House Science Committee Holds Hearing
Featuring Sociologist Expert on Science Education

Subcommittee examines undergraduate science, math, and engineering education and teacher preparation, and why students leave or avert the sciences

March 15, 2006, Washington, DC—The Research Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science held a hearing looking into the condition of teacher education in STEM areas (i.e., science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). The five-member witness panel included sociologist Elaine Seymour of the University of Colorado-Boulder. Seymour was the first to deliver her prepared statement. Other witnesses included Carl Wieman, the 2001 winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics and a distinguished professor of Physics at the University of Colorado-Boulder; Daniel L. Goroff, Vice President and Dean of Faculty at Harvey Mudd College; John Burris, President of Beloit College in Wisconsin; Margaret Collins, the Assistant Dean of Science, Business and Computer Technology at Moraine Valley Community College, Chicago, Illinois.

Witnesses emphasized that a critical issue in successful STEM education (i.e., recruiting, retaining, and properly training STEM undergraduate students who want to pursue teaching or who become TAs) is quality, not quantity. Witnesses addressed STEM teacher preparation and in-service teacher professional development issues and identified NSF repeatedly for praise for its educational research programs. The witnesses touted NSF as the agency from which federal STEM education research and related activities should originate.

Seymour and other witnesses talked about changing the incentives to encourage the American culture and higher education academic culture to learn to value teaching. Panelists also agreed that undergraduate science education efforts at NSF should double in alignment with the President’s proposal to double the entire NSF budget over the next ten years, beginning in FY 2007. The hearing also highlighted the need to maintain sufficient numbers of STEM graduates by encouraging and achieving higher participation by minorities and by women. The full testimony of each witness can be accessed on the House Science Committee website at <www.house.gov/science/hearings/research06/march%2015/index.htm>.

This hearing was part of the House Science Committee’s continuing discussion on innovation and U.S. competitiveness. In attendance were the following eight Representatives: Mark Udall (CO), Bob Inglis, Subcommittee Chair (SC), Vernon Ehlers (MI), Dana Rohrabacher (CA), Daniel Lipinski (IL), Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), Todd Akin (MO), and Gil Gutknecht (MN).
In This Issue . . .

Political Band-Aids for Health Policy
ASA Congressional Fellow finds that both parties tackle healthcare disparities with little success.

NSF Task Force on Hurricane Research
National Science Board task force to address social science.

Before There Was College
There Was High School
Appalachian State University’s professor’s mission: enhance high school sociology.

History Lesson at NCSU
North Carolina State University Sociology / Anthropology Department Turns 85

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The Executive Officer’s Column

2006 Chair Conference to Focus on Graduate Education
First There Were Chair Conferences . . .
For 13 years the ASA Academic and Professional Affairs Program has sponsored a day-and-a-half-long conference for chairs of sociology departments at each Annual Meeting. This dedication of time and space reflects the importance ASA places on chairs as key leaders in the profession, operating at the critical intersection of the discipline and the university. The ASA Chair Conference is designed to support the important work of chairs by providing them with useful briefings on key trends in the field, relevant ASA projects, and most of all, a time to talk with one another.

Eight years ago, operating on the same logic, ASA began a shorter conference at the Annual Meeting for Directors of Graduate Study (DGS). The position of graduate director varies considerably from university to university. Often, the position has little definition, and sometimes the activities of the DGS receive only limited support within the university community. The DGS conferences have typically assembled 20-30 sociologists who fill these important but often difficult roles, and they have enthusiastically shared their disparate experiences and their growing wisdom about admissions, funding, mentoring, and student placement, among other issues, in an always-changing university and disciplinary environment.

At every ASA Chair Conference there are sessions of the whole, but the chairs also break into groups for schools offering the same terminal degree. This strategy has reflected the importance of “context” that is always evident as chairs talk about similar specific issues such as hiring, adjuncts, working with staff, working with administration, new expectations on chairs, ethics, and other topics. Chairs in very small or very large departments, those offering a BA only, or those with PhD programs find the discussion of specific issues more fruitful with similarly situated colleagues.

