cannot post “All the news that’s fit to print.” While we hope you check the website regularly, and read the new monthly: ASA News and Notes email and Footnotes, we know you are not glued to your computer. So I share here and in the January Vantage Point, some of ASA’s recent activities that have added value to our field through your ASA membership.

Plugged in at the National Level
Professional ethics, Institutional Review Boards, and human subjects protection continue to present challenges. ASA is helping fill the training needs. In October, for example, Deputy Executive Officer Carla Howery and I participated in the Society for Applied Sociology’s (SAS) annual meeting at which I and members of ASA’s Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) conducted a well-attended workshop. The challenges we addressed on human research were engaging. We also gained immensely from interchange with SAS members on professional development issues and curricular innovations that will help guide future ASA work. I also conducted a human subjects session at the American Society of Criminology in November and explored new ways in which criminologists and sociologists can work together.

Connected with State, Regional, Departmental Roots
It is essential for ASA staff sociologists to keep abreast of issues important to colleagues active at the state and regional levels. Thus, ASA Minority Affairs Program Director Mercedes Rubio participated in the Mid-south Sociological Association meeting, exploring their needs and activities and recruiting applicants for ASA’s Minority Fellowship Program. She will also participate in the Population Association of American meetings to keep in touch with colleagues in demography. Carla participated in the Sociologists of Minnesota and the Wisconsin Sociological Association this fall and she, Mercedes, Roberta Spalter-Roth, and I will participate in other state and regional meetings. Some members of these associations are not able to attend the ASA Annual Meeting, and our visits allow the vehicle through which the Executive Office can keep a finger on the pulse of sociologists and departments across the country.

State and regional colleagues were especially delighted that ASA President Michael Burawoy was able to speak at five state sociological society meetings this fall. At each, he and ASA staff met enthusiastic and talented sociologists wishing to contribute to the efforts of that association as well as ASA. Their work demonstrates the important ways in which sociology contributes every day to scientific knowledge and the public good. Watch forthcoming Footnotes for more about this.

ASA staff work continuously to support individual departments as they develop and advocate for new curricula, degree programs, and teaching strategies at their institutions. ASA occasionally also provides emergency assistance to departments facing cutbacks or even elimination. You won’t always hear about these, but ASA is there when needed. Similarly, for the individual sociologist, ASA works behind the scenes for the public good, collegiality, and integrity of our profession and departments through COPE, which helps individuals resolve specific problems.

On the International Scene
Executive Office staff is working with the American Association for the Advancement of Science on a new strategy for providing services to scientists, university departments, and professional societies dealing with the increasing number of international human rights cases and problems with international scientific and educational travel. And, ASA is facilitating President Burawoy’s work to include a substantial number of international scholars in the 2004 Annual Meeting and a Council sub-committee on international issues promoting collaboration with the International Sociological Association and international scholars for ASA’s centennial. Burawoy and I also have worked with other American sociologists to support European sociology departments that are facing elimination.

Guiding Education
In early 2004 the ASA Task Force on the Advanced Placement (AP) Course in Sociology, chaired by ASA Vice President Caroline Persell, culminated its work, with new curricula and demonstration projects around the country, especially in inner-city schools that traditionally lack AP courses. The ASA Research Program’s next survey will track a cohort of sociology PDSs to learn about their job experiences, and will continue to make data available from the departmental survey to help sociology departments with peer comparisons and planning. ASA members will join Council, staff, and the Program Committee of President-elect Troy Duster to craft the events for ASA’s centennial year.

Any one of these activities may not directly affect you and your work today, but I hope that we are targeting important topics that strengthen the field of sociology and your pride in it. That’s an equation that I hope shapes your decision to enhance your participation in the Association’s activities during 2004.

—Sally T. Hillman, Executive Officer
2004 Democratic Presidential Candidates Use Sociology’s Research Findings in Speeches and Debates

by Johanna Ebner, Public Information Office

Recent national attention to some key sociological research appears to have been inspired by the November 15, 2003, issue of The Wall Street Journal published a story (“Racial Discrimination Is Still as Widespread as Ever”) describing research sociologist Devah Pager’s dissertation on race-based job discrimination in America.Pager’s findings have now taken off like “wild fire” in the national political arena. And, a mere five days later, during the Democratic presidential debate on September 26, 2003, seven out of the thirteen candidates alluded to Pager’s findings in some way.

1

Congressional interest in reviewing NSF-supported behavioral and social science research has increased over the past year. The recent interest in NSF reflects the work of a large number of Representatives publicly nucleated the appropriateness of several studies in human social behavior supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) during a hearing on the reauthorization of the NSF Authorization Act. The House Committee on Science and Technology has subsequently authorized ASA Executive Office efforts to defend NSF supported research in this domain, and among other activities, ASA released a public statement (see www.asanet.org/media/NSF-peer-rev.html) in support of NSF.

In October, the interest continued when the NIH Director was questioned about ten specific grants during a hearing by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. NIH representatives asked the Committee for a complete list of these grants and were accidentally given an unauthorized list of nearly 160 researchers studying HIV transmission, drug abuse, and sexual behavior. This unauthorized list had apparently originated with a conservative religious group called the Traditional Values Coalition (TVC), which has become somewhat discredited for unrelated activities and has been expelled from the Values Action Team congressional working group.

Many of the researchers on the 160 “hit list” have become fearful that their work might continue to attract undue attention and perhaps be cut, since NIH had contacted all of these researchers out of courtesy to alert them to potentially controversial research, according to Howard Dean, a former congressional representative from Vermont. The TVC, which has become somewhat discredited for unrelated activities and has been expelled from the Values Action Team congressional working group.

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One researcher “is very gratifying to find that some times people are actually receptive to research.”

"This is a prime example of why it’s important for sociologists to take seriously their obligation to talk to the press about their research," said Lee Herring, ASA Director of Public Affairs. "Politicians and other important policymakers are heavily influenced by what they see in the popular media, and sociological research in particular is an important component of the public policy decision-making leadership, if they are able and willing to absorb the principles revealed by empirically valid research.""Editor’s note: See the call for nominations for ASA’s Excellence in Communication Award on page 5 of this Footnote issue."

NSF Director Is Receptive to Warnings About the Context of Federal Science Support

by Lee Herring, Public Affairs Office

This is why I like to meet and talk with you social scientists," said National Science Foundation (NSF) Director Rita Colwell in an appreciative response to Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate Advisory Committee Chair Irwin Feller. Feller had just urged Colwell at SBE’s early-November Institution status report, public comments, and community to communicate formally about their research, “It is no longer the case that because institutions are run by bigots or racists, but because of our unconscious bias toward hiring people like ourselves, I am determined we will overcome this. I am also determined that we must always keep behind in this discussion—no matter what their color, no matter where they live.”

