A New Perspective with Patricia Hill Collins

Profile of the 100th ASA President

by Elizabeth Higginbotham, University of Delaware

Patricia Hill Collins is the 100th president of the American Sociological Association (ASA). She is a sociologist who has made significant contributions to the field of sociology, particularly in the areas of race, gender, and social class. Collins is known for her research on the experiences of African Americans, women, and working-class individuals, and her work has had a significant impact on the way sociologists approach social issues.

Collins was born in Philadelphia in 1948, the only child to Eunice Randolph Hill and Albert Hill. Her parents were direct descendants of Pauli Murray, an African American who opened many doors during the Civil Rights movement. Pat saw her father as a model of “Reinventing the American Dream.”

Beginning in adolescence, I was increas- ingly the “first,” “one of the few,” or the “only” African American and/or woman and/or working-class person in my schools, communities, and work settings. I saw nothing wrong with being who I was, but apparently many others did. My world grew larger, but I felt I was growing smaller. I tried to disappear into myself in order to deflect the painful daily assaults designed to teach me that being an African American, working-class woman made me lesser than those who were not. And as I felt smaller, I became quieter and eventually was virtually silenced (Collins, 1990, p. xi).

Branding in 1965, Pat used her time to reclaim that voice. Migrating from Philadelphia to the Boston area meant moving into new communities where one can see how others lived, what they assume, and their agendas. Majoring in sociology, which offered the freedom to shape her own pursuits, Pat graduated in 1969. Regarding her choice of major, she commented:

As an undergraduate I did not think that all my teachers were personal or in your head. Sociology was right between the sciences and philosophy. The sciences, with an emphasis on empirical data, can reveal some of the hidden structures and patterns that are not obvious to you, whether you are talking about explaining natural or social phenomena. Philosophy offers explanations and interpretations. I was particularly drawn to the way that sociology was taught at Brandeis, where they embraced a sociology of knowledge approach. Sociology was also the place where race was studied. I liked how this major enabled me to reach in many directions.

An important advisor to Brandeis was Pauli Murray, an African American woman who had opened many doors during the Civil Rights movement. Pat saw her connection to Murray important to inter- generationality community building, as those who gain in one era have to work for social change over their careers. Even in college, Pat was involved in progressive educa- tional pursuits in Boston’s black commu- nity. After college, she secured an MA in Social Science Education at Harvard University in 1970. As a teacher, she was very involved in curriculum development at St. Joseph’s School, a diverse community-based school in Roxbury. She participated in many of the progressive education- al developments regarding inner city schooling. From 1976-1980, she was the Director of the African American Center at Tufts University, involved with many initiatives in program- ming and staffing. While working at Tufts, she met and married Roger Collins in 1977 and gave birth to their daughter Valerie in 1979. In 1980, she returned to Brandeis to pursue a doctorate in sociology. She was an ASA Minority Fellow and the recipient of a Sydney Schwarz Dissertation Support Scholarship.
Federal Support for Basic Research and Training of the Future Scientific Workforce

With the national political party conventions behind us and Americans contemplating the nation’s future executive and legislative leadership, the federal government’s commitment to basic science should be a matter for significant national dialogue: it is not. It remains relegated to a back-burner by Congress, which is the key research budget decision maker. Because of continuing bitter battles between the White House and Capitol Hill, budget conflicts have not been resolved and U.S. science agencies once again face an environment lacking an orderly funding process and predictable appropriated levels by the October 1 start of the 2009 federal fiscal year (FY).

Federal Disorganization

These money feders typically churn out last minute, late night “bridge fund” called Continuing Budget Resolutions (CRs). These are band-aid-like patches that keep the government alive, thus providing a government shutdown (such as the one beginning in 1995) by tiding agencies over until either all 15 funding bills are passed or the normal process is bypassed with a poorly considered, cobbled together omnibus funding bill. Omnibus bills have tortured the federal agencies since Congress adopted its budget process in 1974. Because they have more pages than multiple New York City phonebooks, legislators and staff are hard pressed to read the long-term, steady progress essential to the advancement of basic science and scientific training. So, while many Americans have been participating in the nation’s historic election, our current elected federal leadership has lost its initially impressive headway on crafting the FY 2009 federal budget and securing the future of the U.S. scientific enterprise.

…or Federal Policy?

The administration and congressional leaders have not faltered just this year. In FY 2007, federal (which include research and development (R&D) for science and engineering at colleges and universities) fell 1.6% from FY 2006, when adjusted for inflation, according to the NSF Survey of Research and Development Expenditures at Universities and Colleges released in August 2008. This is the second consecutive drop for R&D at institutions of higher education and unprecedented since 1972 when the NSF began this particular survey. This latest 1.6% year-over-year decline represents a 0.2% decline between FY 2005 and FY 2006. The more important issue, however, is whether this is a trend to be blamed on changing policy priorities or short-term bucking that will work itself out.

The federal government is the largest source of academic R&D funding, accounting for more than 60% of total R&D expenditures in most years. However, the federal government’s overall share of the $494 billion total (from all sources) of academic R&D funding has now decreased from 64% in FY 2005 to 62% in FY 2007.

science policy

Sociologist received an NIH MERIT award

Linda J. Waite, a National Opinion Research Center (NORC) Research Associate and University of Chicago Professor of Sociology, received a National Institutes of Health (NIH) MERIT award (Method to Extend Research in Time). MERIT awards are among the most selective research grants given by the NIH, with less than five percent of NIH-funded investigators selected as recipients. MERIT awards provide long-term support to experienced researchers who have demonstrated superior competence and outstanding productivity and leadership endeavors of special importance or promise. Waite’s recent work on biomarkers and pharmaceutical data on the relation between marriage and health has yielded groundbreaking knowledge about the sexual behavior and social networks of older adults. 

Websites seek to streamline research and funding searches

Two new websites seek to simplify searches by making resources and research available in one location. Research.gov, led by the National Science Foundation (NSF), allows institutions and grantees to access streamlined research grant management services and other resources for multiple federal agencies in one location. The website offers the following publicly available information services that anyone can access:

- Research Spending and Results Search, Policy Library, Research Headlines, Grants Application Status, and Institution and User Management.
- Policy Archive. The second website is Policy Archive (www.PolicyArchive.org), a free, comprehensive, online archive of public policy research launched by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation for Governmental Studies with the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Library. PolicyArchive contains the largest online repository of public policy research in the world. The archive currently contains more than 12,000 policy documents from over 220 research organizations. It will house up to 20,000 documents by the end of 2008.

The American Community Survey (ACS) releases income, poverty, and earnings data.

The U.S. Census Bureau has released data from the 2007 American Community Survey (ACS) income, poverty, and earnings data. Similar to last year’s release, the 2007 ACS includes one-year estimates for the nation, 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and every metropolitan area with populations of 65,000 or more. The annual release of ACS income, earnings, and poverty data is in conjunction with the Census Bureau’s annual release of income, poverty, and health insurance estimates from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. In late September, the ACS will release its one-year estimates on social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics, income, poverty, and health insurance data profiles; and Public Use Microdata Sample data. For more information on the income, poverty, and earnings data from the 2007 ACS, see www.census.gov/acs/www/2007_1yr/
ASA Brings Sociology to Capital Hill

WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 25—ASA sponsored another successful and popular science policy at the Capitol Hill for the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) 14th Annual Exhibition and Reception. ASA has consistently participated for several years in this annual showcasing of exemplary National Science Foundation-supported research for the purpose of educating policymakers about this important science.

Ohio State University sociologists Ruth Peterson and Lauren Krivo displayed their research, Race, Resilience & Crime: A Structure of Inequality, to the more than 400 attendees at the event, including several members of Congress and their staff, key congressional committee staff, the leadership of the National Science Foundation (NSF), and representatives from other policymaking and research agencies.

Peterson and Krivo, supported by a NSF grant, reviewed data from the National Neighborhood Crime Study to uncover relationships among race, ethnicity, crime, and neighborhoods. The National Neighborhood Crime Study combines police crime data with socioeconomic and demographic information from the 2000 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act and the 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Housing.

The sociologists reviewed crime rates, demographics, and the social and economic circumstances of 8,286 neighborhoods in 87 cities in the United States. The research sought to define the extent to which neighborhoods are racially and ethnically segregated, the social and economic consequences of neighborhood segregation, and how these factors might explain divergent patterns of neighborhood violent crime and property crime.