The 2006 ASA Annual Meeting will be special in many ways, not the least of which is that we will be in the very special city of Montréal, Québec, Canada, with the synergy of U.S., Canadian, and Quebecois sociology! The sociology chairs and DGS will find additional synergy with an experiment to bring the most successful elements of past chair and DGS conferences together. The Chair Conference will be extended to a full day on the day before the ASA meeting (August 10) and a half day on August 11. In the afternoon of August 10, the chairs will be grouped by type of institution/highest degree offered. The graduate program chairs will meet all afternoon with the Directors of Graduate Study. The objective is to invigorate a strong focus on the “state of graduate education” including ways to share information regularly and focus on areas for improvement. Chairs at undergraduate institutions and departments will meet together to talk about program undergraduate education trends, promising practices, and where they want to lead their programs. All chairs will convene again on August 11 for the final half day of discussion around common themes.

Given graduate programs’ close linkage to undergraduate programs, ASA will reach out to encourage the participation of a departmental representative (such as the chair of the undergraduate committee) to attend the “undergraduate chair breakout” session with DGS as those programs meet with the graduate chairs.

Expanding Resources for Chairs and DGS
At previous ASA Chair Conferences, we have included segments on research completed, underway, or being planned by the ASA Research and Development Department to provide new and relevant data to chairs (e.g., trends in faculty salaries, enrollments, department organization, women and minorities in the pipeline). The ASA research program is able to provide these data because of the collaboration with DGS and chairs.

The Chair Conference has been an important opportunity for synergy between the ASA program of research and chairs, fostering better designed research that meets chairs’ needs. For example, department chairs have vetted questions included in our recent “BA and Beyond” survey (i.e., What Can I Do with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology?), engaged their departments in the study, and participated on an advisory panel to the survey. This summer we expect to discuss issues of importance to chairs such as faculty replacements and replacements for the upcoming department survey.

Resources from the Chairs/DGS meetings will be added to the increasingly rich resource of information available on the ASA website for sociologists having administrative responsibility. In addition, the website has a top navigation bar menu button (labeled “Sociology Dept.”) especially for chairs. The upcoming Montréal meeting of sociology DGS and chairs will provide an opportunity for us to explore how the department survey can be improved when it is administered in fall 2006.

An Invitation
Join us in Montréal and join us at the Chair/DGS Conference on August 10, the day preceding the start of the Annual Meeting. An extra day in beautiful, exciting Montréal in August is anything but a hardship and neither is time spent with colleagues who share similar responsibilities for leadership in the discipline.

Sally T. Hilfman

Purdue Creates Knudsen Dissertation Award
Dean Knudsen’s academic career may have ended at the completion of the spring 2005 semester with his recent retirement, but his legacy survives. Purdue University’s Sociology and Anthropology Department has initiated the Dean Knudsen PhD Dissertation Award to become a permanent memorial of Dean’s impact over his 35-year career.

An Award Fund Raising Committee, comprising five of Professor Knudsen’s former PhD students (e.g., Hy Mariampolski, Mary Lou Wylie, Karen Farenstad, Pam Jolicoeur, and Marilyn Chamberlin), is spearheading efforts to support many future students while recognizing Dean’s legacy to graduate education.

Even though Dean’s scholarship and disciplinary leadership were exemplary—including service as President of the North Central Sociological Society—his devotion to students was the most meaningful aspect of his career. Several former students assembled at his retirement dinner last May. One speaker evoked the metaphor of a man who would pick you up as you stumbled and allow you to complete the journey under your own strength. Several former students assembled at his retirement dinner last May.

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Disparities Legislation Signals Divergent Health Policy

**by Erma Lawson, ASA Congressional Fellow**

The complexity of the nation’s deplorable disparities in healthcare quality and health status across racial/ethnic groups is matched by equally complex and disparate political proposals—proposals that are sometimes the same old phenomenon. Since becoming the ASA’s Congressional Fellow in January, I have been immersed in the development of House floor speeches, resolutions, and new legislative initiatives in response to federal legislative approaches by both parties.

We have learned much about the practicality of government, private, and individual proposals to facilitate successful legislative implementation, and it is clear that the elimination of health disparities will require a long-term commitment of public and private sector resources, ingenuity, and an ongoing, honest dialogue about disparities in America. Another key to curbing the nation of this problem is a long-term commitment to policy change and advocacy.

