A New, Permanent Home for ASA

by Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Secretary of the American Sociological Association

In March the American Sociological Association, at 103 years old, is moving into a new permanent home on the fifth and sixth floors of a newly constructed office condominium at 1430 K Street in Washington, DC. The building has a glass facade facing the K Street bustle, so close to McPherson Square Park you can see the trees and, if not for the traffic, hear the birds. For those who know the District, K Street is easy to remember as the major east-west route through the city. It passes just north of the White House. In fact, the White House is two blocks from ASA’s new headquarters. A quick metro ride from Reagan National Airport or Union Station to the McPherson Square stop brings you to our new home.

Research says that one of the most stressful times in a family’s life is moving. Most families need a good reason to move and a good reason to pick a particular destination. The decision to move the ASA headquarters was not made lightly and was influenced by both push and pull factors. On the “push” side, the lease on our office space of the last 10 years at 1207 New York Avenue terminates in 2008. The existing lease was on very attractive terms so we have been paying rent considerably below market rates for some years and saving our pennies for the future. As the expiration of the lease approached, we began an active examination of what we should do as the Association moves into its second century representing the profession and discipline of American sociology.

The Push and Pull of the District

One of the most important questions we faced was whether to stay in Washington, DC. It was quickly decided by the elected Council and Executive Office staff that much of the work of the American Sociological Association is best accomplished from the heart of the nation’s capital. DC is the geographic center of the scientific and higher education community in the United States. This is true not only for the big science funders like NSF and NIH, but also for other professional science organizations and many important scientific advocacy groups. While members generally experience the ASA through its dissemination of knowledge, we believe it is important to be physically present in the community.

Congratulations to the 2008 ASA Award Winners

ASA proudly announces the winners of the ASA Awards for 2008. The awards are the highest honor that the Association confers. These outstanding scholars will be recognized at the 2008 Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony in Boston, MA, on Saturday, August 2 at 4:30 p.m. The Awards Ceremony will immediately precede the formal address of ASA President Arne Kalleberg.

The ASA awards honor sociologists for outstanding publications and achievements in the scholarship, teaching, and practice of sociology. The recipients are selected by committees directly appointed by the ASA Council.

The officers of the Association extend heartfelt congratulations to the following honorees:

W.E.B. DuBois Award for Distinguished Scholarship: Barbara F. Jockin (University of Washington)

The W.E.B. DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award honors scholars who have shown outstanding commitment to the profession of sociology and whose cumulative work has contributed in important ways to the advancement of the discipline. The body of lifetime work may include theoretical and/or methodological contributions. The award selection committee looked for work that substantially redefines the field in general or in a particular subfield.

Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology: John McKinlay (New England Research Institutes)

This annual award honors outstanding contributions to sociological practice. The award recognizes work that has facilitated or served as a model for the work of others, work that has significantly advanced the utility of one or more specialty areas in sociology and, by so doing, has elevated the professional status or public image of the field as whole, or work that has been honored or widely recognized outside the discipline for its significant impact, particularly in advancing human welfare.

Distinguished Book Award: Robert Courtney Smith (Baruch College and Graduate Center) for Mexican New World: Transnational Lives of New Immigrants (University of California Press)

This annual award is given for a single book. The monograph published in the three preceding calendar years.

Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award: Elizabeth Grantham (University of Central Florida) and Carol Jenkins (Glendale Community College)

This award is given annually to honor outstanding contributions to teaching and/or graduate and undergraduate teaching and learning of sociology, which improve the quality of teaching.

Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award: Cora B. Marrett (National Science Foundation)

The Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award honors the intellectual traditions and contributions of Oliver Cox, Charles S. Johnson, and E. Franklin Frazier. The award is given either to a sociologist for a lifetime of research, teaching, and service to the community or to an academic institution for its work in assisting the development of scholarly efforts in this tradition.

Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues Award: Michael Apted (President of the Directors Guild of America)

The Award for Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues honors individual professionals (e.g., journalists, filmmakers) whose work is translated and interpreted to a wide range of information, including sociological perspectives and research, for the general public.

Jessie Bernard Award: Arlie Russell Hochchild (University of California—Berkeley)

The Jessie Bernard Award is given annually in recognition of scholarly work that has enlarged the horizons of sociology to encompass fully the role of women in society. The contribution may be in empirical research, theory, or methodology.

Award for Public Understanding of Sociology: David E. Segal (University of Maryland—College Park) and Shirley Laska (University of New Orleans)

This award is given annually to a person or persons who have made exempt contributions to advance the public understanding of sociology, sociological research, and scholarship among the general public.

Send questions about the awards to Daniel Spar, Governance, Sections and Archives. He can be reached at (202) 383-9085, ext. 334 or at spar@asanset.org.
American voters concerned about the state of U.S. science have new online resources to help them track the opinions and actions of candidates running for national office. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), of which ASA is an affiliate member, has partnered with the Association of American Universities and the Richard Louvency Foundation to initiate a website (see AAAS Science and Technology (S&T) in the 2008 presidential campaign. It highlights candid-

dates’ positions on major S&T matters and provides related news stories, survey information, white papers and other policy reports, election calendars, and a lis-""
Sociologists in Research and Applied Settings

This occasional column focuses on the interesting career paths and achievements of sociologists whose primary work in sociology is not in the academy or whose "extra-curricular" work outside academic settings is noteworthy for its societal or policy impact. These sociologists are engaged directly with the public, applying methods of science and their sociological expertise.

A Perspective on Business Careers for Sociologists

By Joe Mercurio, Eastern Michigan University and Walgreen Co.

It seems sociologists typically don’t pursue business careers. At this year’s conference of the American Sociological Association (ASA) I was asked why a sociologist would consider a business career. My response is that there are several reasons.