Peterson and Krivo found that race, place, and neighborhood conditions are intricately connected in the United States. Racialized inequality, particularly near-neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage, has dramatic implications for violent crime in urban neighborhoods.

Ruth Peterson shares her research findings with her home state U.S. representative, Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) in Washington, D.C.

The Past, Present, and Future of the Journal of World-Systems Research

by Andrew J. Jorgenson and Edward L. Kick, North Carolina State University

At its January 2008 meeting, the American Sociological Association Council approved a recommendation from the Committee on Publications for formal sponsorship of the Journal of World-Systems Research (JWSR) by the ASA Section on Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS). JWSR is the second official section journal approved by the ASA. It is an open-access, online journal, with support from the PEWS section. Beginning in 2009, all articles published by JWSR will be copyrighted by the American Sociological Association. After theoretical and empirical treatments from sociological and interdisciplinary perspectives that are relevant to a globalizing world, JWSR publishes rigorous peer-reviewed articles that address timely issues, including the causes and consequences of globalization, war and militarization, the environment, and longstanding concerns such as inequality and development in their various manifestations.

JWSR was founded by Christopher Chase-Dunn at Johns Hopkins University in 1995 (currently at University of California-Riverside). Walter Frank (University of California-Santa Cruz) joined Chase-Dunn as co-editor in early 2000. For many years, Eric Tilton, Binghamton University, provided invaluable expertise and assistance with production as well as design and maintenance of the journal’s webpage. Salvatore Babones, University of Sydney, and Susan Manning also provided extensive editorial and production assistance in the journal’s earlier years.

Editors

In late 2007, we (the authors of this article) were chosen by a selection committee comprised of PEWS members to become the new co-editors of JWSR for a period of five years. Both of us have already served the journal in various ways and are honored to serve the journal, its authors, and its growing readership in this new capacity. We have a dedicated group of doctoral students at North Carolina State University (NCSU) who serve as managing editors (Laura McKinney, Christopher Dick, and Kelly Austin) as well as assistant editors (Adam Driscoll, Kinston Kuykendall, Christine Mair, Elizabeth Seale, and Stephanie Teixeira). Tom Hall, Depauw University, serves as the new book review editor, and Gregory Fullerson, State University of New York-Oneonta, is the journal’s new technical editor. The editorial board and associate editors are pivotal to JWSR as they reflect the intellectual, methodological, geographical, and cultural diversity of our discipline.

Future Changes

While the new editorial office for JWSR is located at NCSU, the journal is currently housed on a server at the University of California-Riverside. However, with the assistance of ASA, by the end of 2009 we will transfer the journal to the association’s server. This has many long-term advantages for JWSR’s current and future readership, authors, and editorial teams. Our technical editor, with the suggestions and feedback of the editorial board and associate editors, is redesigning the journal’s webpage. Our intention is to design a journal webpage that is easily accessible, navigable, and aesthetically pleasing.

If you are unfamiliar with JWSR, we encourage you to visit the journal’s webpage at <jwsr.ucr.edu/index.php> and read some of the many sociologically relevant articles within issues going back to its inception in 1995. We invite sociologists and social scientists interested in related disciplines to submit their work to the journal, and we are always looking for new manuscript reviewers. Any journal-related inquiry should be addressed to <journalsOfWorldSystemsResearch@ncsu.edu>.

Kessler Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

In April, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) announced the election of Harvard sociologist Ronald Kessler among this year’s 72 new members (Theda Skocpol, also at Harvard, was elected as well (see July/August 2008 Footnotes)). NAS members are recognized for their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Membership in the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in American science. Members help write reports on key scientific issues to inform policymakers’ decisions.

Kessler, Harvard Medical School’s Department of Health Care Policy, has a wide range of research interests. He is the principal investigator of the National Comorbidity Survey, the first nationally representative survey of the prevalence and correlates of psychiatric disorders in the United States. He co-directs the World Health Organization’s World Mental Health (WHM) surveys, a series of nationally representative epidemiological surveys carried out in 28 countries. In addition, he directs the Hurricane Katrina Community Advisory Group, a panel study of psychological adjustment among people who were residents of the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina at the time of the storm. He is the recipient of Research Scientist and MERIT Awards from the National Institute of Mental Health.

The National Academy of Sciences, established in 1863, is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the benefit of health. The National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and National Academy of Medicine make up the National Academy of Sciences, a private, nonprofit, membership, self-perpetuating society of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research, dedicated to the furtherance of science and to its use for the general welfare. The Academy provides advice on some of the most critical policies, problems, and issues facing the nation.

Topics of past special issues of the journal have included global inequality, global social change and the environment, and transnational social movements, which were and continue to be highly successful.

Footnotes

Footnotes are available online at <footnotes.asanet.org>.
Building on the Strengths of the Department Resources Group

by Margaret Weigers Vitulla, ASA Academic and Professional Affairs Program

"It's not broken, don't fix it." Contrary to this popular sentiment, ASA's Department Resources Group (DRG) has been helping to support and sustain departments, identify and build upon their strengths since its founding in 1995. Over the past 13 years, the DRG has conducted more than 200 site visits and consultations at colleges and universities across the United States, assisting departments by developing assessment plans, cultivating external support, and partnering with administrators, and providing workshops on topics ranging from capturing course counts to connecting management to the scholarship of teaching and learning.

ASA matches departments in need with consultants from similar institutions with relevant expertise.

Dr. Judith D. Auerbach*...
Think Ahead to 2010!

Session Proposals Are Invited for the 105th Annual Meeting Program!

The substantive program for the 2010 Annual Meeting is now taking shape under the leadership of President-elect Evelyn Nakano Glenn and the 2010 Program Committee. The theme of “Toward a Sociology of Citizenship” invites participation across the discipline and provides many opportunities to bring together a variety of sociological work in interesting ways.

The spectrum of sessions on the Annual Meeting program reflects the ASA’s commitment to facilitate intellectual communication and the transmission of knowledge, information, and skills relevant to the field of sociology and aligned social sciences. Members are encouraged to submit session proposals now for the components of the program where participation is by invitation only. Those who wish to volunteer to serve as organizers for Regular Session topics, which are open to paper submissions, should watch for an announcement in mid-December 2008. Proposals for sessions co-sponsored with sister sociological associations are solicited for the following components:

- Thematic Sessions are specially designed and planned by the Program Committee to further the evolution of the meeting theme. These sessions are broad in scope and endeavor to make the theme of the meeting come alive.
- Special Sessions focus on new areas of sociological work or other timely topics which may or may not relate to the theme. They generally address sociological issues, whether in research or its application, of importance to the discipline or of interest beyond, and participation is by invitation.
- Proposals for sessions co-sponsored with sister sociological associations are especially accommodated under this component.
- Regional Spotlight Sessions provide opportunities to look at issues pertinent to the host site for the Annual Meeting. With Atlanta as the site of the 2010 Annual Meeting, there are many opportunities to develop interesting session topics with invited panellists, as well as ideas for local tours and site visits.

Author Meets Critic Sessions are designed to bring authors of recent books deemed to be important contributions to the discipline to meet with discussants chosen to provide different viewpoints. Books published during 2007-2009 are eligible for nomination. Only ASA members may submit nominations; self-nominations are not acceptable.

Workshops provide the opportunity to learn about developments in research, theory, teaching, and practice. Topics focus on careers and professional growth, academic department strategies, research skills, and major datasets in use among sociologists publishing advice and tips, grant opportunities, and grant writing skills, enhanced teaching of standard courses, ethical issues, and more. If you have tried a pedagogical approach that has been effective, developed insightful career advice, or have wisdom to share about using sociology in applied and research settings, please volunteer to organize and lead a workshop. Workshops are open to all attendees, no fees are involved.

Didactic Seminars are designed to keep sociologists abreast of recent scholarly trends and developments. These intensive sessions are led by expert instructors who are considered to be at the forefront of a given field. Seminar instructors are urged to prepare reading lists, teaching materials (e.g., handouts, etc.), and use the same sort of techniques they would use in advanced graduate seminars. If you have cutting-edge methodological or theoretical knowledge in an important area, or know a colleague who has such expertise, please submit a proposal for a seminar.

The ASA meeting is a program of the members, by the members, for the members. But a meeting of this size and scope requires advance planning. Think ahead for 2010 and propose session topics and organizers now. With the collective input of ASA members, the 2010 Annual Meeting program will achieve a high mark of excellence.