African American Health Status

The 1998 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Initiative to Eliminate Racial/ Ethnic Disparities in Health placed the health state of African Americans on the national policy agenda. Similarly, a 2003 Institute of Medicine report, Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, also documented racial/ethnic health disparities. Both reports highlighted worsening trends and showed African Americans’ health status has lagged behind that of the U.S. population overall.

African Americans, for example, continue to experience worse mortality and morbidity across age groups, with high infant mortality. They die at higher rates than do Whites for the leading causes of death such as heart disease, stroke, infant mortality, cancer, cirrhosis, and diabetes. Moreover, HIV/AIDS accounts for a large proportion of excess deaths among African Americans. African American women are also more likely to die of breast cancer; and prostate cancer is twice as high among African American men compared to White males. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 79 percent of African Americans reporting a single race were covered by health insurance compared to 89 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. Finally, African Americans are more likely to cope with inferior quality and quantity of healthcare services, irrespective of socioeconomic status.

**Republican Response**

President Bush addressed healthcare during his State of the Union address and other lines of defense, insisting that the millions of employers and small businesses. For example, the president proposed incentives to assist small businesses in providing healthcare and to expand portability of healthcare coverage. He also proposed additional tax breaks for health savings accounts, to reduce employer healthcare costs while shifting more responsibility for such costs to the individual.

**Democrats Legislation Signals Divergent Health Policy**

The National Science Foundation’s (NSF) governing council, the National Science Board (NSB), has named Rep. JacquiSusan L. Askew (Caucus on Science, Engineering and Public Policy) to the House Science, Technology and Innovation Committee as its liaison to the National Science Board (NSB). The appointment will allow the House Science Committee to work more closely with the NSF, which funds interdisciplinary research and education programs in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. The Liaison will provide valuable input on the NSF’s budget and the allocation of resources to support scientific research and education.

**Science Board Develops Hurricane Research Agenda with Social Science Component**

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The National Science Board’s Agenda to Address Social Science Research Needs

The NSB has identified several key areas for social science research, including:

- The need for a comprehensive social science research agenda that addresses issues such as: non-sociological research questions; the use of survey and experimental methods; and the integration of social science and natural science approaches.
- The importance of understanding the social and economic implications of natural disasters, such as hurricanes, and the role of social science in addressing these issues.
- The need for increased funding for social science research, particularly in areas related to the social dimensions of natural disasters.
- The importance of developing partnerships between social scientists and other disciplines, such as engineering and public health, to address complex problems.

Evaluation

Republican and Democratic healthcare policy efforts to reduce disparities have mostly attempted to expand access to healthcare; improve quality of care, and reduce cost. While it is important to expand healthcare coverage, President Bush’s proposed shifts failed to ensure broad-based recovery, particularly housing recovery, for minority and low-income households.

In addition, he pointed out that there is very limited research on mitigation—actions that reduce disaster impacts and consequences. Almost all research funding in this area is through emergency and engineering solutions. What is needed is a comprehensive social science research agenda on mitigation issues such as: non-sociological research questions; the use of survey and experimental methods; and the integration of social science and natural science approaches.
All [High School] Politics Are Local: Devoted Professor Helps Enhance High School Sociology Courses
by Victoria Houghton, Academic and Professional Affairs Program

Public education is essentially a state-based and local-run enterprise. Even operating under federal guidelines, such as the No Child Left Behind Act, it is the states that set most of the guidelines and teacher certification standards. Therefore, the involvement of sociology faculty from every state in public school projects and teacher training is essential, and a complement to what the ASA can do at the national level.

For the past 15 years, Janice G. Rienenth, a professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Appalachian State University (ASU), has taken seriously the mission to enhance high school sociology. The brief description as the academic advisor to students seeking a concentration in sociology at ASU, she also serves as the Content Supervisor for their students and in that role visits them twice during their student teaching experience.

This pattern of states requiring a disciplinary major for education students is becoming more common and provides an excellent opportunity for sociology departments to attract majors and shape high school social studies in a more scientific direction.