First, sociologists are problem solvers and are needed in the business world to solve complex social problems that arise. These problems are often the result of business decisions and strategies that have negative impacts on society. Sociologists can help businesses identify and address these problems.

Second, sociologists have excellent analytical and research skills. They are skilled in data collection, analysis, and interpretation. These skills are highly valued in the business world, especially in fields such as market research, customer service, and product development.

Third, sociologists can bring a unique perspective to business decision-making. They are trained to think critically and objectively, which is essential in making informed decisions. They can help businesses make decisions that are not only profitable but also socially responsible.

Finally, sociologists can help businesses understand and predict social trends. They are skilled in understanding human behavior and can use this knowledge to develop strategies that appeal to customers and meet their needs.

As the number of sociologists in the business workplace grows and their value is demonstrated, employers may become more open to hiring sociologists to fill positions in the business world. Sociologists can bring a unique perspective to business decision-making and can help businesses make decisions that are not only profitable but also socially responsible.

Moving Forward

There are significant career opportunities in business for sociologists who are aware of them and interested. Sociologists have powerful skills and can add value to business organizations in significant ways. However, they may need to be proactive in seeking out these opportunities. Employers of sociologists should be aware of the unique skills that sociologists can bring to the workplace and be open to hiring them.

Sociology provides skills for a business career that are highly valued by employers. Sociologists are trained to think critically, objectively, and conceptually, which is essential in making informed decisions. They can help businesses make decisions that are not only profitable but also socially responsible.

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of sociological knowledge through the Annual Meeting, our journals, our teaching resource center, and our research on the profession, the ASA is also an extremely effective professional association connecting with the broader public, the media, and the federal government. Much of that activity goes on in Washington, DC. ASA—its members and staff—play a leading role among science organizations, fighting ongoing attacks on academic freedom, influencing the size and direction of federal research funding, and making sure that sociological expertise is present and recognized in the federal legislative and executive rule-making process. So on the “pull side” we wanted to ensure the financial ability of the Association to stay in Washington over the long run despite the steady upward pressure on commercial rents and real estate.

While our specific decision to move to 1430 was propelled by finding the right space at the right price, the choice of K Street was both fortuitous (three blocks from where we now are) and a little ironic. K Street is famous (or infamous) in Washington for its high concentration of corporate lobbyists and lawyers. As one ASA Council member put it, “The good guys are taking over K Street!” Part of ASA’s work is to encourage the federal government to utilize and fund sociological research, to promote academic freedom at home and abroad, and to support the development of a free and open society. Not exactly a typical K Street corporate agenda, but one that is at the heart of the professional mission of a scholarly association such as the ASA.

Facing uncertainty at the end of our lease, we chose to reassess what type of space would be most efficient and financially prudent, as well as assessing in exacting detail the short- and long-term financial implications of various options to make a consequential decision for the Association.

Rent or Purchase?

Financially, Council, the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (EOB), and the Executive Office compared three scenarios—extending our present lease five more years, renting elsewhere in DC at commercial rates, or buying a facility to house our association for the long run. Les Briggs, the ASA Director of Finance, was both skilled and heroically meticulous in modeling and then outlining the costs and opportunities involved in each scenario.

In the short run, of course, the cheapest approach would have been to try to negotiate a new lease at favorable rates, but not quite as favorable, rates at our current location (five years being the maximum lease we could get). But this option was not clearly available. Commercial rents are skyrocketing in DC, and this option turned out to be expensive in both the long and short run.

In the short run, purchasing our own space was clearly the most expensive option, even with the down payment we had from the sale of the ASA townhouse. But over the long term, purchasing was the best financial option. While we would be paying more each year in occupancy costs, we would be building ASA’s equity in the new office space. What made purchasing financially possible in the short run, however, was the willingness of the District of Columbia to issue low-interest, tax-free bonds to help finance our purchase. Figure 1 summarizes these analyses with a simple report of projected cash expenses for the three options over 15 years.

Buying an office condominium was not the cheap decision but it was the best one. The ASA closed this past November on two floors of condominium office space totaling 13,016 square feet. We paid $2 million in cash toward the purchase price of $8,229,440. We financed the remainder plus additional costs for building out the new office space, design, moving, and all the associated fees and charges of buying ASA’s home, bringing the total financed costs to $8,400,000. Thanks to the District of Columbia and PNC Bank, our financing is at 4% through the sale of 30-year low interest tax-exempt bonds.

The long-term analysis for this decision was the same as it would be for any home buyer—over the long term, buying is cheaper than renting. While the home buyers get the tax benefit (which the tax-exempt ASA doesn’t need), ASA adds a portion of its annual occupancy costs to our own real estate equity for the benefit of the Association’s members in the decades to come. Just like any new home buyer, we also had to be sure we could afford the annual occupancy costs in the short term. The answer was “yes” for two compelling reasons.

First, the Association had saved for the last 10 years for this purpose. The proceeds of ASA’s townhouse, sold in 1998, were placed by Council in a restricted long-term investment account for use to support the costs of the ASA headquarters, either through rental or purchase. By the end of last year that account had grown substantially, enough to cover most of the $2.5 million down payment on the new space.

Second, the ASA has been averaging an operating surplus of around $400,000 over the last six years, primarily reflecting the below-market rent for our current offices. It also reflects the growth of the Association membership, several new revenue streams, cost containment and a typically conservative approach to budgeting by the Association.

While the annual cash cost of the new office space will significantly increase, most of this can be accommodated within the current budget. Another source of revenue is rental income for some of the new space the ASA does not currently need. Because this fiscal year (2008) ASA will have the costs of moving and three months of rent on the old headquarters, as well as the new space for a full year, we anticipate a modest deficit, but we have reserves to cover it. This is because the Association has been building reserves to meet an appropriate operating principle of maintaining reserves of about 60% of annual operating costs. We expect quickly returning to a balanced budget.