Guidelines for Session Proposals

Proposals for Thematic Sessions, Special Sessions, and Regional Spotlight Sessions should provide:
- Designation of the session type: Thematic Session (invited panel closely related to the meeting theme); Special Session (invited panel on any topic); or Regional Spotlight Session (invited panel on topic pertinent to Atlanta and/or the South);
- Working title for the session;
- Brief description of the substantive focus;
- Rationale for inclusion of the topic on the 2010 program;
- Recommendation(s) for session organizer, including address, telephone, and e-mail information; and
- A list of potential participants.

Author Meets Critic Session proposals must include:
- Name and affiliation of book author(s), a complete title of the book;
- Publication date and name of publisher;
- Brief statement about the book's importance to the discipline of sociology;
- Rationale for inclusion on the 2010 program; and
- Suggestions for critics and session organizer.

Workshop proposals must include:
- Working title for the seminar;
- Brief description of the focus and content;
- Rationale for inclusion of the topic on the 2010 program; and
- Recommendation for workshop organizer/leader, including address, telephone, and e-mail information.

Seminars proposals must include:
- Working title for the seminar;
- Brief description of the focus and content;
- Rationale for inclusion of the topic on the 2010 program; and
- Seminar organizer.

Seminar proposals are limited to two pages in length. Submission of electronic documents via e-mail is preferred.

Organizer Eligibility. All session organizers must be members of ASA. Students are not eligible to serve as sole organizers.

Deadlines. Proposals for Thematic Sessions are due by November 14, 2008; Proposals for other sessions are due by February 5, 2009.

Submission. Send proposals to Kareem Jenkins, American Sociological Association, 1340 G St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005-2529, USA; meetings@asanet.org; fax (202) 638-0882.

Annual Meeting

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International Relations
More than 540 international registrants representing 53 countries attended the ASA Annual Meeting, with the highest representation from Canada, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Germany, and the Netherlands. Among the international attendees was International Sociological Association (ISA) President Michel Wieviorka, who addressed the attendees of the International Societies Reception. In his informal address, Wieviorka advocated for stronger relations between the ASA and, and spoke of encouraging the participation of young sociologists and sociologists from non-Western nations. Wieviorka said that he does not see sociology as being in a crisis status, but rather is a central component of the public debate.

Going Public with the Press

Speaking of the public debate, 25 journalists registered for the ASA Annual Meeting—the second highest media registration after last year’s meeting in New York. This year’s attendees included reporters from The Boston Globe, ABC News, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, Higher Ed, and The Chronicle of Higher Education. A variety of research presented at the meeting garnered national media coverage. The New York Times’ “Well” blog reported on research concerning male college students and how obesity is a crisis. A study of the emotional toll of breast cancer was covered in U.S. News & World Report, The Los Angeles Times “Booster Shots” blog, and by the syndicated HealthyDay News. Findings on gender and the consequences of overwork were featured The Washington Post, on CNNNews.com, WebMD, and United Press International (UPI). WebMD and HealthDay News covered research on family type and parental involvement and a study of homeowner and political involvement also was covered by UPI.

Several sessions were published in the higher education trade press during the meeting, and additional stories and follow-up are anticipated. For example, Inside Higher Ed, Edufire, and sessions from the Annual Meeting surrounding the relationship between crimeology and sociology, research regarding the recruitment of women for science faculty jobs, ASA research findings on the job satisfaction of academic scientists, research on the culture gap between administrators and faculty members, and a study of the wealth advantages and lack of diversity among legacy grads at Duke University; And The Chronicle of Higher Education covered a discussion of the peer review process and research on overwork and gender.

Looking Ahead

With the success of the 2008 Annual Meeting behind us, we look ahead to the 2009 meeting in San Francisco, August 8-11. Under the guidance of ASAs new president, Patricia Hill Collins, and the 2009 Program Committee, the 104th Annual Meeting will explore “The New Politics of Community.” The Call for Papers, will be posted on the ASA website October 30, and the online paper submission window will open on December 1. See you in San Francisco!
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.

Election USA - 2008...

Getting It Right When Polling at the Exits

By Daniel Spar, ASA Governance, Sections, and Archives

W ith the current U.S. national election garnering extraordinary attention, it is important that the media coverage be as accurate as possible. This is where sociologist Allan McCutcheon, founding Chair of the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan, comes in. This past year, he has been working to overcome the predictions and exit-polling in the 2008 presidential primaries and the 2008 general election under the auspices of Edison Media Research. This is a unique, career-affecting opportunity for McCutcheon.

“Most of what I’m doing is helping to improve the statistical models to create the most accurate projections possible,” said McCutcheon. “I can’t imagine anything more exciting than being able to participate in democracy this way, to apply my survey skills in projecting elections on election night.”

The Right Man

And it is no wonder that Joe Lenski, Executive President of Edison Media Research, chose McCutcheon to work along his side. A Fulbright Scholar, past-president of the American Sociological Association, and a founding director of the Gallup Research Center, McCutcheon has both the background and experience necessary to understand the significance and requirements of the job. “I’ve done survey research all of my academic life,” said McCutcheon, “and I am thrilled to be able to apply this academic background to such an important real-world process in American democracy.”

Edison Media Research, along with the National Election Pool, is commissioned by all major news networks (i.e., NBC, ABC, CBS, Associated Press, CNN, and FOX) for obtaining and analyzing exit-polling results. Each network and news affiliate agreed to use the election pool for consistency and accuracy. Back in 2004, Edison Media Research and Mitefoky International conducted the exit polls for the general election in 30 states and on November 2. These surveys provided Edison Media Research and the public with political, demographic, and geographic information on whom voters would choose for president, senator, governor, and newsworthy statewide propositions. It is Edison Media Research’s goal to provide political coverage that reveals the demographic breakdown by age, gender, education, ethnicity, and political identity.

McCutcheon was pleasantly surprised when offered the chance to work behind the exit-polling scenes. “I was shocked when Joe asked me to work with him on this year’s elections,” he said, “but I was delighted to do it.” And it hasn’t been always easy. “Anytime you try to project data on an election, there are just so many things you wouldn’t expect.” This also reminded McCutcheon of what it is like being an academic and differentiating between being in the classroom and at the polls. “When working on an article or a research piece as an academic, you can think, ‘I can get to it tomorrow,’” he said. “But outside in the real world, many things must get done right now!”

And the hardest part of the job? “There are many things,” said McCutcheon. “I’m the new person at this and I’m still learning. It’s like I spent 25 years teaching the theory about bicycle riding and now I’m actually riding a bicycle.”

Close Race Challenges

Edison Media Research has also made concerted attempts to make this year’s exit-polling more accurate than in years past. “The biggest challenge came early in the primary cycle when the contests in both parties were still competitive,” said McCutcheon.

“This is the first time in a long time that exit polls have been used to help call competitive primary races for both parties. We had to figure out a method to use the incoming exit poll results to account for the different mixes of Democrats and Republicans at each of the polling precincts.”

Asked if there were any sociological trends he had seen and not anticipated, McCutcheon was ready with the answer. “The one thing that no one anticipated was the size of turnout in the democratic side,” he said. “People are energized. We’re seeing very impressive rates of voting.” He also stated that the sociological insight is helpful for providing the best polling information. “It’s a social-epistemological issue—while of course being good with numbers and comfortable with statistics—is invaluable. It’s the ability to anticipate and know what types of patterns will emerge that truly makes a difference.”

Trends

McCutcheon also mentioned some trends among individual groups. “While there appears to be a mix more similar than usual interest among voters in the presidential primaries this year—probably due to the competitiveness of the races in both parties—we have seen exceptionally high levels of interest and participation among young voters and African-American voters,” he said. “Having a leading African-American candidate has clearly helped energize African-American voters, just as having a leading woman candidate has energized many women voters, though women have, historically, had very high levels of participation. As for young voters, we may be witnessing a shift in political participation not unlike what we saw in the 1960s.”

McCutcheon, thrilled with his experience with Edison Media Research, looks forward to getting back to the University of Nebraska and his students. “I have all the intention of going back to the classroom and working with doctoral students,” he said. “I really enjoy that.”

For more information on Edison Media Research and exit-polling, visit www.edisonresearch.com.®

Collins from page 1

Award

In 1982, the Collins family relocated to Cincinnati, where Roger taught in the School of Education at the University of Cincinnati. Patricia joined him at that institution in the Department of African American Studies. This department would be her home base for 23 years where she also served as Chair from 1999-2002. Working in African American Studies, Patricia learned about the history of liberation movements and developed links between Women’s Studies and Sociology, where in 1996 she became the Charles Phelps Taft Distinguished Professor of Sociology, now Emeritus.