Feller won ASA’s Dissertation Award (see “Dissertation Award” in the Sept./Oct. 2003 Footnotes), which honors the best doctoral theses in the social sciences for that year from among those submitted by advisors and mentors.Pager completed her dissertation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. According to the award, “This dissertation, written for her dissertation, The Mark of a Criminal Record, made an important contribution to the growing body of research on the effects of the increasing incarceration rate in the United States,” and, apparently, some presiden-}

tive candidates agree.

The White House is stepping up efforts to modernize the management and funding of the nation’s federally supported basic science program. NSF has undertaken this effort in response to a “changing research environment.” Its analysis of the business relationship between research universities and the federal research agencies is being reflected in the change in the institutional status. The National Science Foundation (NSF) for a one-year position as an Intergovernmental Person- nel, is $81,602-$127,168, depending on qualifications and experience. More

Evidence of initiative, administrative skills, and ability to work well with others and others. The range of annual salary, which includes a locality pay adjust-
NSF Workshop Targets Improving Social Science Education

by Caroline Hodges Persell, Executive Director, American Educational Research Association

A number of sociologists joined psychologists, economists, anthropologists, geographers, linguists, educators, and social scientists from the National Science Foundation (NSF) staff in an invitational National Workshop on “Improving Education in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences: A National Dialogue,” this past summer. NSF-sponsored the Washington, DC, gathering, to examine all levels of social science education.

Among the sociologist participants were Kathryn Borman, Jose Z. Calderon, Cora Marrett, Willie Pearson, Jr., Caroline Hodges Persell, Priscilla White, Rogelio Saenz, Gary Sandefeur, Barbara Schneider, Teresa Sullivan, and Tom Van Valen. The workshop was co-chaired by Felice Levine, Executive Director, American Educational Research Association, and former Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association (ASA), and Ron Abler, Director Emeritus, Association of American Geographers.

Plan of Action

The purpose of the Workshop was “to create a plan of action regarding educational improvement, research, and human resource development in the social and behavioral sciences,” according to Norman Bradburn, Assistant Director of NSF’s, Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate. In his welcoming remarks, Bradburn said the challenge was to find ways to fuel students’ passion for learning about the social sciences. Assistant Director of NSF’s Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate, said that the mission of EHR is to encourage excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels and in all settings, in and out of classrooms. She noted that NSF is developing a new priority area, Human and Social Dynamics Area [see July/August 2003 Footnotes p. 3], and she stressed that NSF’s encouragement of people, skills, achievement, and critical personnel applies to the social, behavioral, and economic sciences as well as the physical sciences and mathematics.

The first part of the workshop was informational. Speakers and panels presented data and ideas about the status of the social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) sciences in the educational process and about work force diversity in the physical sciences, mathematics, engineering, and SBE sciences. NSF-staff described various pertinent NSF EHR programs. Then four breakout groups met separately to consider themes such as: (1) Challenges in education at the K-12 level; (2) Undergraduate research and scholarship in diverse academic settings, including common issues and uncommon needs; (3) Graduate education, including its content and what it does not; and (4) Post-doctoral and career development.

The goal of the breakout sessions was to identify issues and potential recommendations to NSF. Each group is preparing written reports, which were summarized and discussed at the plenary at the end of the second day.

Report

The co-chairs of the workshop will prepare a final report drawing on these reports and making recommendations for a more general plan of action. One of the featured events of the workshop was an after-dinner talk the first night by Teresa Sullivan, Vice President and Graduate Dean, Professor of Sociology and Law, the University of Texas-Austin. She spoke about some of the changes occurring in education, including the issue of affirmative action. A lively period of questions and answers followed her talk. Watch Footnotes for updates.

The purpose of the Workshop was to create a plan of action regarding educational improvement, research, and human resource development in the social and behavioral sciences.

Sociologist Provides Briefing at the United Nations

In October, ASA Member Cedric Herring, University of Illinois-Chicago, provided a briefing on “Africa’s African Interests in Global Perspective” to a delegation of national and international leaders at the United Nations (UN). Herring’s presentation and paper provided results from a survey of African American opinion leaders that was commissioned by the European Union, as well as a parallel eight-nation survey commissioned by the German Marshall Fund and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

Herring noted that the original surveys made it possible to make direct comparisons of the views of African American opinion leaders (that was commissioned by the European Union, as well as a parallel eight-nation survey commissioned by the German Marshall Fund and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations).

Herring’s analysis shows that African Americans and the general American community hold views on many international issues that are closer to those of Europeans than to those of White Americans.

“In keeping with W.E.B. DuBois’ observations about dual consciousness, it is clear that African Americans, as Americans, want the United States to remain strong and active in international affairs,” said Herring. “Nearly half want the U.S. to maintain its unique superpower status. Most are willing to support U.S. military action against nations holding weapons of mass destruction, but an even greater proportion believes such actions gain greater legitimacy when backed by the United Nations.”

It is also clear that African Americans differ from White Americans on several international policy issues. In particular, unlike the majority of White Americans who believed the war in Iraq has been worth the loss of life and other costs, African Americans are not persuaded. Indeed, it is clear that most African Americans do not agree with bypassing the United Nations to pursue military objectives. They are far more likely to be supportive of the UN than are their White American counterparts.

Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, also addressed the delegation in a speech that provided an overview of several policy issues currently before the General Assembly. Among the sociologist participants in the delegation was Professor of African American Studies, Robert Davis (North Carolina A&T University), and Hayward Derrick Horton (SUNY-Albany).

Herring’s presentation and briefing paper are available online at:

tigergroup.uci.edu/depts/soc/ HerringUNPresentationTimed.ppt

(staff presentation);


Community Reinvestment: Connecting Sociological Findings to Advocacy

by Torrey S. Androski, Executive Officer, ASA’s Policy Commission

Sociologists have a long-standing engagement in positive social advocacy, dating back to the days of Saul Alinsky and community financial “redlining” practices. Sociologists’ fight against disinvestment by financial institutions has yielded an edited compilation of essays, Importing and Exporting Social Scientific Research on Race and Ethnicity, commissioned by the European Union, as well as the Federal Financial Conduct Authority (FFCA).

In 1998, Gregory D. Squires, George Washington University (GW), successfully challenged the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations that allowed for redlining. In 1999, Gregory D. Squires, Dwayne Redd, Richard A. Weisburg, and Hani Dajani (GW), successfully challenged the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). In 1997, the CRA is intended to encourage depository institutions to help meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate, including in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with safe and sound banking operations. CRA examinations are conducted by the federal financial regulatory agencies responsible for supervising depository institutions.

CRA is a key component of the Community Reinvestment Act. It was enacted in 1977 to encourage financial institutions that were not for supporting federal legislation. Specifically, in the mid-1970s, two individuals were denied loans by a local bank due to, according to the lender, “special circumstances.” When pressed, the bank admitted the “special circumstances” were the locations of the houses for which the individuals applied. This legislative fight that eventually led to congressional passage of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).