The Process So Far

The new ASA headquarters occupies the fifth and sixth floors of the building. We have six internal staircases for easy access between floors and have designed plenty of public space for meetings, lunch, and the like. We have employed minority and female small business contractors from the District for most of the build out work and have also insisted on high environmental standards in all building materials and furnishings. New office furniture was selected to meet the highest ergonomic standards. We even have a closet for bicycle storage. As we enter our second hundred years as a professional association, we have bought and designed a headquarters space to support the long-term work of the Association’s members and staff.

Tremendous energy and thought went into this move. Les Briggs ran and reran the financials until everyone was satisfied. Sally Hillman, ASA Executive Officer, carefully researched and laid out the decisions to be faced before and after we had decided to go forward. This added the complicated tasks of negotiation, design, and contracting to her already full schedule. The ASA EOB Committee met numerous times to check and recheck the financial and administrative details of the contract process. ASA Council listened closely, queried all proposals, deliberated, and voted unanimously to purchase this new property. Franklin Wilson, the Secretary of the Association during the decision-making period, led the process with an unrelenting concern for the wellbeing of the members and their Association. The ASA staff collaboratively informed the design work, ensuring that we developed a space both functional and friendly.

As you are reading this, the ASA staff is in the process of moving. They are probably excited and more than a little stressed, just like anyone moving into a new home. Let’s wish them a good journey, a quick and pleasant adjustment to their new home, and continued success in pursuing the Association’s work with and on behalf of our members and society.
The Coasts of Mass Incarceration Examined by Congressional Panel

by Howard Silver, Consortium of Social Science Associates

"The fact is that almost all the extant research points out that our prison system is too big, too expensive, and drains funds away from other critical areas that can more effectively increase public safety, and is harmful to our poorest communities," Sociologist Michael Jacobson, Director of the Joint Economic Committee, told the Congressional Joint Economic Committee (JEC) on October 4.

The hearing, "Mass Incarceration in the United States: What Cost?" was discussed by Sen. James Webb (D-VA). It discussed the usual data points:

• 2.3 million Americans are in federal, state, and local prisons and jails.

The average U.S. incarceration rate is over seven times the international average.

• More than seven million Americans are under some form of correction supervision, including probation and parole.

• State, local, and federal governments spend more than $20 billion on law enforcement and corrections personnel.

According to JEC Vice-Chair Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), the average annual cost for one federal prisoner exceeds $20,000.

A black male who does not finish high school has a 60 percent chance of going to jail. As sociologist Bruce Western, Harvard University, remarked at the briefing, "For young black male dropouts, prison time has become a normal life event." How and why did this happen? Glenn Loury, Brown University Department of Economics,为首的委员，说出的是被称作"War on Drugs"。他指出"作为更可能的惩罚，我们可能要面对的是"年轻的研究者在犯错时被定罪。"他补充说在定罪前的纠正性措施被取消，这意味警察的惩罚被取消，错误被归咎于年轻人。

"Drug arrests remained at historically unprecedented levels," was this at a time, he pointed out, when the National Survey on Drug Abuse indicated that drug use was declining.

Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) blamed "tough-on-crime" politics. "Under the get-tough approach, no matter how tough you were last year, you have to get tougher this year," he declared, according to the New York City’s Correction Commissioner from 1995-98, agreed with Scott on the political angle, but also noted that there are a host of other reasons: "The attraction of prisons as engines of economic development for rural communities, the financial incentives for public employee union as unions will go to the private prison industry in more spending on prisons, and the realities of the budget process and constrained budgets that limit opportunities to make substantial investments in new initiatives."

The consequences of such a large prison population start with recidivism. According to Jacobson, more than half of those leaving prison are back in prison within five years. Western presented economic data on why: Youths detained in correctional facilities before age 20 have higher unemployment and receive lower wages longer after incarceration; prison-leavers have little schooling and erratic work histories; "criminal stigma" not only includes social sanctions but legal ones as well, as employment in certain industries and occupations remains barred; and returns to prison are highly concentrated in poor urban neighborhoods, which leads to "the economic penalties of incarceration now permeate the most economically vulnerable families and communities."

What to do? Scott argued for raising high school graduation rates, utilizing neighborhood-based law enforcement initiatives, and increasing employment and wages. Western called for re-examination of policies limiting ex-prisoners access to educational, welfare, and housing benefits, suggesting they should have time limits.

He also indicated that community based re-entry programs that are integrated with education and other programs in prison, as well as provide housing, drug treatment, and health care improve the job readiness of released-prisoners.

The witnesses and the members of the JEC urged the enactment of the Second Chance Act, also known as the Community Safety Through Recidivism Prevention Act of 2007. The legislation would provide for new and innovative programs to improve offender reentry services, enhanced drug treatment and mentoring grant programs, and require the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics to conduct research on juvenile and continuing adult reentry programs. The Senate Judiciary Committees have reported versions of the bill, but no floor action has occurred.

The hearing’s full text article was originally published in the November 12, 2007, issue of The Criminologist, the American Society of Criminology newsletter.

Sociologist to Head Genome Center for Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications Research

In October, the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), announced the establishment of two new research centers to address the most critical ethical, legal, and social implications (ELS) faced by researchers and patients involved in genomic and genomic research. The new centers are being established at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, adding to the four already established centers. Sociologist Gail Henderson, in the Department of Political Science’s School of Medicine, will be the Principal Investigator (PI) at the University’s Center, which will be housed in the Carolina Center for Genome Sciences.

Of the PI’s at the six Centers in the United States (i.e., Stanford University, Case Western University, University of Washington, Seattle, Duke University, University of Pennsylvania, and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) Henderson is the only sociologist, (other PIs are MDs, natural science PhDs, and a philosopher). Henderson has been working on ELS projects since the late 1990s, as have the 18 co-investigators on the Center grant, many of whom have also been funded by the NHGRI program in the past. The group received a five-year $5.9-million Center grant.

A medical sociologist with training in public health, Henderson has teaching and research interests in research ethics and global health. In 1999, Henderson co-edited a research ethics textbook, Beyond Regulations: Ethical Human Genome Project Research and Human Subjects. Since then she has been awarded a number of NIH grants on research ethics, including several that were focused on the ethical, legal, and social issues arising in genetic research.

Forty-five years as an ASA Member

by Craig Schaar, ASA Membership Department

Mary Alice Ericson recently received an honorary lifetime membership from the American Sociological Association for her long-term commitment to the organization. Having been an active member with ASA since 1961, Ericson was thrilled to receive the recognition.

Ericson, 94, resides in Cedar Rapids, IA, by herself. Her daughter, who lives in the area, checks on Ericson daily.

Ericson’s first professional interest was to become a social studies history teacher. However, she earned her bachelor’s degree in geography at Wellesley College and a master’s degree in geography from the University of Chicago. Next she received a teaching assistant fellowship and a PhD in sociology in 1940 from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC). She became interested in sociology when she took a course in family and marriage as a graduate student.

Ericson had three professors who served as mentors. Lee Brooks’s introductory courses helped Ericson appreciate sociology as a discipline. Rupert Vance was another positive influence for whom Ericson provided statistical graphs to his book. She was first acquainted with another mentor, Margaret Haygood, in Social Forces. Ericson went where her husband’s job as an English history professor took them since he always moved. Her first job was as a state statistician with the North Carolina Public Works Administration. Later she became the statistics editor for nursing students at UNC. In 1947, Ericson taught geography courses at Mount Holyoke College. Her first teaching position in sociology was at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota.

When Ericson’s husband was battling a serious illness, the couple agreed to move. She sought a new job through the ASA Employment Bulletin and was hired to teach at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA. Since the college only had a two-person department for sociology and anthropology, she taught cultural anthropology for five years until the university hired a full-time anthropologist. Shortly after she started at Coe College, she became a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Midwest Sociological Society. In 1960 she worked at Coe College from 1960 until her retirement in 1978.

Ericson fondly remembers when she took a sabbatical to serve as the social science supervisor of students at a university in San Jose, Costa Rica, in the late 1960s. She worked in field studies in various locations throughout the country.

During her teaching career, Ericson made a lasting impression on her students. "You have changed my life," one female professor explaining birth control methods to football players in a Marriage and Family class, recalled Libby Gotchotch Slupp dually appointed as a visiting professor and president of the Iowa Sociological Association. She also attended many ASA annual meetings when she was a faculty member and additional times when Ericson contributed more than 40 articles reviewing major sociological papers.

Ericson is still active in several volunteer organizations. After retiring from the Iowa Association, Ericson was appointed to the Minnesota Association, the Midwest Sociological Society, including serving on the board of directors, organizing the MSS annual meetings, and leading the Iowa chapter of the association. Ericson considers her continued involvement with the MSS as “sacred.” For several years, Ericson had the privilege of serving as a female professor explaining birth control methods to football players in a Marriage and Family class, recalled Libby Gotchotch Slupp dually appointed as a visiting professor and president of the Iowa Sociological Association. She also attended many ASA annual meetings when she was a faculty member and additional times when Ericson contributed more than 40 articles reviewing major sociological papers.

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Using Social and Behavioral Science to Design Better Energy and Climate Change Policies and Programs

by Karen Elhard-Martinez, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Sociologists provide unique insights for resolving many public policy debates. Their insights are equally important in finding an effective means of reducing our world’s collective carbon footprint so as to minimize the prospect of global climate change. Among the urgent priorities in this field of research is the need to address the link between excessive U.S. energy consumption and our disproportionate contribution to global carbon emissions. Currently, policymakers are prone to frame this dilemma solely in terms of its technological and economic dimensions. In response to this narrow and ineffective framing, sociologists along with other social scientists and energy practitioners recently held a first-ever national conference to begin to develop a better understanding of the social and behavioral aspects of energy use, energy efficiency, energy conservation and climate change.

The 2007 Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference (BECC) was convened in November by the California Institute for Energy and Environment (CIEEE), the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), and the Precourt Institute for Energy Efficiency (PIEE). The conference focused on developing an improved understanding of the energy-related behavior and decision-making of individuals and organizations. Ultimately, the goal of the conference and subsequent research is to accelerate our transition to an energy-efficient and low-carbon economy through a better understanding and application of social and behavioral mechanisms of change.

U.S. Energy Consumption and Efficiency

Compared to less affluent countries, per capita energy consumption in the United States and other wealthy nations is disproportionately large. Current U.S. energy consumption is on the order of 100 quadrillion BTUs annually (roughly 22 percent of global consumption) despite the fact that the U.S. population represents only 4.5 percent of the global population. Conversely, however, U.S. energy consumption per dollar of economic output (energy intensity) has declined by 50 percent over the past 35 years from 17,990 btu per dollar GDP (gross domestic product) in 1970 to 9,110 btu of economic output in 2005. In other words, the current U.S. energy consumption is only half of what it would have been if levels of energy productivity had remained unchanged. So, is the glass half empty or half full? Despite gains in energy productivity, total U.S. energy consumption has increased by 48 percent in the past 35 years. Although technology has helped us to increase our energy productivity, social and behavioral changes are required to address the growth in overall levels of consumption and to achieve the reductions needed to retard (and eventually reduce) the continued accumulation of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases in the earth’s atmosphere.