In 2005, Patricia Hill Collins joined the University of Maryland where she was the Wilson Eklund Professor of Sociology 2005–2006 and is currently Distinguished University Professor. In her new location, she is working as graduate student in race, feminist scholarship, and sociological theory. Over the years, Patricia has developed many international connections, spending time in Durban, South Africa, Berlin, Germany, Oslo, Norway, and Bristol and London in the United Kingdom. Her journey has taken her into many communities, helping her think about connections among different communities and what it means to cross race, class, gender, regional, and international borders.

The Work

Many people learned about Patricia Hill Collins when her groundbreaking article, “Learning from the Outsider Within,” was published in Social Problems in 1986. The article articulated a standpoint reflecting her race, gender, and social class location as she moved across and within various institutions. A consistent theme in Collins’s work is how she questions the traditional framing of issues. When I met her at a curriculum integration workshop in 1985, she spoke about how the national framing of “the black family” as a problem was problematic because it neglected an understanding of families within the wider context of oppression and resistance. She talked with us about how many of her students entered classrooms believing these myths. Teaching students to think differently was a challenge, but she thought the key was to provide students with a framework that integrated broader social forces into an understanding of the tasks and resources of any family. Over her career she has refined many of the mechanisms and dominant thought that is typically reflective of power relationships; she has helped us all understand the counter narratives held within more subordinated communities.

In 1990 Collins published Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment, which won ASA’s Josie Lee Bernard Award, the SSPC’s C. Wright Mills Award, and garnered other awards from the Association of Women in Psychology and Black Women Historians. Collins has pushed scholars to identify the ground on which they stand, rather than claiming neutral space. Black Feminist Thought clearly identifies an intersectional analysis, rather than a hierarchical formula where race is primary over gender or where social class excludes all. Her theoretical analysis shows how oppression operates in various spheres—political, economic, and ideological. Thus, although we can appreciate that social class may offer some protection or resources to battle the sexism and racism that Black women experience, achieving middle-class status does not remove them from the political, economic, and ideological operations. Most importantly, Black Feminist Thought illuminated how Black women have looked at and analyzed their lives in the past—challenging the social myths and denouncing them invisible, making them witnesses but not analysts of their own lives. The clarity of her discussion of power, including how oppressed people understand the power that engulfs them and develop alternative self-deﬁnitions of themselves and their situations, has turned the tide of theoretical analysis. In sharing the voices of Black women, Collins exposed many scholars to a literature and history that was new.

In 2000, Collins published the 10th anniversary edition of Black Feminist Thought, incorporating new work and more forcefully sharing with readers the idea that people who lack power have a viewpoint very different from the master narrative. She also incorporated a more comprehensive analysis of sexuality in her intersectional analysis and took a more international perspective. Between the two editions of Black Feminist Thought Pat published Fighting Words: Black Women and the Struggle for Justice (1998) tracking her thinking about empowerment and social justice. Throughout, Collins has been a major part of most American psychologists in the public arena. An important collaboration for Collins is her work with Margaret L. Andersen. The two developed Race, Class and Gender: A Social Science Approach.

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The ASA and Sociological Practice

by Jay Weinstein, Eastern Michigan University, and Kathryn Goldman Schuyler, Alliant International University

Since its founding, the American Sociological Association has endeavored to make its potential publics aware of what the discipline can contribute to the improvement of the human condition. The ASA’s first president was the avowed applied sociologist, Lester Frank Ward, and several of its early leaders promoted this original version of public sociology. The formation of the first Department of Sociology and the creation of the field’s first U.S. journal at the University of Chicago were substantially influenced by the pragmatist movement in philosophy and by the work of John Dewey, in particular. Dewey urged educators to contribute to the creation of publics: groups of informed citizens who can participate meaningfully in the democratic process. As C. Wright Mills noted, this injunction became a key component of the professional culture for the first generation of ASA members and officers (Mills 1964). Although a commitment to the principles of sociological practice is lodged deeply in the foundations of the ASA and is incorporated into its bylaws, the record is less clear with regard to the organization’s provision of resources and status to the sociological practitioner, in comparison to the researcher and teacher. As Lawrence Rhodes (1981) noted in his history of the ASA, “As the organization grew and matured, public outreach and sociopolitical practice were treated somewhat ambiguously.” Harry Perlsdorff’s recent discussion (Perlsdorff 2006) provides valuable references on the history of sociological practice. This history includes several ASA-supported initiatives intended to elevate the status of practitioners and their work, including creation of a Section on Sociological Practice (1985–95), the creation of an ASA Committee on Professional Opportunities in Applied Sociology in 1981; publication of the Sociological Practice Review beginning in 1990, and the creation in 1991 of the Sydney Spevak Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy, which supports the ASA Congressional Fellowship. Yet, as Perlsdorff documents, many of these initiatives—including the Sociological Practice Review—proved to be short lived, or somehow failed to become permanent parts of the institutional framework. Instead, most of the work to promote sociological practice as a profession has occurred in organizations such as the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS), its predecessor: the American Association for Applied Sociology (SAS), the Sociological Practice Association (SPA), and the Clinical Sociology Association (CSA), and the Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology (CACS), of which Perlsdorff was founding Chair. As a growing proportion of sociology graduates are employed outside of academia, the time has come to re-examine the commitment of the practitioner to the ASA, as well as of the ASA to the practitioner. Roberta Spalter-Roth’s recent study of sociologists in non-academic settings (Spalter-Roth 2007) provides an important baseline for understanding the demographic characteristics, resource needs, and the sources of satisfaction and dissatisfaction among contemporary sociologists employed in applied and policy settings.

A closer and more mutually supportive relationship between the ASA and AACS than at any time in the past. The Directory of Programs in Applied Sociology and Practice (Breeze and Weinstein 2006) lists 27 college and university departments that offer degree specializations in sociological practice, several of which have been accredited or are under accreditation review by the CACS. And AACS has renewed the program, initiated by SPA, to provide certification for sociological practitioners. Practitioners are in a strong position to promote a more effective application of the field. They can be of great service to the ASA in this cause, and the ASA can be of great service to them to the extent that we can renew the organization’s founding commitment to sociological practice. Many practitioners view the ASA as less supportive of their interests. Leora Lawton, President of TechSociology Research and former Chair of the SP’s former ASA Committee on Professional Opportunities, notes, “I’ve often met PhD sociologists who aren’t members of the ASA. The image is that the ASA is only for academics and that is largely incorrect. In contrast, ‘When applied sociologists attend meetings related to their field of employment, their network with other practitioners and get up-to-date on research about their areas of work, which are very often aspects of policy development or evaluation, or business-related research.’ A PhD sociologist who works for an agency specializing in issues of substance abuse expressed even stronger views. I am disgusted with the approach ASA has taken toward applied sociologists who are not in universities or funding agencies. They call us out to provide them with expertise on rare occasions and do not ask us at other times. For example, when I was on the management committee, I had to go to Washington to help agencies or Congress set agendas, those of us in university settings have not been asked. Instead, they invite academics with far smaller publication records in the subject fields to do these tasks. There is very little of substantive interest to me at the meetings or in the journals. At the 2007 ASA Meeting, the SP Section agreed to address these concerns and to develop proposals for ‘bringing professionals in from the cold,’ as Spalter-Roth put it. Lawton summarized the initiative: A program should be created to ‘redesign ASA as the association where any and all sociologists could find value. That means making it known as a place for non-academic training, for helping sections present research policy, not just pre-research reviewed, and perhaps even a journal about policy design, evaluation and meta-reviews.’” Following a year of conference calls, e-mail exchanges, and informal discussions, the following recommendations emerged:

• The ASA should work more directly and quickly publish formal relationships, with CACS on program accreditation and with AACS on certification of practicing sociologists.
• ASA meetings should include more professional workshops, especially those organized by practitioners. As Lawton observes, “Over the years there have been more methodological and applied career-oriented workshops. These are the kinds of events that make attendance justifiable. Making it really successful means promoting it locally, which might mean reaching out to government agencies, non-profits, and others.”
• Presentations at all sessions at ASA meetings that are application oriented should be shared with the SP Section and noted as such in the Annual Meeting program. Certain sessions should be required to include policy or application-oriented presentations.
• Practitioners should be encouraged to run for ASA Council, possibly through designated offices.
• Practitioners should be included in, and play a prominent role on, ASA curriculum and teaching task forces. One recommendation has already been accepted. The SP Section is now the Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology.
To the extent that these and related proposals can be implemented, practitioners will be able to use ASA more effectively for networking, keeping current with research, and helping shape the organization and professional guidelines. Consequently, this benefits the ASA and the profession by making it worthwhile for practicing sociologists to be actively connected to the ASA. The profession can grow by nourishing action-oriented professionals as well as researchers.