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Importance of Racial Statistics

The CRA has served the nation well, but, according to Squires and Friedman, it could be much improved by bringing race into the review process. Currently, CRA examiners analyze the distribution of loans based solely on the income level of the communities and its borrowers, but examiners do not take race into account. Since Black mortgage loan applicants continue to be denied at twice the rate of whites, at least since 1990, Squires and Friedman, along with other fair housing advocates, contend that race should be a factor in the examination process.

As specified in the ASA’s Statement on the Importance of Collecting Data and Doing Social Scientific Research on Race, racism,

Continued on next page
Streetwise ASA Minority Fellow Tackles Gang Violence

Success. It should be measured in terms of Jesse Diaz. Not everyone can bounce back from a young life thrown off course by drugs and the constant temptations of gang life. But succeed he did. And now the 39-year-old father of four children hopes to give something back to his community.

Jesse graduated from Pitzer College in Claremont, California, in 2002 after developing a strong interest in Latino psychology. He worked closely with Pitzer professors Hal Fairchild, Jose Caldenon, and Norma Rodriguez and is currently a graduate student at the University of California-Riverside. This spring, Jesse was awarded a Minority Fellowship from the American Sociological Association. See September/October 2003 Footnotes, p. 11. He plans to use the funds to continue his pursuit of a PhD.

Jesse’s research at Pitzer centered on contemporary issues of Chicano, in particular the influence of gang members in communities much like Chino, where he grew up. Jesse recently helped form a coalition for social justice and action at UC Riverside to serve as an advocate for a young boy accused of murder. According to Jesse, the boy is innocent and many members of the community who know who pulled the trigger, though they have not come forward for their lives if they report the shooter.

“His death has exacerbated the study of gang members and attempts to rehabilitate gang members often have relied on data collected in state institutions where, Jesse said, the information can be skewed because of the hard-core attitudes of prisoners. In such one-on-one situations, gang members continue to play the part they are expected to play—filling the role of the “street tough.”

What Jesse found through his research is that though families can play a large role in rehabilitating the community, the community can also play an even larger role. Jesse’s personal road for “block therapy.” The community, acting as a larger family association, would hold forums and other events to address the problems caused by gangs.

The community would call upon older gang members, previously thought to be destructive members of their neighborhood, to act as mentors and guides for younger gang members. These veterans, as they are called after surviving years of involvement in gangs, would bring invaluable insight to the process of discouraging gang life. Jesse knows about the value of community. He credits the Pitzer community with being “my beacon, my guiding light. Students at Pitzer go on to become advocates and voices for a mix of people. The training at Pitzer is the key to success not only for students but for the people they serve through such programs as the Pomona Day Labor Center.”

“My drive for an education and the positive experiences I had at Pitzer replaced the need I had to do drugs,” Jesse said. “And now that I have the education I’m going to use it to reach out to others. Already I’ve helped model programs in Riverside after our successful programs at Pitzer.”

“Jesse Diaz needs to be created immediately before he becomes the first time and definitely won’t be the last. Reprinted from the May 2003 Pitzer Press with permission from Pitzer College.”

Jesse Diaz

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2004 ASA DISSERTATION AWARD

The ASA Dissertation Award honors the best PhD dissertation from among those submitted by advisors and mentors in the discipline. Dissertations from PhD recipients with their degree having been received in the 2003 calendar year will be eligible for consideration for the 2004 ASA Dissertation Award.

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.

For more information on the Certificate in Diversity and Stratification, contact Professor John Mihelich, Coordinator, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Justice Studies, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1110, (208) 885-5046, e-mail: jmihelich@uidaho.edu.
**PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY**

**Sociology translates to public action...**

This occasional column highlights sociologists who successfully engage sociology in the civic arena to service organizations and communities. Over the years, members of ASA and sociology as individual professionals and citizens have sought to make the knowledge we generate directly relevant to our communities, countries, and the world community. Many sociologists work for and in other sectors practice the translation of expert knowledge to numerous critical issues through consultation, advice, testimony, commentary, writing, and participation in a variety of activities and venues. Readers are invited to submit contributions, but consult with Managing Editor Lee Herring (herring@asanet.org, 202-383-9005 x320) prior to submitting your draft (1,000 to 1,200 words maximum).

**A Labor of Love: Empirical Empowerment for Unions**

by Arthur B. Shatz, Drexel University

In a very hostile 1959 Delaware courtroom I listened nervously while Melvin Tumin, a remarkable Princeton sociologist, testified on the merits of a bitterly KKK-hellish, Tumin’s example—and subsequent gains by pro-integration forces—testimony to attend and assess the relevance of the academic perspective. While the scene was far from KKK-hell, the case and Tumin’s testimony indirectly reinforced my decision. His seminal 1958 book, America’s largest social movement, then and now my lifelong favorite among my 1961 PhD in Industrial Sociology, I have sought to help Organized Labor, Unless nettlesome critiques persisted, Labor’s aging bureaucracies would not escape serene consolidation. Consistent with my 1958 BS in Industrial and Labor Relations, and since earning my 61st book ever about the right to work and the state of the nation conference of Labor digerati types. Much as in 1962, when I championed Jeffersonian Democracy aspects of “company unions,” so also do I urge unionists to employ inter-activity to help revitalize the Labor Movement. I have worked with Organized Labor has been simultaneous with many other exercises in applied sociology, including an unsuccessful effort to help unionize my Drexel University colleagues, to help males in abortion clinic waiting rooms get support; and so on. I have travelled widely to uncover union innovations and I am updating the 1984 book in which I discussed over 200 of them (Rebutting Unionism). I also edited a unique volume of interviews taped with grass-roots union activists (For Labor’s Sake), wrote articles on “unionism” for two recent encyclopedias, and for years I have authored a “State of Labor” op-ed every Labor Day for Philadelphia newspapers.

Empowering Unions

I enjoy interpreting survey findings and, for example, have served for two very tense years as the survey researcher for PATCO (Professional Air Traffic Controllers Association). I succeeded in getting nearly 90% of the 14,500 air traffic controller members to answer our two nationwide surveys in 1981 just before the union’s history-making strike. Thereafter I was the major author of an insider’s book on that historic tragic event (and a regular attendee at PATCO reunions). I have pioneered labor education advances, introducing the first college credit course in “futuristics,” designed specifically for unionists studying at the A-F-C-I-National Labor College. I also co-authored a second course there into a custom-tailored course I titled “Sociology as an Ally,” and I taught it there for 25 years until 2000. A professional sociologist, I have written articles, exchanges, foundations, and governmental bodies, I especially enjoy speaking formally for labor groups, and my occasional appearances on TV or radio talk shows are either as a Labor-aligned sociologist or in debate with a union-avoidance consultant or lawyer.