Highly Qualified Teachers

While a Social Science teaching career may not be everyone’s unique, Rienenth feels that it will become more popular and valuable as an outcome of the implementation (in 2002) of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. This federal plan to provide more accountability in public education mandates that teachers be highly qualified in their specialties. The specialties currently included in the law, while not including sociology, do recognize other social science areas (e.g., economics, history) and a number of other subjects.

Students take a spread of social science courses plus a 15-hour concentration in sociological imagination and environmental justice, but their bills neglect community determinants of health, which would require a shift from a treatment focus to preventive and health promotion. Additionally, various health-related issues (e.g., nutrition, income, education, fitness, and neighborhood/housing quality) are neglected in most bills. The Democratic Party’s Bill of Rights Act addressed HMO disparities but failed to confront African Americans’ mental health disparities and their children and elder care. Importantly, to the Carolinas Department of Health, access to care accounts for only a fraction of total mortality in the United States.

Conclusion

Efforts to improve healthcare call for an ecological shift that provides that decent healthcare should be a basic right rather than be dependent on employment status. Moreover, Republi- can and Democratic proposals have failed to address the fragmented healthcare system that often results in service duplication, medication errors, and misdiagnoses. Both parties should employ the sociological imagination and place the health status of African Americans within a social contextual history to understand the way larger socio-historical factors continue to compromise the health of a large proportion of African Americans as well as removing the profit motive from healthcare.

Beyond the importance of healthcare access and affordability, expanded employment opportunities, and improvement of public education, the elimination of health disparities also demands valuing racial groups for their intelligence, creativity, and ingenuity to create collective efficacy and determina-

N.C. State Department of Sociology and Anthropology Turns 85

In September 1920, after a two-week trek from Missouri to North Carolina on muddy, pot-holed roads that battered their automobile, Dr. Carl Taylor and graduate student Carl Zimmerman arrived on the campus of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering. Their task: build a new program in sociology; the first of its kind at what is now known as North Carolina State University (NCSU).

The pair went to work quickly and within a year the first master’s degree in sociology at NCSU was granted.

“Today, our rural sociology program ranks in the top handful of programs across the country, and many of the department’s faculty are nationally recognized experts in their fields.”

NCSU Department of Sociology at 85

“In the 1930s and 1940s, the burgeoning rural sociology program conducted a number of studies in ‘diffusion of innovations,’ also known as ‘technology transfer,’ that helped farmers develop ways to enhance democratic practices and get citizens involved in environmental sociology, conducting significant research in areas such as soil conservation and soil fertility, he said.

However, he added, the department’s strong suit has been community sociol-

On Sale in the ASA Online Bookstore

The online bookstore has a new section for sale items. Since its founding 85 years ago, the NC State Department of Sociology and Anthropology has enjoyed a rich history and a tremendous record of achievement, Wimberley said. But, he added quickly, there’s no looking back. “This is a department on the make,” he said. “We’re trying to be the best sociology and anthropology department we can be, focusing not on where we’ve been, but where we’re going.”

Prices

The thesis promotes the South's role in the Civil Rights Movement for a limited time (with even deeper discounts for ASA members). Current sale items include Barbara Roskin's volume on The Social Sciences and Public Policy, and recent editions of the book's new titles, including The Psychology of Social Inequalities and Social Policy, and a revised edition of The Sociology of Social Policy.

The Atlas of Social Inequality, which provides an overview of social inequality and its impact on various aspects of society, is also available for sale. The Atlas is divided into several sections, each focusing on a different aspect of social inequality, such as income, education, and health.

In addition to the books, the online bookstore also offers ASA membership packages for individuals and institutions. These packages include access to the ASA's electronic journal, access to research and policy reports, and networking opportunities with other social scientists.

The ASA Online Bookstore is the perfect destination for anyone interested in the latest social science research and policy developments. Whether you're a student, a researcher, or a social science enthusiast, there's something for everyone in our online bookstore.
The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) invites you to the OBSSR 10th Anniversary: Celebrating a Decade of Progress and Promise. Scheduled for June 21-22, 2006 in the Natcher Conference Center on the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD, this event will showcase the last decade’s major contributions of behavioral and social sciences research to health promotion and disease reduction.

A series of presentations by scientific experts will address three major cross-cutting perspectives or themes:
1. Cells to societal levels of inquiry;
2. Fundamental to clinical to population sciences; and
3. Life-span developmental phases.

A “Town Hall Meeting” format will be used to present a draft OBSSR strategic plan to guide future priorities for behavioral and social sciences research at NIH and obtain input and feedback on that plan from the audience.

Please join us for this exciting event. The preliminary program, hotel and travel arrangements, registration instructions, and information about our travel scholarships for new investigators can be found on the website.

REGISTRATION IS FREE, BUT SPACE IS LIMITED, SO REGISTER EARLY!
http://obssr.od.nih.gov/OBSSR10th
the entire team will meet in Europe during the spring of 2007 to discuss issues arising in the course of data collection and analysis and to examine preliminary findings.

According to Jennifer Holdaway, “this project offers a rare opportunity to train a team of young scholars to participate in an integrated cross-national, comparative study and will establish the basis for future collaboration among members of the network well beyond the life of the program.”

Multiple Methods

The research projects will employ a mixture of methodologies. For instance, the U.S.–France project will employ similar large data sets (e.g., the National Education Longitudinal Study in the United States, Génération 98 in France) to track the transition from school to the labor market for second-generation Mexican and North Africans, the largest groups in each country whose incorporation is viewed as problematic. In addition, youthful members of these groups will be interviewed about their experiences. The post-doctoral scholar attached to the project, Amy Katz of Syracuse University, has already interviewed Mexican-Americans as part of her dissertation research.

The Amsterdam–New York study will use data from the Immigrant Second Generation (TIES) project to examine how school systems in the two cities serve two disadvantaged immigrant populations: Dominicans in New York and Moroccans in Amsterdam. The team will focus on the ways in which residential segregation and formal and informal tracking in schools shape the educational trajectories of the two groups, and the ways in which immigrant families navigate the education system. The pre-doctoral fellow, Mayida Zaal, will focus her dissertation research on the school experiences of Moroccan girls, building on her research on Muslim and Arab American youth in the United States.

The project will make a contribution to our understanding of the ways in which cross-national differences in educational institutions, policies, and practices shape the pathways taken by children of immigrants into further education or the labor market, and its findings will doubtless be of interest not only to academics but also to policy makers in the six countries.

For more information about the project can be found on its website: <http://www.nuffield.org.uk/sociology/urban-studies/urban-studies/>.

Call for Papers

Meetings

16th Conference on the Small City and Regional Community, October 15-17, 2006, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Theme: “Downsizing Development.” Papers on all aspects of small city and town life are being sought. Co-sponsored by the Joint Urban Studies Center in Wilkes-Barre and the Center for the Small City in Stevens Point, WI. For the Call for Papers and other details see <www.urbanstudies.org>.


Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS)/24th Annual Meeting, October 26-28, 2006, Crowne Plaza San Jose Downtown Hotel, San Jose, California. AACS seeks proposals for workshops, panels, posters, paper presentations, and roundtables that promote Applied and Clinical Sociology in the discipline, the academy, government agencies, for-profit organizations, and consulting firms. Contact: Session Division Conference Chair, Juval Reichman, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA. Important meeting themes that touch people of all races and ethnicities include quality education, health care accessibility, affordable housing, immigration. To register or submit paper/poster/session abstracts, visit <http://www.aacsnet.org>; Deadline: April 30, 2006. For additional details, email REFP@ttstate.edu.

The Sixth Annual Winemiller Conference: Methodological Developments of Statistics in the Social Sciences, October 11-14, 2006, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. This conference will foster collaborations among mathematical statisticians and quantitatively-oriented social science researchers by bringing together top researchers from the major social science disciplines and highlighting the interfaces between recent developments in each area. Applications are invited for contributed presentations and posters, workshops, and organized sessions. Contact: Juan Battle at bbattle@hunter.cuny.edu. Deadline: April 24, 2006. All proposals must be submitted through the online submission site. For more information, visit <www.socialscience.uwm.edu/RE Spartam>.</p>

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pose of this volume, spirituality will be operationalized as a way of being in the world in light of being touched and sus-
pected of the presence of a higher power. Of particular interest are manuscripts which combine qualitative and phenomenological methods with nar-
ratively lived experiences. Four printed manuscripts and a disk copy (MS Word or PDF) should be forwarded to either: Katherine Grace Hendrix, Co-Editor, De-
ternational Seminars, Law and Society Association 8th Annual Conference: "The Politics of Inclusion: The Relationships of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality." Contact: Juan Battle at JuanB@hunter.

Kathleen Grace Hendrix, Co-Editor, De-

The Journal of Primary Prevention, Spe-
cial Issue: Homelessness and Mental Il-
ness. The Journal of Primary Prevention, in part-

Sociological Spectrum will publish a spe-
cial issue on state of the sociology of de-

care systems or comparative medical sys-

ticians will facilitate the submission of

Sociology of Health and Social Behav-

The Journal of Health and Social Behav-


demographic and statistical studies of the Social Sciences, 13(4), 2001. This conference will explore factors that influence inequalities in popu-

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In the News

Sine Anaxia, University of Alabama- Birmingham, was invited by KCUR radio about thealsa state legislature's efforts to eliminate insurance and other benefits for state employees' domestic partners.

Judy Auerbach, American Foundation for Women's National Foundation, was quoted in the February 17, 2006, story in the Washington Times regarding a bill that would reinstate the military draft.

Chris Hedges, Salon.com, was quoted in the February 26, 2006, story in the Los Angeles Times, on immigration to the United States.

Eve Ewing, University of Chicago, was quoted in the Chicago Tribune, about the movie "Children's Study."

Maya F. Lin, Harvard Law School, was featured on page one of the Chicago Tribune, February 26, 2006, article regarding her work on the Bush administration's politicization of science.

Michael M. Bell, Jr., Harvard Medical School, was quoted in the February 16, 2006, story in the Boston Globe, on his award for Best Papers in Women's and Gender Studies.

Jody VanLaningham, formerly of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was quoted in an article that suggested her marriage until the marital happiness declines throughout the marriage in a March 2006 Scientific America article.

Mary C. Waters, Harvard University, was quoted in the March 15 New York Times about Harvard University President Lawrence H. Summers' administrative leadership of the University.

Duncan J. Watts, Columbia University, was quoted in numerous news sources for his book, especially a song popular, which appeared in the journal Science. The study was covered by the Los Angeles Times, Toronto Globe and Mail, and Wednesday's Wall Street Journal.

Larry Wills, University of Wisconsin-Madison, was quoted in the March 5 Baltimore Sun on his few report, "The Strength of Internet Ties."

Awards

Michael M. Bell, University of Wisconsin-Madison, received the 2006 Howard N. Griffin Distinguished Title Award from the American Linguistic Society (ALS). He is currently the President of the ALS. For more information, contact: www.allinguistics.org.

Phyllis Moia, University of Minnesota, and Patricia Rohe, Hope College, were awarded the 2006 Minority Fellowship in Sociology and Social Work Career from the American Association of Publishers for their book, "The Career Mystique: Cracks in the Glass Ceiling of the Academic Title award from the American Linguistic Society (ALS). He is currently the President of the ALS. For more information, contact: www.allinguistics.org.

Anthony Contore, Southern Methodist University, has been nominated for his book, "Opposing Hate Speech, for the Governor's Award in Education, one of the world's most prestigious and well-funded awards.

People

Amatia Etsion, George Washington University, has been re-appointed by the National Commission on Title IX of the Office for Civil Rights to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was quoted in an article that suggested her marriage until the marital happiness declines throughout the marriage in a March 2006 Scientific America article.

Donald L. Hernandez, at University of Alabama-Birmingham, was invited to the National Science Foundation to give his new book, "Sex in our City" survey.

Elizabeth Hartung, Sociology, SA 245, One University Drive, California State University, Chico, CA 93012; (805) 437-3274; email: Elizabeth.Hartung@csual.edu. Contact: Jennings Goodwin, Georgia State University, for press releases or manuscript submissions. The deadline for release of the magazine's articles is the end of the month of publication. For more information, visit <www.georgia-sociology.org>.

Alpha Kappa Delta 2006 Undergraduate Student Paper Competition

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Members’ New Books
Joel Bud, University of Delaware, Plane of the Month: Why Smart People Fall for Fads (The University of California Press, 2006).
Kathy Charmaz, Sonoma State University, Constructing Grounded Theory: A Practical Guide through Qualitative Analysis (Sage Publications, 2006).
Paula J. Duber, University of Cincinnati, and Diana Dunn, University of Texas-Arlington, editors, Work/Employees/Women’s Place: An Anthology (Routledge Publishing Co., 2006).
Michael J. Handel, Northwestern University, Worker Skills and Job Requirements: Is There a Mismatch? (Economic Policy Institute, 2006).
Burkart Holzner, University of Pittsburgh, and Leslie Holzner, Eastern European Societies (In gland Open City (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006).
Richard Quinney, Once Again the Wonder (Borderland Books, 2006).
Christopher Oggen, University of Minnesota, and Jeff Manza, Northwestern University, Locked Out: Youth Disfranchisement and American Democracy/University of Oregon Press, 2006).

4th Annual Qualitative Research Summer Intensive
Take courses taught by leading sociologists in the field of qualitative analysis.

Editors’ Reports for 2005
American Sociological Review
In 2005, the American Sociological Review has continued its tradition of presenting invited papers and sections on particular topics, such as comments and replies. We have included a total of 29 articles, 16 full-text manuscripts (issues since 1990 when ASR articles were first entered into the current database), and 13 executive abstracts. The acceptance rate is below 10 percent (8.16 percent). The average (mean) editorial time to below 10 words (9.73). ASR articles continue to be influential. They are highly cited, as measured by the impact scores reported in the Institute for Scientific Information’s Journal Citation Reports. ASR papers also frequently are cited by peer articles and are often referenced in important textbooks. Now that all invited papers are published in the online version of the journal on the first of the month, the online version of this piece, featured on the journal Web site.

Joanna Dreby on mortality rates in child labor:
We have been working closely with Teaching Sociology Editor Elisabeth Grauерт to make ASR articles more accessible and useful in the classroom setting. For example, in July 2005, TiS featured an applications piece by Diane Purcell and Karen Kan, which highlighted a discussion of how sociology faculty could use the December 2004 ASR article by Andrew Cherlin and colleagues on violence and abuse in families. Purcell and Kan note that only about 1 percent of references in 75 papers over the period 1995-2004 are to articles in ASR. This collaboration with 75 seeks to build stron...
During our first (and quite enjoyable) year at the ASA, we had struggled to find the design, format, and content in a number that would make the magazine more lively and readable. Our first issue announced changes to the cover design to match these interior developments. All the changes are aimed at making the magazine more like a magazine and less like a fancy journal. On the other hand, we also launched some new features and renamed some old ones, with the intention of making the magazine more appealing to professional social scientists at the same time it retains its readability by nonprofessionals. Founding editor Freda Feichner was kind enough to consult with us on these transformations.

We also inaugurated a series of forums meant not only to entertain five audiances but to generate material for our “conversa- tion” features. Our first forum, held at New York University’s dinner in honor of our one hundred audience members to a debate in February 2005, treated more than two hundred proposals for feature articles. Our first forum, held at ASA members has proven to be un- der review,” 19 percent were “revise and resubmit,” 7 percent were rejected, and 1 percent were “withdrawn.” Of the remaining under review and 2 others (1 percent minority), but also in terms of the number of unstructured interviews and partici- pant observation. As the year progressed, our production and copyediting for maga- zines and newsletters, he also works as a freelance dissertation editor. Dr. Andrew Grogan-Brown, Assistant Professor of Sociology at St. Mary’s College of Mary- land, continues as copyeditor for the jour- nal. Overall Operations and Manuscript Flow.

The mean time lag between manuscript submission and editorial decision in 2005 was 10 weeks (median = 12 weeks), consid- erably lower than the mean time lag in 2004 of 22 weeks when the journal was at Virginia Tech and then migrated to UNC. Our goal was to return the editor- nal lag for JHSB to a mean of 12 weeks, and two months, and we are pleased to have met and even exceeded this goal.

The mean production lag (i.e., the time between acceptance of a paper and its appearance in print) was 6 months in 2005, down from the 2004 issue of 10 months) and consistent with ASA edito- rial guidelines. Special Projects. No special projects were undertaken in 2005, as our attention has been focused on keeping journal oper- ations on schedule. A special section of an issue in 2006 may be devoted to pa- pers on a special topic that will be decided by a discussion among editorial board members.

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Your editor reports a year of drama and success in preparation of his final volume of Sociological Methodology. This year was a true reflection of the editor's time and effort, revealing the breadth and depth of the journal's content. The official acceptance rate for 2005, which refers to acceptances as percentage of all decisions, was 10.69 percent. This is significantly lower than the previous year's acceptance rate of 19.36 percent, and this decline in the acceptance rate is due primarily to fewer manuscripts received in 2005. Among the manuscripts considered in 2005, 99 were accepted for publication, 37 were revised, and 53 were rejected. The total of 59 manuscripts were curated over from the previous year and 2005 total of 99 manuscripts were accepted for publication. A total of 59 manuscripts were curated over from the previous year and 2005 manuscripts were accepted for publication.

This report covers the year 2005 of Sociological Methodology. In 2005, 165 manuscripts were processed and reviewed. These included articles on the history of sociology, the sociology of religion, and the sociology of education. This year saw a decrease in the number of manuscripts received compared to the previous year. The acceptance rate for 2005 was 10.69 percent, down from 19.36 percent in 2004. This decrease is due to a combination of factors, including a slight increase in the number of manuscripts submitted and a decrease in the number of manuscripts accepted. This year's acceptance rate is lower than in previous years, but it is still a testament to the journal's commitment to high-quality research.

Applications: This new feature in the journal will allow scholars to engage in dialogue between researchers and help by identifying potential manuscripts for publication and to develop integrating sociological research into the undergraduate curriculum. We contacted several authors of articles that appeared in recent years and invited them to develop (in collaboration with award-winning teachers in the discipline) manuscripts that guide the curriculum for teaching sociology in high schools, the current state of scholarship on teaching and learning, and the future of teaching graduate students. The most recent issue of the journal contains articles on the history of sociology, the sociology of religion, and the sociology of education. This year saw a decrease in the number of manuscripts received compared to the previous year. The acceptance rate for 2005 was 10.69 percent, down from 19.36 percent in 2004. This decrease is due to a combination of factors, including a slight increase in the number of manuscripts submitted and a decrease in the number of manuscripts accepted. This year's acceptance rate is lower than in previous years, but it is still a testament to the journal's commitment to high-quality research.

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Council Appoints New ASA Editors

During their respective meetings in December 2005 and February 2006, the ASA Committee on Publications recommended, and ASA Council approved, new editors for the American Sociological Review, Social Psychology Quarterly, and Sociological Methodology.

The new editors’ official terms will begin in January 2007, with editorial transitions taking place in late summer 2006. The new editors are:

American Sociological Review: Randy Hodson and Vincent Roscigno, Ohio State University
Social Psychology Quarterly: Gary Alan Fine, Northwestern University
Sociological Methodology: Yu Xie, University of Michigan

As they become available, Footnotes will run biographies of the new editors as well as addresses for the new editorial offices.

Introductory Sociology Resource Manual (E-Book)

Only available in the online bookstore. (No phone, fax, or mail orders accepted.) Purchasers will receive access to and online pdf file to print and/or download within 30 days. Access information will be provided on your online and e-mail receipts. No shipping charges are added for e-book purchases.

Compiled by James Sikora and Njeri Mbugua. The sixth edition contains eight articles about the core curriculum; 21 syllabi of introductory sociology courses; a wide array of assignments, projects, and class exercises; and a list of contributors. 262 pp., 2004.

To purchase the printed edition, visit the ASA Online Bookstore at the ASA website www.asanet.org.

Footnotes

Member Price: $7 Non-member Price: $13

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Article submissions are limited to 1200 words and must have journalistic value (e.g., timeliness, significant impact, general interest) rather than be research-oriented or scholarly in nature. Submissions will be reviewed by the editorial board for possible publication. “Public Forum” contributions are limited to 400 words. “Obituaries,” 500 words; “Letters to the Editor,” 400 words; “Departments” announcements, 300 words. All submissions should include a contact name and, if possible, an e-mail address. ASA reserves the right to edit for style and length all material published. The deadline for all material is the first of the month preceding publication (e.g., February 1 for March issue).

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