References

Collins

has more fully integrated Americans, Gender and the New Racism introductory essays have also been critical in intersectional analysis. Its various editions from page 6

Distinguished Publication Award. Patricia Hill Collins’ trajectory of scholarship has been attentive to community building and institutional change on both local and national levels. As a sociologist of Cincinnati, Collins was involved with community groups that support educational and other programs for African Americans. The Shards of the old racism of segregation and exclusion are part of the racism of the 21st century, as the legacy impacts intergenerational mobility and persists. However, the increased concentration of wealth and power has a global reach influencing the images and options of racialized and gendered bodies. This book earned the 2007 American Sociological Association Award for Outstanding Scholarship on the topic of race and gender. The book has been translated into several languages and is used in classrooms around the world. Collins is also known for her work on gender and sexuality in her analysis and we see the importance of looking across borders to view racism on a global scale. In this exploration of the historical and contemporary circumstances of African American men and women, as well as longer-time sets of material from history, empirical research, cultural studies, and keen observations of social institutions, Collins’ work has been recognized by scholars around the world. As a former ASA Minority Fellowship recipient, she has served on the ASA committee that oversees that program, two years as chair (1985–88), as well as the ASA Task Force (1989–93) that first created the Minority Opportunity Summer Training (MOST). In serving “The New Politics of Community” as the theme for the 104th American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Collins invites us to reframe the concept of community for the 21st century. Through her path, we see how Collins moves among multiple communities to the outsider to some and an insider within others. Collins sees the task of constructing democratic communities, whether across institutional boundaries, or within categories of race, class, and gender as a core political challenge of our times. By weaving a network of family, friends, and colleagues, she is positioned to nurture her, as well as help to engender communities that support the development of scholarship framed by a commitment to social justice.

American Sociological Association
Torture, War, and Sociology

By Marnia Lazreg, City University of New York-Hunter College

Recent debates about the permissibility of torture, and the steady stream of revelations about its authorized but secret uses propelled my research on torture into the public realm. My experience indicates that public sociology, in addition to being immensely necessary in times of political crises, has a cross-cultural dimension.

My research began in Algeria, in the late 1990s, as an attempt to understand the extreme violence that a factionist Islamist movement as well as the Army used against the population during the civil war (1992-2002). I was fortunate enough to interview two regional Islamist leaders, and was even luckier when I was able to speak for two hours with a defector from a radical faction of the movement who had been made to witness the torture of other men as a deterrent to betrayal. I noticed that my respondents found it easier to answer questions about “violence” than about “torture.” I was mulling this over when in 2001, as I walked by a bookstore window in Algiers, two books displayed side by side caught my attention: One was by a former French general, Paul Aussaresses, who confessed to the torture of numerous Algerians during the war (1954-62); the other by a woman, Louisa Ighilazarti, a member of the national movement (Front de Libération Nationale) whom paratroopers had subjected to torture and rape for nearly 11 weeks in 1957 after capturing her. The juxtaposition of these books had a historic and symbolic significance in a city famous for its clandestine torture centers in the 1950s.

From Algiers I traveled to Paris where I became acquainted with a series of new publications on torture, among them exhaustive reviews with glossy war pictures of Algerians in torture poses. This packaging of torture and war—a trope for objectifying torture without coming to terms with it—served as another warning of the myriad of problems that lay ahead as I was about to focus my research on torture. I realized that the civil war violence in which I was initially interested was part of a broader historical configuration where imperial and post-imperial politics loomed large. I doubted whether describing torturer's methods, identifying the services that fostered it, naming those who ordered it—important as they were—satisfactorily addressed the larger issue of why torture became systematic in the declining French colonial state in spite of its legal prohibition, and reared its head again in post-independence Algeria.

Depressing or Fascinating Subject?

I decided to focus on torture as a critical category of analysis through which to understand the interface between power, national identity, and imperial ideology. Thus began a journey that took me to military archives at Vincennes and a number of research libraries. I supplemented archive materials with diaries written by former general, Paul Aussaresses, who confessed to the torture of numerous Algerians during the war (1954-62); the other by a woman, Louisa Ighilazarti, a member of the national movement (Front de Libération Nationale) whom paratroopers had subjected to torture and rape for nearly 11 weeks in 1957 after capturing her. The juxtaposition of these books had a historic and symbolic significance in a city famous for its clandestine torture centers in the 1950s. From Algiers I traveled to Paris where I became acquainted with a series of new publications on torture, among them exhaustive reviews with glossy war pictures of Algerians in torture poses. This packaging of torture and war—a trope for objectifying torture without coming to terms with it—served as another warning of the myriad of problems that lay ahead as I was about to focus my research on torture. I realized that the civil war violence in which I was initially interested was part of a broader historical configuration where imperial and post-imperial politics loomed large. I doubted whether describing torturer's methods, identifying the services that fostered it, naming those who ordered it—important as they were—satisfactorily addressed the larger issue of why torture became systematic in the declining French colonial state in spite of its legal prohibition, and reared its head again in post-independence Algeria.

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I decided to focus on torture as a critical category of analysis through which to understand the interface between power, national identity, and imperial ideology. Thus began a journey that took me to military archives at Vincennes and a number of research libraries. I supplemented archive materials with diaries written by former soldiers, confessions to torture, and interviews with, as well as accounts written by, victims of torture.

On occasion, at conferences, a participant would approach me and suggest how “depressing” it must be for me to work on torture. It is true that accounts of torture are not enjoyable. However, as torture has entered public debates, it is increasingly evident that shying away from it is an untenable position. Unlike other disciplines, sociology is still groping for a language in which to address torture meaningfully. Should torture be approached as a problem for liberalism? Should it be addressed as a special case of violence, as we sometimes do? Clearly, torture is a cross-cultural phenomenon, as torture is a violent act. Yet, the focus on democracy or violence as a starting point shifts the emphasis away from the complexity of what constitutes torture. There is a surplus of meaning to the act of torture when it occurs at the behest of the state, in violation of the law, and for reasons that transcend its official purpose—namely the gathering of intelligence.

I found it useful to think of torture as occurring in two overlapping contexts. Torture unfolds in a social, psychological, cultural, political or geopolitical, and juridical situation. Furthermore, torture is not experienced by individu- als embedded in different historical beliefs, systems, value orientations, and political commitments that give the torture situation its texture and lethal potential. Torture is “a total social phenomenon,” in the manner that Marcel Mauss defined the gift-exchange. Torture presented me with an epistemological as well as a moral challenge. (Even advocates of torture feel obligated to ritually condemn it.) As I started writing, I regretted the temptation to theorize torture, not only because I feared legitimizing it but also because doing so would reify it, anoint it with a scientific cover, and uncouple it from the pain, humiliation, and degradation that constitute its core.

The research I carried out resulted in the publication of my book, Torture and the Twilight of Empire: From Algiers to Baghdad. The book provides a context in which to understand the state's use of torture as an "antidote to terrorism" and a (needed) comparative perspective on current debates on torture. I found that torture in wars of occupation is a strategic imperative grounded in a counter-insurgency theory (guerre révolutionnaire). In Algeria, there was a military doctrine formulated by French officers (and taught to the CIA and in U.S. military schools in the 1960s), in which the occupied population is used as a war front. My research also found “torture fulfills functions that surpass the need for intelligence, including psychological (especially brainwashing), political, and ideological functions. When condemned by the state, torture becomes routinized, which leads to the dehumaniza- tion of the native population and the over-valuation of the culture of the occupying power. Torture is not reducible to one technique or another nor is it in the sum of its parts. State justifications of torture rest on the activation of religious sentiment and exaltation of national identity. Intellectuals' justifications of torture are grounded in fiction used as tropes for sustaining fear of the unknown.

Out in the World

Since the book’s publication, I have appeared on 30 local and regional radio shows as well as on nationally syndicated radio programs. I have answered queries by concerned people. Radio hosts often invited other guests to join in, thus enabling me to “meet” like-minded scholars and playwrights. I have spoken to a wide array of audiences and discovered a real public hunger for an interpretative framework that pulls together the disparate pieces of news about torture and the war in Iraq. Speaking in the media has helped refine and expand my views. In addition, I have been asked to write an affidavit on individuals threatened with deportation to countries where torture is widespread. I will continue to engage in public debates and plan to write a brief on torture for the future democratic nominee. I also hope to start a network of sociolo- gists against the war and torture.