Of late, my research and advocacy have focused on Labor and computer power, having written in 1999 the first book ever about the bright possibilities for Labor (CyberUnions: Empowering Labor through Computer Networks). In 2002 I edited a second book of advice from grass-roots enthusiasts (The CyberUnion Handbook). My website (CyberUnions.net) facilitates dialogue, and I speak annually at LaborTech, the national conference of Labor digerati types. Much as in 1962, when I championed the Jeffersonian Democracy aspects of “company unions,” so also do I urge unionists to employ inter-activity to help revitalize the Labor Movement. My work with Organized Labor has been simultaneous with many other exercises in applied sociology, including an unsuccessful effort to help unionize my Drexel University colleagues, to help males in abortion clinic waiting rooms get support; and so on. I have travelled widely to uncover union innovations and I am updating the 1984 book in which I discussed over 200 of them (Rebutting Unionism). I also edited a unique volume of interviews taped with grass-roots union activists (For Labor’s Sake), wrote articles on “unionism” for two recent encyclopedias, and for years I have authored a “State of Labor” op-ed every Labor Day for Philadelphia newspapers.

Embattled Unions

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**Notes**


Advancing the Discipline Through ASA-NSF New Small Grants

The American Sociological Association (ASA) is pleased to announce six new awards to support the next cycle of its Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD), a competitive, renewable grant program. The grants are awarded through a matching grant provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and administered by the ASA. These awards are designed to provide scholars with seed money for innovative research projects and also for scientific conferences that show promise of advancing research in the discipline. A list of these latest FAD grantees and descriptions of their projects follow:

Ron Aminzade (University of Minnesota) received $7,000 for "Redressing Racial Inequalities: Neoliberalism, Globalization, and the Politics of Indigenization." This FAD monies will be used to fund part of a larger study to develop analytical narratives that explain why groups-oriented affirmative action policies do not coincide with the growth of neo-liberal economic policies. To better understand the impact of neoliberalism, the Principal Investigator (PI) will examine affirmative action policies that target indigenous peoples in New Zealand (New Zealand, South Africa, Fiji, and Tanzania). The FAD grant will fund the research in Tanzania and Fiji. A series of factors hypothesized to lead to different kinds of policies are examined. These include ideological debates about declaring populations as indigenous, the types of policies developed, notions of citizenship; political alliances among elites and party organization; state capacity; and others. The PI will collect data to construct the analytical narratives, the PI will examine newspaper accounts, transcripts of parliamentary debates, interviews with key financial leaders and parliamentarians, and governmental reports. In addition, Aminzade will collect similar documentary evidence and interviews from the World Bank and the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

Patrick Coy (Kent State University), Gary Merzur (University of Notre Dame), and Lynne Wuerth (Mary College) received a grant of $6,985 for "Resistance and Peace Movement Organizing." Funded monies will be used to investigate how peace movement organizations in the United States persuade the public to oppose the aftermath of the events of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The co-PIs will collect public protest statements from 12 peace movement organizations to test their hypothesis that since 9/11, these organizations have increased their public discourse that "harnesses hegemony" (patronism) rather than challenging the U.S. government. Official statements will include press and media releases, printed statements, editorials, and public calls to action. Most can be found on the Internet and can be coded on the basis of characteristics such as "organizational orientation." The researchers will employ a system to assess inter-rater reliability. The co-PIs propose to compare the findings from this research about framing anti-war discourse to earlier research on the Gulf War and the war in Afghanistan, using the same coding criteria to compare the persuasive activities of peace movement organizations they hope to gain insights into different ways of confronting hegemony.

Frances S. Hasso (Oberlin College) received $5,500 for "Emergent Economies of Desire: Exploring New Relationship Forms in the Middle East and Northern Africa." Funding will be used for an exploratory study of the rise of non-traditional, transient relations such as "guardian marriage" and "waqf contracts" in Egypt, Jordan, and Oman over the last decade. These new relationship contracts allow for quasi-legitimate sexual liaisons outside of traditional marriage. For men, they allow greater freedom from the normal economic obligations associated with marriage. Although they are instigated by and primarily benefit wealthy men, they may allow women greater freedom from the cultural and social restrictions typically imposed by marriage. The PI will monitor public discussion, policies, and practices with regard to this issue and conduct interviews with state officials, religious leaders, and women’s movement activists to determine the role of different groups in these arrangements.

Mark Hedley (Southern Illinois University) received $9,641 for "The Internet Working of Social Movements: Challenging the Direction of Economic Globalization." Funding will be used to study a chain of protest events that have posed a challenge to economic globaliza- tion. These events have eventuated in the most successful social movement theory would predict, perhaps because of their ability to use the Internet for purposes of organizing. The PI will use social movement theory and network analysis to embark on a systematic exploration of how social movement organizations are networked on the World Wide Web. A sample will be drawn from the perspective of the network user, data will be collected and coded, and a data file will be constructed and used to map the struc- ture of the networks among sites, to describe: (1) characteristics of involved websites; (2) network structure and the differences, and (3) qualities of the relationships that link them. Additional analysis will determine which groups are most and least prevalent of these networks. This data will also be used to map ideological and other factors across the network.

Lyn Spillman (University of Notre Dame) received $5,500 for "Business Associations and the Cultural Construc- tion of Economic Action." Funding will be used to construct a systematic database of business associations in the United States. The database will be used to map organizational characteristics and stated goals of these associations. The PI will use it to test a series of hypotheses about the size, structure, activities, and distributions of these associations based on a series of contextual variables such as "organizational characteristics and stated goals of these associations. The PI will use it to test a series of hypotheses about the size, structure, activities, and distributions of these associations based on a series of contextual variables such as industry, region, state, and city." The researcher will present original scholarly work that takes a life course approach and pays attention to the relationship between the personal and the political. The PI will present original scholarly work that takes a life course approach and pays attention to the relationship between the personal and the political. The PI will present original scholarly work that takes a life course approach and pays attention to the relationship between the personal and the political.

By Michael Patrick Allen
Washington State University

Thirteen years ago, I proposed an objective measure of journal quality that I termed "core influence" (see November 1990 Footnotes). It measured the "influ- ence" of a journal within the discipline in terms of the number of times the average article published in that particular journal would eventually be cited in the three "core" journals of the discipline: American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, and Social Forces.

This measure attracted more attention than had anticipated. Articles published in the Footnotes article have been cited by researchers studying sociology as a major indicator of "quality," as by sociologists who were in the process of being evaluated for promotion and tenure. However, the empirical results reported in that article have become increasingly dated. When I first proposed this measure of journal influence, I assumed that the "influence" of the journals within the discipline would not fluctuate dramati- cally in the short run. I further assumed that the influence of specific journals might rise or fall over the longer run. Consequently, I recently decided that the time had come to update and expand my original analysis. The methods employed to create the new core influen- ce scores are identical to those employed 13 years ago. The data used to construct the current measures of journal influence were ob- tained from the Journal Citation Reports, the electronic biblio- graphic database compiled by the Institute for Scientific Information.

I will not reiterate here the details of the argument offered in defense of this measure of journal influence. To say that, basically, the core influence of a journal is defined as the number of times that articles published in that journal have been cited by the three core journals in sociology in a given year divided by the number of articles published by that journal in that same year. If the number of articles published by a journal remains relatively constant over time, this ratio provides a reasonable estimate of the number of times that the average article published in that journal will eventually be cited in the three core journals. For example, if all of the articles published in the American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, and Social Forces cite articles published in Administrative Science Quarterly between the average of 79 times a year and if Administrative Science Quarterly publishes an average of 18.7 articles per year, then the core influence score of Administrative Science Quarterly is 4.23 (e., 79/18.7).

In other words, we can expect that the average value in Administrative Science Quarterly will be cited a total of 4.23 times in these three core journals in sociology over time.

Table 1 presents in rank order the core influence scores for the 90 journals with the largest average scores for the three-year period from 1999 to 2001. This table also presents the core influence scores for the three-year period from 1986 to 1998 for those journals that were also included in my original study along with their original ranks. A comparison of the journals that were ranked in both time periods indicates that their relative scores are quite stable. Indeed, there is a high correlation between the core influence scores for those 53 journals that were included in both time periods. The stability of these scores over these 13 years suggests that this measure of journal influence is a stable indicator of the "quality" of journals. Despite the overall pattern of stability, it is important to note that the core influence scores for several journals have changed appreciably during this period. These
Learning from the Cuban Health Care Paradox
by Mercedes Rubio, ASA Minority Fellowship Program

Why does Cuba, a third-world country, exhibit some health statistics on a par with those of the United States as opposed to those characteristic of other third-world countries? For example, in the year 2000, Cuba reported an infant mortality rate of 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births as opposed to 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in the United States. What explains this paradox (a poor country with at least one such admirable health index)? This October, through the fellowship provided by American Anthropological Association, I had the opportunity to attend the Family Medicine Conference in La Habana, Cuba, and as a health disparity scholar, I welcomed the chance to learn first hand about this paradox.

During the weeklong conference, we attended a panel at the Ministry of Public Health and visited medical schools, polyclinics, specialized clinics, and private doctors’ offices, in urban and rural areas. By midweek, I began to appreciate the reasons for Cuba’s health status.

First, there is a commitment by the state to keep its population healthy. For example, Cuba has a well-developed health care system that includes all levels of medical services, subsidized medicine, and specialized care for the aged and at-risk populations. But because of economic hardship stemming from collapse of the former Soviet Union, the execution of this policy is not as comprehensive and universal as conceptualized. Since the 1990s Cuba lags in the use of new technology and proper equipment. The lack of technology is critical for those in need of transplants and cutting-edge treatment, but figures on the percentage of the population requiring more specialized and high-tech care are elusive.

Further, the U.S. bondage to acute costs fundamentally with Cuba’s health care system in that Cuban policymakers better recognize and implement policies tapping the economic efficiency of health prevention and promotion. The Cuban population is encouraged to seek preventive care, and a high literacy rate aids health promotion efforts that help individuals remain healthy through mechanisms of healthy living as opposed to the traditional model of illness and health care. Cuban professionals are trained to view the patient as a person embedded in a community. Similarly, a family doctor living in the neighborhood in which he resides and interacts with neighborhood contextual factors that are potential health hazards such as the location of trash, and pollutants, as well as habitats for mosquitoes that may pose a health hazard. They also view individuals to observe risk factors such as household composition and family dynamics. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez views the Cuban approach as worthy of emulation and has recruited Cuban health professionals to help set up similar community-based health care delivery systems in Caracas.

While infant mortality is an indicative statistic of a nation’s health, Cuba’s health care system is not at U.S. standards. In spite of this, the average U.S. and Cuban life expectancy at birth in 2001 are both at 76.9 years, according to the World Health Organization. Interestingly, while U.S. health expenditures constitute 13.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product, Cuba’s only is 8.8 percent. As poor as Cuba is, its health system is controlled by a political ideology that affects state policies and institutional infrastructures that positively affect health.

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ASIA Briefing

Central to the given role of social factors in the causation of, or the intentional or accidental facilitation of, some disasters, ASIA has pursued an agenda of research and briefing in late October focused on human dimensions of disasters. Titled The Human Dimension of Disasters: How Social Science Research Can Improve Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, and held on Capitol Hill, the well-attended briefing was co-sponsored by the George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Security, and Public Policy Management (ICDRM), and the Senate Natural Hazards Caucus Work Group. (For additional details about the briefing see www.asanet.org/public/disaster-ch.html.)

During the briefing, three sociological researchers and an engineer offered perspectives on disasters and proposed public policy innovations based on their research on terrorist attacks, community disasters and recoveries, and public health epidemics. Panelists included Kathleen Tierney, Director of the Natural Hazards Research Center at the University of Colorado-Boulder; Lee Clarke, a Rutgers University expert on civil society, organizations, culture, and disasters; and Eric Klinenberg, an assistant professor of urban sociology at New York University who has done a social autopsy of the 1995 Chicago heat wave, and John Harrald, Director of George Washington University’s ICDRM.

The briefing opened with an engaged crowd of nearly 60 federal policymakers and leaders, congressional staff, local government, and other decisionmakers having a stake in the outcome of disasters. They hailed from a wide variety of organizations, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Government Reform Committee, American Geological Society, the Natural Hazards Research Center at the University of Colorado-Boulder, was recently succeeded by Havidán Rodríguez. The DRC is the first social science research center in the world devoted to the study of disasters. Established at Ohio State University in 1963 by E.L. Quarantelli, former ASA Executive Director Russell Dynes, and Eugene Haas, DRC moved to Delaware in 1985. The Center will honor its anniversary with a conference in April 2004. The Center conducts field and survey research on group, organizational and community preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural, technological, and other community-wide disasters. DRC has conducted basic research in sociology as well as applied studies that have been implemented in policies, programs, planning, and management in the field of disasters.

Training

Graduate and undergraduate training has been an integral component of DRC’s mission. Faculty from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice oversee DRC projects and teach classes in the department’s graduate concentration in collective behavior, social movements, and disasters, as well as the newly formalized undergraduate concentration in Emergency Management.

Research

DRC boasts nearly 600 field studies across the United States and in several foreign countries. DRC researchers have carried out systematic studies on a range of disaster types and have focused on topics such as emergency medical and mental health service delivery in disasters; mass evacuation and sheltering; preparedness and response among major community disasters by lifetime organizations; community earthquake mitigation and emergency preparedness in the Central United States; disaster recovery in Charleston, South Carolina, and Santa Cruz, California (a large-scale multi-year assessment of the FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] Project Impact initiative); and the utilization of earth science information in earthquake risk decision making.

Also, DRC studied the organizational response to the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center disaster. Two days after the attacks, DRC deployed a field-team to New York City and researchers spent the next two months observing response activities at key facilities such as the emergency operations center and incident command post meetings near Ground Zero. They are exploring the development and coordination of multi-organizational response networks and the achievement of resilience through complex networks and strategies.

DRC is also participating in a University of Massachusetts-Amherst-based project on emergency weather warnings. The National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Geosciences recently funded the establishment of a new Center for Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA), a joint Engineering Research Center involving engineers, meteorologists, computer and atmospheric scientists, and social scientists, with support from government, industry, and other higher education institutions. CASA will focus its efforts on the development of revolutionary sensing technology that will enable earlier and more accurate forecasts of weather emergencies.

Knowledge Reservoir

In addition to maintaining its own databases, DRC serves as a repository for other agencies and organizations. DRC’s Knowledge Reservoir, DRC’s specialized library, which contains the world’s most comprehensive collection on the social and behavioral aspects of disasters (more than 50,000 items), is open to interested scholars and researchers. DRC’s Knowledge Reservoir is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Sea Grant Program, and the U.S. Geological Survey. NSF, FEMA, the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research, and the Public Entity Risk Institute provide major research funding. For more information, visit www.udei.org/DRC. 

Disaster Research Center Celebrates 40th Anniversary

ASIA briefing on the Human Dimension of Disasters drew partly on resources and knowledge acquired at the University of Delaware’s Disaster Research Center (DRC), which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Former DRC Director Kathleen Tierney, now at the University of Colorado-Boulder, was recently succeeded by Havidán Rodríguez. The DRC is the first social science research center in the world devoted to the study of disasters. Established at Ohio State University in 1963 by E.L. Quarantelli, former ASA Executive Director Russell Dynes, and Eugene Haas, DRC moved to Delaware in 1985. The Center will honor its anniversary with a conference in April 2004. The Center conducts field and survey research on group, organizational and community preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural, technological, and other community-wide disasters. DRC has conducted basic research in sociology as well as applied studies that have been implemented in policies, programs, planning, and management in the field of disasters.

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shifts in the core influence scores of particular journals may be partly attributable to changes in the popularity of specific specialty areas in sociology. They may also be attributable to changes in the editorial policies of those journals.

In comparing the journals listed in Table 1, there is a temptation to focus on the differences between these journals rather than on the magnitudes of their core influence scores. However, it is important to realize that the magnitude of the score associated with each journal is more important than its rank. In general, the differences between the most influential journals and those below them, in terms of how often they are cited in the core journals, are substantial. At the same time, the differences between most of the less influential journals, especially those with roughly comparable scores, are often inconsequential. For example, the difference in the core influence of Sociological Perspective, with a score of 0.77, and Sociological Quarterly, with a score of 0.73, corresponds to a difference of only four citations in the three core journals over a period of three years.

Several caveats noted in the original discussion of this measure of core influence deserve to be reiterated. First, the accuracy of this measure depends on the validity of the asymmetric citation matrix after it had been adjusted for the number of self-citations and the number of articles published by each journal. This network analysis confirms that American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, and Social Forces are the three most central journals in the discipline in that order. Moreover, the correlation between the core influence scores and the centrality scores for the 58 journals included in both analyses is 0.959. In short, this network analysis of the centrality of the leading journals in sociology confirms the validity of the core influence scores. The main disparities between the two measures involve the leading journals within major specialty areas, such as Journal of Marriage and the Family and Criminology, which have comparatively high centrality scores because they are cited frequently by other journals in those areas. Given their apparent reliability and validity, core influence scores are probably the most preferable to centrality scores because they are highly interpretable and relatively easy to compute.

When I first proposed this measure of journal quality, I expressed misgivings about the possible misuses of such a measure. I stated that "the very existence of objective measures of journal quality may discourage those who must evaluate the work of sociologists from taking the time and effort required to assess this work on its own intrinsic merits or even in terms of its subsequent impact on others in the discipline." Nevertheless, there are many situations in which it is difficult to evaluate directly the quality of articles. One of these situations occurs whenever the members of a search committee must evaluate the publication records of a large number of applicants. This situation may also arise whenever junior faculty members are evaluated for tenure and promotion. It is difficult to assess the eventual impact of recently published work. Moreover, the discipline has become so specialized that it is difficult for even established scholars to make informed judgments about the originality and significance of work outside their area of expertise. At the very least, these measures of core influence tell us something about the quality of the journals in which this work is published.

The author is indebted to Lowell Hanson for his assistance and advice. The results of the centrality analysis of the leading journals in sociology mentioned in the text maybe obtained at www.wsu.edu/~allen/centrality.pdf.
The End of Admissions
Affirmative Action

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor repeatedly mentioned “the educational benefits of a diverse student body” in her 1995 concurrence in the Regents of the University of California v. Bakke decision that approved the University of Michigan Law School’s admission process to its student body. Specifically, she said, “The Law School’s educational judgment that such diversity is essential to its educational mission is one to which we defer.” Moreover, she acknowledged that “students in all racial groups face different, unfortunately still matters.” For this reason, the Law School uses race as one among several student characteristics in admissions decision.

A school’s admissions policy that is conscious of the fact that enhance excellence in education and that also do not underrepresent minorities is called affirmative policies. O’Connor hoped that in 25 years affirmative action would be no longer necessary. Her hope can be realized if all colleges and universities develop recruitment strategies that yield diversified student bodies, today and forever.

My research and personal experience reveal that most public and private schools in the United States have diversified student bodies. Using 1996 data, I found that a Cambridge elementary public school with the highest average test scores had a student body that was 51 percent white and 49 percent people of color. In 1994, when Brown v. Board of Education Choice student assignment plan with racial fairness guidelines that desegregate public schools in Lee County, Florida, implemented a...".

Graduate student policies in teaching and learning, and in the admission of all types and conceptions of students who want to learn. Charles W. Williford, Harvard University Graduate School of Education

Renewing Graduate Programs, Overcoming Routinization

In a single stroke of charismatic genius, Durkheim found an explanation for the failure of sociology. He formulated a new problem and tackled it in a new way, by combin-

The point for affirmative action is the presence of “justice as fairness” in all that is done, in selection by training, and in the admission of all types and conceptions of students who want to learn.

Thomas J. Scheff, University of California-Santa Barbara

I was surprised to learn that a format of graduate study similar to mine is proposed by another student. When considering the dissertation, I am thoroughly ambivalent as to whether sociologists’ thoughts matter. I have spent a good portion of the last year discovering as a political activist engaged in student, labor, and electoral activism. Last year, I ran for State Representative as a Green Party candidate in Cambridge and Somerville, Massachusetts, garnering 30 percent of the vote. Like Amitai Etzioni, I believe that being a public intellectual, rather than a strictly professional academic, has its rewards. As a political activist, I am constantly reminded of the value of sociology for political practice. Sadly though, the sociological imagination is largely absent from the minds of most activists and citizens. American sociologists are at least partially to blame for this absence.

Most sociologists assume the core institutional imperatives that constrain our profession. We take for granted that being a public intellectual is a zero-sum proposition. As Etzioni stated in the April 2003 Fortnightly, “There are only so many hours in the day. Time spent on op-eds and radio call-in shows, you cannot dedicate them to digging in the

Eager to return to a more thoughtful life, I entered graduate school in sociology in 1995 after working as a journalist for 15 months. Now, eight years into my prolonged graduate education, I am thoroughly ambivalent as to whether sociologists’ thoughts matter. I have spent a good portion of the last year discovering as a political activist engaged in student, labor, and electoral activism. Last year, I ran for State Representative as a Green Party candidate in Cambridge and Somerville, Massachusetts, garnering 30 percent of the vote. Like Amitai Etzioni, I believe that being a public intellectual, rather than a strictly professional academic, has its rewards. As a political activist, I am constantly reminded of the value of sociology for political practice. Sadly though, the sociological imagination is largely absent from the minds of most activists and citizens. American sociologists are at least partially to blame for this absence.

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A More Public Sociology

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through newspaper op-eds and other mass media. The persistent imperative to “publish and circulate our ideas” (as we say to our audiences) or perish” leads most sociologists gradually to ambivalently accept such (disc)ourses and practices. These existing forms of public engagement sell us short; they usually fleeting reach at best interested and/or local publics, leaving untouched the larger mass of uninterested publics who are often the least socio-economically advantaged and most likely to benefit. (Dick Gutierrez & E. Philippon recommends [April 2003 Fortnightly], but rather, when sociology creates opportunities for transforming publics so that we may also become skilled producers of compelling audio-visual sociology (e.g., reconditioned documentary films) in a world engaged far more with such multi-media than with the naked word. In addition, to transform our sociological imagination as important as publishing is to now to both graduate training and the tenure process perhaps would go a long way in making sociology matter publicly. AS Sociology will “more popular sociology” that would help produce forming-researching-sociological documentaries.

3. Through ASA, sociologists can lead the way in bringing citizens together to engage in deliberative democracy (e.g., televised town hall meetings, and other participatory forums) and in energizing local and federal governments to invest in such democracy. When making citizens’ opinions, ideas, and economic globalization seem so overwhelming, one of the best ways to both build sociological understanding and sense of political empowerment is with sustained, well-organized, face-to-face activities. A few of these activities include鎮

Burawoy wrote in the January 2003 Fortnightly, “public debate stimulates the sociological imagination just as it is necessary for a vibrant democracy. Publics are the lifeblood of both sociology and society.”

These ideas are some points of departure for a much-needed, sustained conversation about sociology’s past, present, and future in American society and its role in addressing our social problems. ASA’s upcoming 2004 Annual Meeting, the theme for sociology, is “A significant leading step. Ultimately, making sociology a truly public endeavor will require ASA and sociologists to take the two mutual, parallel paths: to transform our sociological imagination as important as publishing is to now to both graduate training and the tenure process perhaps would go a long way in making sociology matter publicly. AS Sociology will “more popular sociology” that would help produce forming-researching-sociological documentaries.

Pintel Lachlan, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Corrections

The winners of the Sociology of Mental Health Awards were incorrectly listed in the November issue of The Win- ter 2004 Annual Meeting Program Committee.

The affiliations of Ronald Lombo, Ambert College, and the University of Connecticut, as listed in the Sep- tember/October issue of Footnotes is incorrect. He is a member of the 2005 Annual Meeting Program Committee.

The affiliations of William G. Staples, Uni- versity of Kansas, and Clifford L. Staples, University of Kansas, winners of the 2003 Marxist Sociology Section Distinct Book Award, were incorrectly listed in the November issue of Footnotes.

Call for Papers

Conferences


ASEAN Inter University Seminar on So- ciology Undergraduate Research Conference, April 24, 2004, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA, US. Theme: “The World that We Know: Understanding the Language of Our World.” Submissions are invited for paper presentations, panels, and poster sessions. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted electronically in MS Word by December 15, 2003. Contact: Phi Beta Delta Interna- tional Honors Council, c/o India Dennis, Cap- ital University, Conservatory of Music, 2198 S. Stanford Street, Columbia, MO 65208-2294; fax (669) 234-4935; e-mail ibdelta@capital.edu. A limited number of stipends are available. Requests for stipends should be addressed to Elizabeth Evans at the Department of Political Science, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 23288.

11th Annual Western Anthropology/Soci- ology Undergraduate Research Conference, March 25-27, 2004, Washington, DC. Theme: “The World that We Know: Understanding the Language of Our World.” Submissions are invited for paper presentations, panels, and poster sessions. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted electronically in MS Word by December 15, 2003. Contact: Phi Beta Delta Interna- tional Honors Council, c/o India Dennis, Cap- ital University, Conservatory of Music, 2198 S. Stanford Street, Columbia, MO 65208-2294; fax (669) 234-4935; e-mail ibdelta@capital.edu. A limited number of stipends are available. Requests for stipends should be addressed to Elizabeth Evans at the Department of Political Science, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 23288.

Mid-American Review of Sociology

Mid-American Review of Sociology, May 27, 2004, Topeka, KS. Theme: “Telling the Story: Narrating Illness, Experi- ences and the Media.” Send three paper cap- tures, one 3.5 inch diskette, a $10-submission fee, and a self-ad- dressed stamped envelope by January 16, 2004. Deadline for submission of abstracts is January 31, 2004. Contact: Carla Hartman, Department of Sociology, Washburn University, 53100 Siena, Italy; (+39) 0577 298603; fax: (+39) 0577 298626; e-mail ginodillon@libero.it.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Scholars in Health Policy Research Program

Congratulations Winners of the 2003-2005 Fellowship Awards

BRIAN GIFFORD

(Scholars Program at the University of California, Berkeley/San Francisco) Gifford plans to develop a research agenda that addresses the recent changes experienced by the armed forces and the health care system they manage as well as the consequences of those changes for the health and health care of the mil- itary community and its best soldiers.

BRIAN GOELING

(Scholars Program at The University of Michigan) Building on his dissertation research, Geeling is exposing a new empirical study of trends in health inequality both within the United States and across countries.

CATHARINE LEE

(Scholars Program at The University of Michigan) Lee plans to examine the use of “race” as a biological and/or analytical category in biomedical research, questioning how a social construct such as race becomes biologicalized in scientific thought while exploring how and why ideas about group differences are made real.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is accepting applications for research grants awarded to investiga- tors conducting clinical, biological, or psy- chosocial research on the problem of sui- cide. Applications are due February 28, 2005. For more information visit <www.afsp.org>.

The Center for Democracy and the Third Sector (CDATS) at Georgetown Univer- sity in Washington, DC, is a national sixth annual visiting faculty competition. The faculty from the 25 winning universities will provide support for scholars, students, and specialists with experience in the field of democracy and governance from all aspects of the relationship between, and within, the democratic state, and the third sector. The third en- compassing domain of the Center’s research are those that neither are government nor business, in- cluding the public sector, nonprofit organizations, non-profit organizations, advocacy groups, citizen groups, and so-
University, were quoted in an October 19.

Ron Aminzade

Ron Aminzade was quoted in an October 20.

Thomas Drot

Thomas Drot has been appointed Director of the Environmental Science and Policy Program, Professor of Sociology and Crop and Soil Sciences, and Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Natural Science and Social Sciences, at all Michigan State University.

Dana M. Britton

Dana M. Britton, Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, and Soil Science, and Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Natural Science and Social Sciences, at all Michigan State University.

Jeylan Mortimer

Jeylan Mortimer is the new editor of Sociology in Government: The Galpin Society in Government, a journal of social science research related to public opinion.

Rowe Weitz, Arizona State University, is officially moving from the Sociology department to the Women’s Studies Program. She will remain an affiliated faculty mem-

Karin Aguilar-San Juan, University of Pennsylvania, were quoted in an October 19.

People

Michael Burawoy, University of California-Berkeley and ASA President, visited the University of South-ern California’s Center for Social Science and Policy Studies and spoke about Public Social Science and seeking feedback from those state association members.

Volmer Burton, Jr., is the new Chancellor at the University of Minnesota-Crookston.

Thomas Drot has been appointed Director of the Environmental Science and Policy Program, Professor of Sociology and Crop and Soil Sciences, and Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Natural Science and Social Sciences, at all Michigan State University.

Daniel Kleinman, University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been appointed a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Law and Society, University of California-Berkeley.

Satoshi Kanazawa is now head of the Law and Research Methodology Laboratory at the University of the Social Sciences.

Peter Kivisto, Arizona State University, is the new editor of the Journal of Social Science.

Phyllis Moom, has been elected as the American Sociologist for the Advancement of Science Fellow.

Havinagur Kaur, University of Delhi, is one of the three members of the Minority Af- fairs Program of the ASA, which was an inten-

Dana M. Britton, Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, and Soil Science, and Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Natural Science and Social Sciences, at all Michigan State University.

Members’ New Books

Ivar Berg, University of Bergen, is the new editor of the European Journal of Social Science.

Dana M. Britton, Arizona State University, is the new editor of the Journal of Social Science.

The Center for the Study of Law and So- ciety at the University of California-Berkeley, seeks to disseminate tools and con- temporary implications of their work.

Robert Mark Silverman, State University of New York-Buffalo, is one of the three members of the Minority Af- fairs Program of the ASA, which was an inten-

Karen Sternheimer, University of South- ern California, is the new co-editor of the Journal of Social Science.

A. Javier Trevino, Wheaton College, is the new editor of Sociology in Government.

Other Organizations

The Center for the Study of Law and So- ciety at the University of California-Berkeley, seeks to disseminate tools and con-

The State for the Study of Social Prob- lems (SSSP) is pleased to announce its new journ-

The Center for the Study of Law and So- ciety at the University of California-Berkeley, seeks to disseminate tools and con-

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Got Something to Include in the 2004 ASA Annual Meeting?
Meeting Space for Other Activities

The ASA provides two services for individuals or groups desiring to use meeting space at the ASA Annual Meeting. ASA Council policies on the use of such space are outlined below. Because ASA Sections have been allotted program time, they are excluded from these provisions.

Meeting Space
Groups wishing to meet in conjunction with the Annual Meeting may request space by sending a formal letter of request with signature (e-mail messages or files are not acceptable) to the ASA Executive Office by March 1, 2004. Rooms are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, one meeting per group. In the event that space exceeds demand, requests for a second meeting will be considered. Please note that space requested after the March 1 deadline cannot be assured.

Space requests are categorized as follows:
(1) **Small groups sponsored by ASA members** requesting space for the purpose of conducting sessions focused on a special aspect of sociology will be allocated one time slot from 8:00-10:00 PM on the second night of the meeting (Sunday, August 15), if the number of requests exceeds the available space on August 15, groups will be assigned to the 6:30 p.m. time slot on August 14 or 16.
(2) Groups or organizations wishing to gather for other meetings such as those of a religious, political, or special interest nature are required to submit a petition containing the signatures of ten ASA members who support the request. These groups will be assigned one meeting room from 8:00-10:00 PM on the second night of the meeting (Sunday, August 15). If the number of requests exceeds the available space on August 15, groups will be assigned to the 6:30 p.m. time slot on August 14 or 16.
(3) Groups or organizations wishing to hold receptions, dinners, or other social gatherings should also submit requests for space by the March 1 deadline. Space availability is normally limited to 6:30-8:15 PM on August 14 or 16, and to 8:00-10:00 PM on August 15.

An announcement of each meeting will be included in the “Activities of Other Groups” listing and in the body of the program schedule. These listings will include the name of the group or title/topic of the session, name of organizer/spONSor if appropriate, and date and time of the meeting. Room assignments are printed in the Final Program only.

Table Space
ASA members may apply for table space to display literature. Available space is assigned without charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to the number of requests and the limited space available for displays, two parties are usually assigned to each table. There are no general storage facilities beyond the space beneath each table, so each party is solely responsible for the security of its display materials. Policies on use of table space are that (1) nothing may be sold, and (2) nothing of an offensive nature may be displayed.

Deadline
Formal letters of request—not email messages—for meeting space and/or table space must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2004. Letters should be printed on the official stationery of the sponsoring organization or member’s institution and must include sender’s signature. All letters requesting meeting space should identify the nature of the meeting, the number of people expected to attend the session.

Send requests to: Janet Astner, ASA Meeting Services, 1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005-4701, USA; (202) 638-0882 fax.

Last Call for Session Suggestions for 2005
February 1, 2004, is the due date for submitting suggestions of invited Thematic Sessions and Special Sessions and open Regular Session Topics for the program of the 2005 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. For proposal guidelines, see the announcement printed in the September/October 2003 issue of Footnotes and posted on the ASA website (www.asanet.org).