A New Politics of Community in Action?

A mini-symposium at the ASA Annual Meeting will explore the sociological significance of Barack Obama’s election as President.

by Patricia Hill Collins, University of Maryland-College Park

In 2007, when I first selected “The New Politics of Community” as the theme for ASAs 2009 Annual Meeting, I had no way of knowing that the historical events of the past year would resonate so compellingly with it. I chose this theme, in part, to investigate how the term community permeates social policy, popular culture, and everyday social interaction in ways that generate dynamic social and political identities. The ideal of community also holds significance for quite different populations with competing political agendas—political groups of the right and left invoking ideas of community, yet have very different definitions in mind.

In re-visionsing the 2009 Annual Meeting, long before the 2008 national election, I had hoped that The New Politics of Community theme might provide a forum for discussion, discovery, and debate, but I had no idea at the time about the fortuitously unprecedented set of events that would be presented for our discipline’s reflection. The historic campaign and election of President Barack Obama provides a compelling and timely context for examining the program theme. In response, the 2009 Program Committee and I have organized a mini-symposium, a meeting within the general meeting, which explores how the election of Barack Obama might signal a new politics of community in action. The mini-symposium consists of a cluster of sessions that are scheduled throughout the meetings, which exemplify how the 2008 presidential election engages the conference theme.

What Does Obama’s Win Mean?

A plenary session, titled “Why Obama Won (and What That Says About Democracy and Change in America),” anchors the mini-symposium. Barack Obama’s election often is described as a defining moment, one marking a fundamental change for American democracy. But what exactly has changed, or might change, and why? This session will explore how the election of President Obama catalyzes new thinking about the meaning of democracy and change in the United States. Our panelists will examine important factors associated with change, such as new forms of political engagement by youth, new immigrant populations, women, and similar populations; new ways of organizing democratic institutions that reflect a changing, heterogeneous American population, and the seeming commitment to community.

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San Francisco 40 Years Later

by Edward A. Tellesian, Duke University

It is fitting that in this year of a tremendous, calamitous financial crisis, nationally and globally, which for some harkens back to 1929-32, that the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting will convene in San Francisco. It was in 1969, that the ASA Annual Meeting was held amidst an unprecedented period of national and global political and cultural crisis. As a participant at the meetings, then and now, let me shake off the cobwebs of memory to detail a brief historical context of 40 years ago.

Changes at the ASA

The second half of the 1960s had rocked the United States with immense internal conflict over the civil rights movement and the anti-Vietnam War protests, which had steadily gathered steam. This was reflected in popular culture and in the radicalization of college students. In 1967, ASAs meeting was in San Francisco, with Charles P. Loomis—a student of Sorokin at Harvard—giving a well-received presidential address, “In Praise of Conflict and Its Resolution.” A year later, on the heels of the chaotic Democratic convention in Chicago, ASA President Phil Hauser drew upon his on-site experience in Chicago to give his presidential address in Boston on

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Congratulations to the 2009 ASA Award Winners

ASA proudly announces the winners of the ASA Awards for 2009. The awards are the highest honor that the Association confers. These outstanding scholars will be recognized at the 2009 Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony in San Francisco, CA, on Sunday, August 9, at 4:30 pm. The Awards Ceremony will immediately precede the formal address of ASA President Patricia Hill Collins.

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. Du Bois Award of Distinguished Scholarship: Sheldon Stryker (Indiana University)

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

Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award: Carla Howery (American Sociological Association, retired)

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

Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award: Aldon D. Morris (Northwestern University)

This annual award honors the intellectual traditions and contributions of Oliver Cox, Charles S. Johnson, and E. Franklin Frazier. 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 to recognize scholarly work that enlarges the horizons of sociology to encompass the full range of human experience. The contributions may be in empirical research, theory, or methodology.

Public Understanding of Sociology Award: Jack Levin (Northeastern University)

This award is given annually to a person or persons who have made exemplary contributions to the public understanding of sociology, sociological research, and scholarship among the general public. You may submit nominations for the Public Understanding of Sociology Award at any time.

San Francisco

ASA 2009 Election Candidates

See page 8

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San Francisco

ASA 2009 Election Candidates

See page 8
Economics 101: Investing in ASA

A s the tsunami of mortgage foreclosures, financial market implosions, unemployment and underemployment, and citizen angst wash across the country, safe havens for your investments are hard to find. A wide array of the reports from ASA's research on the discipline and profession found that a significant predic- tor of job satisfaction for non-academic sociologists is membership in a professional organization. Despite the national and international downturn, what I said in this column six months ago, before the economic collapse (July/August 2008 Footnotes), remains true, namely: “being a member of a professional organization is valuable for individual success.” It is also a good investment in the discipline for the individual scholars, researchers, departments, and students who comprise sociology.