References

Applications Invited for Editorship


Applications are invited for the editorship of American Sociological Review (ASR), a quarterly journal that provides a forum for the exchange of new ideas and the ongoing development of existing bodies of theory. It also publishes historical, theoretical, and empirical analyses; reviews of new books, journals, and conference proceedings; and special issues on topics of importance to the discipline of sociology.

The journal includes articles on the theory and methodology of sociology, the history of the discipline, and the application of sociological insights and methods to such fields as political science, law, education, and the natural sciences. ASR is published six times annually in hardcover book format, and is published electronically at <www.asanet.org>. The editors are contacted by the ASA Secretary, with support from the ASA Executive Officer, to work with individual institutions to ensure the feasibility of serving as editor in light of the resources ASA can provide and those likely to be available to the candidate. The ASA does not pay for office space or release time, but provides basic financial support for office resources as necessary to journal editors. This support may include funds for clerical assistance, office supplies, postage, and telephone beyond what will be provided by the editor's home institution. Since the support offered by different institutions varies widely, you are encouraged to contact the Executive Officer as necessary to ensure the feasibility of your application. At this point in the submission process, letters of support from deans or other appropriate institutional officials are recommended but not required. Specific arrangements with a potential new editor and that individual or his or her institution will occur during the period after the ASA Council makes a selection and, with support from the ASA Executive Officer, works out the final agreement with this candidate.

Examples of successful past proposals are available on the journals page of the ASA website (<www.asanet.org>); click on the "Journals" link and then "How to Apply for a Journal Editorship". Application packets (as described above) should not be more than five pages (excluding vitae) and should be sent by November 1, 2008, to Janine Chiappa McKenna, Journals and Publications Manager, ASA, 1430 K Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005; mckenna@asanet.org.

ASA Modifies Copyright to Comply with NIH Public Access Regulation

In response to the mandatory National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy signed into law in late 2007, ASA has modified its copyright policy to allow ASA journal authors to make their final accepted manuscripts publicly available in institutional repositories 12 months after publication. This policy applies to all manuscripts accepted for publication after April 7, 2008, and is not being applied retroactively to manuscripts accepted prior to that date. The policy allows authors to post the final accepted manuscript, defined as the version incorporating peer review but prior to copyediting and typesetting, into an institutional repository no earlier than 12 months after the resulting article is published in an ASA journal.

While the modification of the policy was initially precipitated by the law requiring investigators funded by the NIH to submit an electronic version of the final manuscript to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central, ASA decided to extend the policy to repositories at authors' institutions as well. The new ASA transfer of copyright form (which all ASA journal authors must sign prior to publication) is available on the ASA website (<www.asanet.org>); click on "Journals". Questions regarding the new policy or its appropriate application may be sent to publications@asanet.org.

New Data on R&D Expenditures

Newly available data suggest a decline in sociology research and development expenditures when compared to economics and political science, but sociology still spends the most. See "News on the Profession" at <www.asanet.org>.
In the “International Perspectives” article on page one of the July-August 2008 issue, the author of the piece stated that the U.S. and China are important semi-peripheral countries, the ISA places them in the same category as low-income countries of the world system’s periphery. For this reason, the author and many other scholars believe that because China may become the world-system’s hegemon, the ISA needs to revise its membership classification scheme.

Call for Papers

An interdisciplinary Collection of Essays on the Zombie seeks proposals for an interdisciplinary collection of essays on the zombie from a variety of perspectives and within a range of theoretical essays on zombies, we also welcome critical discussions of specific zombie films, novels, and graphic novels, including those both pre- and post-Romero. Proposals should be between 200 and 300 words. Include brief author biographical details with their submissions, including name and academic affiliation. Submit proposals either electronically or by regular mail. Deadline: October 15, 2008. Contact: Cory James Rushin, Dept. of English, St. Francis Xavier University, PO Box 5000, Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2W5, Canada; crushin@fxu.ca; or Christopher M. Moremen, Dept. of Philosophy, California State University East Bay, 25800 Clairton Blvd, Hayward, CA 94544, christopher.moromen@csueastbay.edu.

The ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Scholars in Health Policy Research Program

Congratulations Sociological Recipients of the 2008-2010 Fellow Awards

Rene Almeing (Scholars Program at the University of California, Berkeley/San Francisco) 2008 PhD, UCLA

Colin Jerolmack (Scholars Program at Harvard University) 2008 PhD, CUNY

Helen Marrrow (Scholars Program at the University of California, Berkeley/San Francisco) Lecturer, Harvard University

Fabio Rojas (Scholars Program at the University of Michigan) Assistant Professor, Indiana University (on leave)

Christine Percheski (Scholars Program at Harvard University) 2008 PhD, Princeton University

The Scholars in Health Policy Research Program is a national program that supports the development of new scholars, who will become leaders in the field of health policy research. Each year, 2-3 scholars are selected from a national pool of candidates. The program is jointly funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Social Science History Association, and the National Academy of Sciences. For more information, visit the website http://www.rwjf.org.

Social Science History, the official journal of the Social Science History Association, is soliciting article submissions for future issues. Social Science History seeks to publish high quality, original research publishing research that appeals to its interdisciplinary audiences of social scientists, sociologists, economists, political scientists, anthropologists, and geographers. Submit your book manuscript that blends empirical research with theoretical work, or a paper focused on a complex issue facing today's families. Submit a letter of intent, a one-page overview of topic by October 15 to Kimberly Faust at faustk@jhu.edu. Complete manuscripts are due March 1, 2009, via email and should be formatted in accordance with the journal's guidelines.

Research in the Sociology of Health Care

Papers are sought for volume 27 of Research in the Sociology of Health Care. The theme is Social Sources of Disparities in Health and Health Care and Links to Policy. Population Concerns and Providers of Care. Papers dealing with macro-level system issues and micro-level issues involving social sources of disparities in health are sought. The focus can be on a consumer side or a provider or policy perspective. Papers that deal with the issues of access to service and the services available to those in underserved communities and those who are the most vulnerable and underappreciated will be all appropriate. For papers examining social sources of disparity in health and health care delivery systems in other countries, the focus could be on issues of delivery of care and ways in which revisions and changes impact population health, especially if these are also related to healthcare in the United States or other countries as well. The volume will contain approximately 40 papers, generally between 40 and 40 pages in length. Send completed manuscripts or detailed outlines for review by October 15, 2008. For an initial indication of interest by January 10, 2009. Contact: Jennie Kronenfeld, Sociology Program, School of Social and Family Dynamics, Box 873701, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-8701; jkronenfeld@asu.edu.

Meetings

20th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research, November 14, 2008, Fordham University. Students and professionals in the social sciences are invited to submit 300-word abstracts for possible presentation. This student-oriented conference includes awards, and symposia on career, graduate admissions, publishing student research, and Anthropology, Sociology, and Human Rights (JG) at (212) 636-6393; greg@fordham.edu. Deadline October 15, 2008.


Meetings

September 26-27, 2008. Social Psychology Centennial Celebration. University of Wisconsin-Madison. The centennial anniversary of the publication of the first textbooks titled Social Psychology. This month marks the 100th anniversary of the unique, interdisciplinary life that has come to pass and where we are going. Join leagues in recognizing this historic milestone. Regular registration is $90; student registration is $40. For more information, visit www.wisc.edu/sociopsych/index.php.


October 29-31, 2008. Social Research Conference on “Invariants in a Dynamic World.” New York University, New York City. Theme: “Invariants in a Dynamic World.” This conference commemorates the 75th anniversary of the New School’s University in Exile, founded in 1933 to be a haven for European scholars rescued from the Nazis. For more information, visit www.newschool.edu/ freepsych.


November 7-8, 2008. California Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Riverside, CA. Theme: “Applying Sociology for the Advancement of People” (559) 978-9374; ednelson@csufresno.edu.

November 14-20, 2008. 2009 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Fordham University. This student-oriented conference includes awards and symposia on career, graduate admissions, publishing student research, and membership in ASA. For more information, visit www.essnet.org.

November 16-18, 2008, NYU. Symposium of Eliminating Health Disparities, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor Hotel. Theme: “Freeing the Struggle for Civil Rights in the United States.” Contact: naacp100@jhu.edu.

