The National Science Foundation’s (NSF) innovative three-year-old interdisciplinary Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) initiative brought together a number of sociologists this fall at a two-day summit (Prystay & Stouffer, 2003) in Washington, DC. The nearly 200 participants, including 25 sociologists, provided a forum to discuss their findings about other PIs’ findings, participated in discussion sessions, and asked questions at the first NSF-funded effort that includes the development of associated research infrastructure. Sociologist Richard O. Lempert was instrumental in developing the HSD program at the NSF in 2003. (See July/August 2005 Footnotes, p. 3, and February 2004 Footnotes, p. 5, for historical background on the HSD initiative.)

Collaboration, Tools, and U.S. Competitiveness

In their plenary presentations, NSF staff members emphasized that the HSD projects funded in the 2006 round of HSD grants reflected a movement away from curiosity-driven research toward more purpose-driven research that engaged with real-world problems. According to NSF’s Anne Carlson, Senior Associate for Policy and Planning, NSF wanted these projects to bring about new scientific collaborations across fields, a greater knowledge and technology transfer, stronger focus on real-world problems, and increased American competitiveness in creating a globally engaged science workforce. Mark Weiss, Senior Advisor of the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, assured the audience of NSF’s commitment to all, both basic and economic research in order to understand major social issues such as “natural” disasters, homeland security, technology growth, and health. Marburger pointed out the need for greater use of the social sciences but also the need for sociology and the other social sciences to “grab new tools and to gain prestige by answering important questions.” In so doing, he stated, American competitiveness (in the sense of the gross domestic product) would increase.

According to sociologist Edward Hackett, NSF’s new Division Director of Social and Economic Sciences (see September/October 2005 Footnotes, p. 3), research policy can be an agent for change. To this end, hybridization is important as is engagement with real-world ideas in order to stimulate a new set of dynamics. He encouraged researchers to study scientific/ intellectual social movements, the role of opportunities, group frames, and framings of issues in order to develop usable knowledge for innovative policy. The goal of this policy is increased social well-being, not just increased gross domestic product.

Among the issues raised in discussions were the advantages and disadvantages of interdisciplinary work. Participants debated whether there is a need for a common language or perspective, what investigators get out of these projects, the reward structures that encourage interdisciplinary work, the roles that organizations play, the funding and

What the Iraqi Study Group Missed: The Iraqi People

There is growing support for nationalism among Iraqis in the midst of insecurity and violence

by Mansoor Moaddel, Eastern Michigan University

The escalating violence in Iraq gives a bleak impression of that country’s future. Sectarian conflict seems to increase daily with massacres occurring hundreds of Sunnis and Shi’is across the country. While neither American nor Iraqi security officials have a way to tame the militias, the Iraqi public is increasingly drawn toward a vision of a Democratic, non-sectarian government for the country.

In December 2004 and April 2006, I was involved in conducting two NSF-funded nationwide public opinion surveys in Iraq. The Effects Assessment Group connected to multinational forces in Iraq grandly requested that I include about 10 of our questions in their October 2006 survey to assess whether the trend in Iraqi population values revealed by findings from our two surveys could be confirmed. This group generously shared data from their April and October 2006 surveys. All these surveys have been carried out by the Independent Institute for Administrative and Civil Society Studies, an Iraqi research firm.

Support for Secular Politics

When asked about “the three main reasons for the U.S. invasion of Iraq,” 76% of Iraqis cited “to control Iraq oil” as their first choice; 41% said “to build military bases” as the second choice; and 32% mentioned “to help Israel” as the third choice. Less than 2% of Iraqis cited “to bring democracy to Iraq” as the most likely explanation for the U.S. invasion of their country. Given Iraqis’ misgivings about U.S. intentions, one may expect that they would distance themselves from the occupying forces, which are both foreign and non-Muslim, by solidifying their support behind a religious regime. The trend in their political views, however, appears to be just the opposite. There is growing support for secular politics and nationalism. For example, the percentage of Iraqis who said it was “very good to have an Islamic government where religious leaders have absolute power”—somewhat similar to the U.S. system as it now exists—declined from 26% (Dec. 2004) to 19% (April 2006) and 18% (Oct. 2006). This decrease was by ethnic group: Among the Shi’is, it decreased from 35% to 30% and 28%, among the Sunnis from 17% to 6% and 5%, among the Muslims (both Iraqis not identified as Shi’is or Sunnis) from 17% to 8% and 8%, and among the
In This Issue . . .

ASA Teams Up with Research!America
Effective advocacy alliance helps bolster sociological medical/health research.

5

ASR’s International Perspective
Jerry Jacobs notes the journal’s rapid growth of comparative and international studies.

5

Contexts Magazine in the Undergraduate Classroom
Contexts proves useful as a teaching tool for undergraduate instructors.

5

A New ASA Congressional Fellow
After researching faith-based policies, Rebecca Sager comes to Capitol Hill.

6

Ethnographers as Consumer Researchers
Hy Mariampolski helps consumers articulate how a product could address their needs better.

6

A Spotlight on the University of Wisconsin-Madison
With the Concentration in Analysis and Research, UW prepares students for applied social research.

6

The Council on Contemporary Families
Barbara Risman leads a nonprofit dedicated to addressing family issues.

10

Our Regular Features
Public Forum ................................................. 11
Departments .................................................. 12
Obituaries ..................................................... 15

The Executive Officer’s Column

An Assessment of National Social Science Advocacy

As ASA works to advance the interests of academic, scientific, and practice-oriented sociology in national policy arenas, it needs strong and effective friends in the nation’s capital to help us ensure a positive environment for science in general, the social sciences in particular, and an appropriate—at least, adequate—federal investment in the sciences of human behavior. Our primary Washington friend is the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), a welcome partner in a town renowned for raw politics. While ASA promotes and defends the discipline of sociology and increases its visibility, COSSA reinforces our efforts and takes the lead when lobbying is needed. COSSA collaborates with us and others to foster research-facilitating policies, communication, and mutual support among all the sciences as well as to educate the elected, appointed, and career federal officials who control and direct the nation’s federal research enterprise, including data collection and analysis in the federal mission agencies (e.g., census, criminal justice, labor, and educational statistics).

Social Sciences’ Best Friend in Washington
COSSA was founded in May 1981 by social science societies, including ASA and the Social Science Research Council, in response to the then new Reagan Administration’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposal for dramatic cuts in the social and behavioral science program of the National Science Foundation (NSF). While the issues needing social science advocacy are ever-changing, and the political context evolves daily, there has been scarcely a moment’s lull since the Reagan years. COSSA’s plate has increased in size and complexity because of need and its history of success, its seasoned and experienced leadership, and the widespread perception of its effectiveness.

Ten science associations incorporated COSSA in 1982, registering it with the IRS as a 501(c)(6) organization, allowing it to both lobby and educate. COSSA quickly advanced beyond protecting funding to monitoring all federal agencies that support “social and behavioral research and to advocate for a non-politicized research agenda.” COSSA’s mission is to serve as a “bridge between the academic research community and the Washington policymaking world.” Many ASA members keep abreast of these activities through the biweekly newsletter, the COSSA Washington UPDATE. This informative newsletter is electronic, and the ASA Executive Office can ensure you are on the mailing list.

Evaluation of COSSA
Has COSSA done its job? True to form, social scientists hold their organizations accountable. COSSA’s board and executive committee (on both of which ASA has a seat) has initiated several self evaluations, the latest beginning in late 2004. The objectives were to conduct a program review to assure COSSA is performing as intended; an external assessment to see how constituent groups and target audiences perceive COSSA’s work; and strategic planning to identify emerging challenges and organizational priorities while recognizing COSSA’s resource constraints.

I chaired the Sub-Committee on Self-Assessment of the COSSA Executive Committee. Interviewing a broad range of external stakeholders, we obtained views about COSSA’s effectiveness and mission. At the 2005 COSSA Annual Meeting, constituents and Board members discussed these issues, and the Executive Committee discussed the input at a full-day retreat. The assessment’s defining parameters were: mission clarity, inclusiveness, and relevance; alignment of research to policies and policy focus; range and effectiveness of alliances; impact intensity, location, and potential; resource leveraging and expansion possibilities; leadership of COSSA’s governing body and utilization of its governance structure.

Conclusions
The COSSA Executive Committee and Board concluded, among other things, that the core mission—“To promote the value of social and behavioral science research to policymakers and the public with the goal of enhancing federal support”—should continue and that COSSA has been effective. Stakeholders unanimously agree that COSSA is the major player for the social and behavioral science community on key science policy, and it is the central resource for detailed knowledge about relevant federal science matters. But to address even more serious future challenges, COSSA should enhance some strategies as resources permit, especially those that aggressively, proactively, and visibly make the case that social and behavioral science research is vital to the nation and to informed policymaking. Its main federally focused advocacy should remain a major strategy; but COSSA will be considering advocacy targeted at specific members of Congress, tapping social and behavioral scientists in such educational campaigns. We know sociologists will be responsive when ASA seeks help with this or with a future COSSA Congressional Visits Day. Many sociologists have already participated in COSSA Capitol Hill briefings co-hosted by ASA, and this activity will continue. COSSA is expected to add advocacy for science training programs to its mission, an area relevant to ASA’s Minority Fellowship Program. The self-assessment also determined that increasing alliances with natural and biomedical science advocacy groups, as well as those of the physical sciences, engineering, higher education, and industry, contribute significantly and strategically to COSSA’s visibility and effectiveness. This was evident in mid-2006 when NSF’s social and behavioral science program was challenged by Senator Kay Hutchison, and they came to our support.

Footnotes, of course, have highlighted many of sociology’s successful COSSA collaborations, and while there is not room here to detail all the assessments’ recommendations and praise for COSSA, I urge you to visit the COSSA website (www.cossa.org) to learn more about sociology’s good friend in Washington.

—Sally T. Hillsman
ASA Joins Research!America Alliance

Nonprofit health research advocacy organization promises benefits for social science research

by James H. Stine, ASA Minority Affairs Program, and Lori Herring, ASA Public Affairs Program

ASA has joined Research!America for 2007 to help advance sociological science in the nation’s primary basic research agencies devoted to health and illness, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF). Research!America has been well-respected for many years in important national policymaker circles, and it commands attention in the health/medical/disease research policy domain.

Importance to Sociology

“Research!America members are positioned prominently in the ranks of national leaders in the research advocacy community and are well-versed in the world of governmental policy and practice surrounding societal health and social issues,” said sociologist Michael Reiner, Research!America’s associate director.

Research!America's mission is to support the nation's federal basic research agencies devoted to health and illness, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The organization's primary goal is to ensure that the public and private sectors recognize and support the importance of federal basic research.

Don’t Ask, from page 1

were likely to be released earlier than they said that they were committed to the Nazi cause. Research on POWs is no longer allowed by federal regulations protecting human subjects. None of these studies sought to empirically link sexual orientation to either cohesion or performance, although the Shils and Janowitz study did refer to homoeroticism in some cases.

No research has been linked to PTSD. On the other hand, task cohesion (bonding on the basis of contribution to group efforts) has been linked to effective performance, but the research to establish this link is controversial.

No research has actually been conducted on American military forces to determine the impact of sexual orientation on cohesion or performance. However, in comparative research on military forces that do have a policy on sexual orientation, including forces that are reputed to be extremely effective, such as those of Great Britain and Israel, no negative effects have been noted. And retired general and Joint Chiefs chair Wesley Clark and retired Louie Leonidas of the U.S. Army, in a January 2, 2007, *New York Times* op-ed that a changed social context mandates a reconsideration of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell (DADT). The brief, submitted on behalf of ASA and social scientists by the Washington, DC, law firm of Covington and Burling, is accessible at www.asanet.org. Click on “Press” in the upper right-hand corner. The case likely will be argued in early spring in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Draft guidance on human subjects research. . .

The U.S. Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) announced in the Federal Register, the availability of a draft guidance document: *Guidance on Engaging Involuntary Subjects in Research at Institutions in Human Subjects Research* that would update two existing OHRP documents:


2. *Engaging Involuntary Subjects in Research at National Institutes of Health-Related Companies in HHS-Supported Research*

To facilitate public review of the draft guidance document, OHRP has developed a table presenting a side-by-side comparison of the new draft guidance document with the current documents. Both the draft guidance document and the comparison table can be accessed at <www.hhs.gov/ohrp/orders/>.

A copy of the Federal Register notice can be accessed at <www.hhs.gov/ohrp/orders/documents/20061228.pdf>

Written comments must be submitted by February 6, 2007, to: ENGAGEMENT GUIDANCE COMMENTS, OHRP, The Tower Building, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20852. Comments also may be sent to engagementohrp@hhs.gov or via facsimile at 301-402-2071.

U.S. Census Bureau chiefs resign as 2010 Census looms . . .

Charles Louis Kincannon, Director of the Census Bureau and Hermann Habermann, the Bureau’s Deputy Director, both announced their resignations this fall, just as plans were being finalized for the next U.S. Census. Kincannon joined the Bureau in 1963 and was appointed by President Bush to succeed former director Kenneth Prewitt. Just four years ago, Kincannon took the resignation letter to the President, Kincannon noted that “shifting priorities may take it too much for me to retire,” and he cited “the need to spend more time with family.” The often case with resignations, there is speculation that both leaders were asked to leave by the administration. Quoted soon after his resignation in the Washington Post, Kincannon stated, “My perception of it is that I don’t have the same level of trust that I did a year or so ago,” and there were “different views perhaps about priorities” at the agency. Kincannon was referring to views among current Census leadership, politically appointed Commerce officials, and members of Congress having Census oversight responsibilities. For example, the decennial Census contains plans for adjusting for undercounting of minorities and immigrants, and these groups are more likely to vote for Democrats. In most every recent Census, the Commerce Department has resisted adjustments when challenged in legal suits. Republicans in Commerce are concerned that a more accurate Census is not likely to emerge again under a Democratic Congress. Kincannon stated he will remain in the post until President Bush has his replacement named and confirmed by the Senate. Habermann, who has worked at the Bureau since 2002, departs this month. Without its top leadership, review and testing of the 2010 American Community Survey will be handicapped. This fall, ASA signed a coalition letter to the President urging immediate action on replacements for Census leadership. Congressional approval of a reasonable FY 2007 budget is also threatening to hamper the agency’s preparation for 2010.

Non-tenure-track faculty in America’s colleges and universities on the rise . . .

The American Association of University Professors’ Contingent Faculty Index 2006 shows an increase in the number of non-tenure-track faculty in America’s colleges and universities. The index provides data at the institution level on the number of full-time faculty with and without tenure, the number of part-time faculty, and the number of graduate student employees. For 2005, the latest year for which data is available, contingent faculty, both full- and part-time faculty not on a tenure track, encompassed 65 percent of all faculty for the year. The report warns that the emergence of an increasing contingent faculty represents a fundamental change in the nature of higher education. This new report uses figures submitted by institutions to the U.S. Department of Education for fall 2005. Four appendices of the Index provide institution-specific data on over 2,600 colleges and universities. Obtain a copy of the report at <www.aauap.org/AUAP/pubs/research/conind2006.htm>.

Obesity is number-one health concern for children, according to U.S. adults . . .

According to a poll from Research!America and the Endocrine Society, Americans named obesity as the top health concern for children, followed by a lack of healthcare/insurance and nutrition/unhealthy diet. The nation is split on whether this is a poll or a public issue, with slightly more Americans (52%) believing that obesity is a public health issue in which society should intervene. Americans do believe that a combination of the community and the individual are responsible to address obesity, listing education, physical activity, the food industry, and the government as entities that should be involved. According to the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ages 20-74 are obese or overweight, compared to 17% of those ages 2-19. A large majority of Americans believe it is important for the government to invest in both research and public health and prevention efforts to find solutions to obesity. The most important health issue for all ages, health insurance/health-care cost was cited as the number-one concern, followed by cancer, access to health care, and then obesity/nutrition.
processes, the building of infrastructure, and social spaces needed for ongoing work.

Sociology Projects and PIs

The HSD PIs presented posters describing their projects. Sociologists’ posters reflected not only the complexity of the discipline but also the usefulness of its concepts, methods, and frameworks for other disciplines. Below is a list of the sociologist PIs (names in bold type) and a brief description of their interdisciplinary HSD projects.

Ronald Angel (University of Texas-Austin), Laura Lein, Katrina Evacuees: The Transformation from Disaster to Victims to Welfare Recipients: An Interdisciplinary Approach. The PIs interviewed Hurricane Katrina refugees and service providers in Austin, TX, to test theories of civil society. They found that the combination of changing federal guidelines and the large number of NGOs led to confusion, and refugees received ineffective service in the year following the disaster.

Carter Butts (University of California-Irvine), Mapping the Rise, Fall, and Upward Sweeps of Large Political Parties in World History and the Global Future. The PIs will develop a model to predict the future paths for world integration based on the historical patterns of networks between international governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Elizabeth Frankenberg (University of California-Los Angeles), Jed Friedman, Thomas Gillespie, Nicholas Ingwersen, Borden Silkie, Cecep Sumantri, Wwayn Sutardja, Durban after the Transition. The PIs will develop three models of probable future paths for world integration based on historical patterns of networks between international governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The PIs seek to research the costs of the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia and how people cope with a disaster of this magnitude. Initial results suggest that the majority of survivors still experience challenges for the future.

Patrick Hether and Daniel Schensul (Brown University), Reconstructing the Arab City: Housing and Residential Change in Durban after the Transition. The PIs of this study map the main residential racial clusters of Durban after the transition from apartheid to emerging economies. They focus on the resilience of coastal livelihood decisions in Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru in order to develop more complete frameworks of human agency and environmental determinism.

Jennifer Reich (University of Denver), Susan Steinert-Martis, Martin Wadowoski, Government and Voluntary Association Coordination and Evacues: Experiences of Assistance in Colorado. The PIs examined the response of Denver, CO, government officials and service providers to evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Preliminary findings suggest that the service providers were concerned by federal governmental policies and that there was a high rate of suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Hal Salzman (Urban Institute), Beatrice Clewell, Leonard Lynn, Carlos Acosta, Robert Lerman, B. Lynn Faye, Pamela Meil, Globalization of Innovation, Migration, and Systems of Human Capital Development. The PIs examined how “third generation” stage of globalization in which multinational corporations move high-level knowledge employment to emerging economies. They focus on the effects of this change on specific countries, especially for migration flows, changes in education capacity, and shifts in production and engineering work.

Miller McPherson (University of Arizona), Alexander Rosenfeld, Stephen Teutsch, Social Isolation in America: Results from the First Phase of the Networks and Niches Project. The PIs answer key questions of association theory by comparing responses to questions regarding social networks, voluntary groups, and social isolation in America, using data from the 1985 and 2004 General Social Survey. They found that reports of close confidants in voluntary groups decreased, while reports of close confidants among spouses and parents increased.

Roberta Spalter-Roth (American Sociological Association), James Kim, Nancy Fortenberry, Social Dynamics of Engineering Instructional and Curricular Change: Creating an Interdisciplinary Research Agenda. In order to understand the dynamics facilitating acceptance and diffusion of new curricula and educational change, the PIs organized a workshop for sociologists to work with engineers. The workshop’s purpose was to develop hypotheses and study designs based on sociological concepts and theories to better understand the relations among rates of acceptance, prestige of educational institutions, distribution of rewards, and types of networks.

Edward Tiryakian and Kenneth Land (Duke University), A Bejan, G. Merko, Constructual Theory of Social Dynamics. The PIs focused on expanding the field around the constructual theory of physics by bringing together physicists along with social scientists and engineers. Some issues discussed in a workshop were globalization, migration, and development.

Tricia Wachtendorf (University of Delaware), Jose Holguin-Veras, Noel Perez, Satish Ukkusuri, Bethany Brown, Characterization of the Supply Chains in a Crisis. The PIs identified three broad issues that led to the logistical challenges resulting from Hurricane Katrina: Initial impact on the system, institutional impact, and logistical impact. The PIs are developing models to make recommendations concerning operational response to future extreme events.

Mary Waters (Harvard University), Jean Rhodes, Christina Paxson, Adversity and Resilience: Effects of Hurricane Katrina on Vulnerable Populations. The PIs investigate health and well-being of resources and capacities of low-income, minority parents before Hurricane Katrina affected their ability to adjust to the traumatic events caused by the hurricane. Both quantitative and qualitative research was used.

FY 2007 Solicitation

Final remarks at the seminar were given by Keith Crank, the outgoing Director of the NSF program. He reminded the audience that the FY 2007 competition includes three areas: assessment of disaster dynamics; human behavior and decision making; risk and uncertainty. The deadlines for NSF funding range from January 23, 2007, through February 12, 2007. More information can be obtained on the NSF website at <www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=NSF06463&org=NSF&area=&AwardID=11>.
AR Publishers the Latest International and Comparative Sociological Studies

by Jerry A. Jacobs, Former Editor,
American Sociological Review

In a recent FastNotes essay (December 2005), I noted the growth in multi-
method research articles published in the American Sociological Review (ASR), its flagship scholarly journal. Many authors have creatively combined the richness of in-depth interviews with the general-
izability of survey data to provide a compelling analysis of their topic. In this present article, I describe a complemen-
tary trend, namely, the rapid growth of international and comparative stud-
ies. While the multi-method approach each flourishes on intimate knowledge put in a broader social context, the interna-
tional style highlights the broad variety of social arrangements across countries. More than one-third of the papers pub-
lished in ASR over the last three years have had an international dimension. This trend coincides with ASA’s interna-
tionalization efforts to expand globally through a variety of outlets.

Beyond the United States
Several ASR studies focus on coun-
tries other than the United States. While this research sometimes involves an implicit comparison with the United States, as is the case with James Raymo and Mihoko Iwasawa’s (2005) study of women’s education and marriage pat-
terns in Japan, more often such studies

simply seek to understand social pat-
terns in a faraway setting. For example, Hayagriva Rao and his colleagues (2005) studied the rise of eclectic cuisine in France, while Kim Korinek and her co-
authors (2005) studied the role of social networks in urban settlement patterns in Thailand.

A second approach uses international data to place the United States in a comparative perspective. Thus, Robert Andersen and his colleagues (2006) show that recent trends in U.S. civic participa-
tion diverge from those in several other advanced industrial countries. Similarly, Lars Oxberg and Timmo Soemerring (2006) revisit the question of American exceptionalism in their analysis of beliefs about inequality in the United States and 26 other countries. These studies remind us that patterns and explanations devel-
op to explain the American experience do not always hold in other settings.

Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal
A third approach tries to explain variation across a set of countries. International comparative research designs can be divided into cross-section-
al studies and longitudinal ones. Cross-sectional research often draws on recently developed international databases, such as the World Values Survey, the Eurobarometer Survey, and the Luxembourg Income Study. Country-
level measures—the level of democracy, educational levels of the populace, or the level of economic development—often are employed in conjunction with indi-
vidual-level variables in a multi-level analysis. Hadas Mandal and Moshe Syermov (2005) conducted this style of research when they examined public policies and the gender gap in wages in 20 countries.

Longitudinal studies are even more ambitious. These studies not only compare countries, but also seek to explain changes over time. For example, Pamela Paxton and her research team explain variation in women’s political representa-
tion in 150 countries over the period 1895-2003. In an espe-
cially ambitious case of developing an original data set, Andreas Wimmer and Brian Mao (2006) created a data set to examine the causes of war over the last 200 years.

Students Weigh In
As one of Barbara Schneider’s undergraduates at Michigan State University said, “These are issues you care about, and they connect more closely with them than to readings that are 50 pages long and 800 years old.” And although it made us cringe, another pointed out that Contexts articles have an advantage even for students who don’t like them: “Contexts articles are short. If you’re not interested, you’re done. If you are inter-
ested, you can keep reading, get more information. These articles give synopses and references. That’s good.”

Finally, in the fall of 2007, using Contexts in your classroom will become even easier when W. W. Norton publishes a volume of our most popular read-
ings over the years, specially designed for introductory sociology courses. The Contexts Reader will contain more than 60 selected articles and keyword essays from the magazine, along with study questions and related projects for classroom discus-
sion. All the main features of social science are represented. To request an exam copy of Contexts Reader and be ready, contact your local Norton representative at (800) 233-4830 or visit their website at <www.wwnorton.com/college/contact.htm>. To make it easier to use Contexts in the classroom, we have added a special page on our website: <wwwcontextsmagazine.org/classroom.php>. Visit any time!
A spotlight on Dean Johnson’s globetrotting sociological career

by Daniel Spar, ASA Governance Office

One cannot easily summarize sociologist Dean Johnson’s career. A U.S. Naval Veteran, journalist, substitute teacher, scholar, philanthropist, and representative to various foreign universities across Europe, she has helped to bridge the gap between men and women, teachers and students, and people from all races and continents. With a resume that includes numerous awards and professional achievements (i.e., the Pencles Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems) and as one of the first women invited to join the American Legion, Deanie—as she is called by those close to her—is a force to be admired and revered.

First Steps as a Sociologist

Few people today can claim they met Jane Addams, the social reformer who founded Hull House, but at a very young age, Johnson’s mother took the budding scholar with her to work at Hull House. Unbeknownst to her, it would be Johnson’s first steps into a lifetime of sociological work.

Before getting her MA in sociology at Akron University in 1968, followed later by a PhD at Louisiana State University in 1976, Johnson traveled as one of the first women legislators in the U.S. Naval Reserves and then worked as the Ohio Broadcasting Company Women’s Editor under the surname Carol Adams. “Canton was unusual in that time since it didn’t have television during the 1950s. It was all old time, big time radio,” said Johnson. “I was the Oprah Winfrey of northeast Ohio!”

It was while studying sociology that Johnson truly felt her calling. “I was always interested in race relations and women’s issues and I felt that sociology was a logical area for me,” she said. “It had the kind of issues, expertise, and commitment that I would excel at.” Her calling toward sociology would take her all over the world.

World Traveler

After 15 years of teaching at Northwestern State University in Louisiana, Johnson left the United States to instruct throughout Europe. With stints traveling from Scotland to the farthest reaches of the Eastern bloc, Johnson followed a path of academia most would love to partake in. After teaching for three months in the Czech Republic, she left to teach at a new branch of the Anglo-American College in Ukraine. “I’m a do-gooder,” she admitted, and [I wanted] the chance to see a former communist country rise again and begin its way toward freedom.”

Afterwards, Johnson, through the University of Maryland European Division, taught sociology as a lecturer in Germany, Italy, Spain, Scotland, and Turkey. Without a doubt, Deanie has shown her colleagues and friends the meaning of the words “perseverance” and “commitment.” To this day, she is still waiting to take delivery of her cherished Mercedes that took her throughout her travels in Europe for more than 10 years, a testament to Johnson’s will and of where a career teaching sociology took this remarkable scholar.

“I love the discipline,” she said. “I practice it even though I’m no longer teaching. I’ve been a professor for 32 years and they’ve been wonderful years.”

Changes in the Graduate Record Exam

On September 20, 2006, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), in conjunction with the Educational Testing Service (ETS), announced to representatives of various professional associations some significant changes that are being made to the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) General Test. There are two primary changes: style and scoring.

The new GRE test will measure the same basic skills as the old test; however, there will be more emphasis on certain skills deemed more important for predicting success in graduate school. The four sections of the test will be verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing. On the verbal reasoning part, there will be more focus on cognitive skills and less on vocabulary; on the quantitative reasoning part, there will be more questions on real-life scenarios and data interpretation as opposed to questions in which calculators will be needed to find the answers.

The GRE test scoring will differ. There will be three different scores: (1) verbal, (2) quantitative, and (3) critical thinking and analytical writing scored together.

Percentiles for verbal and quantitative scores will be reported on score reports and will be available on the GRE website beginning in early November 2007.

2007 ASA Congressional Fellow Faces a New Congress

by Jamie Panzarilla, ASA Publications Department

The ASA is pleased to welcome Rebecca Sager, the next ASA Congressional Fellow. Before beginning her fellowship, Sager will receive her PhD this month at the University of Arizona. Her research interests include state and social policy, non-profit sector, religion, social movements, economic sociology, and organizations.

On accepting her fellowship, Sager said that she was “looking forward to bringing the science of sociology to Congress in the spring. Policy debates, especially those I have previously studied regarding religion and politics, too often reflect the views of a few but affect the lives of many. I hope that as the ASA Congressional Fellow I have the opportunity to contribute to policy, as well as gain an understanding of how the system works and how good research might interface in the policy creation process.”

Social policy work has been an underlying common characteristic for the majority of Sager’s graduate work, dealing mostly with faith-based policy initiatives. In her masters thesis, she examined the role of religion in church-based feeding programs. Her work was published in the September 2005 issue of Non-Profit Voluntary Sector Quarterly. Along with other graduate students at the University of Arizona, Sager researched a different aspect of the potential impact of the faith-based initiative, focusing on the implications of heightened attention to religion on clergy referrals. This research is forthcoming in the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Focusing on Faith-Based Policies

In her PhD dissertation, “The Purpose-Driven Policy: How Faith-Based Initiatives Came to Your State,” Sager used a dual research strategy to examine the state implementation of faith-based initiatives from 1996–2004. Among her conclusions, Sager found that an important aspect of these initiatives may be the de-secularization of state government through the creation of faith-based liaisons.

“Working on these various projects has given me the opportunity to use sociological knowledge to take on important topics and help inform discourse,” said Sager. “I hope that in my fellowship, and through my research methods, I’m able to critically approach different aspects of policy work and understand the underlying principles, and qua...
extensively with not-for-profit organizations, such as Business for Social
Endorsement of Free-Market Capitalism hold a dim view of his research for big

This cultural observation led to recommendations for distinct, gender-spe
cific formulations of detergents that meet men’s and women’s different laundry

“You can even ascertain quite a bit about culture, too.” In a global study of laun
dry practices, for example, the QualiData team observed women washing clothes
“I think of ourselves as serious social scientists who have a wealth of knowl
dge about human behavior and various methodologies,” said Mariampolski,
“This knowledge can significantly affect consumers’ everyday lives.”

More than an Odd Job
QualiData uses primarily qualitative research methods, such as focus groups and intensive interviewing. However, what makes the company unique is the pioneering application of ethnography to the marketing field. Mariampolski and his team leave the laboratories to observe their subjects in natural habi
tats—people’s homes, workplaces, stores, and playgrounds. Tapped by corpora
tions, QualiData recruits individuals who match the client corporation’s targeted consumer segments and gains their confidence to allow market researchers into their homes and workplaces. Observing the ways consumers actually use certain products yields clues that can inform product innovations or improvements— clues not readily available in a focus-group setting. Mariampolski has found, for example, that consumers are usually unable to articulate exactly how a particular item could address their needs better.

When QualiData researchers are on site all over the United States and
throughout the world, watching subjects showering or scrubbing the kitchen
sink, product shortcomings become apparent. These ethnographers watch people make mistakes, get frustrated, or use products in ways the manufacturers did not intend. They then help those manufacturers take advantage of this discover
ies. It is QualiData’s job to help companies use the data as a launching pad for product
refinement or creating products that make their customers’ lives more satisfying. He co
leads QualiData with his wife, Sharon Wolf, who has an academic and corporate
marketing background, with an interdisciplinary team of social scientists who apply their skills in business settings.

QualiData’s client list includes major names in consumer products, pharma
cueticals, automotive, and financial services companies, such as Glassdoor/Kline, Nissan, Michelin, Citibank, Chase, Barilla, and Clorox. QualiData also works extensively with not-for-profit organizations, such as Business for Social

Responsibility, the San Francisco School District, Liberty Science Center, and the New Victory Theater.

Unlike the traditional academic inquiry, in which the individual scholar explores his or her research agenda within a relatively flexible timeframe, the QualiData team has to align its priorities with the bottom-line-oriented, fast-paced culture of business. “The client stimulates the question. The client wants his research to include African-Americans. For the most part, he believes that corporations do not set out to pollute the environment or discriminate against a certain segment of society and that current trends generally favor socially responsible business practices. “We help corporations implement their good intentions,” he said. “We’re not outside throwing bricks.”

Mariampolski is eager to communicate with fellow sociologists interested in the growing field of corporate ethnography. He can be reached at hy@qualidata
research.com.

Shameless Lackey or Consumer Advocate?

When Hy Mariampolski strolls through a Home Depot, a Safeway, or a Walgreens he can see any number of products that his company, QualiData Research Inc., has helped develop. “It’s a very tangible return,” he admits.

Armed with a PhD in sociology from Purdue University, Mariampolski left an academic career in sociology—but not the discipline itself—to spend the last three decades marshaling his sociological imagination into helping companies refine or create products that make their customers’ lives more satisfying. He co
leads QualiData with his wife, Sharon Wolf, who has an academic and corporate
marketing background, with an interdisciplinary team of social scientists who apply their skills in business settings.

In congruence with his belief that his research is for the common good, Mariampolski has been involved in several sexual health projects. Early in the AIDS epidemic, he advised a condom manufacturer regarding integrating con
dom use into consumers’ “natural eroticism.” Condoms began to be marketed in a more “life-affirming way,” he remembers, as the specter of HIV transmission was not adequate motivation for people to use them. “People are not necessarily motivated by threatening them with death,” Mariampolski said.

Mariampolski, a member of the University of Georgia’s Masters of Marketing Research program’s Board of Advisors and the Dean’s Advisory Council at Purdue University’s College of Liberal Arts, has also had a hand in an advertis

ing campaign encouraging gay men to get vaccinated for Hepatitis B. “We’re helping people save lives by promoting vaccinations,” he said. “I don’t think there are many other demonstrable opportunities for sociologists to save lives.”

The scholars at QualiData do avoid political research, according to
Mariampolski, and work to advance more progressive, inclusive thinking from the inside. He reports a disagreement with a cosmetics company that did not want his research to include African-Americans. For the most part, he believes that corporations do not set out to pollute the environment or discriminate against a certain segment of society and that current trends generally favor socially responsible business practices. “We help corporations implement their good intentions,” he said. “We’re not outside throwing bricks.”

Mariampolski is eager to communicate with fellow sociologists interested in the growing field of corporate ethnography. He can be reached at hy@qualidata
research.com.

Helping People Save Lives

The “so-what” factor is addressed in QualiData’s report back to the client. “We always deliver our conclusions and the implications of our conclusions,” Mariampolski says. His approaches and insights have been summarized in his two books, Ethnography for Marketers: A Guide to Consumer Immersion (Sage, 2006) and Qualitative Market Research: A Comprehensive Guide (Sage, 2001). He also leads ethnographic methods training workshops domestically and internationally.

“The Devil Incarnate”
Some of Mariampolski’s fellow social scientists who oppose his enthusiastic endorsement of free-market capitalism hold a dim view of his research for big

business. “I’ve been called the ugliest names,” he concedes. “A whore, the devil incarnate.”

QualiData’s client list includes major names in consumer products, pharma
cueticals, automotive, and financial services companies, such as Glassdoor/Kline, Nissan, Michelin, Citibank, Chase, Barilla, and Clorox. QualiData also works extensively with not-for-profit organizations, such as Business for Social

Portraits of Unusual Occupations (Ten Speed Press, 2006). Hy has also discussed his craft during recent appearances on FOX-News and ABC-TV.

Sociologists Hy Mariampolski [left] and Sharon Wolf had their ethographic research ca
racterized recently by the book of photographs by hannah FORMAN-ODDERJOBS: MORE PICTURES OF UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (Ten Speed Press, 2006). Hy has also discussed his craft during recent appearances on FOX-News and ABC-TV.
Applied and Clinical Sociology Careers by Mary Go, Graduate Student at the University of California-San Francisco

The Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS), an association derived from the joining of two older sociological organizations—the Society for Applied Sociology and the Sociological Practice Association—holds its annual conference in October. Offering a plethora of programming, topics included the role of the SPSE stats-tistical agenda, the role of science in public policy, how social scientists can contribute to building a sustainable world, and program evaluation findings and community-based studies. The Presidential Address by Ross Koppell reflected the conference theme of "Sociology for What? Building our World." Among the conference highlights was the opening plenary session given by Roberta Spalter-Roth, Director of ASA’s Research and Development Department.

Karen Edwards (www.karenedwards.com) and coworkers from a Ford-sponsored study of PhD-level sociologists in applied, policy, and research settings. The survey is part of a larger AACS initiative to "bring non-faculty sociologists into the fold," according to Spalter-Roth, to provide more opportunities and services to non-academic sociologists, and to assist graduate sociology departments with curriculum development for PhD students not entering teaching careers. The study is focused on the use of sociological skills and concepts, characteristics of the occupations, the identification with soci-ology, and the level of job satisfaction. Many of the statistics that will be available on the website to be announced soon, Beyond the Ivory Tower, are of special interest to graduate and post-doctoral students in the throes of considering job talks and career opportunities, as well as graduate sociology departments looking to refine their curricula. As a current doctoral student, I found myself contemplating my future post-doertation career path and whether to seek a career within or outside of academia, as a result of the presentation. For example, among the surveyed PhD-level sociologists not employed in the professoriat, 42 percent work in the non-profit sector (including higher education institutions), 20 percent in healthcare, 15 percent in policy and public administration, and social sciences identified as the top three substantive areas. Program research director, senior research analyst, and research scientist were the top three identified occupations.

Employment outside of academia can be highly rewarding, with at least 60 percent of survey respondents reporting being very satisfied with their level of responsibility and independence, though they were less satisfied with available resources and advancement opportunities. There were also highly significant findings between overall satisfaction and working with other sociologists with policy analysis identified as a very important part of sociology’s social mission. An indication of the work that still lies ahead in addressing gender and eth nic disparities in our field is the almost 18,000 estimated median income gap between males and females and the fact that only 14 percent of PhD sociologists working outside the academy are non-white. Over the years, ASA has worked to increase outreach efforts to improve diversity within the sociology field, such as through a strong commitment to ASA’s Minority Fellowship Program. Spalter-Roth also discussed the need to connect between graduate training and matched job skills. While respondents indicated that there was a strong disconnect between their jobs and the research design and statistical analysis training they received in graduate school, they felt under-taught in terms of grant writing, program evaluation, and policy analysis. Therefore, as graduate sociol ogies departments look to refine their curriculums, “looking outside of academia” can be highly rewarding, with at least 60 percent of survey respondents reporting being very satisfied with their level of responsibility and independence.

ASA Deputy Carla Hovesty Celebrates 25th Year at ASA

Karen Edwards (www.karenedwards.com) among the modest number (27) of ASA employees.

Looking Forward

Not dwelling on past accomplishments, Miami University sociologist Ted Wagenaar, who previously worked extensively with Carla over the years, characterized her contributions to ASA, say ing, “Carla continues to play the single most important role in the history of the ASA’s concrete support for teaching. She began work at the ASA at a crucial time. The teaching projects were underway, funded, and led by Charles Goldsmid and Hans Mausich. But institutional support via the ASA was still thin. Carla piloted that support and helped create structural legs for the teaching project.”

Wagenaar explained that ASA’s Teaching Resources Program started then and continues to sell many copies of teaching support materials. “Carla promoted sociologists as consultants and teaching and curriculum. She has been a strong spokesperson for teaching and curriculum issues at professional meet- ings and at meetings connected with the ASA. And she knows just about every one engaged in promoting the teaching and learning of sociology.”

In addition to being ASA’s deputy, Carla serves as Director of the Academic Profession Programs Department, which supports sociology departments across all academic levels through the development of curricula materials and special programs for chairs, high school affili ates, and community college teachers. Carla also manages ASA’s Department Resources Group, which provides expert consultation to departments and formally represents the discipline and ASA in several higher education organizations.

Friend, Colleague, Major Influence

Southwestern University sociologist Ed Kain, like many sociologists, values Carla both as a colleague and a friend. He expressed his congratulations for her long service, saying, “Carla has been an important part of many ASA’s years and has been involved in a wide range of ASA programs.” Kain cited two prominent initiatives: the MOST (Minority Opportunities Through School Transformation) pro gram, aimed at improving the pipeline for bringing minority scholars into the discipline, and the IDA (Integrating Data Analysis) project, designed to illustrate additional applied methods and research administration skills training seems to be a key element for supporting students interested in careers in applied and/or research settings. In addition to wanting more applied/ evaluation research training (16%) and mentoring/networking opportunities (15%), the top respondent recommen dations for improving graduate school curriculum were requests for more information about non-academic careers and less snobbish toward non-academics (13%). Subsequently, in the next phase of this study, ASA and AACS will work together to identify critical strategies for addressing these recommendations. Spalter-Roth welcomed the audience’s views and comments on any aspects of this study and noted that those who would feel free to write to her at research@ asanet.org, complete a follow-up sur vey at <www.surveymonkey.com/ s/as?145771277228>, or see some preliminary survey findings at <www.asanet.org/gallery/default/file/5e0 yondlotvoryliverFirstResults.pdf>.

Carla Hovesty, page 11

Apply Now for the Sorokin Lecture Series

The Sorokin Lecture has been a longstanding opportunity for a distinguished ASA award winner to deliver a lecture at a regional sociological meeting. Since 1967, each year the winner of the ASA Publication Award (including higher education institutions) was a part of the program. Although the award winner was invited to speak, a restricted fund, named for ASA Past-President Tirimor Sorokin, underwrote the costs for the visit ing lecturer.

As part of the planning for ASA’s 2006 Sorokin Lectureship, the Nominating Committee composed a list of potential lecturers by reviewing previous ASA award recipients and discussing ways in which the Association could extend sociologi cal outreach to other disciplines, including students, faculty in other fields, and interested community members. After some discussion, the Council decided to modify the existing Sorokin Lectureship to allow ASA to support as many as three potential speakers in three years.

First, the new Sorokin Lectureship will include more possible lecturers. Any of the winners of major ASA awards in the past two years may be available to make visits. Second, the list of organizations eligible to host a lecture has expanded from regional sociological societies to include any sociological organization—small or large—affiliated with an ASA affiliate or college campuses. Third, ASA is now able to fund up to four lectures per year instead of a single lecturership as in past years. These changes should provide a vibrant road show in which to share the sociological message.

The 2006 Sorokin Lecturer was Caroline Persell, New York University, who spoke at the Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting.

Applications Process

Any ASA members interested in hosting ASA awards in the past two calendar years may be available to deliver a lecture at a state, regional, or aligned sociological association meeting, or on a campus. ASA would cover the costs of travel and up to two days of hotel costs. The host would cover registration (if applicable) and meals.

To apply, send a letter of inquiry with specific information about the event and the audience as well as the lecturer preferred. Executive officers or presidents of ASA affiliates (or faculty with chair’s support) in departments may apply to host a lecturer. Submit these materials to any questions: Michael R. Murphy, Director, Governance and Sections, American Sociological Association, 1307 New York Avenue, NW, 8700 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 337-8237, Murphy@ asanet.org.

Please plan early. Preference will be given to applications that have not previously hosted a lecturer.
Spotlight on Departments:

A Vehicle for Enrichment:

University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Undergraduate Concentration in Analysis and Research

by Kyle Anthony Murphy,
ASA Academic and Professional Affairs Program

With the increasing emphasis on providing undergraduates with professional skills, there is at least one program that can claim to have been offering unique opportunities in quantitative research methods and statistics since the 1980s. The undergraduate Concentration in Analysis and Research (CAR) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison provides students who are interested in research methods and statistics with the opportunity to take advanced, often graduate-level, courses in order to prepare themselves for work in applied social research or for graduate studies. In addition to taking courses like Statistics for Sociologists II (Regression Analysis) and III (Intermediate Statistics), Introductory Research Methods, and Computing in the Social Sciences, students participate in an applied research internship and the Practicum in Research and Analysis on their way to earning 36 sociology credits.

Created in 1982 by Diane Colosanto, then Assistant Professor of Sociology at University of Wisconsin-Madison, the concentration incorporates much of the same curriculum that it did in its early years. There are minimal requirements for entry into the program, and the necessary B average in research methods and introductory statistics is rarely an issue for the students who show interest in or are recommended to the program by their professors or the undergraduate advisor. James Raymo, Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Wisconsin-Madison and the current director of the concentration, explains that maintaining a B average throughout CAR courses is not necessarily a problem because the students that enter the concentration are typically not “grade-worried.” Instead, he says, most of our best students have been natural science majors who made the switch to sociology.”

Key Elements of the Program

Elizabeth Thomson, University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor of Sociology and former CAR director explains that the CAR program’s creation, its maintenance, and its practical uses are among the most valuable aspects of her CAR experience.

The University of Wisconsin Survey Center is among the most common places for CAR students to intern. However, given the abundance of research projects at Madison, they are hardly the only options. Students are given the freedom to select their internship as long as they are supervised by a trained social scientist and are given the opportunity for “hands-on” experience working with research data.

Recent CAR graduates Sarah Bernhardt (’05) and Justin Resnick (’05) both interned with the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study and report similar positive experiences. Bernhardt explains that the internship and research course offer “something anything from testing the computerized survey instrument to data cleaning, analyzing, and transcribing responses. Both Bernhardt and Resnick tie their internship and program experiences to their current employment. Resnick, presently a research assistant at The Urban Institute in Washington, DC, says: “[At work] I have manipulated required data sets, performed analyses, and assisted in writing and dissemination. From the start, I used skills and techniques that I learned in the CAR program.”

Now a market research associate with Forrester Research in Boston, MA, Bernhardt thinks that her internship and the additional time she spent working for the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study was the most valuable element of her CAR experience.

The required research practicum course offers another opportunity for skill development. Much like a capstone course, the practicum’s top priority is overall synthesis through the production of original research. Raymo explains how students’ rough edges are polished through careful data preparation and analysis, seminars with writing center staff, and extra time with statistical software like SAS and Stata. The open and varied structure of the course lends itself to a guest instructor format whereby different skills are addressed by experts on campus. Two popular sessions are the revised development workshop and the discussion and Q&A panel with CAR graduates. According to Raymo, the latter is the most appreciated meeting of the course because students are exposed to professionals whose experiences are very likely to foreshadow their own. Indeed, many CAR graduates have found employment under earlier CAR graduates or with employers that have successfully employed CAR graduates in the past.

How to Request Meeting Space for Other Activities

The ASA provides two services for individuals or groups who wish to gather for other meetings such as seminars or tables. The two general display tables are provided for sections in the ASA registration area; requests from individual sections for tables cannot be considered.

Due to the number of requests and the limited space available, displays, two parties are usually assigned to each table. There are no general storage facilities beyond the space beneath each table, so each party is solely responsible for the security of its display materials. Policies on use of table space are that (1) nothing may be sold and (2) nothing of an offensive nature may be displayed.

Deadline

Formal letters of request—not email messages—for meeting space and/or table space must be postmarked no later than January 2007. Letters should be printed page one or better and include the name of the group or title/topic of the session, name of organizer/sponsor, if appropriate, and date and time of the meeting. Room assignments are printed in the Final Program only.

Table Space

ASA members may apply for table space to display literature related about non-profit organizations or sociologically interesting but not for profit. Each group is assigned without charge on a first-come, first-served basis. ASA Sections are excluded from these provisions because two general display tables are provided for sections in the ASA registration area; requests from individual sections for tables cannot be considered.

Longevity by Design

A CAR graduate panel provides a connection to the program for CAR alumni. The cooperative community that supports past and present CAR students is also maintained through a mailing list where relevant job openings and information are posted. This network is but one of several crucial components of this program’s long-term success.

How to Request Space for Other Activities

How to Request Meeting Space for Other Activities

207th ASA Annual Meeting | New York City, August 11–14, 2007

ASA members requesting space for the Annual Meeting should submit requests for space by the March 1 deadline. Space availability is normally limited to 6:30-8:15 PM on August 11 or 13, and to 8:00-10:00 PM on August 12. An announcement of each meeting will be included in the “Activities of Other Groups” listing and in the body of the program schedule. These listings will include the name of the group or title/topic of the session, name of organizer/sponsor, if appropriate, and date and time of the meeting. Room assignments are printed in the Final Program only.

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Deadline

Formal letters of request—not email messages—for meeting space and/or table space must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2007. Letters should be printed page one or better and include the name of the group or title/topic of the session, name of organizer/sponsor, if appropriate, and date and time of the meeting. Room assignments are printed in the Final Program only.

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**Iraq from page 4**

declined significantly between the two surveys. It is noteworthy that the only political party that experienced an increase in the very favorable rating was the secular Iraqi National Alliance. Although very small, this change nonetheless is consistent with the trend among Iraqis toward secularism (Figure 2). To appreciate the sig-
ificance of these changes, consider the following:

- In 2001, a total of 25% of Iraqis expressed a favorable rating. This number had dropped to 22% by 2004 and 12% by 2006.

- In 2001, only 10% of Iraqis expressed a very favorable rating. This number dropped to 7% in 2004 and 4%

- In 2001, a total of 13% of Iraqis expressed a favorable rating. This number had dropped to 10% by 2004 and 7% by 2006.

- In 2001, only 4% of Iraqis expressed a very favorable rating. This number dropped to 3% in 2004 and 2%

- In 2001, a total of 20% of Iraqis expressed a favorable rating. This number had dropped to 17% by 2004 and 12% by 2006.

- In 2001, only 7% of Iraqis expressed a very favorable rating. This number dropped to 5% in 2004 and 3%

- In 2001, a total of 8% of Iraqis expressed a favorable rating. This number had dropped to 6% by 2004 and 4% by 2006.

- In 2001, only 2% of Iraqis expressed a very favorable rating. This number dropped to 1% in 2004 and 0%

- In 2001, a total of 5% of Iraqis expressed a favorable rating. This number had dropped to 4% by 2004 and 3% by 2006.

- In 2001, only 1% of Iraqis expressed a very favorable rating. This number dropped to 0% in 2004 and 0%

- In 2001, a total of 2% of Iraqis expressed a favorable rating. This number had dropped to 1% by 2004 and 0% by 2006.

- In 2001, only 0% of Iraqis expressed a very favorable rating. This number dropped to 0% in 2004 and 0%

- In 2001, a total of 1% of Iraqis expressed a favorable rating. This number had dropped to 1% by 2004 and 1% by 2006.

- In 2001, only 0% of Iraqis expressed a very favorable rating. This number dropped to 0% in 2004 and 0%

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New Staff Join ASA

Kyle Murphy joined the ASA as the Leo Academy and Professional Affairs Program Assistant on September 5. Kyle has a BA from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. His research is majored in sociology and philosophy and minor in African/African-American Studies. He feels privileged to have worked with exceptional teachers, scholars, and friends during his time in Harrisonburg. Before joining the ASA, he managed an organic farm and permaculture site in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and later moved to Washington, DC, to work with DC and Baltimore youth as both a director of an outdoor mentoring program and as a teacher in an environmental education program. Kyle is currently studying gentrification in DC as well as pursuing his commitment to sustainable living and activism. Kyle has an impossible number of interests but is currently focused on racing his bicycle during the winter cyclocross season. He delights his coworkers by bringing his sometimes wet and dirty bike into the office day after day.

Diego Los Ríos was born and raised in Colombia. He moved to the United States with his family when he was 18 years old and has been living in Baltimore since. Diego recently graduated magna cum laude from McDaniel College with a BA in sociology, psychology, and religious studies. During his time at McDaniel, Diego was an active member of the student body, having served as a Resident Assistant for two years, president of the International Club, vice-president of the Hispano-Latino Alliance, and student representative on the Campus Technology Committee. He also served as a technology tutor and as a teaching assistant for two English classes.

Outside of school, Diego enjoys travel—most recently to Thailand, India, and Colombia. For his senior thesis, Diego combined his passion for sociology and religion and wrote about the Sai Baba movement as a social network. To conduct his research, Diego was granted a travel award from the college to return to Colombia and do some investigating. Upon completion of his paper, Diego’s research was highlighted on the McDaniel College website. With school completed, Diego hopes to travel to Spain and Mexico. In a few years, he plans on going to graduate school to study social development and Latin America.

Nicole Van Voeren joined the Research and Development Department team full time in August 2006. She was born and raised in New Jersey and graduated summa cum laude from Rider University with a BA in sociology and elementary education. In pursuit of her master’s degree in sociology, Nicole moved to Washington, DC, in 2004 to attend George Washington University, where she was employed as a teaching assistant. She graduated in 2006 after completing research for her thesis on coffee consumers at independently owned coffee shops and Starbucks. Her primary interests within the field include global issues and popular culture studies. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the city and volunteering and is eager to travel to Europe in the near future.

Press

impressed by the quality and breadth of research in our field. No single method or approach currently available or on the horizon is likely to fully encompass the complexity of social life. But our studies are rapidly becoming richer and more sophisticated by using a range of methods, samples, and comparisons, shedding light on many fascinating and important aspects of our social world. Our discipline’s embrace of diverse approaches to analyzing social life leaves me optimistic about sociology’s ability to illuminate our ever-changing social world.

References


Public Forum

Suggestions for Encouraging a Satisfying Conference

In response to Dean Harper’s Public Forum Article, “How Not to Make a Presentation” (Footnotes, December 2006, p. 11), I suspect that most of us have at least occasionally been among the guilty in presenting too much, too fast, in too little time—in patiently hoping that speakers would stop talking so that we won’t have to rudely tear them from the podium—and in having too much information in a table or diagram. I even suspect that I am not alone in having spent time in a hotel room rather than in a session, trying to shorten my paper. Two fundamental factors, if changed, could reshape what it means to attend a conference.

First, a primary impediment to running a conference with a focus on engaging ideas and thinking through the challenges in our work is that conference time is funded. Most universities and granting agencies fund a researcher’s travel if he or she is “on the program” with the greatest probability of “presenters.” Yet, we all know that being on the program is not a predictor of how much we either want or impart at a conference because there is so little time in most sessions for actual exchange. Why? Because most organizations realize that, in order to fund attendance to their conference, potential attendees need to be on the program. This knowledge becomes an incentive to include as many people in as many sessions as possible. It creates a functional problem of limiting the number of people who can actually attend a session and the possibility of the Carlino dialogue that comes from being in the same room with others, thinking about the same ideas, even if one says nothing. Listening can be a remarkably effective way of learning something that will impact one’s research and scholarship.

Second, another impediment that is more specific to ASA is the requirement that potential presenters submit completed papers for open submission sessions. Writing a full paper demands a logic and approach that is often the antithesis of a good presentation. Two or three good “talking points” do not begin with a thorough literature review, a detailed discussion of a conceptual framework and analytical approach, the presentation of findings or elegant argument, and a conclusion that wraps up findings or a well-developed conceptual idea. It is impossible to present a full paper in a 10- or 15-minute presentation. Yet, when a completed paper is the starting point of a presentation, there is a common tendency to preserve as much of that paper as possible. Anyone who has wanted to have time to talk with each other and to encourage presentations that deal with a manageable amount of information, I suggest that ASA get rid of the completed paper submission process. I also suggest that we lobby to change travel funding priorities to include hearing what others have to say, talking with people about shared research interests, meeting potential employers and employees, and exchanging ideas, as legitimate reasons for attending a conference.

Ingrid Arnet Conradi, University of Western Ontario

Howery, from page 8

infuse quantitative data analysis across the undergraduate sociology curriculum. “Both of these illustrate how her focus is upon all parts of our craft, i.e., teaching, research, professional service and how the structure of the academy can be changed to enhance our field,” said Kain.

As ASA staff, Carla has helped organize, and has served on, a number of key teaching-related task forces. “These resulted in important documents that can be used by departments in strengthening their programs,” said Kain, providing three examples: the first and second editions of Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major, and the new document on the role played by sociology in general education, due early next year.

Carla’s influence on the field is clearly one of strengthening the status of teaching and establishing long-term norms that will help maintain and continue contributing to sociological research and practice and society. Throughout all of this, Carla does her work with remarkable insight, unending energy, and a humor that energizes us,” said Kain, “and it is sentiments shared by all Carla’s ASA office colleagues.”

Kain’s Note: After 25 years of loyal service to the ASA, Carla recently announced her upcoming departure this spring, but her contribution to sociology and the ASA are lasting and her spirit endures.

Nominations Being Accepted for 2007 Section Awards!

ASA sections honor work in their specialty areas through awards made to articles, books, disserta- tions, career achievements, and other special contributions. Listed on the ASA website are the sections offering information on awards for which nominations are sought. Awards will be presented at the 2007 ASA Annual Meeting in New York City. Please consider nominating colleagues and students whose contributions should have the special visibility accorded by a section award.

To see the complete list of awards go to www.asanet.org and click on the sections link on the left. Under “Section Information” you will find a link to the “Call for Award Nominations (2007).”

January 2007 Footnotes 11

ASR from page 5
Funding

The Advertising Educational Foundation invites you to apply for two visiting Professor Program (VPP). Deadline: February 14, 2007. The VPP is a highly competitive, two-week fellowship for professors of advertising, marketing, communications, and the liberal arts. Whether a professor is placed with an agency, a marketing, or media company depends on his/her area of expertise. Preference is given to professors with little or no industry experience and to those who have not already participated in the program. The objective is to expose professors to the day-to-day operations of an advertising agency, marketing, or media company, and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between academia and industry. The Program is only offered to professors teaching in the United States. For an application, visit <www.aef.org> Contact: Sharon Hudson, (212) 986-8815; email: sh@aef.com.

The Behavioral Science Training in Drug Abuse Program currently has openings for three Postdoctoral Fellows. Fellows will develop knowledge and skills in the areas of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS research through formal training and hands-on research experience at one of the nation’s largest non-profit research institutions funded by the National Institutes on Drug Abuse and affiliated with Columbia University in New York City. Stipends range from $20,772 for predocs and $36,996 to $51,036 for postdocs, dependent on his/her area of expertise. For more information, visit <www.columbia.org> and <www.preubis.org>.

Competition

Fifth Norbert Elias Prize will be awarded in 2007. The Prize is open to all those engaged in research on the rise of the modern self in the 20th century, whose writings, at once theoretical and empirical, boldly crossed disciplinary boundaries in the social sciences to develop a long-term perspective on the patterns of interdependence. This does not mean, however, that the prize-winning book will necessarily be directly inspired by Elias’s own work. Nominees for the prize should submit their research to a specialized editor, Secretary to the Norbert Elias Prize Committee, Institute for Social Research, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Deadline: March 31, 2007.

The International Center for Qualitative Studies in Religion invites proposals for a dissertation proposal, as part of the German-American Academic Relations Program. Applications for the dissertation proposal are due April 1, 2007. Research conducted for this dissertation will be evaluated for its formal and informal qualities, as well as in terms of empirical, boldly crossed disciplinary boundaries in the social sciences. Preference will be given to those proposals with a comparative and interdisciplinary approach. Proposals will be evaluated on their intellectual merits, transdisciplinary cooperation, engagement with the policy community, and potential impact through publications or other means. Deadline: March 1st. Contact: Oliver Mains, German Marshall Fund of the United States, 1744 R St NW, Washington, DC 20009. Further details may be found at <www.gmfus.org/template/page.cfm?page_id=242>.

The Lewis A. Coser Award for Theoretical Agenda-Setting recognizes a mid-career sociologist whose work holds great promise for setting the agenda in the field of sociology. While the award winner need not be the leader of her or his field, she or he must exemplify the sociological ideals Coser represented. Eligible candidates do work that is of crucial importance to sociology. They must have received a PhD no earlier than 1970. The award is given to the Coser Award Committee 2007, and will defend their full dissertation, by April 1, 2007. Research being considered for other awards does not preclude a student from applying for this award. Deadline: February 1, 2007. For further information, visit <www.soci.org/content/award/award.cfm?c=full> Comment: Norman Denzin at dissertationaward@qi2007.org

The German Marshall Fund of the United States, in collaboration with the German-American Academic Relations Program, sponsors the World Order Project. The World Order Project’s objective is to engage the world’s leading minds in shaping research-driven conferences of scholars and policymakers working on policy issues. The aim of this program is to support a series of transatlantic research-driven conferences of scholars and policymakers working on policy issues that will change on a yearly basis. This year, GMF will consider proposals in three areas: the rise of China as a transatlantic issue, energy security, and economic policy. GMF will award six grants up to $25,000 for conferences to be held in the 2007-2008 academic year. American and European university-based scholars from any discipline may apply. Preference will be given to those proposals with a comparative and interdisciplinary approach. Proposals will be evaluated on their intellectual merits, transdisciplinary cooperation, engagement with the policy community, and potential impact through publications or other means. Deadline: March 1st. Contact: Oliver Mains, German Marshall Fund of the United States, 1744 R St NW, Washington, DC 20009. Further details may be found at <www.gmfus.org/template/ page.cfm?page_id=242>.

In the News


Diane R. Brown, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, was quoted in an October 25, 2006, article on racial disparities in health plans. Karen A. Cerulo, Rutgers University, has given a series of 30- and 60-minute interviews on both commercial and public radio stations in Columbia, MO, Minneapolis, MN, Nevada City, CA, New Brunswick, NJ, Phoenix, AZ, Philadelphia, PA, Flaunting, VT, Salt Lake City, UT, Santa Barbara, CA, and Santa Cruz, CA. She has also done two syndicated programs, one with Richard Baker and another with Bruce Anderson. The interview focuses on her new book Never See It: Cultural Challenges to Exclusionary Race in the United States.

Dalton Conley, New York University, was quoted in the November 14, 2006, with data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth and data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Peter Dreier, Occidental College, an award-winning author of the New York Times Business Journal on November 27 analyzing the results of two housing bond measures on the November 7 ballot. His article in American Prospect magazine on November 10 examined the results of successful ballot initiatives in six states because of the California Housing Bond Act of 2006. An article appear on the TomPaxx.com on November 27. He was interviewed about his research on widening economic segregation within American metropolitan areas in Los Angeles Magazine in October and he was quoted in an October 26, 2007, story on the role of labor leader Miguel Concepcion and in the November 29, 2006, Story about the role of business groups in November 2006 in the WIN campaign for state-wide public works bonds. He was also quoted in the October 18, 2006, Los Angeles Times article on the 2006 issue of Los Angeles Magazine about Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s first 18 months in office.

Mitchell Dunstone, Princeton University, was quoted in a November 25 Washington Post article on November 27, 2006 on the role of the National Education Association and Commissioner of the Commissioner of Education Professor James Corcoran.

Julie Fenik was quoted in the November 5, 2006, Washington Post for his role in the National Education Association’s Committee on the General election.


Kathleen Cerson, New York University. Her article on the University of Pennsylvania's interactions with its alumni, which appeared in the November 19 New York Times Magazine and was featured in a September 21 Philadelphia Inquirer article about the role of alumni in higher education, suggests that students can post public and anonymous evaluations of professors.

Jerry M. Lewis, Kent State, was quoted in a December 9 New York Times article on crime rates and a decreased need for jails.

Collin Jermakuck, The Graduate Center City University of New York, was quoted in an article discussing the possibilities of colonization in the Michigan University football game.

Wilbur Madura and Scott Magnusson-Martin, both of Normandale Community College, were quoted on an article about grade inflation in the November 27 issue of The Community College Yolk.

Ramiro Martinez, Florida International University, Robert J. Sampson, Harvard University, and Matthew Ruskowski, University of Arizona, had their research on declining immigration and crime rates. They were all quoted or mentioned in a December 9 New York Times article on immigration and crime rates.

Miller McPherson, University of Arizona, was quoted in an article that appeared in the French daily Le Monde on October 11, 2006. The article mentioned McPherson's research on the definition of Islamic feminism and on its influence on the definition of Islamic feminism and on its social networks, which appeared in the November 26, 2006, American Sociological Review.

Karen Cerulo, published by the Eastern Sociological Society, was mentioned in a seminar on Islamic feminism that Moghadam had co-organized. She was also quoted in an article that appeared in the French daily Le Monde on October 11, 2006.

Thomas Calhoun, Southern Illinois University, received his presidential address on “The Quest for Inclusion: A Sociological Mandate” at the Mid-South Sociological Association annual meeting.

Karen Cerulo, Rutgers University, was selected as the new editor of the Sociological Forum, published by the Eastern Sociological Society.

Aya Ezawa, Swarthmore College, was named a 2005 Abe Fellow by the American Council of Learned Societies. She was also quoted in an article about Cubans fleeing their homelands for U.S. shores.

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ASA Position Announcement

Staff Sociologist/Director of Academic and Professional Affairs

The American Sociological Association (ASA) seeks a sociologist to join the professional staff and direct ASA’s Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP). The position provides the opportunity to work with a like-minded group of other sociologists and a staff seeking to advance sociology, work on field development, and promote ASA objectives and activities. The APAP Program Director is responsible for program planning and for administering the day-to-day and Annual Meeting operations of the Academic and Professional Affairs Program, including initiatives relating to departments, chairs, directors of graduate study, teaching materials, professional development in teaching, leadership on current trends in higher education and so forth. This staff member, like other staff sociologists, also serves as liaison to ASA committees or task forces.

Nominations and applications are sought. Candidates should have a PhD in sociology; in-depth knowledge of the academy; experience in higher education and the scholarship of teaching and learning; skills in presenting (in writing and orally) to diverse audiences; an appreciation of Academic and Professional issues and opportunities; and leadership, management, and administrative skills. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled; interested candidates should submit application materials immediately. The ASA recognizes that those with academic commitment may not be able to commence their appointment until late spring/early summer 2007. The start date and other conditions of appointment (e.g., leave from an academic position) are flexible.

Candidates should send a letter of interest, resume, and a list of five references to: APAP Search, Executive Office, American Sociological Association, 1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005-4701.

For further information, please contact Sally T. Hillman, Executive Officer (202-383-9005 x316, Hillman@asanet.org). The ASA is interested in identifying persons who are drawn to professional service and who bring a strong commitment to making a difference for sociology and academic and professional affairs. If you or someone you know is searching for a job or might be interested in a professional change, please do not hesitate to suggest a name or encourage an application.

For Members Only

2007 Coupon Listing

The 2007 Coupon Listing is now online. Through the Coupon Listing, ASA members can receive special 2007 member-only discounts on over 80 books, journals, films, and software.

Discounts range from 15 to 50 percent and are available only to current ASA members.

To access the new Coupon Listing, visit the ASA website (www.asanet.org) and login using your using your member ID and password for access to the member-only page.

Interdisciplinary Membership Discounts

ASA members are eligible for special discounts when they join the American Political Science Association (APSA) or the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) as part of our Interdisciplinary Membership program.

APSA offers a special $55 interdisciplinary membership to ASA members, including subscriptions to three journals. For only $30, ASA members can join ASR and receive a subscription to its journal, Sociology of Religion.

For complete information on these and other ASA member benefits, visit www.asanet.org/benefits.

Membership in ASA benefits you!

This is your last issue...

…unless you have renewed your membership for 2007. As part of our “membership-friendly” approach, ASA is sending the January 2007 issue of Footnotes to 2006 and 2007 members. In order to continue to receive your newsletters, journals, and other ASA correspondence, renew today online at <www.asanet.org>!