Focusing on this issue of active engage- ment in ASA once again because it is important as we move toward electing new ASA leadership, awarding the highest ASA prize to the current 35th anniversary of ASAs Minority Fellowship Program, selecting a journal publishing partner that is deeply committed to sociol- ogy—and launching a new digital library to support teaching and learning at all levels while what promises to be a fabulous Annual Meeting program in San Francisco under the leadership of President Patricia Hill Collins, her program committee, and the ASA Sections.

That’s a lot of returns on an investment with little risk. As a 40-year continuous ASA mem- ber—through good economic times and bad—I can attest to the terrific growth in the value of my personal investment in ASA even during career periods when my personal involvement in ASA was limited by other obligations. (This life-long investment certainly beats the profit- ability of my 40-year investments in retire- ment accounts!)

On the Cover of a Magazine

Investing in ASA through membership is more than the obvious returns such as special rates on journals, free access to ASA's online Job Bank, significant Annual Meeting registration discounts, or even just a few of the lead benefits on a long list. Your professional capital grows. ASA plugs members into national and local media as well as science and policy-related issues and opportunities. When you see sociologists quoted in mainstream news stories or interviewed on camera or on radio (even on your local TV news (see the page 12 article on HSB in the news)), or when you see sociological research identi- fied prominently as such in major news magazines, newspapers, and even occasion- ally on prime-time TV drama shows, there’s surely a very high degree of synergy. In public affairs and media relations program had something to do with getting that “media hit” to happen.

Even if that sociologist wasn’t you (it could be) or the research wasn’t (you should have been), your capital as a soci- ologist rises. That capital paid huge dividends on the day ASA got a call from NBC’s popular prime-time show Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. ASA provided peer- reviewed research from ASA members as background for the producer, and, at our insistence, we were able to review the episod's script (and modify it) to ensure positive visibility for the discipline. Those dividends were quickly reflected in the enthusiastic calls and e-mails we got from the many ASA members who were view- ers. The greater dividends, we expect, come from the viewers who were not sociologists but who may appreciate sociology and from TV producers who know they can get quick turnarounds on fact checking the scientific basis of their core program material.

On a daily basis, ASA refers members to reporters and producers who are seek- ing sociological experts. Over a typical year these referrals total in the hundreds. The dividends are apparent in many places, including in the "In the News" segment of

Online humanities indicators proto- type is released

In January, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (the Academy) launched the “Humanities Indicators,” an online prototype of statistical data about the humanities in the United States. The new web resource, www.HumanitiesIndicators.org, was jointly organized in collaboration with a consortium of national humanities organizations. The Humanities Indicators are the first effort to provide academics, policymakers, and the public with a comprehensive picture of the state of the humanities. The collection of empirical data creates benchmarks to guide future analysis of the state of the humanities in five broad areas: primary and secondary education in the humanities, undergradu- ate and graduate education in the humanities, the humanities workforce, humanities funding and research, and the humanities in American life. The National Humanities Alliance will serve as both an advisor and contribu- tor to the “Humanities Indicators” project. Datasets compiled by the Alliance serve as the basis for various Humanities Indicators, including ones on funding levels and dis- tribution of funding among activity types. For more information on the Humanities Indicators prototype, see <www.amacad.org/news/htcoAnnounced.aspx>.

Brookings and Academies advocate for a new measure of poverty

A new report issued by Brookings Institution suggests following the National Academy of Sciences’ (NAS) lead on developing a new and better measure of poverty (see February 2005 Public Affairs Update in Footnotes). In a Hamilton Project Discussion Paper, Rebecca M. Blank of the Brookings Institution and Mark H. Greenberg of Georgetown University propose a new poverty measure that better reflects the actual economic conditions of low-income Americans, based on recom- mendations from the NAS. This research and policy proposal was presented at a December conference in Washington, DC, sponsored by the Brookings Foundation. The authors recommend the adoption of a new poverty measure in order to provide a more accurate measure of economic need in the United States. The current poverty measure relies on 1953 data and a methodology developed in the early 1960s during the Johnson Administration’s War on Poverty. The current measure is not sensitive to changes in tax policy, in-kind benefits, work expenses, or medical payments, all of these have changed substantially over the years and affect the well-being of low-income families. Blank and Greenberg indicate why the NAS approach is super- ior to other possibilities and discuss the specific decisions that must be made to effectively measure poverty in the United States. For more information, presenta- tion slides, and research papers from the December event, see <www.brookings.edu/papers/2008_12_poverty_measurement_blank.aspx>.