February 12-14, 2009. International Conference of Parents Education and Empowering, University of North Texas, Denton, TX. This is a three-day interdisciplinary conference for community leaders, national and international, scholars, professionals, early childhood interventionists, family support professionals, school/parent liaisons, students, and child and family advocates. For more information, visit www.cpanel2009.net.

March 19-22, 2009. Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) 2009 Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The 2009 ESS Meeting will highlight emerging tensions between changing lives and resistant institutions, exploring how they play out in domains ranging from family and personal life to the public worlds of work, politics, culture, and civil society. Contact: easterns2009@gmail.com.

April 8-11, 2009. Pacific Sociological Association’s 80th Annual Meeting, West Hollywood, California. Theme: “Sociology of Memory: New and Old Conceptions of Memory” such as electronic dataveil personal life to the public worlds of work, politics, culture, and civil society. Contact: easterns2009@gmail.com.


Funding

The Center for the Study of Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine has announced a competitive opportunity for funding for scholars conducting research for 2009-2010. The Center fosters empirical research and theoretical analysis concerning legal institutions, legal processes, legal change, and the social shaping of law. Law and social change creates a multidisciplinary milieu with a focus on how law and society, including law as it is applied by scholars in sociology of law, political science, criminal justice studies, law and economics, and political economy, shape social and political change. The Center will consider applications for grants that vary from one-month duration to the full academic year. Deadline: November 17, 2008. Center for the Study of Law and Society.

announcements

footnotes • September 2008
In the News

Aging and the Life Cycle
Paola Englund. Stanford University, was quoted in the June 15 Financial Times Chronicle article about the increasing age of the elderly.

Virginia Rutter. Framingham State College, was quoted in a July 27 Boston Globe Sunday Magazine article about middle-aged dating.

Pepper Schwartz. University of Washington, was quoted in the June 15 USA Today article about dating among older adults.

E. Key trimberger. Sonoma State University, had her book, The New Vimage Woman, discussed in a May 3 article in

Competition

The Foundation Mattiis Dogan Prie in Sociology awarded by the International Sociological Association. The prize is to be awarded to a sociologist in recognition of his or her lifetime accomplishments, a scholar of high standing in the field of sociology, and an important figure in international sociology. The prize is awarded every four years at the World Congress, where the Laureate will deliver the Dogan Prize Lecture. The value of the prize is $5,000. Nominations are invited for the prize in 2008, which will be awarded at the upcoming XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology scheduled for Gothenburg, Sweden, July 10-13, 2010. Deadline: October 15, 2008. For more information, visit www-isa.org/mogan_prie.htm.

Society and Culture

American Sociological Association

Robert Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research

The Robert W. Johnson Foundation is dedicated to improving the health and health care issues facing our country. We are the nation’s leading philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the nation’s health and health care, in partnership with others, through information and grants. The Foundation makes grants to for-profit and non-profit organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful change.

In the News

Community and Urban Sociology

Amidst Emerg, George Washington University, was quoted in a June 3 Washington Post article about community festival.

Zachary Neely, University of Illinois-Chicago, has his research on urban networks cited in a July 12 Globe and Mail article addressing changing urban economics and economic geography.

Saakia Sassen, Columbia University, was quoted in an article about the passion that resided in the city in which they trolleyed.

Ming Wen, University of Utah, Chris Browning, The Ohio State University, and Kate Caprey, University of Chicago, had their study on neighborhood effects and physical activity published in Urban Studies professed in the New York Times on March 25.

Communication and Information Technologies

Pepper Schwartz, University of Washington, was quoted in a June 16 News Service article about dating and texting message. The article appeared in the Seattle Times on June 16.

Crime, Law and Deviance

Guang Guo. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, had his research on genetics and delinquency covered in a July 14 Business Day article that was picked up by newspapers across the United States and Canada. Guo was quoted in a June 15 article on WSAG TV, the CBS affiliate in Washington, DC, and the study was also detailed on the July 17 Morning Show with Mike & Juliet on FOX, and in a July 18 New York Times article on the police in the city and gun violence.

Sociology of Culture

Paul Hirschl. Rutgers University, was quoted about crime in communities and the recovery process in The New York Times on July 6 in a story about a wolf shooting at a YMCA in Mountain, NJ.

Sociology of Health

J. Scott Fireman, University of South Alabama, was quoted in a story about the U.S. Supreme Court decision to rule on the preliminary damage award in the Exxon Valdez oil spill litigation.

The story appeared in the Associated Press, the Star Tribune, and the Tondo Drums on June 21.

Marianne Gaffney, University of Kent, was quoted in a story about the U.S. Supreme Court decision to rule on the preliminary damage award in the Exxon Valdez oil spill litigation.

The story appeared in the Associated Press, the Star Tribune, and the Tondo Drums on June 21.

Margaret Stuchell, Bowling Green State University, was quoted in a July 15 New York Times “Wife” blog posting about research she presented at the ASA Annual Meeting on crime and college students.

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Guang Guo. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, had his research on genetics and delinquency covered in a July 14 Business Day article that was picked up by newspapers across the United States and Canada. Guo was quoted in a June 15 article on WSAG TV, the CBS affiliate in Washington, DC, and the study was also detailed on the July 17 Morning Show with Mike & Juliet on FOX, and in a July 18 New York Times article on the police in the city and gun violence.

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announcements

Jerome Hodius, Franklin & Marshall University, was quoted on the convergence in New York, and Black Hawk Hancik, DePaul University, were quoted in a July 14 article on the black and white line in nestleux in the Lancaster New Era.

R. Kelly Riley, University of Texas-Austin, was quoted in an article about social media trends in a June 9 USA Today article that appeared on behalf of The National Marriage Project.

Jeanne Stermaneh, University of California-Berkeley, was quoted in an article with an American fascination with celebrities in a July 20 A-Bilinear Reporter-News article about celebrations and diversions.

Economic Sociology

Patricia Drentea, University of Alabama-Birmingham, was quoted in a June 9 Associated Press story about the press impact of debt. The article appeared in news outlets across the United States and Canada.

Jeanne Fleming, Money magazine and CNBC.com columnist, was quoted on the subject of wealth, money, and personal relationships in a number of publications, including the Washington Post (May 29) and the Chicago Sun-Times (July 28). She was also inter

views with the following: a statement of research experience and

curriculum vitae,

four letters of reference addressing teaching strengths in addition to scholarly activity.

Submit these materials to:

Sociology

Faculty Search Committee, Department of Sociology, Purdue University, 400 N. State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2959.

Inquiries also may be directed to James D. Davidson (davidsonj@purdue.edu), Search Committee Chair. The university does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, social status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or physical handicap in the admission of students or the employment of personnel or in the provision of educational services.

Purdue University, West Lafayette. (www.cla.purdue.edu/sociology) invites applications for a tenure-track position of Assistant Professor of Sociology to begin August 2009. We are seeking candidates with research and teaching interests in urban, social, and political sociology. Qualiﬁed candidates who have a PhD in sociology by the date of appointment are encouraged to submit the following: a statement of research and teaching interests, curriculum vitae, public engagement, information regarding teaching (approach, experience and eﬀectiveness), and three letters of reference addressing teaching strengths in addition to scholarly activity.

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Purdue University, West Lafayette.
to the United States and the pope’s visit to the country in April on April 16.

E. Burke Rochford Jr., Middlebury College, was quoted in the Columbus Dispatch about how the pope’s visit to the city would impact the community.

Ansan Shin, Indiana University-Purdue University, was quoted in a June 6 News & Observer article about when religion leaders will fall into line.

W. Bradford Wilcox, University of Virginia, authored an article about fathers in the Wall Street Journal. Wilcox summarized religious involvement and its effect on fatherhood.

Sociological Practice

Eric Klinenberg, New York University, authored an article about disaster pre- paredness in the July 4 New York Times magazine. Klinenberg was quoted on the same topic in a July 18 article in the New York Times.

Race, Gender, and Class

Janice McCabe, Florida State University, was interviewed by the Tallassee Democrat about the role that Zika virus can play in the spread of the virus to Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy.

Orlando Patterson, Harvard University, was quoted in a June 5 ABCNews.com article about a State University, authored an article on Martha McCaughey.

The broadcast of PBS’s Black in America, appeared in the July 22 News Nightly article about indirect social contact theory was also recently honored in Emerging Research Directions for Emerging intergroup Relations - Building on the Legacy of Thomas F. Pettigrew.

Ardel Powell has received an award from the Music & Letters Trust for travel to a study of the Institute of Historical Research Seminar on British Music, School of Advanced Study, University of London, on May 12, 2008.

Susan Silbey, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship for 2008-09 for her study “Trust and Surveillance in the Cultures of Science.”

Transitions

Barry D. Adam, University of Wisconsin, has been cross-appointed as Senior Scientist and Director of Prevention Research at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network in Toronto. He also serves on the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Medicine, and the Center for the Study of Religion in Society.

Tanya Nieri joined the sociology faculty of the University of California Riverside as an Assistant Professor.

James D. Orcutt was awarded Emeritus status at Florida State University.

Linda Quirke has joined the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois as an Assistant Professor.

Douglas Schrock, Florida State University, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Annette Schieve, Florida State University, has been appointed director of the Center for the Study of Social Movements and Social Change at the University of Notre Dame.

Miles Taylor joined Florida State University as an Assistant Professor.

Edward Telles is moving to Princeton University in fall 2009.

People

Diane R. Brown, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and Vema M. Keath, Florida State University, were invited guest speakers on their book in and Out of Our Right Minds: Mental Health of Black Women at the 24th annual Art Sanctuary’s Celebration of Black Writing held May 25-26 in Philadelphia.

Cynthia Buckley, University of Texas, invited to present her research on migration, health, and development at the National Intelligence Council/US State Department seminar, “Tajikistan and Stability,” this past June.

James Gramlich, University of Illinois-Chicago, has joined Florida State University, and the Center for the Study of Religion in Society.

Institute for International Peace Studies and the Center for the Study of Religion in Society.

In 2009, she will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Communication Association. In 2008, she received an award from the ASA’s Communication Association for historical writing for their "Best Book in the Field of Human Rights" award from the International Writers Symposium. "Tajikistan and Stability," this past June.

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announcements

at a Visiting Assistant Professor at Indiana University-Purdue Bloomington for the next academic year.

Patricia Yancey Martin, Florida State University, has been appointed to the positions of Distinguished Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Visiting Professor at Medellin University, Colombia. Dr. Martin has served as editor-in-chief for the Journal of Comparative Family Studies and is a nationally recognized expert in the areas of family studies, health, and aging. Her current research focuses on the social construction of gender and intergenerational family relationships.

Cecilia Menjívar, Arizona State University, was promoted to Professor and also awarded a distinguished professorship. She is now Cowden Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociological and Anthropological Sciences. She has received numerous research grants and has published extensively on topics related to immigration, gender, and organizations. Her current research focuses on the experiences of deportees and women entrepreneurs.

Liana Grancea, Social Problems Research Geneva, was appointed to serve a four-year term on the CMS Advisory Committee (MedCAC). She is now the MedCAC Chair. Dr. Grancea has been active in the field of social problems research and has contributed to the development of new research initiatives and policies.

Carl's scholarly contributions were in the areas of social problems, criminology, and social theory. He was a key figure in the development of the social problems paradigm and made significant contributions to the study of social problems and criminology.

From 1973 on, Murray gave us a book every 10 years, first Principles of Human Behavior, then The Family, then Old Age, and finally, The Selfish Gene. He was a social scientist to take a stand. During the 60s he was involved in fighting racism in his home state of Mississippi, protesting and off campus and refused to hold conferences in the state until discriminatory practices in housing and segregation in hotels and casinos were banned by law.

Carl had a great influence on his discipline, the university that he served, the department and the PhD program that he helped build, and his many colleagues and students. He knew family man, he is survived by his wife of 50 years, five children, and nine grandchildren.

Mattijs Kammelmeijer, University of Nijmegen, has been appointed to serve as the editor of Current Sociology Monographs. The set will consist of essays of 10,000 words written by SSSP members, covering a wide range of topics relevant to the study of social problems.

Patricia Leavy, President of the American Sociological Association, will serve as the editor of Current Sociology Monographs. The set will consist of essays of 10,000 words written by SSSP members, covering a wide range of topics relevant to the study of social problems.
footnotes • September-October 2008

American Sociological Association

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little explosives. nugget.

Professor William Peter Kuvlesky, 74, passed away on May 5, 2008. He grew up on a dairy farm in western Pennsylvania and he served in the Marine Corps. After his service in the military, he attended Penn State University where he received his BS, MS, and PhD degrees. He also attended Dartmouth College in 1964 where he was a professor in the Texas A&M University and Retired in 1997 as Emeritus Professor of Sociology. He retired from his research committee for occupational health. He has also served in a leadership role in several long-term studies of disadvantaged families for the National Institute for Mental Health at the Texas A&M University and Retired in 1997 as Emeritus Professor of Sociology. He retired from his research committee for occupational health. He has also served in a leadership role in several long-term studies of disadvantaged families for the National...
For Members Only

ASA Member-Get-A-Member Campaign a Success

The 2008 ASA Member-Get-A-Member campaign concluded on July 15. More than 60 current ASA members (see list below) sponsored 72 new members for 2008. For every new non-student member sponsored during the campaign, sponsors will receive a $10-discount on their 2009 member dues. In addition, every member who sponsored a new member (student or non-student) was entered into a drawing to win a $500-gift certificate for Amazon.com. Congratulations go to this year’s winner, Krista B. McQueeney from Salem College in Winston Salem, NC.

The ASA extends its gratitude to all participating sponsors in the 2008 Member-Get-A-Member campaign and throughout the year.

Patricia Yvonne Anderson
Lotte Bailyn
Yanjie Bian
Shawn Chandler
Bingham
Sampson Lee Blair
Jon P. Bloch
Michael Burawoy
Patricia T. Clough
Gary C. David
Eldad Davidov
Diana K. Davis
Jesus M. De Miguel
Thomas A. DiPrete
James J. Dowd
Angela Durante
Jason T. Eastman
Michael P. Farrell
Cynthia Feliciano
Kathleen J. Ferraro
Anne Figert
Axel Franzén
Virginia Teas Gill
Jennifer Elsey Glick
Brian Gran
Keith N. Hampton
Julie E. Hartman
Melanie A. Hulbert
Anne M. Johnson
Katharine W. Jones
Diana Leilani Karafin
Kate Kellogg
Fred Kniss
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Heather Laube
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Robert C. Liebman
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Lisa McCormick
Tanya McNeill
Krista B. McQueeney
Randi L. Miller
Christopher Muller
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Karl T. Pfeiffer
Krishnendu Ray
Catherine Kohler
Riessman
Richard K. Scotch
Gay W. Seidman
Michael Shalev
Jean H. Shin
Susan S. Shibey
Quincy Thomas Stewart
Gary M. Stokley
William Velez
Hector Vera
Mary E. Viroche
Margaret Weigers
Vitalio
Lisa Dawn Wade
Rick Welsh
Charles V. Willie
Akiko Yoshida

For more information on each of these Funding Opportunities, visit www.asanet.org and click on “Funding.”

Upcoming ASA Funding Opportunities

Community Action Research Initiative
Deadline: February 2, 2009

Sponsored by the ASA Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy, these small grants encourage sociologists to undertake community action projects that bring to bear social science knowledge, methods, and expertise in addressing community-identified issues and concerns.

ASA Congressional Fellowship
Deadline: February 2, 2009

Sponsored by the ASA Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy, the Congressional Fellow serves for six months as a member of a staff office in the U.S. House or Senate. The Fellow will learn the workings of Congress and will share the uses and contributions of sociology with the placement site.

Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline

Supported by the ASA through a matching grant from the National Science Foundation, the goal of FAD is to nurture the development of scientific knowledge by funding small, groundbreaking research initiatives and other important scientific research activities such as conferences. FAD awards provide scholars with small grants ($7,000 maximum) for innovative research that has the potential for challenging the discipline, stimulating new lines of research, and creating new networks of scientific collaboration.

Minority Fellowship Program
Deadline: January 31, 2009

Supported by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, this longstanding American Sociological Association training grant supports pre-doctoral graduate education for sociology students.

ASA Teaching Enhancement Fund - Small Grants Program
Deadline: February 2, 2009

The ASA Teaching Enhancement Fund Small Grants Program provides support to an individual, department, program, or committee of a state/regional sociology association to enhance the teaching of sociology that will have systemic and enduring impact on the teaching and learning of sociology.

For more information on each of these Funding Opportunities, visit www.asanet.org and click on “Funding.”

save the date

The New Politics of Community
104th ASA Annual Meeting
August 8-11, 2009
Hilton San Francisco and Parc 55 Hotel
San Francisco, California