Looking forward to the 2006 Annual Meeting in Montréal...

Human Rights Is Focus of Welcoming Plenary

The American Sociological Association has a history of speaking in support of human rights globally, especially in defense of sociologists and other scholars persecuted for their beliefs or scholarly activities. A year ago, they were void in favor of the American Sociological Association Statement on Human Rights on the Occasion of ASA's Centenary. In continuation of its human rights support, the ASA invited UNESCO's Pierre Sané, human rights advocate, to speak at the Welcoming Ceremony of the Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2006, in Montréal.

Sané, formerly the Secretary General of Amnesty International, will discuss his work developing new programs of research-policy linkages in the study and management of social transformation. These include strengthening the interactions among researchers, policymakers, and international bodies such as UNESCO toward advancing programs in human rights and development, gender and women's rights, racism and discrimination, pov- erty, and development of cultural diversity. Sané is the Assistant-Director General for Social Science, Human Sciences, Ethics and Human Rights at UNESCO in Paris. As Assistant-Director General he is responsible for the development, execution, and evaluation of UNESCO’s Poverty and Human Rights program. At Amnesty International, he campaigned extensively to raise human rights concerns worldwide and to strengthen the human rights movement. Before joining Amnesty International, he worked for 15 years in international development.

Sané earned his doctoral degree in political science at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, and a Masters of Science degree in public administration and public policy from the London School of Economics. He has published extensively on issues of development and human rights.

Sané joins other notable plenary speakers, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, and Deborah Rhode, law professor at Stanford University, who will discuss the work of law, lawyers, and the judiciary in changing conceptual and legal boundaries defining the rights of women, men, and social groups. Also, Glorita Steinem, feminist activist and author, and Lawrence Bobe, sociology professor at the University of California-Irvine, will discuss the shifting nature of inequalities of race and gender, which are deeply rooted in public and private consciousness. See page 1 of the May/June Footnotes for additional information on these plenary sessions.

Roscigno, Hodson Are Incoming Editors of American Sociological Review

V incent J. Roscigno and Randy Hodson, both of The Ohio State University, will be the next editors of ASA’s American Sociological Review, appointed by ASA Council for a three-year term beginning in January 2007. They will follow the editorship of Jerry A. Jacobs.

Although no two individuals could comprehensively represent the range of intellectual complexity of contemporary sociology, these two cover a good deal of the territory. Between them, they have produced influential and often intersecting configurations of historical, ethnographic, textual, and statistical analyses. Their published work has spanned multiple continents, languages, and political eras, and by last count, they have collaborated with more than 60 co-authors. All this from two scholars who are both young enough to be fathers of children too young to reach the top shelf in a closet.

Hodson’s research accomplishments are consistently impressive. So far, his sociological lenses have focused on income inequality, work and dignity, ethnic intolerance and mental health, and organizational analyses. He has long had a flair for methodological innovation. His dissertation, which was published as an Academic Press monograph in 1983, was the first project to merge firm-level data into a status-attainment-conceived survey of individuals. This dissertation and allied articles convinced a cohort of scholars, myself included, that it was possible and worth the effort to incorporate information on real organizations into what were then becoming theoretically unsatisfying individualistic attainment models.

Hodson’s current comparative workplace ethnography project reverses the flow of incorporation, showing that it is possible to take the rich, contextualized observations of workplaces generated by qualitative scholars over the last 100 or so years and investigate general processes across ethnographic accounts. With doctoral students at both Indiana University and Ohio State, he has content coded all English language workplace ethnographies, producing a wonderfully rich set of quantitative analyses supplemented by ethnographic detail. His 2002 monograph titled Dignity at Work, uses these data to develop a coherent account of workplace respect, revealing among other things the importance of mismanagement in the production of indignity and co-worker conflict.

Hodson earned his MA and PhD in sociology at the University of California-Irvine. He is the Assistant-Director General for Social Science, Human Sciences, Ethics and Human Rights at UNESCO in Paris. As Assistant-Director General he is responsible for the development, execution, and evaluation of UNESCO’s Poverty and Human Rights program.

2006 ASA Election Results

With more than 40% of eligible voters participating, ASA members have elected Arne L. Kalleberg of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill as President-Elect, Douglas McAdam of Stanford University as Vice President-Elect, and Donald Tomaskovic-Devey as Secretary-Elect. Kalleberg, McAdam, and Tomaskovic-Devey will serve one year as Elect and will then assume office at the end of the 2007 Annual Meeting. Kalleberg and the 2008 Program Committee will be responsible for shaping the 2008 ASA Annual Meeting, scheduled for August 1–4, 2008, in Boston.

Voters also elected four new Members-at-Large to serve on the ASA Council: Dalton Conley, New York University; Mary E. Pattillo, Northwestern University; Mary Romero, Arizona State University; Rubén Rumbaut, University of California-Irvine. The new Council Members-at-Large will take office at the end of the Annual Meeting in Montreal.

Members also elected four new members to the Committee on Committees, six new members to the Committee on Nominations, and two new members to the Committee on Publications. Voters overwhelmingly approved four amendments to the Association’s bylaws, and by a narrower margin approved renaming two ASA awards: the ASA Distinguished Career of Scholarship Award will now be the W.E.B. DuBois Distinguished Career of Scholarship Award, and the DuBois-Johnson-Frasier Award will now be the Cox-Johnson-Frasier Award.

There were 11,197 members eligible to vote in the 2006 election. Of those eligible, 4,515 members cast votes, constituting a 40% participation rate. Over the five most recent elections participation had averaged 32%.

We extend our warmest congratulations to the newly elected officers and committee members, and thank everyone who served the Association by running for office and by voting in this election.