Footnotes’ Announcements section. If you want to add to this growing capital base, send ASA a note at infobriefs@asanet.org, with your contact information and specify your areas of expertise.

Policy and Photo Opps

Sociologists are often (but not yet often enough) invited by Congress to testify before legislative hearings on Capitol Hill, or to brief members or their staff on issues such as international rela- tions, poverty, health, crime and national security. The chances are high that ASA worked behind the scenes, often with COSSA ( Consortium of Social Science Associations ), to make that invitation to the nation’s capital happen. The same capi- tal-building (pun intended) for the discipline happens when sociolo- gists are invited by the National Institutes of Health to participate in major scientific symposia and poster sessions (e.g., on health care disparities, self-report research, ethics, or the role of social science in medical education). And, you may recall from Vantage Point, page 5

Sally T. Hillman is the Executive Officer of ASA. She can be reached at: email at executive.office@asanet.org.

Vantage Point
Sociologists Headlined Plenary at NIH Summit

National Institutes of Health hosted 4,000 attendees at DC summit to examine what science knows about health disparities that could help eradicate them.

In the “Health Disparities and the International Development and Practice” plenary, presentations were delivered by two former ASA MFP Fellows, sociologists David R. Williams, Harvard University, and David Satcher, University of Washington. Williams gave a presentation titled Moving Upstream: How Interventions that Address Social Determinants of Health Can Improve Health and Reduce Disparities, and Takeuchi spoke on Creating, Maintaining, and Blurring the Boundaries of Science, Policy, and Practice. This session was modulated by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) Director, Stephen Katz, and included two other speakers. Williams stated, “There is a growing body of scientific evidence . . . that points

Busy Times for AKD

by Jeffrey Chin, Le Moyne College, Secretary-Treasurer, Alpha Kappa Delta

On September 15, 2008, the national office of Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the international honor society for sociology, officially re-opened for business after moving from the University of South Alabama, Mobile AL, to Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY. The move followed the appointment of Jeffrey Chin, the new AKD Secretary-Treasurer by Meg Wilkes Karraker, President of AKD. Chin, Le Moyne College, succeeds Marc Matt, who served as AKD Secretary-Treasurer for nine years. The AKD staff wish to thank Matt for his many years of service to the society.

Alpha Kappa Delta is dedicated to acknowledging excellent scholarly work by both undergraduate and graduate students in sociology. With chapters worldwide and more than 87,000 lifetime members, local chapters of AKD conduct over 1,500 events on campus, and funds for student travel to regional and national sociological meetings, including the ASA Annual Meeting and take part in workshops there geared toward talented undergraduates. AKD provides cash awards to the winners as well as travel funds to attend the ASA Annual Meeting. Other benefits for student members of AKD include: support to travel to regional and aligned sociology meetings, bountiful recognition at chapter induction ceremonies on campus, and funds for research symposia. Like most organizations, AKD officers are located on campuses all over the country so they conduct most of their business electronically. However, the entire AKD Council meets for a full day prior to the ASA Annual Meeting in August and the AKD Distinguished Lecture takes place during the ASA Annual Meeting, usually during the first day. In 2004, the Distinguished Lecturer was Ronald Akers, University of Florida. Besides the annual AKD Council meeting, the honor society has a mid-year meeting of its Planning Committee, which was in Syracuse, NY, this past January. Since the location of this year’s meeting was designed to provide an inspection of the new AKD national office, Chin and his staff hosted an open house attended not only by members of the Le Moyne College community and the AKD Planning Committee, but also by Jean H. Shin, ASA Director of Minority Affairs. As director of the program that administers MFP, Shin’s presence at the open house acknowledges the strong ties between ASA and AKD.

The national office of AKD is trying to ensure that representatives will be at all regional sociology meetings this spring. They will be on the formal program of some and will staff tables at others. They can tell you about the MFP application process for established chapters and how to start a chapter for those departments that do not have one yet. Stop by to find out more about that AKD can do for your students. For more information on any aspect of AKD and its activities, e-mail AKD@lemyowe.net, or visit the new AKD webpage at <www.alphakappadelta.org>.

ASA Announces the 2008-09 Congressional Fellow

The ASA is pleased to welcome Sada Aksartova as the new Congressional Fellow for the 2008-2009 year. Aksartova began her work in the Government Accountability Office (GAO), which conducts investigations, audits, and over-sight for the U.S. Congress, on January 21. She is working with the International Affairs and Trade team, where she collaborates on projects that evaluate U.S. foreign policy and international assistance.

A Global Experience

Aksartova’s interest in foreign policy and international affairs stems in part from her own international background. She was born in Kazakhstan and received her bachelor’s degree at Moscow State University. Her first job was working with Greenpeace, an international non-governmental and environmental organization, in Russia. During her three-year tenure at Greenpeace, she served as a nuclear disarmament campaigner and sought to direct the public and policy-makers’ attention to the issue of Russia’s aging nuclear submarine fleet and its lasting environmental impact. Aksartova received her master’s degree in International Relations from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom and continued her graduate studies in the United States. In 2005, Aksartova received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Princeton University. Her dissertation, “Civil Society from Abroad: U.S. Donors in the Former Soviet Union,” analyzed the cultural and institutional effects of U.S. civil society assistance for post-Soviet non-governmental organizations. After Princeton, Aksartova spent two years in Tokyo, Japan, as a postdoctoral fellow at Hosei University, where she researched Japanese assistance for post-Soviet Central Asia as well as recent changes in Japanese foreign aid.

Most recently, Aksartova served as a Congressional Fellow. In the “Health Disparities and the International Development and Practice” plenary, presentations were delivered by two former ASA MFP Fellows, sociologists David R. Williams, Harvard University, and David Satcher, University of Washington. Williams gave a presentation titled Moving Upstream: How Interventions that Address Social Determinants of Health Can Improve Health and Reduce Disparities, and Takeuchi spoke on Creating, Maintaining, and Blurring the Boundaries of Science, Policy, and Practice. This session was modulated by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) Director, Stephen Katz, and included two other speakers. Williams stated, “There is a growing body of scientific evidence . . . that points...
PowerPoint: To Use or Not to Use?

by Madeleine Coutureneau, Mount Ida College

A presenter at the ASA Annual Meeting Advocates applause by announcing that she will not be using PowerPoint. A participant in a teaching roundtable declares that he never uses this program because, despite advice from students. These statements, along with negative comments about PowerPoint posted on a teaching listserv, create a negative impression among expecting scholars who would ever use this software.

There may be some justification for this impression. Many of us have experienced how dreadful PowerPoint can be. We have heard presentations in which the speaker placed a large amount of text on the screen only to read it to the audience, or inserted so many special effects as to lead us to suspect that they were a cover for weakness of substance. We have colleagues who use prepackaged slide sets provided by textbook publishers, rather than creating fresh, original material for their classes or finding ways to encourage student participation. And some students are so intimidated by the prospect of having to be entertained by lively and amusing special effects, rather than engaging in active learning, that they may be inclined to read anything longer than a bullet.

Nevertheless, these negative examples do not represent the total picture. PowerPoint can be an effective tool for highlighting key aspects of a presentation and maintaining audience attention. When there are complaints about this program at professional meetings, the problem is likely that the presenter lacks skill in effectively using it. Suggestions later in this article will address this problem.

Encouraging Active Learning

Although lack of skill with the program may be the main objection to its use at conferences, its application in the classroom creates an additional problem. Many professors believe that PowerPoint interferes with active learning because it is one more way of encouraging passivity in students who were raised on television and computer games. Nevertheless, the program can support active learning if applied carefully.

A primary goal of active learning is to engage the students in their own process of developing knowledge. One way of doing this is by raising questions during the presentation that encourage the students to make connections between the course material and their personal experiences and observations. A teacher may integrate PowerPoint into this approach by keeping the information on the screen to a minimum in order to allow time to pause in the presentation and invite input from the students.

In this context it is helpful to think of PowerPoint as a replacement for the blackboard or whiteboard. The program offers smoother delivery than the latter because of the ease of moving the presentation along with a mouse click, rather than stopping to write and then to erase the text. In order to sustain interest and because of the clarity of a well designed slide in contrast to the professor’s handwriting, in addition, it is possible to go back to an earlier slide, which is not the case with material that has been erased.

The use of presentation software in the classroom is especially helpful to students who are visual learners or who have auditory learning disabilities. Many professors do not write on the board as often as these students need them to. The ease of using PowerPoint provides an incentive for professors to take appropriate steps to meet their students’ need for visual cues.

Suggestions for Using PowerPoint

In order to utilize the benefits of PowerPoint, it is important to know how to apply it well. The following suggestions aim at achieving this goal.

• Learn the technology. Take a workshop, read a manual, or search the Internet for ideas and tutorials; experiment with the program and look for opportunities to gain experience with it.
• In preparing a presentation, animate objects or slides so that they are introduced one at a time. This is one of the most important recommendations. A large amount of text on the screen all at once can overwhelm the listeners and cause them to lose interest.
• In a classroom setting, students are likely to write down everything on the screen instead of listening to the professor’s explanation. However, it is imperative to avoid the more distracting animation options, and, instead, create simple, effective animation, highlight each line of text and click on “add effect,” then on “on/’operator,” and then on “appear.”
• