Hill Briefing on Social and Economic Consequences of Job Loss Draws Crowd

Researchers sociologist Leslie Hossfeld, University of North Carolina-Pembroke, along with other community leaders from Robeson County, North Carolina, discussed the rate and impact of job loss in that rural county at a congressional briefing on March 30 on Capitol Hill. The briefing was organized by the Center for Community Action (CCA), a community-based nonprofit organization in Lumberton, NC, working with other community and institutional agents to develop and implement proactive strategies to address the massive job loss that has occurred in Robeson County during the last 10 years. Hossfeld, a recipient of a 2004 ASA Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) grant, along with Mac Legerton, Executive Director of CCA, and more than 150 Robeson County politicians, business leaders, and unemployed individuals traveled from Lumberton, NC, to Washington and participated in the congressional briefing followed by a press conference. At the briefing, which included seven participating U.S. House members and other policymakers, Hossfeld reported on a study of the impact of the precipitous job loss on the local economy and the need for business development. Legerton included a presentation on federal policy recommendations to save rural jobs and rebuild rural counties in America hit hard by job losses.

The Robeson County participants had converged on Washington for a one-day blitz of visits to several members of Congress and their staff in order to seek government support and assistance for rural economic development. The briefing followed these visits and was co-sponsored by the ASA and the co-chairs of the Congressional Rural Caucus Jobs and Economic Development Task Force: U.S. Representatives Mike McIntyre (D-NC), whose district includes Robeson County, and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

Counted among the nation’s 250 poorest counties, Robeson County has lost more than 10,000 manufacturing jobs in the last 10 years; it had previously employed nearly 18,000 people.

New ASA Journal Editors!

ASA would like to congratulate its newest journal editors. Please see future issues of Footnotes and the journals to read editor profiles and for updates on where to send future article submissions. The new editors are:

- **Contexts**
  - Jeff Goodwin, New York University
  - James Jasper, New York, NY

- **Journal of Health and Social Behavior**
  - Peggy A. Thoits, Vanderbilt University

- **Sociological Theory**
  - Julia P. Adams, University of Michigan
  - Ann Arbor
  - Jeffrey Alexander, Yale University
  - Ron Eyerman, Yale University
  - Philip Gorski, University of Wisconsin-Madison
One consequence of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks for our open democracy is the necessity for the American public to engage in constant and thoughtful vigilance to protect against inevitable modifications of the degree of regulation over some business-as-usual routines invoked to attenuate risks of future attacks. Watchfulness, however, is especially important because some changes are not highly visible.

One of these routines, scholarly publishing, has already been affected by voluntary constraints in some domains of scientific publishing (e.g., biotechnology). It now faces new challenges that come from a place many of us had never heard of—the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). One of OFAC’s jobs is to monitor and enforce federal regulations regarding trade embargoes with nations the U.S. government holds in disfavor. In September 2003, OFAC reinterpreted the scope of longstanding federal policies regarding trade embargoes with nations the U.S. government holds in disfavor. In September 2003, OFAC ruled that editors and publishers of scholarly journals can be sanctioned by up to 10 years in prison and $500,000 in fines if they (i.e., reviewers) publish manuscripts copyedited (and peer reviewed) by U.S. organizations but originating from authors in the Balkans, Burma, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Liberia, North Korea, or Sudan. In short, such publication is now regarded as “trading with the enemy.”

The effect of OFAC’s reinterpretation is potentially dangerous to sustaining academic freedom both in the United States and abroad. The progress of scientific work and the revered American tradition of free speech are placed in jeopardy by this action at a time when many scholars, educators, and scientists believe that their role at home and in the international exchange of ideas is increasingly important as the world experiences global transformation. Indeed, as described below, the U.S. Congress exempted “information materials” from trade embargoes precisely to ensure such exchange of knowledge and ideas would continue unimpeded by government restriction despite difficult times.

Some historical background may help. Passed in 1977 by the U.S. Congress, the International Emergency Economic Power Act (IEEPA) prescribed what actions, including trade embargoes, the U.S. President could initiate after declaring a peace-time national emergency relating to foreign threats to our nation’s security, foreign economic policy, and national security (and peer reviewed) by U.S. organizations but originating from authors in the Balkans, Burma, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Liberia, North Korea, or Sudan. In short, such publication is now regarded as “trading with the enemy.”

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Last month, I communicated with all ASA journal and newsletter editors about this situation and requested that they inform the Executive Office if they received such a letter or had one in the review process. The Executive Office is working closely with legal counsel and is engaged with ASA’s leadership and other professional societies and publishers to respond to this challenge. ASA President Michael Burawoy, President-elect Troy Duster, Publications Committee Chair Carol Heimer, and I strongly support editorial independence and seek with all means at our disposal to protect it and to protect academic freedom. The purpose of my recent communications is to assure editors and publishers that we inform them of all the information we need to obtain legal advice about strategies we can use ourselves, and with other publishers, to maintain the vitality of free scholarship and the independence of scholarly publishing. We will keep the ASA membership informed of new developments and our progress. [As Footnotes go to press, breaking news reports suggest OFAC may have reversed itself again; ASA will keep editors and members informed as we receive OFAC statements.]

—Sally T. Hillsman, Executive Officer

The Executive Officer’s Column

Academic Freedom and Publishing in Interesting Times

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Concerned Scientists say Bush Administration ignores research . . .

A private organization, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), claims that the Bush administration has distorted, undermined, and obscured research findings that run counter to the administration’s political beliefs. In their February report they contended that “the scope and scale of the manipulation, suppression, and distortion of scientific information is unprecedented.” (See also February 2004 Footnotes, p. 3, “National Academies to pursue vetting of science advisors.”) Sixteen prominent scientists, including 20 Nobel Prize winners and recipients of the National Medal of Science, signed the report. In an Associated Press story, the group’s president, Kurt Gottfried, said, “We’re not taking issue with administration policies. We’re taking issue with the administration’s distortion of the science related to some of its policies.” Also in the story, White House science adviser John Marburger said he found the report “somewhat disappointing . . . because it makes some sweeping generalizations about policy in this administration that are based on a random selection of incidents and issues.” He provided a 17-page point-by-point rebuttal this month. The UCS report was released concurrent with a National Academies of Science study that comments that the Bush administration has undermined the climate but expresses concern that the research was under funded and not being pursued vigorously enough. For a copy of the UCS report, see <www.ucsan.edu/sca/press/pressrelease.html>.

National Academies Reports . . .

ASA member Barbara Schneider served on the National Research Council Committee that produced the recent National Academies of Science (NAS) report, Improving Techniques for the Collection, Analysis, and Interpretation of Data: The 2010 Census Field Trials in Education: Report of a Workshop. This report summarizes active exchanges among researchers and educators about the challenges to successfully carrying out random sampling and the training of enumerators because of the principles of sustainable development, was on capital investment and incentive programs for rural development. Hossfeld plans to use her ASA CARI grant to continue work with CCA and partner organizations in Robeson County and in the state of North Carolina to organize a “Jobs for the Future” project as a major component of CCA’s Sustainable Communities Program. The goals include (1) developing policy initiatives and efforts that attract major public and private grants and loans for economic development and reconstruction in the county, and (2) expand minority owned businesses and employment in the county to create more equitable wealth and income across families and communities of color. Hossfeld’s grant will assist her in doing further research on the impact of job loss on the county and on methods to redress the problem by influencing policy and economic development.

Call for Centennial Session Proposals and Participation

Part of the 2005 American Sociological Association’s (ASA) Annual Meeting (August 13-16, 2005 in Philadelphia) will be devoted to special Centennial sessions, since it is the 100th anniversary of the founding of ASA. The ASA Program Committee for 2005 and its Centennial Planning Task Force invite proposals for anniversary sessions that deal broadly with the discipline of sociology, specifically its founding questions and areas of emphasis as a science of society; its current status in engaging some of the important issues of today, as well as its future prospects as a field. We also wish to trace the important history of the American Sociological Association itself as the flagship professional organization for the discipline. This 100th year anniversary also serves as an opportunity to mark how other organizations have related to sociology, and interrelationships between larger societal changes and sociology.

A proposal for a session should include the title or topic to be addressed, a brief description of the focus of the session (one or two paragraphs), a list of participants’ names, affiliations, topics of their presentations, and whether or not they have been contracted and have agreed to participate if the session is accepted. Proposals will be reviewed by the Centennial subcommittee, consisting of Patricia Hill Collins, Troy Duster, Sally T. Hillman, Jill Quadagno, and Caroline Hodes Persell (chair), and by the 2005 ASA Program Committee, comprised of Judith Auerbach, Troy Duster (President), Patricia Hill Collins, David Emir Johnson, Sally T. Hillman, Arne Kalleberg, Ron Lebbo, Caroline Persell, Jill Quadagno, and Barbara Risman.

All proposals must be received in the ASA office by June 30, 2004. Submit proposal by mail, fax, or email to ASA Meetings Office, Attn: Janet Astner, 1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005, fax (202) 638-0882, meetings@asanet.org. In addition, volunteers are sought to nominate, help choose, and prepare a collection of popular musical selections for the ASA national meeting in Philadelphia. Interested volunteers should contact Caroline Persell via email, cph1@nyu.edu.

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The Status of High School Sociology: Some Recommendations

by Michael DeCorse, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Jeff Lathrop, SUNY-Brockport

Despite recent calls by ASA representatives for attending to sociol- ogy in the secondary schools (cf., Piker-King, 1982), and the Association’s launching of various initiatives (e.g., Hillman, 2003; Howery, 1985; Levine, 1997), sociologists have progressed slowly, and continue to lag behind our colleagues in other disciplines (cf., Piker-King, 1982). The discussion during the “Teaching High School Sociology” workshop we led at the 2003 ASA Annual Meeting resulted in some practical suggestions to make further progress. These include the need to develop cyber-networks, to tap the charismatic leadership of our most prominent colleagues to become actively involved in empirical research on a host of questions surrounding the status of sociology in high schools.

Developing Cyber-networks

One critical task in which we lag behind our colleagues is in developing online resources for high school teachers and working to make teachers aware of them. Two examples are the web pages that have been created by the American Psychological Association for its TOPS (Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools) program <www.apa.org/ed/ tops> and some educational materials <www.amstat.org/education/index.html>. As part of our own efforts, and in addition to the creation of web pages, regional e-mail listservs should be established through which high school teachers could communicate with each other and with sociologists. And, though complicated by variation in certification requirements across states, it should be possible to establish online sociology courses that teachers could take for continuing education credits. It is our impression that teachers are increasingly reliant upon the Internet for course materials and for ideas about what to teach and how to teach it; we would do well to establish online resources for them to use.

Finding Charismatic Leaders

Organizational support is crucial to improving high school sociology courses, but Max Weber also identified the role that charismatic leaders play in fostering social change. Key individuals might take on the improvement of high school sociology as a “cause.” A few ASA leaders, notably Carla Howery, have actively promoted high school sociology for some time (Howery and Phillips, 2004). We urge prominent colleagues to become actively involved in shaping and improving high school sociology courses.

This suggestion is not as outlandish as it might seem. As early as the 1920s, key sociologists (e.g., Park, Bogardus, Cooley, Faris, and Sutherland) were taking public positions on sociology’s unique contribution to the high school social studies curriculum (cf., Hayes, 1923). During the 1960s, a new generation movement against a network of doms in the Narmada Valley of Western India provides an excellent example of Arundhati Roy’s work. Roy has done, in this case, is to give voice to the unrepresented, those who have been displaced by the reservoirs behind big dams. This is not a popular cause. Why should people in India, or elsewhere, care about those displaced by irrigation and 

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Public Sociology

Is Roy’s outspoken and controversial activism public sociology? New activists do not fit the model of the academic professional. But Roy’s The God of Small Things has re- illusminated caste in post-colonial India. Her resolute writing, determined activism, and global following have begun to give voice to dispossessed adivasis, a desperate, unheard section of the global community. When Roy speaks in her clear, critical voice, she can be heard across many divides, of caste, gender, and underdevelopment. When Arundhati Roy talks to the 2004 ASA conference, I hope we will help us think about what it takes to make sociologies public and global.

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A Rebel with a Theory

With sociology as her “lens on life,” Donna Gaines’ music expertise and love of writing illuminate the redefinable properties of popular culture.

by Johanna Ember,
Public Information Officer

Donna is a punk rocker. This statement is a reference to a song by the punk rock band the Ramones and an apt description of Donna Gaines. “Edgy, smart, and fast” are three words that Donna loves, and it’s a phrase that has been used to describe her. Gaines, a social worker, sociologist, and a lifelong devotee of rock music, is a self-described “misfit.” At least that is the way she depicts herself in her most recent publication, A Misfit’s Manifesto: The Spiritual Journey of a Rock & Roll Heart (Villard, 2003), a personal narrative and the sociological memoir of trying to come to terms with a lifetime of marginality, personal alienation, and an absence of identity. Gaines loves, and it’s a phrase that has been used to describe her.

Self-exploration, Public Engagement

The Misfit’s Manifesto was a self-exploration about how one is constituted as an individual. “All of my work is from Durkheim,” explained Gaines. “Sociology allowed me to push through when things got too difficult. If I don’t have the courage to examine my own social voice, how can I reflect on others? The personal is the sociological; any of my sufferings are open and out there. If someone else is the sociological; any of my sufferings are open and out there. If someone else demonstrates my discovery of sociology at a community college in 1970 proved thrilling and life altering, “I began to understand myself in a social context, bound by rules, roles and norms. That was liberating.”

Opening 2004 Plenary Session on W.E.B. DuBois, A Model for Public Sociology

by Jean Beamann, Academic and Professional Affairs Officer

The opening plenary session of the 2004 Annual Meeting, “W.E.B. DuBois: Preeminent Public Sociologist of the 20th Century,” will be held on Friday, August 6th, 6:30 to 8:15 pm. This session, cosponsored with the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS), Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), and the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), will address the lessons from DuBois’ life. “Trainer as activist, sociologist, Pan Africanist, and Marxist.”

“I chose to make W.E.B. DuBois (1869-1963) the theme of my session because, of all of the sociologists I could think of, his long and varied life encom¬passed the issues of people who suffer. For me, the political sociology and the tensions for the public sociologist, posing these issues in the most acute and visible form,” said AS President and session presider Michael Burawoy, “In effect, he sets the agenda for the coming generation.”

The DuBois plenary panelists include Aldon Morris, Northwestern University, Patricia Hill Collins, University of Cincinnati, Gerald Horne, University of Houston, and Patricia Marable, Columbia University. Burawoy chose Morris because of his scholarly work on the Civil Rights Movement. This is “a movement that DuBois perhaps inspired but missed,” said Burawoy. “Drawing on DuBois’ life, Morris has charted the terrain between public sociology and professional sociology, especially for African Americans.” Collins, who specializes in the study of race, class, and gender, will address DuBois’ “as public notable,” a different sort of public sociologist. According to Burawoy, “this is a view that obscures the contributions of the grassroots, organic public sociologist, and intellectual who works out of the limelight and in the trenches of sociology.”

This session promises to be a lively discussion of the implications of DuBois for public sociology in the 21st century.
PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

Sociology translates to public action . . .

This occasional column highlights sociologists who successfully engage sociology in the civic arena in service to organizations and communities. Over the years, members of ASA and sociologists as individual professionals and citizens have sought to make the knowledge we generate directly relevant to our communities, countries, and the world. Many sociologists within the academy and in other sectors practice the translation of expert knowledge to numerous critical issues through consultation, advisement, 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 x2160) prior to submitting your draft (1,000 to 1,200 words maxi-
mum).

Empowered Participatory Governance: An Unexpected Colombian Venture in Public Sociology

by Cesar Rodriguez and Erik Olin Wright, University of Wisconsin-Madison

In 2003 Archon Fung and Erik Olin Wright published Deepening Democracy (London: Verso), the fourth book in the Real Utopias Project organized by Wright. The book elaborates the underlying principles and dilemmas of a general model of participatory democracy—called “empowered participatory governance”—and then explores these principles (with several other collaborators) in a number of empirical case studies from around the world: an innovative form of urban direct democracy in the participatory budgeting of Porto Alegre, Brazil; rural participatory planning councils in Kerela, India; participatory police councils and local school councils in Chicago; and participatory habitat conservation planning councils for regulating habitats of endangered species in various places in the United States. At the time the final manuscript was being completed, Cesar Rodriguez entered the graduate program in sociology at the University of Wisconsin. He had previ-
ously taught law at the National University of Colombia and was deeply involved in the democratic left of Colombia. He read the manuscript and felt that there would be great interest in it in Latin America, and thus brought it to the attention of colleagues of his at the National University Press of Colombia. Like many other international graduate students who contribute to public sociology in the United States, he was a crucial bridge between the academic networks intersecting the Wisconsin Sociology Department and the Real Utopias Project, and the activist networks of Colombia and Latin America. The press decided to translate all of the Real Utopias Project books into Spanish, beginning with Deepening Democracy. The Spanish edition was published just in time for the 2003 World Social Forum in Brazil. Very quickly, the book became the vehicle for a transnational adventure in public sociology.

Participatory Democracy

In line with its tradition of progressive politics and commitment to the training of public intellectuals and grassroots organizers, the National University regarded the translation of the book in the Real Utopias Project as a means to provoke debate in Colombian and Latin American progressive circles about radical and feasible institutional reforms. The book’s emphasis on the possibilities of empowered participatory democracy in Colombia stirred by the publication of the book led the National University to organize a four-month workshop on the topic. Rather than design the workshop for an academic audience, the university sought to apply the lessons of the theoretical framework and the case studies of the book to the political practice of community organizers in Bogotá and other Colombian cities. Thus, it prepared didactic materials and designed a workshop format aimed at an activist audience that would engage the book from the point of view of their political practice in the marginalized communities of the country. Community organizers responded enthusiastically. Nearly 400 activists signed up for the workshop. They attended five-hour sessions every Saturday in which they would discuss the theory and practice of empowered participatory govern-
ance, on the basis of the book, the didactic materials prepared for the workshop, and their own experience. Such interest in the theory and practice of participatory democracy is partly a reflection of the resurgence of leftist politics in Colombia, where the democratic left has made unprecedented gains in recent years. With the rise of the democratic left—which now runs the government of Bogotá, the capital city—debates on equalities and participatory policies have gained momentum. The workshop and the discussion of the book thus contributed to this effervescence of progressive political discussions and practices.

On the occasion of the end of the workshop on November 22, 2003, the National University, in coordination with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, organized a video-conference with the authors of Deepening Democracy. Nearly 500 people attended the event, including the workshop participants and NGO and social movement organizations’ leaders who were invited to engage in a dialogue with the authors. Erik and Archon, with Cesar acting as interpreter, sat in a studio at the University of Wisconsin looking at a monitor on which they could see the audience in Bogotá, while the audience saw them projected on a large screen in the auditor-
ium in which they had gathered. The conference began with Erik and Archon presenting an overview of the central ideas of empowered participatory governance (EPG), its relationship to representative democracy and associative democracy, and the dilemmas posed by attempts to put these principles into practice. This was followed by more than two hours of intensive discussion with the assembled activists. Many interesting and difficult questions were posed, including:

• Can EPG work in political/institutional contexts characterized by a thin democr-
acy like that in Colombia?

ASA Annual Meeting Workshops . . .

Using the University of California Atlas of Global Inequality as a Teaching Tool

The 2004 ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco will feature a workshop titled “Using the UC Atlas of Global Inequality in Teaching and Learning.” A group of faculty and students based at the University of California-Santa Cruz has developed this online Atlas of Global Inequality <ucatlas.ucsc.edu/> with a range of potential uses for social scientists and others. The Atlas uses Geographic Information Systems software, and data collected by multilateral institutions, to generate printable map series, layers showing variable maps, and series showing variable maps. The project seeks to promote an understanding of global inequality since the Second World War. These map series provide extraordinary pictures of changes in global inequality.

For example, maps showing changes in life expectancy every decade from 1960 to 2000 reveal that life expectancy in the post-colonial world rose steadily until 1990. Then the HIV/AIDS epidemic generated deaths particularly in sub-Saharan Africa on a scale that may have no parallel since the “black death” of the 13th century. Average life expectancy in many countries of sub-Saharan Africa fell during the 1990s to less than 50 years and, in some countries, to less than 40 years. Maps that stress that HIV/AIDS deaths in Asia have not yet had an impact on life expectancy. This may be because the epidemic is still growing in those countries.

Innovations of this Atlas include: dynamic presentations showing changing global patterns of inequality over time; an interactive database incorporating data from several international agencies; on-demand mapping of variables in the database; printable maps; animated guides to reading graphs, using the Atlas, and getting data; teaching activities using the Atlas; summaries of key debates and links to other online literature; a glossary; and a bibliography. All of these features are online and freely available. The atlas will soon have on-demand mapping of variables from the database and country-specific pages.

The Workshop will provide a multi-media guide to the Atlas, and describe how it can be used in teaching about globalization and global inequality. A discussion on the possibilities and limits of online teaching using maps and graphics will follow. The workshop will be suitable both for new web users and well as experienced internet users.

Workshop leaders include: Ben Crow, University of California-Santa Cruz; Richard Appelbaum, University of California-Santa Barbara (to be confirmed); Brian Fullrast, Geographic Information System Laboratory, University of California-Santa Cruz; Matt Martin-Schultz, University of California-Santa Cruz; Patti Janzowski, University of California-Santa Cruz. The Workshop will be free.

Contact Ben Crow (bencrow@cats.ucsc.edu) for more information about the workshop.
The following exchange between Henry Brownstein and Robert K. Merton is reprinted from the December 1986 ASA Footnotes, p. 11. (We thank Henry Brownstein for allowing us to publish Merton’s still-timely letter about an enduring issue: the often difficult choice between an academic versus a public/practicing sociology career path.)

The Practice and the Discipline: Why Must We Choose?

I was a gray morning, the day had begun with freezing rain. I was sitting at my desk in a state office, facing both the gloominess of the day and the dreariness of day’s work.

The Monday past was my first back to work after a two-week vacation. Upon my return home and to the office, piles of mail awaited me. Included were several journals from the sociological associations to which I pay dues. In recent years, I’ve found little use for most of these, but overall the association memberships do provide me with a link to the field I embraced as an undergraduate and graduate student.

One of the journals waiting for me was the first edition (Volume 1, Number 1) of Sociological Forum the new journal of the Eastern Sociological Society. It included two articles of particular interest in a section of the journal called “Notes and Insights.” One, by Charles Page, was about the history of “young turk” movements in sociology. It discussed four movements by young or deviant sociologists to influence the discipline/field. The other, by Charles Perrow, discussed—as a heuristic device—how the author had made a name for himself in sociology.

Reading the articles, I thought about my own situation, my position as a sociologist (anyway, someone with a PhD in sociology) working for a state government bureaucracy, doing applied work for bureaucratic policymakers. The articles were fascinating in their record of sociology as a living discipline. Perrow talked about getting published: where, when, how, why: Page talked about having an impact (or not) on the field. Together their articles brought attention to what sociologists today are reading, doing, and, even to some extent, thinking. The works were interesting to read, but I felt apart from the ideas. I’ve grown accustomed, over the years since I left academia, to the alienation and anger I feel when lip service is given in association newsletters to sociologists working outside of the academy, the need for and goal of inclusiveness is expressed in the newsletters, but is not pursued in the journals or at the meetings. Even when there are relevant meeting sessions, applied or practicing sociologists are still viewed as outsiders—second rate sociologists. The ideas from these papers made me feel all the more distant.

For one thing, my thinking is no longer wholly academic—it’s become practical. I rarely read the theoretical literature anymore; the time I have for reading (don’t forget, I’m at my job twelve months a year, full-time) is mostly spent instead reading government and privately produced reports on crime and crime processing. My thinking, to my dismay, has become excessively atheoretical (a derogatory term in my graduate school days). I’ve come to think of research as a practical/policy-oriented matter. In my past life as a college teacher, I thought as I stood in front of my classes or conducted the small-scale studies of my own research agenda, of how society was and continues to be constructed. I thought of the relationships of social structure and culture, of how institutions of society were and continue to be maintained, and changed. Now I think less often about those things. I think, instead, of the political implications of my work: not of what it contributes to the knowledge, but rather of what it contributes to policy. Reading Page and Perrow, I did not feel part of the tradition of theory building-’t that they reminded me is essential to the study of society.

Also, my activities and projects are no longer academic. My work is policy-oriented. I design projects which the value of which are measured against the standard of practical application. This is clear in what I do for the state bureaucracy. I design a survey instrument (that probably will never be used since its political implications may make its utilization unacceptable) to assess attitudes of some group of actors on a given topic or toward some component or process of the system. I write reports explaining why one evaluation study or another is not feasible. (Sadly, this has become too important a part of my work; people in a bureaucracy seem to offer “good” reasons for not doing things.) Fortunately, however, the practical/policy focus has not been fully successful in infiltrating what I consider to be my (as opposed to their) work: the work of nights and weekends when I am away from the bureau and, for example, at the annual ASA conference. There I listen to papers on topics of intellectual rather than practical interest (my personal escape to the academic). Plans for research that might be marketable do invade this realm, but mostly I write about what I think.

I chose the world in which I live; I gave up a tenure teaching position, thinking I could take a job that would give me access to the decisionmakers of our society without fully giving up my sense of myself as an academic sociologist. I do not regret my decision. Despite its force as a bureaucracy, the state has actually done little to discourage me from being privately academic on my own time.

The problem for me is that my academic colleagues have yet to figure our world in the world of contemporary sociology. Maybe Page and Perrow are speaking of someone else, of a world that existed only in history. If they are not, if they describe sociology today, then they describe a world that closes itself to me and, from what my colleagues in practice tell me, to all who reside outside the academy. Ironically, we need the associations of fellow sociologists more now than we did when we lived among them.

References


Brownstein’s letter inspired the following response from Robert K. Merton:

Brownstein, H., Albany, N. Y.

20 December 1986, Saturday

Dear Dr. Brownstein,

Just a few words of appreciation. Your piece on the place of the sociological practitioner in the discipline says much that needs to be said—alaus, over and over again. It takes me back to the early 1940s when I arrived at Columbia and met Paul Lazarsfeld. It was from him, far more than anyone else, that I came to understand something of the prime role of ‘applied social research’ in its own right and, further, in the development of the discipline. That, as you know, remained a major commitment of Paul Lazarsfeld’s throughout his life, it is reflected in the decision to devote his presidential year in the ASA to “The Uses of Sociology” and to continue with other articles and books devoted to explicating (and trying to understand) the complexities of sociological practice. Along the way, I tried my hand as well at explicating the complex role and role set of the research practitioner in our field, principally in the form of a basic ‘position paper’ for a conference of the Social Science Research Council back in 1948 (I believe). A version of that paper was published as RKM, “The role of applied social science in the formation of policy: A research memorandum.” Philosophy of Science, July 1949: 161-181.

To my regret, I have no offprints to send to you. I am asking Rosa Hartios, my research assistant, to send a scattering of some other papers bearing on the practice of sociology for which I put in print in the early days. But, of course, the prime, continuing source over the decades is PFL’s work.

With collegial regard and regards,

Robert K. Merton

Dr. Henry H. Brownstein
58 Algonquin Road
Clifton Park, NY 12060

cc: Dr. Albert E. Gollin [who is most knowing in these matters]
Public Sociology Challenges Discipline’s Prestige and Power Structure

Public sociology is a surging theme and we applaud those who have contributed to the subject. At our annual meeting in San Francisco, we heard a pre-emptive strike of the kind urged in the July/August 2002 Footnotes that public sociology “must still be institutionalized as a legitimate way of doing sociology.”

ASA President Michael Burawoy emphasized, “I am not standing as the organizing theme for the 2004 ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Meanwhile, a key thread of discourse has been offered in Footnotes’ ‘Public Forum’ section. Why is Murray Hauskneth (December 2002), Burawoy (January 2003), Gans (July/August 2002, January 2003), Amitai Etzioni (April 2003), Bernard Phillips (April 2003), and Paul Lachelier (December 2003) not among the other contributors? Data show that “baby steps” have been taken to move toward institutionalizing public sociology. For its part, the ASA initiated an award in 1997 recognizing contributions to “public understanding of sociology.” In 2002 the association launched a new magazine, Contexts, to publish articles on sociological contexts of interest. The public’s perspective is not new. Most importantly, the ASA in recent years has organized and cooperated with other groups to influence public decisions in areas such as affirmative action and salary considerations. Countless other steps no doubt are being taken so that public sociology is “serious, systematic.”

How is this so, especially if the conditions leading Gans to propose that “More of Us Should Become Public Sociologists” in 2002; that sociologists are not selected as “public intellectuals” (Gans, 2002) because we lack credibility in the public mind; that “baby steps” have been taken to move toward institutionalizing public sociology; and that the public’s perspective is not new. How is it that the discipline and the profession are not even aware of the opportunity to “enhance our discipline’s relevance,” to “enhance sociologists’ visibility,” to increase the public sense of the discipline’s relevance, “adds distinctive insights and makes our discipline a moral conscience” among American sociologists are at least in his right.

Student Paul Lachelier (2003) observed, “core institutional imperatives [of the discipline] constrain our profession.” Ultimate, it is the root of the sociology task force.

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Call for Papers

Conferences
Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, August 11-14, 2004, Westin St. Francis. See brochure. Theme: "Black Sociologists in the New Social Order." Papers, individual or panel proposals are invited. All panel proposals are invited and may be sent to: Benjamin Brown, Program Chair, Department of African American and Multicultural Studies, California State University-Hayward, Hayward, CA 94542, (510) 885-2390; email bwleow@csuhayward.edu.

Association for Human Sociology 2004 Annual Meeting, November 4-7, 2004, the Galt House in Louisville, KY. Theme: "Stirring Up Solidarity: Humanists Working Together." Humans from all walks of life who share our concern for peace, equality and social justice are invited to share intellectual work and active efforts in a stimulating dialogue. We welcome registration and information about presentations, as well as papers, posters, and panel proposals. Theme: "Stirring Up Solidarity: Humanists Working Together." Contact: Edward F. Galbreth, Symposium Chair, 33 Shortridge Square, West Lafayette, IN 47906; phone (765) 924-7333; email edward.galbreth@purdue.edu.


April 2004 FOOTNOTES

Visit the ASA Website
www.asanet.org

Funding

The Beth B. Howes Memorial Scholarship provides a stipend of $1,000 to be used to support the attendance of a student, as well as a one-year membership in Sociological Education Association (with a subscription to the Journal of Sociological Education), and a $500 award for participation in a research project. Applicants may re-apply the following year. Deadline: May 15, 2004. For more information, contact Paul Stortz, Chair, Programme Committee, 2nd Floor, ADST 3751, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada. Email enquiries to gsh@sfu.ca. See journal’s webpage <www.journalofeducation.ucalgary.ca>

The International Visual Sociology Association, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, invites applications for the 2004 IVA Fellowship, which is an official, peer-refereed publication of the International Visual Sociology Association (IVA) and the International Visual Sociology Education Association (IVSEA). Deadline: May 15, 2004. For more information, contact Paul Stortz, Chair, Programme Committee, 2nd Floor, ADST 3751, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada. Email enquiries to gsh@sfu.ca. See journal’s webpage <www.journalofeducation.ucalgary.ca>

Meetings

March 3-5, 2004, Apricot Center 3-B, Villanova University, Villanova, PA. Theme: "Social Justice, Social Theory and the Law." Contact: Gary Wehrman, Chair, Spring Meeting, 2004, Apricot Center 3-B, Villanova University, Villanova, PA; phone (610) 519-6774; email gwehrman@villanova.edu.


That Work," Registration information is available at <education.ucdavis.edu/~wagner/IDANewslettersIDAN-2004.html>

Meetings


The Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute of Mental Health funded the National Conference on the Status of Research Centers in Mental Health Disparities Research held June 11-13, 2004 hosted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Conference Chair: Robert Troxel, M.D., M.P.H., Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-2230. Contact: rltroxe@med.unc.edu.

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The American Sociological Association (ASA) seeks nominations for its Biennial Orbis Pollice Symposium, to be held in May 2004. The symposium will focus on race and gender norms project sponsored by the NCAA for drug use and the use of social norms as an intervention. The article also appeared extensively in the National Geographic, Forbes, and Time magazines.

Katrín Belle McDonald was quoted in a February 3, 2004, Financial Times (London, England) column concerning consumer debt and borrowing practices.

Liandra Perez, Florida International University, was quoted in a February 16 Morning Edition Article about Cuba, remittance limits feared by local Cubans.

H. Wesley Perkins, Holtz and William Smith College, was quoted in the Salt Lake Tribune on February 25, 2004, about his research on high school student perceptions of norms concerning drug use and the use of social norms as an approach for helping students. His research was interviewed by Minnesota KRONO radio for an article in a February 3, 2004, Minneapolis Tribune on the initial positive results of a social norms intervention for Division I student athletes.

Thomas Shapin, Brandeis University, was quoted in a February 2, 2004, St Louis Post-Dispatch on the impact of the Decker Family Development Communities Support Program.
Awards, continued

Douglas Schroed and Sammy Ranthel, Florida State University, were awarded the 2003 Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics for work to study gender dynamics within the Global South.

Mark Tausig and Randy Fowkes, University of Akron, “Work and Health,” National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety, received a $65,000 grant.

People

David Brain, New College, has been appointed as the Director of Educational Programs for the Seaside Piana Institute for Town Building, and Land stewardship in Italy.

Lee Clarke, Rutgers University, was a keynote speaker at the February Plenary Defense Conference, which was organized and sponsored by Congresswoman Dina Rohrabacher and the American Institute of Architects, “The Human Question in Planetary Defense.”

Irwin Deutscher was invited by the Department of State’s Intelligence and Research Bureau to participate on March 15 in a panel discussing the impact of new archivi forces research (including application to substance abuse, and general medical health care). The University of California Press, 2003.


William H. “Bill” Howell died February 12, 2004, after an extended illness. He was born in Wilson, North Carolina. He completed his undergraduate work at John Brown University, a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina, and a PhD in sociology from The Ohio State University.

Jane and Ruth Useem Fund. The Department of Sociology at State University of New York at Oneonta has established a fund in honor of the late Dr. Jane and Ruth Useem. In light of their strong international commitment and broad interdisciplinary focus, the fund will provide merit-based scholarship support to selected graduate students embarking on a career in international social research. We hope that you will join in our honor of them by contributing to this fund. Please make checks payable to the Department of Sociology–Useem Fund. Please make checks payable to Department of Sociology–Useem Fund. The University of California-Irvine announces a new online Master’s degree in Government Health Services Research (GHSR) that is designed to train new and skilled health services researchers. The program begins in early September each year. Visit ghsr-info.uci.edu for more information.

New Programs

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Death

Fred B. Silverstein, University of Oklahoma, passed away on March 9.

Obituaries

William Henry “Bill” Howell (1921-2000)

William H. “Bill” Howell died February 12, 2004, after an extended illness. He was born in Wilson, North Carolina. He completed his undergraduate work at John Brown University, a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina, and a PhD in sociology from The Ohio State University. He then returned to North Carolina Central University in 1968. He taught courses in urban sociology, sociological theory, minority groups, criminology, political science, race and ethnic relations at both undergraduate and graduate levels. He also taught and served on numerous thesis committees. Dr. Howell engaged his students in a way that instilled in them the sociological imagination and his courses were always filled to capacity. He was known as a master teacher and was well liked and respected by both faculty and students. Many of his students would greet him as he came on campus and surround him after classes just to hear his many words of wisdom and encouragement. Dr. Howell loved discussions related to sociology, especially the classical theorists. Because of his mentorship, many of his students have gone for further study in his beloved field of sociol.

Egon Mayer, who died in January 2004 in Oakland, California, was known as a master teacher and was well liked and respected by both faculty and students. Many of his students would greet him as he came on campus and surround him after classes just to hear his many words of wisdom and encouragement. Dr. Howell loved discussions related to sociology, especially the classical theorists. Because of his mentorship, many of his students have gone for further study in his beloved field of sociol.

New Publications

The Bangladesh Journal of Sociology, the first electronic journal from sociology in Bangladesh, is now available at <www.bangladeshjournal sociology.org>. Essays in Human Ecology 5: Neighborhood Organization and Social Order. The substantive theme of Egon Mayer's work (GAIN) was established to implement his sense of how social order is maintained. It contains ten essays on: Neighborhood Organizations, and was the founding director of the Jewish Outreach Institute, estab-

Caught In The Web

International Journal of Baudrillard Studies, sub-titled "From Suburb to Shtetl." He quickly brought him into significant leadership roles in the community. With the passing of Egon Mayer's primary early work was the growth of the center for strategic studies at the Park, which he studied in a book applying social theory to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He then turned his attention to the study of the Jews of the African Diaspora in Chris-

Continued on next page
People had no immunity; the only thing that mattered is that they were innocent, and not innocent by Italian law. The trial was in August 1945, and the judgment was given in January 1946. The prosecution was represented by Domenico Pietrangeli, a lawyer who had fought against the Fascists during the war. He was assisted by a team of lawyers, including Giuseppe Fava, who had also been a fighter against the Fascists.

The trial lasted for six months, during which time the defendants were subjected to a constant barrage of propaganda and hate speech. The defense team was led by Giuseppe Fava, who argued that the defendants were innocent and that the prosecution was fabricated. Despite this, the court convicted 28 of the defendants of conspiracy to commit murder and sentenced them to prison terms ranging from 2 to 10 years.

The sentence was later overturned by the Italian Supreme Court, which ruled that the trial had been unfair. The defendants were released and their names were cleared in 1952. Giuseppe Fava, who had led the defense team, was later appointed as a judge in the Court of Cassation. He died in 1970, having dedicated his life to fighting for justice and human rights.

In conclusion, the trial of the Rome trial was an important moment in the fight against fascism and for human rights. It highlighted the importance of fair trials and the need for justice and equality for all. Despite the challenges faced by the defense team, they managed to defend the defendants and ensure that their voices were heard. This is a testament to the power of law and the importance of fighting for justice.
nity to express special thanks to the 19 Editorial Board members whose terms ended in 2003: Diane R. Brown (North Carolina State), Verna M. Keith (North Carolina), Christian Ritter (Kent State), and Laura Krivo for Institutions and the National Institute of Mental Health. The number of special issues published in 2003 was 17, 14 of which were special issues for this issue. The expanded size of the September special issue that was made possible with funds provided by the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health includes two comments (1 comment and 1 reply), and 1 introductory essay to the special issue in September. This is approximately 8 more articles than we usually publish in September. The number of special issues published in 2004, the second year of the OBSSR-funded grant, was 17, 14 of which were special issues for this issue. The expanded size of the September special issue that was made possible with funds provided by the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health is primarily medical sociologists, health psychologists, public health researchers, health policy researchers, behavioral and clinical researchers, sociologists, social psychologists, and psychiatrists. On February 11, 2004, a proposal was solicited based on an NSF request. In addition to the papers solicited by the editors for this special issue, we have continued to solicit manuscripts that meet the criteria for publication. In the future, the editors will work with the ASA to plan these special issues. The next special issue will examine current theoretical and empirical knowledge on the social organization of health care in the United States. The primary goal of this issue is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and to direct readers to research on the social organization of health care. The articles were selected for their potential to guide future research and policy efforts by building on, and in some instances extending, the research of previous authors. The editors of JHSB have made both to the discipline of sociological methodology and the network of academic, clinical, and government institutions that serve the public’s health.

**Final Comments**

The December 2003 issue of JHSB included a comprehensive review of the year’s work, a set of special issues, and a set of regular issues. The editors of JHSB are committed to providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and to directing readers to research on the social organization of health care in the United States. The primary goal of this issue is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and to direct readers to research on the social organization of health care. The articles were selected for their potential to guide future research and policy efforts by building on, and in some instances extending, the research of previous authors. The editors of JHSB have made both to the discipline of sociological methodology and the network of academic, clinical, and government institutions that serve the public’s health.

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The past year has been an eventful one for the ASA editor, Cecilia Ridgeway, and her editorial team at Social Psychology Quarterly in responding to two special issues, and we successfully completed the transition from her editorship to my own.

The two special issues drew numerous submissions, resulting in the publication of 200 different manuscripts. The first special issue of the year, on “Social Identities, Social Change, and Psychological Perspectives,” was published in June under the authorship of Michael Hogg and Cecilia Ridgeway. The issue addresses the dynamics of social identity, social change, and psychological processes, with a focus on how individuals experience and negotiate identities in complex social contexts.

The second special issue was published in December under the guest editorship of Lawrence D. Bobo. This issue drew an unusually high number of submissions, ultimately resulting in the publication of a total of 222 manuscripts. The issue, titled “Race, Racism, and Discrimination,” explores the complex interplay of race, racism, and discrimination in contemporary society, addressing issues such as the history of racism, the psychological effects of discrimination, and the role of social identity in the perpetuation of racial inequality.

As part of these special issues, we also published a special section on the dissemination of results. This section, which included a comprehensive analysis of the submissions and the decisions, highlighted the importance of ensuring that the peer review process is fair, transparent, and inclusive. The analysis also underscored the challenges faced by the editorial team in managing the high volume of submissions and in ensuring that the journal maintains its high standards of quality and rigor.

In addition to these special issues, the journal continued to publish regular articles and reviews, addressing a wide range of topics in social psychology. The journal's editorial team, under the leadership of Cecilia Ridgeway, worked tirelessly to ensure that the journal maintained its reputation for publishing high-quality research.

The journal’s acceptance rate for 2003 was 22.5%, significantly higher than the 13% acceptance rate observed in 2002. This is notable in the context of the large number of submissions received, which has consistently been unsatisfactory in many cases. This issue is particularly important to us as authors, as it is the first step in the journal's editorial process and sets the stage for the eventual acceptance or rejection of a manuscript.

The production lag time from acceptance to publication remained relatively unchanged for the year, remaining at roughly 7.5 to 8.9 months. This compares favorably with other journals in the field, which generally report production lag times of 16 to 25 months. The journal’s editorial team, under the leadership of Cecilia Ridgeway, has committed to reducing the lag time and will work toward that goal.

The large number of papers submitted in 2003 and the continued high acceptance rate for 2002 strongly suggest that the journal's reputation for quality and rigor is maintaining its appeal to researchers in the field of social psychology.

The table below provides a summary of the journal's activity for the year 2003.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Manuscript Submission</th>
<th>Manuscript Review</th>
<th>Manuscript Publication</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total manuscripts submitted</td>
<td>Total manuscripts reviewed</td>
<td>Total manuscripts published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,525</td>
<td>6,494</td>
<td>280</td>
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Sociological Methodology

Sociological Methodology is a refereed journal that seeks to publish articles that describe useful methods for sociological research. It aims to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, methods, and tools. The journal is indexed in several databases, including Social Science Citation Index. It is known for its rigorous peer review process and its contributions to the field of sociological research. The journal is published biannually, and it is highly regarded by sociologists and researchers in related fields. The editor of the journal is Jonathan H. Turner, and the Editorial Board includes experts in various subfields of sociology. The journal covers a wide range of topics, including methodological innovations, statistical analysis, and empirical research. It is an important resource for sociologists and graduate students in the field.
**Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline**

**PROPOSALS SOUGHT**

Two Deadlines Each Year

Proposals Are Due June 15 or December 15

**PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

The American Sociological Association (ASA) invites submissions for the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) awards. Supported by the ASA through a matching grant from the National Science Foundation, the goal of this award is to nurture the development of scientific knowledge by funding small, ground-breaking research initiatives and other important scientific research activities. FAD awards provide scholars with “venture capital” for innovative research that has the potential for challenging the discipline, stimulating new lines of research, and creating new networks of scientific collaboration. The award is intended to provide opportunities for substantive and methodological breakthroughs, broaden the dissemination of scientific knowledge, and provide leverage for acquisition of additional research funds.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Proposals are reviewed for scientific merit and the importance of the proposed research project. Within this context, specific evaluation criteria include the following elements:

- Innovativeness and promise of the research idea
- Originality and significance of research goals
- The potential of the study as a building block in the development of future research
- Appropriateness and significance of the research hypothesis
- Feasibility and adequacy of project design
- Plans for analysis and evaluation of data
- Plans for dissemination of results
- Appropriateness of requested budget

The awards are limited to individuals with PhD degrees or the equivalent. Preference is given to applicants who have not previously received a FAD award. The selection committee consists of four members of the ASA Council, ASA’s Vice-President, and the ASA Executive Officer.

**FUNDING**

The amount of each award shall not exceed $7,000. Payment goes directly to the principal investigator. Grant money may not be used for convention expenses, honoraria, or Principal Investigator’s salary. No overhead expenses are provided if institutions assist in administering the award for applicants. Award recipients are encouraged to continue the tradition of donating to FAD any royalty income derived from projects supported by the grant.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications must be received in the ASA Executive office by June 15 for awards to be reviewed in the summer cycle, and by December 15 for awards to be reviewed in the winter. Applications should include eight (8) copies of the following:

- A cover sheet with the title, name of lead author, additional name(s) of author(s)
- A 100- to 200-word abstract of the research/conference topic
- Plans for analysis and evaluation of data
- Feasibility and adequacy of project design
- Appropriateness and significance of the research hypothesis
- Originality and significance of research goals
- A detailed budget and time schedule
- A statement of other pending support
- A bibliography
- A 100- to 200-word abstract of the research/conference topic

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Send eight complete application packets to:

FAD awards
ASA/NSF Small Grant Program
1307 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005-4701

Prior to submitting the proposal, please feel free to phone or e-mail project co-director Roberta Spalter-Roth (202) 383-9005, ext. 317 (spalter-roth@asanet.org). Applicants must notify ASA if other funding is received for the project.

Visit our website at <www.asanet.org/members/fad.html>.

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**What's New on the ASA Webpage**

**Latest Research on the Discipline**

Attention Young Sociologists: Are you wondering, “When is the best time to have a baby?” For answers, preview the latest ASA research brief on the members-only section of the website.

**Most Recent Press Releases**

Two of February’s fASR articles were the subject of press releases: Familiarity (with the homeless) breeds sympathy rather than contempt, and women are not the only victims of sexual harassment in today’s workplace. Also, read past-President William Bielby’s 2003 presidential address on the website’s publications page.