President-Elect: Arne L. Kalleberg, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Vice President-Elect: Douglas McAdam, Stanford University
Secretary-Elect: Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Council: Dalton Conley, New York University
Mary E. Pattillo, Northwestern University
Mary Romero, Arizona State University
Rubén Rumbaut, University of California-Irvine
Committee on Publications: Howard Winant, University of California-Santa Barbara
Committee on Nominations: Elisabeth Clemens, University of Chicago
Kathleen Gerson, New York University
Ross L. Mausser, University of Washington
Joya Misra, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Ann R. Tickamyer, Ohio University
Committee on Committees: Rebecca L. Clark, NICHD/National Institutes of Health
Amber W. Laffont, University of Maryland-College Park
Cilda Laura Ochoa, Pomona College
Alford A. Young, Jr., University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Published by The American Sociological Association
The Executive Officer's Column

Taking the Pulse of the Nation:
Key National Indicators

Over the past year or so, ASA has been involved in a collaborative venture at the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) to create a web-based system of information that will provide key data on the “State of the USA.” Known as the Key National Indicators Initiative (KNII), this project evolved from a deliberative process emphasizing the need for “comprehensive, reliable indicator systems [to] measure progress toward broad societal goals.” The KNII acknowledges that we live in one of the most information-rich societies on earth, but we face the paradox of information inaccessibility to all but the cognoscenti. Overwhelmed by data from a wide range of sources, we find it increasingly difficult to compile solid information on how society is faring across important domains. The accessible information tends to be fragmented and hard to locate; thus, sound bites and personal opinion often substitute for data presented in a meaningful way on the complex and critical issues facing our society.

Enabling an Informed Public

KNII was launched at a forum sponsored by the U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO) and the NAS in early 2003 in response to this need for high quality, accurate, and easily usable data. Based on extensive research and review of indicator systems (including those in other countries), the GAO reported to Congress in 2005 that the business, community, media, civic organizations, and educators expressed the need for a system of reliable and accessible information in one place in order to make sound and informed decisions on national and local policy issues and to ensure an informed public. The goal is to provide significant parts of the vast existing data systems in a highly usable, easily searchable format.

A Single Webportal

At the heart of the system will be a state-of-the-art interactive webportal to provide timely data of the highest quality on the health of the nation. A high priority is being placed on creating an information system that will be relevant to a wide range of public audiences and different types of users across segments of society. Part of making this system relevant is to ensure that as much information as possible can be disaggregated from the national level to the state level and to the local community level where the public is most engaged. In addition to spatial disaggregation, most data need to be available over time and by age and race.

Useful Indicators

Thus far, the KNII has focused on integrating input from stakeholders about three core domains—society, economy, and environment—to develop a robust set of indicators, and to define appropriate measures. KNII has also assembled data sources related to each domain as well as on a set of cross-cutting issues that span the three major areas. The guiding principles for selecting indicators and measures include: transparency, objectivity and independence, reliability, accessibility, frequency of updating, focus on “what” rather than “why” of various phenomena, and aggregation rather than interpretation of data. Although the data presentation formats to be accessed through the webportal will include definitions and references to sources, it will not include analyses, draw conclusions from the data, or seek to answer causal questions.

In spring 2006, a set of 30 “key” (or first-level) indicators from the three domains was selected for a test on the webportal, currently under construction. The NAS also announced in June that the KNII would be spun off from the Academies as a nonprofit organization to maintain and operate the website, and to perform other organizational functions (such as issuing regular reports and press releases, holding conferences, and conducting regular assessments of the initiative). The NAS will continue its involvement in the initiative by including advisory participation by stakeholder organizations. (For more information, visit www.keyindicators.org.)

As one can imagine, an initiative such as this generates a wide offering of opinion, considerable debate, and even controversy. Some of these challenges have become evident in the discussions so far, as for example: What indicators best reflect the state of each domain (as well as the many possible elements within them)? What are the most appropriate and reliable indicator measures? What reliable data are available for presentation? How easily can data be updated? Is it possible to disaggregate these data?

Engaging Sociologists

The creation and availability of such an information system has important implications for sociologists. Since educators and learners at all levels will be targeted as important potential users, sociology has an important stake in ensuring that the most relevant and best data are available for presentation. From the outset of the initiative, a high priority was placed on openness of the system and on input from stakeholders across all domains. Sociologists are contributing to the design and implementation of the indicator system, and the Executive Office staff have had input through participation in national meetings and domain working groups. We anticipate that the ASA membership will also have an opportunity to experiment with the test version of the KNII data systems that will be installed over the next year. We will keep you informed of the progress on the KNII, and will seek to provide an opportunity for your input and suggestions.

Sally T. Hillman


Sociologist Informs Senators About Universal Health Insurance

**Invitation from Senator Reid puts sociological perspective front and center at annual Issues Conference of the Democratic Policy Committee**

Sociologist Jill Quadagno, Mahied and Claude Pepper Eminent Scholar in Social Gerontology at Florida State University, was invited by Senator Harry Reid (NV) to make a presentation at the annual Issues Conference for Democratic Senators. The conference was held in Philadelphia in late April and was organized by the Democratic Policy Committee, chaired by Senator Byron Dorgan (ND).

Quadagno presented on a panel titled “Getting to Universal Coverage: Challenges and Opportunities.” Other sessions at the conference covered the war on terrorism, rural America, and a special presentation by former Vice President Al Gore on global climate change and warming. The event concluded with a tour and dinner at the National Constitution Center.

Thirty-two Democratic senators attended the conference including Ted Kennedy (MA), Barbara Boxer (CA), Carl Levin (MI), Mary Landrieu (LA), Harry Reid (NV) and Ron Wyden (OR). Among the 19 other guest speakers were CNN terrorism analyst Peter Bergen, former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO and former Democratic presidential candidate General Wesley Clark, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

**Coming Around to Coverage?**

In her presentation, Quadagno explained how special interests were able to defeat every proposal for national health insurance across the entire span of the 20th century. Despite the rather dismal historical record, she noted that there is reason for optimism. One reason is the health care reform plan just enacted in Massachusetts, which could have discovered that they can prosper even with the regulation that comes with partial participation. Further, large businesses have once again put health care reform at the top of their priority list. They are deeply concerned about rising health care costs and are discovering that they can prosper even with the regulation that comes with partial participation. They are deeply concerned about rising health care costs and are discovering that they can prosper even with the regulation that comes with partial participation.

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Bread and Circuses

A Regional Session explores the politics and culture of Montréal

by Christopher McAll

University of Montreal

On August 11, in the heart of Montréal’s Chinatown, the special regional session of the ASA Annual Meeting will be devoted to the host city around the theme of "bread and circuses." In Montréal, one of the first things that one notices about the city is its unique blend of tradition and modernity. In Montréal, old language frontiers, the new multilingualism, and the coming-to-power of the French-speaking majority combine to produce a city where the collision of difference generates unpredictable outcomes.

Dough

A tradition of social solidarity and activism rooted in a not-so-distant past, when Francophones were over-represented in Montréal's working-class neighborhoods, has left a legacy of community activism, unionization, and a unique health and social services network that is state-run and community-oriented (at least in theory). These are currently strained given the transformation of work, ever-present poverty, homelessness, and immigration. The state to unload whatever responsibilities it can onto whoever is prepared to take them (at the lowest costs). Immigrants, women, and the young hear the brunt of workplace restructuring, with new forms of labor organization that ignore the traditions of the labor and community movements. The Quebec national assembly is currently addressing a law that was proposed and formulated by a coalition of community organizations in a state of extreme crisis. In this changing society, new, university-affiliated health and social services agencies have brought sociology into the front line.

City as Theatre, Poverty as Spectacle

Every summer, Montréal’s international Théâtre des Quat'Sous presents a large variety of entertainment. The city is a stage for an annual festival of theatre and dance performances. The festival’s focus is on emerging artists and on bringing together diverse communities. The festival is known for its innovative programming and for its commitment to social justice and human rights.

In Montréal, old language frontiers, the new multilingualism, and the coming-to-power of the French-speaking majority combine to produce a city where the collision of difference generates unpredictable outcomes.

United Nations and Women’s Rights

Annual Meeting Thematic Session will address research and practice in support of international development goals

by Mari Simonen, United Nations

In our interconnected world, the United Nations System offers critical opportunities for leaders and civil society alike to advance the causes of justice, equality, and opportunity for all people. The Millennium Declaration, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, commits nations to a global partnership to reduce poverty, improve health, and promote peace, human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. World leaders set forth ambitious Millennium Development Goals, the most broad-based, comprehensive, and specific poverty reduction and social development targets ever established. These multidimensional goals address poverty from all angles—addressing education, hunger, disease, housing, gender equity, and environmental sustainability—and build upon previous world conferences and global agreements.

UN Leaders’ Perspectives

A Thematic Session at the ASA Annual Meeting will provide a unique opportunity for ASA members and conference participants to meet with United Nations senior leaders and other international experts whose lives and work illustrate the intersection of research, practice, and policymaking. The cross-disciplinary event provides a forum to discuss the interaction of difference and power relations. You will also hear firsthand accounts from members of the Millennium Project, the United Nations System, and national leaders. This session will feature a panel discussion on the Millennium Development Goals, the most broad-based, comprehensive, and specific poverty reduction and social development targets ever established. These multidimensional goals address poverty from all angles—addressing education, hunger, disease, housing, gender equity, and environmental sustainability—and build upon previous world conferences and global agreements.

The Sociology of Consumption

by Daniel Thomas Cook

University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign

Since 1998, the Consumer Studies Research Network (CSRN, formerly Consumers, Commodities and Consumption) has served as a pathway for scholars, graduate students, and interested others to discuss and debate the place of goods and commodities in social life. Membership is open and free to anyone with an interest in consump-

tion, contemplation, consideration, and planning. It is interwoven with everyday activity—even a mode of life—rather than simply the final link in a chain that begins with production. In the broad view, consumption generates unpredictable outcomes—often with social consequences, such as hierarchy, inequality, and environmental degradation.

An Emerging Field

Individuals affiliated with CSRN desire to bring to the forefront, in their own ways, the depths to which goods, commodities, and market logic variously inform virtually all aspects of social life and social interaction. Contemporary scholars of consumption and culture have transcended the dichoto-

mies and simplistic notions of earlier scholarship. Few, if any, today subscribe to or invoke the “other socialized” view of society and consumption or to the notion that consumers merely respond to commodities and consumption in the last decade-and-a-half has been striking.

The new, emerging sociological work on consumers, commodities, and consumption in the last decade-and-a-half has been striking. The new, emerging sociological work on consumers, commodities, and consumption in the last decade-and-a-half has been striking. The new, emerging sociological work on consumers, commodities, and consumption in the last decade-and-a-half has been striking.
The Rhetoric of Openness to Cultural Diversity in Québec

Michèle Ollivier and Linda Pietrantonio, University of Ottawa

Issues of cultural diversity have been hotly debated in Canada over the past decade, mainly because of the Québec government’s adoption of a series of measures to promote French, including recognizing cultural and linguistic autonomy for Francophone communities in 1978; emphasizing the exclusive use of French in all official publications since 1985–89 to 1995–99. Cultural diversity, as a tool for understanding social reality, is not necessarily a source of cultural innovation or a means to preserve cultural diversity. Along with the efforts of the Canadian federal government, this contributed to the adoption, in 2005, of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions under the auspices of UNESCO.

One possible interesting example of how social entities—be they individuals, communities, or states—produce the rhetoric of openness to cultural diversity to legitimate their own positions on cultural hybridity, and, therefore antithetical to cultural dominance—is Québec. Québec has been an international leader in struggles to preserve cultural diversity. Along with the efforts of the Canadian federal government, this contributed to the adoption, in 2005, of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions under the auspices of UNESCO.

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When Katrina, Rita, and Wilma Took the Nation by Storm: One Year Later…

SSRC Task Force Reports on Hurricane Katrina and Rebuilding the Gulf Coast

by Craig Calhoun and Kai Erikson, Social Science Research Council

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in early September 2005, it brought along with it other legacies, enormous destruction of physical property, disruption of human lives, and upheaval of the social texture of a vibrant city. It also raised basic social science questions and created an urgent need for social science knowledge to inform public action. And indeed, it made publicly manifest the centrality of social factors to understanding what some persist in labeling a “natural” disaster.

Structuring Opportunities

The ways in which race, gender, class, and age structured the impact of Hurricane Katrina were clearly in the foreground. Understanding the responses of different social institutions to the events of 2005 and the emergence of the hurricane created was also immediately significant. But just as important were questions about why vulnerabilities and preparedness were structured as they were. These demanded inquiries into the relationship between built and natural environment, the ways in which race, gender, class, and age structured the impact of natural disasters, and how those vulnerabilities were perceived and acted upon. Social scientists working on Hurricane Katrina and the challenges of rebuilding the Gulf Coast have a unique opportunity to speak to different subfields of sociology, and to try to make a difference. In May, they arrived with student volunteers in tow. While working on another house, the group was approached by a woman requesting assistance. This woman, a Katrina survivor, indicated that she was on boats with guns, refusing to allow us as we wandered through the streets. Ms. Debra is ready for rebuilding when the government will bulldoze the area with blueprints to enable residents to hold onto their property. Few can afford to clear the property of debris and to abide the ever-present black mold from their homes. This means that the government will bulldoze the structures and confiscate the land itself—and will do so without property, and what it means. It wasn’t until nine months after the disaster that all of the Lower Ninth Ward was finally reopened to residents to take stock of the damage to their property and attempt to make an effort at repairing it based on their rights to it. Moreover, as the Lower Ninth Ward primarily housed the working poor and predominately people of color—it appears that the government is placing less social value on assisting the area compared to others.

Research Hub

To support the work of the Task Force, the SSRC has begun development of a web-based “research hub” that will facilitate sharing of data and analyses among researchers, as well as broad access to completed research. It should be especially useful to those starting new research projects who will find not only bibliographical information and links to intellectual resources but a map of work in progress that will help them plan their work better.

See SSRC, page 7

When the survivor of Hurricane Katrina continues to experience the eye of a storm—a government that is dragging its feet with assisting the neediest. On August 29, 2005, any home in the Lower Ninth Ward was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina’s flood waters. The survivors of Hurricane Katrina and the challenges of rebuilding the Gulf Coast have a unique opportunity to speak to different subfields of sociology, and to try to make a difference. In May, they arrived with student volunteers in tow. While working on another house, the group was approached by a woman requesting assistance. This woman, a Katrina survivor, indicated that she was on boats with guns, refusing to allow us as we wandered through the streets. Ms. Debra is ready for rebuilding when the government will bulldoze the area with blueprints to enable residents to hold onto their property. Few can afford to clear the property of debris and to abide the ever-present black mold from their homes. This means that the government will bulldoze the structures and confiscate the land itself—and will do so without property, and what it means. It wasn’t until nine months after the disaster that all of the Lower Ninth Ward was finally reopened to residents to take stock of the damage to their property and attempt to make an effort at repairing it based on their rights to it. Moreover, as the Lower Ninth Ward primarily housed the working poor and predominately people of color—it appears that the government is placing less social value on assisting the area compared to others.

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SSRC, from page 6

Other sociologists active in the Task Force include those noted below as well as the following members of an SSRC Advisory Board: Eric Klinenberg, Shirley Lieberman, Harvey Molotch, Katherine Newman, Walter Peacock, Charles Perrow, Havidán Rodríguez, James Short, Kathleen Tiemey, Mary Waterman, and William Julius Wilson. Andrew Lakoff, an assistant professor of soci- ology at the University of California, San Diego, has taken a leave of absence to join the SSRC staff leading this project. He is also helping to develop a broader portfolio of research into the privati- zation of risk, the vulnerability and security of vital systems, and nature and social construction of emergencies, preparedness, and response.

Research Agenda
At the fall 2005 New York meeting convened by Epstein, Erikson described a group of sociologists who have done a good deal of work on disasters in general and on the environmental vulnerabilities of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in particular and who have been meeting for several years of years. Members of that group gathered a few days later in Lafayette, LA, to begin discussion of a research agenda that seemed critical to the work of learning from Katrina and using that learning to help repair the human damage done by it. That gathering included Erikson, William Freudenberg, Robert Gramling, Stephen Krell-Smith, Shirley Laska, and John Stephen Picou. That core of persons met five weeks later in Mobile, AL, joined there by Lee Clifton, Jr., Brent Marshall, Havad Rodríguez, and Dennis Wenger. The group then met a third time in New Orleans in March of this year, joined on this occasion by Walter Peacock and Kathleen Tiemey. The research priorities that emerged from those discussions are as follows. They should be understood as general headings rather than particular propos- als, although work along those lines is either in the planning stage or under way.

• An effort to track those persons, numbering in the several hundreds of thousands, who evacuated from the path of Katrina, and to find themselves in a long way from the places they called home. This will require three different initiatives. The first is to gain access to data now in the files of FEMA, the Red Cross, and other agencies with whom evacuees are currently in contact. These initiatives will be reported subsequently.

House, from page 6

neighborhoods and communities, preferring to bring in large-scale developers and focus on profit and tourism. Volunteers are pitching in to gut houses, fight the mold, and secure sup- plies. We hope our story will encourage others to take action and develop their efforts by putting people into the field at critical intersections through which we have reason to suspect that migrant streams flow. This is a way of putting old and reliable sociological find- ings on patterns of migration to work.

• Studies of the affected areas with an emphasis on how they developed the social and cultural flavor they had before the disaster, how they fared during the emergency itself, and how they are fac- ing the tasks of reconstruction. Two stud- ies are now on the drawing board (about which we will report further later). The first is a study of three neighborhoods in New Orleans that reflect the demo- graphic range of the city’s population. The second is to locate and document communities along the Louisiana coast that reflect varying degrees of impact from Katrina. These studies will be co- ordinated in such a way as to make later comparison possible, since, in a very important sociological sense, New Orleans and the coast were struck by quite different disasters and for that reason may respond to what hap- pened to them in distinctive ways.

• Studies of organizational responses to Katrina. These will take a number of forms, beginning with an analysis of the efforts of scientific experts to inform pub- lic officials—who are in a position to do something about it—of the vulnerabili- ties of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Among the most spectacular missteps of Katrina is the fact that what happened to New Orleans had been predicted over and over by prominent experts and that these warnings had not been taken seri- ously by policy makers. That was one of a serious of system failures.

• Longitudinal studies of the well- being of people who are not hospitalized impacted by Katrina both along the coast and in New Orleans.

These initiatives will be reported on further in subsequent issues of Footnotes.

Retrospectives on the Death and Life of Jane Jacobs
by Anthony Oram,
University of Illinois-Chicago

In April of this year, Jane Jacobs, venerable urban scholar and vener- ated activist, died in Seattle. At the time of her death, she was working on her celebration of white working class neighborhoods, which became the underlying theme in The Death and Life of Great American Cities. In it, she wrote glowingly not only about her West Village area, but also about the North End of Boston and the ‘Back of the Yards’ neighborhood in Chicago, another old Irish neighborhood that spawned the city’s famous Mayor Richard Daley. Jane’s romance with, and romantic image of, these neighbor- hoods blossomed into the urban ideal and the urban policy themes she advocated in The Death and Life of Great American Cities.

Peter Drucker, an urban scholar, but also an advisor to mayors and a long-time activist, compares Jacobs’ work and influence to other seminal writings. He observes that “[s]ometimes a book can change history. Books like..." but rarely do they catalyze activism. In the 1960s, a handful of books triggered movements for reform. These include Michael Harrington’s The Other America (1962), which introduced the war on poverty; Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring (1962), which helped galvanize the environmental movement; Betty Friedan’s The Feminine Mystique (1963), the manifesto of modern feminism; Ralph Nader’s Unsafe at Any Speed (1965), which made his author a father of the modern consumer movement; and Stokely Carmichael and Charles Hamilton’s Black Power (1966), which signaled the civil rights movement’s transformation toward black separatism. Jane Jacobs’ 1961 book, The Death and Life of Great American Cities, belongs in this pantheon. Perhaps more than anyone during the past half century, Jacobs changed the way we think about livable cities.

And David Halle, of the University of California-Los Angeles, writes that many people think of Jacobs as a conservative, but that that image “could not survive a basic reading of the book and I have long concluded that many of those who cite Jacobs in this way have not read her... She is absolutely not against new buildings, tall buildings, modern buildings, or buildings whose units are expensive to rent or purchase. She believes that urban neighborhoods should have a good number of such buildings, along with a healthy mixture of other types (e.g., older, smaller, and less expensive structures).

All of this follows logically from her stress throughout [The Death and Life of Great American Cities, 1961] on the rise of the consumer movement; and Stokely Carmichael and Charles Hamilton’s Black Power (1966), which signaled the civil rights movement’s transformation toward black separatism. Jane Jacobs’ 1961 book, The Death and Life of Great American Cities, belongs in this pantheon. Perhaps more than anyone during the past half century, Jacobs changed the way we think about livable cities.

But these are more than individual dreams. Although Ms. Debra’s personal loss is too great for her to move back into the house she inherited from her father and shared with her son, she, too, wishes to give back to her community. After coming back for her and the loss of her belongings, and the heroic death of her son, Ms. Debra has decided to trans- form the small, ordinary brick home on Deringhy Street into a house of refuge— perhaps a shelter for battered women, a safe haven for teens, or site of recovery for those addicted—a place for anyone needing shelter from a storm.

Appalachian State University student volunteers clear rubble to save Ms. Debra’s property from governmental seizure under “eminent domain.”
degrees at the University of Wisconsin, after doing his undergraduate work in sociology at the University of Wyoming. He held tenured appointments in sociology at Indiana University-Bloomington and University of Texas-Austin, before moving to Ohio State in 1996.

Randy Hodson

Roscigno also joined the faculty at Ohio State in 1996 where he has focused on social movements, the sociology of work, historical sociology, stratification, and the labor movement, and the production of culture—music, literature, film, material culture, and fashion. His research has been in a single sociological project. After publishing a series of articles on the spatial-political economic practice, we were taken-aback by his lack of awareness of the questioner prior to his becoming a candidate for an ASA office. The title of his letter to the editor (“Single-issue Voting Tactic?”) suggests that he perceives SWS members vote for ASA candidates based solely on issues related to gender equality, and he expresses concern that the results of the SWS survey are used to prepare a “voting strategy” for our members. All members of the ASA, including those who belong to other related organizations, are free to contact candidates about their positions on whatever issues concern them, and we do not think that our practice needs justification. Nonetheless, we take this brief opportunity to clarify that SWS does not repeat the same sorts of questions that the ASA asks of candidates and publishes in Footnotes, because there is no need for information redundancy—our members read Footnotes. And, like the ASA, SWS shares the candidates’ verbal responses with our members, letting them decide for themselves if any of the information is relevant to their vote, and we make no effort to predigest candidate responses for our readers. We feel that the candidates’ statements (or lack of responses) speak for themselves.

Christine E. Bow, University at Albany-SUNY, President, Sociologists for Women in Society

Catherine Zimmer, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Vice President and Membership Chair, Sociologists for Women in Society

Response to SWS

Although the title of my May/June Footnotes (p. 12) letter to the editor (“Single-issue Voting Tactic?”) was provided by the Footnotes managing editor, it reflects my main concern about the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) survey well—a concern that has been expressed in the pages of this newsletter by other ASA members in at least the past 14 years (and in near identical terms). The very name, bylaws, and stated goals of SWS betray the organization’s activist motives and the desired effect its survey is intended to have. Indeed, as this goal is narrowly perceived in terms of the number of females elected to ASA positions, the SWS survey is at best obsolete, at worst a litmus test. I should be taken-aback by the implication that I would not be fit to run for an ASA office because I was unaware of a practice that is not part of ASA procedures but is instituted by an external organization. Candidates for the ASA Council have a duty to reply to any query from SWS members, be it individually or collectively organized within the ASA, but they need feel no such responsibility when questions come from outside our Association. Even the overlap between the memberships of the organizations does not deny the fact that SWS is not a constituency within the ASA and, therefore, cannot claim to represent the ASA electorate or any part thereof. Not even the interlocking directores that currently exist between SWS and the ASA Executive Office and Council can alter this fact.

Of the five candidates who did not respond to the SWS survey this year, two were female. Should SWS members really heed the call to have these non-responses speak for themselves, these candidates should not be receiving SWS support. That is very unlikely, however, as the SWS platform is not defined as promoting gender equality but as maximizing the professional opportunities for women in sociology. More broadly, I find it a tragic shame that SWS appears to have turned from the progressive Committee of the Status of Women in Sociology, which promoted equality, to a conservative force that opposes inclusiveness and resorts to sterile gender-based voting. Such a practice I find objectionable most of all in view of all candidates running for ASA offices deserving the right to be treated on the basis of their professional qualifications.

Matthew Deflem, University of South Carolina, deflem@usc.edu

New ASA publication!

Syllabi and Instructional Resources for Teaching the Sociology of Consumers and Consumption (Second Edition)

Edited by Daniel Thomas Cook, J. Michael Ryan, and Jerry Jacobs, Lisa Keister, Garth Massey, Christine E. Bose, University at Albany-SUNY, President, Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) has a 24-year history of sending this short and simple questionnaire to candidates seeking ASA elected office. Because this is a long-established practice, we were taken-aback by his lack of awareness of the questioner prior to his becoming a candidate for an ASA office. The title of his letter to the editor (“Single-issue Voting Tactic?”) suggests that he perceives SWS members vote for ASA candidates based solely on issues related to gender equality, and he expresses concern that the results of the SWS survey are used to prepare a “voting strategy” for our members. All members of the ASA, including those who belong to other related organizations, are free to contact candidates about their positions on whatever issues concern them, and we do not think that our practice needs justification. Nonetheless, we take this brief opportunity to clarify that SWS does not repeat the same sorts of questions that the ASA asks of candidates and publishes in Footnotes, because there is no need for information redundancy—our members read Footnotes. And, like the ASA, SWS shares the candidates’ verbal responses with our members, letting them decide for themselves if any of the information is relevant to their vote, and we make no effort to predigest candidate responses for our readers. We feel that the candidates’ statements (or lack of responses) speak for themselves.

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Among the editorial team, Vinnie Roscigno and Randy Hodson share many traits, but they are also two quite different people. While both regularly play poker, like to fish, and both are reported to be married to a remarkable woman named “Susan,” I have both personal and indirect knowledge that these are in fact two different women; one is a great poker player, and the other a fine fisherman. With Susan Rogers, Randy has two children—Debbie (age 3) and Susie (age 1)—both born in China. Vinnie has also two children: Allegra is 10, a budding scientist and a creative editorship and thank them for their hard work, commitment to evidence-based decision makers, and passion about sociology, fairness, and justice. Many of the people with whom I talked about this editorial were praised by co-workers and co-authors as extraordinary.
Call for Papers

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Sociological Methodology will now post complete, peer reviewed, web-based articles online up to several months in advance of the printed issue! Intended to benefit researchers, OnlineEarly provides access to the latest research before it is more widely distributed in print. OnlineEarly also benefits authors by shortening the acceptance-to-publication time and extending the period in which an article is most often cited.

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Non-members and institutional subscribers can access OnlineEarly articles through BlackwellSynergy. www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/sm

21 October – 16 October. 2006. Blending Addiction Science & Practice. To address the growing problem of addiction, a conference entitled “Blending Addiction Science & Practice” will be held in Washington, D.C. The conference is designed to bring together leading scientists to address the complex issues surrounding addiction science and practice. For more information, visit <www.blendingseattle.com>.

16-18 November. 2006. Conference on Dress. This conference will bring together dress history scholars from all over the world to discuss the role of dress in shaping identity, gender, and social status. The conference will be held at Hofstra University, 200 Hofstra University, Long Island, NY 11544. Contact: Conference on Dress, Hofstra University; <www.hofstra.edu/culture>.

1 November 1-4. 2006. Sociological Research Methods. This conference will provide a forum for researchers to present their work and share ideas on the latest trends and developments in sociological research methods. The conference will be held at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637. Contact: Conference on Sociological Research Methods, University of Chicago; <www.uchicago.edu>.

1-5 November. 2006. Annual Meeting. The American Sociological Association (ASA) will hold its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting will feature a variety of panels and workshops on topics ranging from social inequality to the role of new technologies in society. For more information, visit <www.asa.cmu.edu/ASA2006/home.html>.

5-8 November. 2006. National Academy of Social Insurance. This conference will bring together social insurance experts from around the world to discuss the latest developments in social insurance policy. The conference will be held at Hofstra University, 200 Hofstra University, Long Island, NY 11544. Contact: National Academy of Social Insurance, <www.nasi.org>.

15 November – 18 November. 2006. Conference on Social Work. This conference will bring together social workers from all over the world to discuss the latest trends and developments in social work. The conference will be held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Contact: Conference on Social Work, University of Michigan; <www.umich.edu>.

1-2 December. 2006. National Development and Social Health, Global Partnerships. This conference will bring together partners from around the world to discuss the latest developments in social health and development. The conference will be held at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637. Contact: National Development and Social Health, Global Partnerships, University of Chicago; <www.nash.org>.

1-4 December. 2006. Conference on Family Violence. This conference will bring together family violence experts from around the world to discuss the latest trends and developments in family violence. The conference will be held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Contact: Conference on Family Violence, University of Michigan; <www.umich.edu>.

1-4 December. 2006. Conference on Social Justice. This conference will bring together social justice experts from around the world to discuss the latest trends and developments in social justice. The conference will be held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Contact: Conference on Social Justice, University of Michigan; <www.umich.edu>.

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Trubee and South China Morning Post. On March 7, 2006 we also appeared on Fox News Channel's Public Radio's one-hour Midmorning call-in program, debating the article and his recent book, The Marketing of Silicon Valley, Inc., and International Artic.

Jennie Brand, University of Michigan, was quoted in the April 27 issue of the Washington Post about a paper she wrote that found that graduates from elite colleges did not disperse as widely across the United States as the national population against mothers featured on the March 28 edition of National Public Radio's one-hour Midmorning call-in program, discussing the article and his recent book, The Marketing of Silicon Valley, Inc., and International Artic.

Xavier de Souza Briggs, New York University, was quoted in the May 16, 2006 New York Times article about the power of money and how it shapes people, from less re
defined universities.

Dylan Conroy, New York University, was quoted in a May 7 New York Times article about his research with Robert V. Robinson, Indiana University, which appeared in the April Asian American Sociological Review. Their research was on religious orthodoxy in Islamic communities.

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Phillip N. Cohen, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Melissa Mikl, University of Maryland-College Park, were quoted in a Robb Report article about mothers, deciding between being stay-at-home moms or returning to the workforce.

Craig Forsyth, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Mahmoud Dhaouadi, New York University, had their article on sex scandals in the Catholic Church changing the way people view priests.

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Jeremy Straughn’s, Purdue University, survey of national identity in America was the subject of an article in the April 26 issue of The Christian Science Monitor. On April 25, he was interviewed on National Public Radio.

Steven Taylor, Syracuse University, was interviewed about the disabled in the workplace on a May 12 Marketplace show on National Public Radio.

Debra Umberson, University of Texas-Austin, was quoted in an April 18 Washington Post article on her research on the declining health of older individuals in a bad marriage. Her research appeared in the March 2006 Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, American University, was interviewed April 11 on Excelsa Y Pontes de Radio Campanisa, a southwest radio station focusing on migrant populations, about the impact of immigration on the sexuality of Latin American immigrants.

Michelle Wakin, Bridgewater State College, was quoted in a front-page article in the New York Times on April 2. The article focused on people who live in their cars.

John Robert Warren, University of Minnesota, was quoted in a May 23 Washington Post article on the differing statistics on high school dropout rates.

Kenneth Westhues, University of Washington, was quoted in an April 14, 2006, Chronicle of Higher Education article about “mobbing” behavior among teaching faculty in higher education.


Ester Ngan-Ling Chew, American University, has been awarded the 2006 AHA Student Research Paper Award for her paper on “Machiavellianism” in current research by a team of health economists. He was designated a “superstar” in medical research by a team of health economists.

Gary LaFree, Pennsylvania State University, received the USC Associates Research and Creative Achievement Award for 2006–2007.

John W. Meyer, Stanford University, has been awarded the Distinguished Public Service Award at the University of Southern California, both received the Distinguished Scholarship Award from the Pacific Sociological Association.

Luis H. Téllez, University of Texas at El Paso, received the 2006 “Texty” Textbook Excellence Award. He was quoted on the topic of same sex marriage versus marriage for people of the same sex.

Michael A. Hetherington, University of California, Berkeley, was quoted in an April 10 New York Times article about the increasing chances that Americans will live in poverty. He has been named a “Superstar” in medical research by a team of health economists.

Lee Clarke, Rutgers University, has been named the Niklas Luhmann Distinguished Professor for 2006–07 by the Program in American Studies.

Susan Dimock, University of Washington, was quoted in the April 10 New York Times on the marriage license for gay couples in Massachusetts.

Hanna Metzler, University of Maryland-College Park, has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology.

Arvind Rajagopal, Stanford University, Germany. He is spending the summer term as the Niklas Luhmann Distinguished Professor for 2006–07 by the Program in American Studies.

The Five O’clock News on March 7, 2006, about the increase in discrimination by real estate brokers involved in home sales and rentals in the Northern part of New Jersey.

Eric Plutzer, University of Delaware, about a prominent cantor who resigned to protest rabbis officiating at gay weddings.

Valentine Moghadam, American University, was quoted in the June 2006 Washington Post article on the American University’s 2006–2007 year. She was elected an official delegate to the Council for European Studies for 2006–2009.

Irving Krauss, Northern Illinois University, New York, was elected Chair of the Alumni Chapter of the American Society for Criminology.

Donald Utrillo, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, has been named the 2007–2008 recipient of the Robert F. Sarno, University of Texas-Medical Branch at Galveston, has been quoted by the Texas Medical Journal for his research on military manpower.

Marcus A. Smith, Vanderbilt University, was featured on an April 12 story in the London Financial Times. He said that some SNARE, to reform “socially inept” email software, may do a better job of information-in two research projects.

Koen Sterrenburg, University of Southern California, commented in a May 11 Washington Post article about violent video games using “easy target” for policy.

Karen Sterrenburg, University of Southern California, commented in a May 11 Washington Post article about violent video games using “easy target” for policy.

Koen Sterrenburg, University of Southern California, commented in a May 11 Washington Post article about violent video games and was quoted in an April 12 story in the London Financial Times. He said that some SNARE, to reform “socially inept” email software, may do a better job of information-in-two research projects.
Other Organizations

**Humanity & Society** Applicants are sought for a three-year term on the Book Review Committee of the Editor of Humanity & Society, the journal of the Humanity & Society Society. The Book Review Editor is responsible for the solicitation of books, selection of reviewers, and editing of Book Review Notes. Applications should be received no later than October 1, 2006, and should include name, address, background, qualifications, and goals for the Book Review section along with supporting resources and Curriculum Vita.

Caught in the Web

The MedEdMentoring.org website is the online extension of our comprehensive educational initiative currently in development, thanks to a four-year small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract awarded to MediSpin Inc. by the National Institute on Aging. The mission of this website is to provide assistance to researchers seeking to launch and maintain a successful career in geriatric mental health research. MedEdMentoring.org utilizes a multimedia approach to research training that includes live webinars, career workshops, printed materials, CD-ROMs, and the World Wide Web. The website is intended to make these critical resources available to a larger number of mental health professionals, and to help to support the research and educational needs of mentees, mentors, and mentors-in-training. By using the MedEdMentoring.org website, researchers will be prepared to address the increased demands that will be made on the geriatric mental health workforce over the next decade. The program is designed to support the mentors, mentees, and mentors-in-training.

**SAC Publication Digest** The latest issue of the SAC Publication Digest is now available on the Justice Research and Analysis Centers published from July 1 through December 31, 2006 and to all links to the publications that are available online. In general, abstracts of SAC reports published in 2004 and later can be accessed in two ways. Through discrete PDF files, like this one, in which abstracts are grouped by publication date and topic or by a keyword search of all abstracts by using JRSA’s Thunderstone search engine. Abstracts of reported publications prior to 2004 are available through the Institute de State Archives and Research at www.jrsa.org.

New Programs

**The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/ACLS Early Career Fellowships.** The American Council of Learned Societies announces a significant new fellowship program for young scholars to complete their dissertation and to prepare for a career in the humanities. The first competition for Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Fellowships for early career scholars will begin Thursday, July 27, 2006—2008. Eligibility for these 25 Fellowships will be limited to scholars who have defended their dissertation completion. Fellows will complete dissertations within the terms specified in their fellowship application. Awards will have up to two years from the date of the award to take place or to be completed. For more information, visit www.acls.org/edt.htm.

**Deaths**

Yung-Sih Chow, University of Alabama, passed away on September 22, 2006.

Robert Herman Mugge, National Center for Health Statistics, died on April 11 in St. Louis, MO.

Bernd Weiler, Zappelion University, passed away in Friedrichshafen, Lake Constance, Germany, on March 31.

Robin Williams, Cornell University and Garches, France, died June 3 at the age of 91.

**Obituaries**

Alvin Lee Bertrand (1923–2006)

We report in sorrow the death of Thomas Ford, of Lexington, KY, on April 30, 2006. Thomas Ford was born in 1923 in Lake Charles, LA. He earned his BA and MA degrees at Louisiana State University and PhD from Vanderbilt. During World War II, Tom was a pilot in the 433rd AAF Squadron, flying many missions over Germany. He returned his love of flying and continued to fly for recreation and professional trips until his final illness interested. Tom also had a passion for tennis and almost always found an hour in the middle of his long working days to join others for a set or two. This, too, he continued as long as his health permitted.

When Tom came to the University of Kentucky in 1956, sociologists had faculty appointments in two Colleges—Arts and Sciences and Agriculture. Although a majority of the faculty supported a single department, their budgets and ultimate responsibilities continued to be tied to the College of their primary appointment. As a faculty member and department Chair, Tom provided the leadership, patience, diplomacy, and persuasion needed to make the University more viable as it entered a new era. Tom's efforts to unify previously hived disciplines paved the way for many medical sociologists in departmental affairs were instrumental in leading the University to consider sociology one of its significant strengths.

**Deaths**

Alvin Lee Bertrand (1923–2006)

Alvin Lee Bertrand was a rural sociologist at Louisiana State University from 1946 until his retirement in 1976. He was born in China (or Cheno) community near Lufkin in southeastern Louisiana on July 6, 1918, and was the oldest of nine children. Bertrand's family moved to DeQuincy, Louisiana, in 1924 after heavy rains ruined his father's rice crop. The family later moved to Portkin, Louisiana, where Bertrand's father relearned farming and raising livestock.

Bertrand began college in the fall of 1935 at Southeastern Louisiana Institute (now University of Louisiana-Lafayette) where he majored in agriculture. After a year, he left Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge. He received his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics in 1940 and immediately accepted a graduate assistantship at the University of Kentucky in the Farm Economics and Rural Sociology Department. While at Kentucky, he conducted field interviews with farmers in connection with government subsidy programs. These interviews became part of his master's thesis. Bertrand received his MA degree in 1942 and his PhD in sociology in 1943. After receiving his MA degree, Bertrand was hired as a research and resource associate at LSU in the Agricultural Economics Department, and returned to Baton Rouge in June, 1943. He married Mary Nic Ellis on August 29, 1941. The following year, Bertrand volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. He received training in navigation and as a bombardier, and in 1943, he was awarded the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and became an instructor with the 83rd Bomb Training Group. In 1945, he was commissioned to 1st Lieutenant. He outfitted, the 463rd Bomb Squadron, never saw combat. Bertrand's squadron took part in a show of force exercise over the U.S. Military base in Tokyo Bay during the surrender ceremony ending World War II. Bertrand was stationed on Okinawa until April of 1946 when he was ordered back to the States for discharge.

Bertrand returned to Baton Rouge and LSU to work on his PhD, which he received in 1948, and became a professor in the Sociology Department shortly thereafter. He completed undergraduate and graduate level classes but was mostly involved in the graduate program. The author or co-author of 15 books on sociology, Bertrand's Rural Sociology, published in 1976, is the book that shaped his inscription in the University of Kentucky's History of the University. The book served as a seminal text in the training of the next generation of rural sociologists.

Another significant work was his role in helping to establish the Rural Sociology Department, and the current Department of Sociology, as a separate entity. The sociology department, its budgets and ultimate responsibilities continued to be tied to the College of their primary appointment. As a faculty member and department Chair, Tom provided the leadership, patience, diplomacy, and persuasion needed to make the University more viable as it entered a new era. Tom's efforts to unify previously hived disciplines paved the way for many medical sociologists in departmental affairs were instrumental in leading the University to consider sociology one of its significant strengths.

**Obituaries**

In the obituary of him that "I had reason to seek his advice about a sometimes strange admixture of academic and personal concerns. There was no single time that he was not concerned in being concerned, supportive, and willing to offer useful advice... He was a good person who never expected a drop more from others than he demanded of himself. The personal and professional model that he set in his consistently retrenched shaped my career... Not surprisingly, Tom was a re not to say... to be improved. Beyond his skills as a mentor, he so consistently provided shaped my academic and personal concerns. There was no single time that he was not concerned in being concerned, supportive, and willing to offer useful advice... He was a good person who never expected a drop more from others than he demanded of himself. The personal and professional model that he set in his consistently retrenched shaped my career... Not surprisingly, Tom was a re...
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cations may be made to the Sanders-Brown
served as a member of President Lyndon
classic historical work on Appalachia. Tom
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