The BECC Conference

The BECC Conference brought together a diverse group of academic and non-academic researchers, advocacy groups, energy practitioners, government program staff, utility and business representatives and legislators to share their knowledge regarding the social and behavioral dimensions of energy consumption and climate change. This group included sociologists, anthropologists, psychologists, and other academics. The conference sessions discussed a broad range of issues including (but not limited to):

- Influencing climate behavior through political action and social movements
- Understanding the importance of social norms and networks
- Improving assumptions, theories, and models
- Using behavior research as a resource for energy efficiency initiatives
- Learning from past energy efficiency programs
- Understanding opinions, attitudes, and segments within the population
- Building on the experience of public health initiatives
- Using information, education, and voluntary action mechanisms
- Improving policy design and points
- Motivating individuals through social marketing and public programs
- Accelerating technology solutions
- Catalyzing change within the business community
- Working with community-based organizations

Appropriately, two of the three conference co-chairs, Loren Lutzenhiser (Portland State University) and myself (ACEEE), were sociologists. Lutzenhiser has a long history of research focused on the environmental impacts of socio-technical systems. His studies look at a variety of topics including variations in energy consumption practices across households, commercial real estate mechanisms that have resulted in poor-performing and environmentally exceptional buildings, and the degree to which environmentally friendly business practices have been influenced by local sustainability movements and business actors.

My research is focused on understanding climate change through cross-national studies of carbon dioxide emissions and deforestation. My participation in the BECC conference resulted from my recent decision to pursue an applied career and my subsequent employment with ACEEE. Following graduate school and several years of teach- ing in a tenure track position, I decided to return to Washington, DC, to pursue a position in which I could focus full time on environmental policy research. After joining ACEEE, I was invited to work with Linda Schuck at CIEE, Carrie Armel at PIEE, and Lutzenhiser to organize this inaugural conference.

Future Opportunities

A large and growing number of people are interested in learning more about how the social sciences can help accelerate our transition to an energy-efficient and low-carbon economy. With more than 500 participants, registration for the BECC Conference exceeded initial expectations by more than 200 percent. In addition to practitioners and researchers, participants included utility representatives and representatives from a diverse group of U.S. states and cities. ACEEE is currently working with PIEE and CIEE to plan a research workshop to be held in the summer on this topic and a subsequent conference to be held late in 2008 or early in 2009. Contact me for more information about future workshops and conferences (keltihard@aceee.org). For more information about the 2007 BECC Conference or updates on the upcoming conference, see <aceee.org>.

Green-Eyed Boston

from the city.

Several Boston build- ers have already
gone green. Their buildings have
certification from the
the Green Building Council’s
Leadership in Energy and
Environmental Design (LEED) national rating system. The LEED green building rating system is a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED recognizes performance through a point system in five key areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy effici-ency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. Depending on a building’s points accrual, it moves from certified, to silver, gold, and to platinum status. Boston has several noteworthy LEED buildings.

Take Boston’s T (subway) system to Maverick to see one of Boston’s more inter- esting up-and-coming neighborhoods. Look at the view of Boston and you will understand why. Just three blocks off of Maverick Square is Maverick Landing, the nation’s first LEED certified public housing project. The development has 20 low-rise buildings and one six-story building. It is one of three public housing projects in Boston redeveloped under the federal HOPE VI program. The development offers both subsidized and market-rate hous- ing. Among the fea- tures leading to LEED certification are a solar photovoltaic system, a cogeneration system that powers lights and elevators, and provides some hot water, and Energy Star-rated lighting and appliances. Many of the subsidized and market-rate units have stunning views of Boston’s skyline and harbor.

The city’s largest solar photovoltaic system is at the Maverick Landing HOPE VI Project.

The George Robert White Environmental Conservation Center in Mattapan.

Renewable energy features include photo- voltaic roof shingles, solar thermal panels for water heating, and geo-thermal heat pumps for heating and cooling. Other green features include furniture and carpeting made from recycled material, envi- ronmentally sound building materials, advanced insulation, and high-per- formance glass.

Boston’s first LEED platinum building, the EpiCenter, opened in 2007. It is located at 100 West Second St., on the south waterfront. The building claims the city’s largest solar photovoltaic system.
The National Academy of Sciences Honors Sociologist

Sociologist Alejandro Portes is among the 13 individuals honored by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for their extraordinary achievements in the areas of biology, chemistry, ecology, mathematics, oceanography, palentology, psychology, solar physics, and social sciences. Achievements recognized by the NAS included pioneering studies of the magnetized solar wind plasma; research on the first terrestrial vertebrates and the evolutionary water-to-land transition; development of technologies that led to the production of the first transgenic crops; and experiments on the role of visual expertise in recognition.

Alejandro Portes, the Howard Harrison and Gabrielle Snyder Beck Professor of Sociology at Princeton University, will be honored with the 2008 National Academy of Sciences Award for Scientific Reviewing—a prize of $10,000 awarded annually for excellence in scientific reviewing within the past 10 years. This prize recognizes outstanding contributions to the furtherance of science and technology and to their use for the general welfare. Since 1863, the Academy has awarded the prize to individuals who have been presented since 1979.

Until very recently, Portes was the Director of the Center for Migration and Development at Princeton University. In 2005, he was appointed to the Editorial Board of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, of which he is a member. His primary research interest is on how the children of immigrants adapt to the United States and what ties they maintain with their homelands. With Rubén Rubenzomb, he received the 2002 ASA Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award for their book, titled Legacies: The Story of The Immigrant Second Generation.

The award ceremony will be held on April 27 in Washington, DC. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit honorific society of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research dedicated to the furtherance of science and technology and to their use for the general welfare. Since 1863, the National Academy of Sciences has served to “advise the federal government, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art” whenever called upon to do so by any department of the government.

American Sociological Association

Footnotes

Three Sociologists Elected as AAAS Fellows

In October, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) elected three sociologists among its newly elected 471 members. The new Fellows of AAAS will be recognized for their contributions to science and technology at the Fellows Forum on February 16, 2008, during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston. These individuals will receive a certificate and a blue and gold rosette as a symbol of their distinguished accomplishments. The sociologist members of the 2008 AAAS Fellows are under the Section on Social, Economic, and Political Science are:

- Lawrence D. Bobo is the Martin Luther King Jr. Centennial professor at Stanford University. He is also the Director of Stanford's Center for Comparative Study in Race and Ethnicity and of the Program in African and African American Studies. Before moving to Stanford, he taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of California-Los Angeles, and Harvard University. Bobo has made central contributions to both the understanding of race, ethnic and cultural studies and to the social scientific study of the United States, and to survey research methodology through his studies of the causes and consequences of racial and ethnic attitudes. Bobo is co-author of Racial Attitudes in America: Trends and Interpretations and Prejudice in Politics: Group Position, Public Opinion, and the Wisconsin Treaty Rights Dispute.

- Karen S. Cook is the Ray Lyman Wilbur Professor of Sociology at Stanford University. Her current research focuses on issues of trust in social relations and networks. She also works on projects related to social justice, power-dependence relations, and social exchange theory. In addition to her comparative research on physician-patient trust, she also was a fellow at the National Academies of Science, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and a visiting scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

- Guillermima Jasso is Professor of Sociology at New York University. She was the founding director of the Methods Workshop at New York University (1991–1997) and the founding director of the Theory Workshop at the University of Iowa (1988–1991), as well as a co-founder of the Life Course Center at the University of Minnesota. Her principal research interests are basic sociobehavioral theory, distributive justice, status, international migration, mathematical methods for theory building, and factorial survey methods for empirical analysis. She has published numerous articles in scholarly journals on these topics. Currently she is Co-Principal Investigator of the New Immigrant Survey, the first national longitudinal survey of immigrants in the United States.
Defending Against Misuses of Data on Race and Ethnicity

As we move toward the 2010 Census and as ethnic or racial groups continue to be targets of federal, state, and local authorities, it is believed to be time to revisit the adequacy of ASA efforts to protect against the misuse of racial and ethnic data gathered as part of sociological and related research. The ASA has a design to be alert to and strenuously discourage any such misuses given that, as a professional organization, there is a very clear and strong public policy statement stressing the importance of collecting racial identifiers for research purposes. The Importance of Collecting Data and Doing Social Scientific Research on Race and Ethnicity (www.asanet.org/media/asa_race_statement.pdf).

Both the 2003 ASA policy document on race data and the ASA Code of Ethics would seem to be logical places for equally strong statements on the misuse of race (or ethnic) data for group or individual targeting purposes. While both documents refer to the importance of data confidentiality, neither explicitly addresses nor discourages sociologists from participating in or assisting efforts at racial and ethnic targeting. Press accounts detail various law enforcement and intelligence agencies in the United States that use data mining and similar technologies involving census and other demographic data for targeting purposes. Clearly, this is not an imaginary concern. Moreover, recent research has established that targeting directed against Japanese Americans using microdata from the 1940 Census took place and that similar efforts directed against other groups have apparently continued (see W. Seltzer and M. Anderson and S. El Badry and D. W. Swanson).

Persell correctly argues that sociologists should be the first to discuss strategies for doing high school sociology courses and for increasing the ASA’s involvement in them. But two counterpoints must be raised. The first is that Persell seems suddenly to agree with the ASA’s almost complete lack of interest and surveyed cite or condemn outright (DeCesare 2007; Dennick-Breit 2004). The second and more important point is that sociologists have consistently been offering evidence to inform sociologists’ decisions about how to improve high school sociology courses. Specifically, she wants to see— as we all do— “recent, representative data.” Thanks to the ASA’s Teaching Enhancement Fund, I recently completed a survey of a nationally representative sample of 1,000 high schools. As I reported in my original article, less than 40 percent of traditional high schools nationwide offer a sociology course. Given my citation of the ongoing research, I was surprised to read Persell’s suggestion that “How widely sociology is taught in U.S. high schools is an important empirical question on which we need valid and reliable data based on a representative national sample.” My study—which, again, I cited in my article—provides the answer to exactly that question. Persell’s second observation is that my argument is just plain wrong. She cites psychology as a discipline in which, once it instituted an advanced placement (AP) course, teachers “appear[ed] and/or be[came] qualified.” This is a fairly popular claim that has no basis in the type of empirical research that Persell rightly calls for. Indeed, one might ask: How exactly do teachers suddenly “appear and/or become qualified”? The short answer is they don’t (Ernst and Pettersson 1996).

Persell correctly argues that sociologists need to discuss strategies for doing high school courses and for increasing the ASA’s involvement in them. But two counterpoints must be raised. The first is that Persell seems suddenly to agree with me—and with everyone else who has studied the topic—that existing courses are in poor shape (cf., DeCesare 2005). The second and more important point is that sociologists have consistently been offering evidence to inform sociologists’ decisions about these types of strategies for 95 years (for some examples from Footnotes, see DeCesare and Lashbrook 2004; Dorn 1986; Howery 1985; Levine 1997; also see Gillette [1913] for the first suggestions ever made, and DeCesare [2007] for a summary of the recommendations offered since Gillette’s article).

Perhaps it is true that the ASA has not been enough to encourage high school sociology; high school teachers would have to vouch for that,” Persell writes. It is clear from the literature that high school teachers have repeatedly vouched for that over the past 95 years. The teachers who have recently been interviewed and surveyed cite one condemn outright (DeCesare 2007, Dennick-Breit 2004, Lashbrook 2001).

Finally, Persell believes that the argument that AP courses are elitist “is basically a captivation to . . . giving up on central city high schools.” Nothing could be further than the truth. Simply asked in my original article: “Why reserve a course in sociology solely for the small proportion of high school students who are deemed AP material?” Clearly, with neither the requirement of AP courses in suburban schools nor to give up on urban schools. What I do wish to do is to way to do along with the idea of an AP course in sociology until a regular course is offered in a significant proportion of high schools. The fact of the matter is that AP courses are elitist, as they typically are for high-achieving students.

Let me be blunt: It is time to stop quibbling among ourselves and to get serious about providing sociologists with the tools of a realistic solution to the perennial problem posed by high school courses, we will be mired in the same situation in which we have been stuck for 95 years: the relegation of high school sociology teachers to second-class citizenship and high school sociology courses to the academic dumpster.

Michael DeCesare, Merrimack College

References


Peace researchers have a vital role in the process of identifying the sources of conflicts in the world today. For more information, visit <www.peacor.org>.

Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research, Rutgers, State University of New Jersey. The Institute offers postdoctoral opportunities for research and training in mental health research, health services research, and health policy. Applications for the 2008—2009 fellowship year (September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009) are due February 27, 2008. For more information, visit <www.nichsen.org>.

American Sociological Association

E-mail: info@ASAweb.org

Bilinda and Sven Gustafsson Foundation (BGF) invites applications to its Program on Health Policy Research. The BGF offers research fellowships to support health policy research that involves strong communication, creativity, and innovative thinking. For more information, visit <www.bgf.se>.

Rutgers University, State University of New Jersey. The Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research, sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, offers postdoctoral opportunities for research and training in health policy and health services research. Applications for the 2008-2009 fellowship year (September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009) are due February 27, 2008. For more information, visit <www.rutgers.edu/ihhpar>

John Han Isle, John Hancock Center, Boston, MA 02116; (617) 787-8551; midwestss@centurytel.net. For more information, visit <homepage.newschool.edu/carrds@rci.rutgers.edu; <www.ihhcpar.george-ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1293; carrds@rci.rutgers.edu>

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Julie Albright, University of Southern California, was quoted by the Associated Press on January 9, 2008, in an article on the criticism of Dr. Phil received for his involvement with Britney Spears’ “meltdown.” She also appeared on CNN Headline News on the program Showbiz Tonight on the topic of how young celebrities are reflecting a general trend of extending adolescence into adulthood.

Nancy Y. Ammerman, Boston University, was quoted in an Associated Press article on January 10, 2008, on a controversial Southern Baptist seminary president who has advocated a Christian “exit strategy” from public schools and is in the running for Southern Baptist Convention president. The article was run in the January 9 Houston Chronicle.

Michael Bell, University of Wisconsin-Madison, was quoted in a December 31 Washington Post article on women playing rate of earning in America.

William Biely, University of Illinois-Chicago, was listed as one of the 25 most powerful women in business by Fortune magazine for his role as a key plaintiff's expert in dozens of employment-discrimination class-action suits.

Mathieu Delfino, University of South Carolina, was discussed in an article on “International Intelligence Sharing for Global Security” in Turkish Weekly, December 31, 2007.

Silvia Dominguez, Northeastern University, was interviewed live by Radio Canizaro on the attempts to criminalize youth wearing sagging pants and the secondary effects this would have on youth and their families. The interview was in Spanish and Radio Canizaro is heard in Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Chile, as well as, Los Angeles and Miami.

Peter Dries, Occidental College, coauthored an article “The Conserva- tive Origins of the Subprime Mortgage Crisis” for American Prospect magazine on December 18, 2007. Neil Perice devoted his January 3, 2008, Washington Post column to DirectX’s demise, arguing extensively from both the article and from an interview with Perice. His column, “Bush’s WarGames,” appeared in the Huffington Post on December 22. He was quoted in the Los Angeles Times on December 19 about the LA County Fed- eration of Labor’s endorsement of Mark Ridley-Thomas for County Supervisor and in the Fort Worth Star Telegram on November 25 about the housing prob- lems he was working on. He interviewed an article online in the American Prospect on December 17, 2007, about the foreclosure crisis and critical President Bush’s plan to help homeowners as not comprehen- sive enough and in the Huffington Post on December 7 about a National Public Radio (NPR) debate among Demo- cratic candidates in which NPR reporters framed the issue of U.S. trade with China in terms of low wages for Chinese work- er’s behalf U.S. consumers. He wrote an op-ed column in The Pasadena Weekly on December 6, 2007, about the growing grassroots movement to support public schools in Pasadena, an op-ed in the Pasadena Star-News on November 28 about the potential bus driver’s strike in Pasadena, and he wrote op-eds in both the LA DAILY News and November 26 and the LA Business Journal on November 15 about the efforts of community and labor groups in LA to get TESCO, the British supermarket giant, to make clear commitments about its environmental, health and workplace practices. He wrote an article in the Fall issue of Shelbytizer magazine outlining a new federal policy agenda for housing the working poor by adding a housing component to the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Morten Ender, United States Military Academy, was quoted and had his research data collected from U.S. soldiers in the summer of 2004 in Baghdad cited in a December 20, 2007, front-page article in USA Today. The article featured what, how, and how often soldiers and loved ones communicate between Iraq and the homeland.

Nancy Foner, Hunter College, was quoted by the Associated Press and interviewed on Public Radio International’s “The World” on December 18 on the trial of a Long Island couple accused of enslaving their Indonesian domestic workers.

Donna Gaines wrote a letter to the editor regarding an article on research online networking that was published in the December 24 New York Times.

Barry Glassner, was quoted and had his book about crime before 9/11 cited in a December 6 Morning Edition in a segment on the dis- parity between foods available to wealthy and poor Americans.

Adia Harvey, was interviewed by the Atlantic Monthly on November 29 about the epide- miological implications of the Atlantic Police School’s decision to ban baggy pants on December 10.

Jerome Karabel, University of California-Berkeley, was cited in a December 30 New York Times article as one of the experts to attract students of middle- and upper-middle-class families to a scholarly elite. Philip Kasin, CUNY-Graduate Center, was quoted in the German Newspaper Die Welt on December 16, 2007, and was interviewed on RTL German Television on December 18, 2007, on the increasing number of European tourists in New York City. He was also a guest on the WNBC New York talk show “Today in New York” in a December 19, 2007, discussion and a language and assimilation among Latinos on December 16, 2007.

Jaen Kazantzis and Nicholas Chris- kakis, both of Harvard Medical School, were quoted in a December 17 New York Times article for their research on an online social networking of college students and in the American Sociological Review, and Euster and Philip Kasin, CUNY-Graduate Center, were also quoted in the article.

Aki Koyaki Khatibi was featured in an interview by his newsweekly Chicago on December 6, 2007, which was about the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation’s hear- ings that reflected on the 40th anniver- sary of the Kerner Commission Report. He was interviewed on WMAQ Radio on December 10, 2007, concerning a speech he gave in Plamfield, NJ, on “Educational Broken Promises for African Americans” and was interviewed on Healing Gardens internet radio on December 3, 2007, about wealth building.

Jack Nussan Porter, the Spencer Institute, was quoted on October 19 in the New York Times regarding the Anti-Defamation League and the Armenian genocide. He was quoted in The American Weekly on September 7, 2007, and in The Califormian Guard on August 16, 2007, on the con- flict within the Jewish community over the Armenian genocide issue. His letter to the editor regarding the Armenian was published in the Jerusalem Post on October 17, 2007, in the Forward on October 20, 2007, and in the Jewish Post on September 14, 2007.

Craig Reinaman, University of Califor- nia-Santa Cruz, had an op-ed published in the Washington Post on Sunday, October 14, 2007, titled, “Five Myths About That Demonic Corn Cob,” in which he criticized the corn cob case concerning the crack cocaine/pow- der cocaine sentencing disparity. He was quoted in a December 23 Washington Post article on that topic.

Ronald Rindfuss, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, was quoted in a Dec- ember 21 Washington Post article on the rising fertility rates in the United States.

Tom Rudel, Rutgers University, was interviewed about his research on the human role in tropical rainforest conservation.

Abigail Saguy, University of California-Los Angeles, was quoted in the Sacra- mento Bee on November 7, 2007, and the New York Times on November 21, 2007, discussing how negative cultural atti- tudes about fatness predispose scientists and the lay public to think that thinner is better. She was quoted in an article in the Jewish Advocate on the attempts to criminalize youth wearing sagging pants and the lay public to think that thinner is better.

Erik Love and Jennifer Rogers, both of the University of California-Santa Barbara, were recipients of the 2007 Richard “Dick” Flacks Democracy Fund Award. Love’s project title is “Countering Islamophobia: Organizing for Civil Rights among Muslims, Middle Eastern, and South Asian American Communities.” Rogers is working on “the Trial of Mexican Maize Tracking a Vanishing Seed through a Maze of Globalization and the Struggle from Below.”

Barbara Entinello, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, was awarded fund- ing by the National Science Foundation’s Human Societies in a Material World project, “An Agent-Based Approach to Population Environment Relationships in a Mesoamerican Society.”

Jodi Cascio was recently appointed as an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

L. Janelle Dance recently began a joint appointment as an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and the Institute for Ethnic Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Christina D. Falci was recently appointed as an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Brody Grove is a joint appointment as an assistant professor of the Depart- ment of Sociology and the Institute for Ethnic Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Lisa A. Kurt-Butler was recently appoint- ed as an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Candace Kruttschnitt joined the faculty in the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska.

John H. Laub, University of Maryland, has been distinguished University Professor.

Kristen M. Olson has a joint appoint- ment as an assistant professor of sociol- ogy and Survey Research and Methodol- ogy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jolene D. Smyth recently began a joint appointment as assistant professor in the Department in Sociology and the Survey Research and Methodology at the University of Nebraska.

Rosalie Torres has relocated to the Department of Psychiatry’s Center for Mental Health Services Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Beverly Lynn Lundy Allen has been elected Chair of the National Commission of Sociologists for Women in Society.

Rebecca Bach, Duke University, has been elected Chair of the Administrative Committee of Sociologists for Women in Society.

Wendy Christensen, University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been elected Student Representative for Sociologists for Women in Society.

Donna Gaines was elected to the Guild of the Episcopal Church on November 10, 2007.
The program emphasizes small classes and faculty mentoring, with 30 full and part-time students and 13 faculty. Assistantships stipends and scholarships are available for highly qualified students.

To find out more about the department and its programs please see our website at www.sbs.uaub.edu
ASA seeks applications for student travel to 2008 Annual Meeting

The American Sociological Association (ASA) Student Forum is pleased to announce that the ASA Council has made funds available to support student travel awards to the ASA Annual Meeting. ASA anticipates granting approximately 30 travel awards in the amount of $225 each. These awards will be made on a competitive basis and are meant to assist students by defraying expenses associated with attending the 2008 ASA Annual Meeting in Boston. All applicants are encouraged to seek additional sources of funding to cover other expenses.

To apply, complete and submit four (4) copies of the 2008 Student Forum Travel Award Application form no later than April 1, 2008. Decisions will be announced by May 15, 2008. No part of the application may be submitted by fax, and only applications from individuals on their own behalf will be accepted.

Applicants must be students pursuing an undergraduate or graduate sociology degree in an academic institution and a current student member of ASA at the time of application. Participation in the Annual Meeting program (e.g., paper sessions, roundtables), purpose for attending (e.g., workshop training, Honors Program participation), student financial need, availability of other forms of support, matching funds, and potential benefit to the student are among the factors taken into account in making awards. A travel award committee of the ASA Student Forum convened especially for this purpose will select awardees.

For more information, and an application for the 2008 Student Forum Travel Award, contact the ASA Executive Office at studentforum@asanet.org or (202) 383-9005, ext. 322. The award application form can also be found on the ASA website <www.asanet.org> under “Funding,” and on the Student Forum website <www.socstudentforum.org>.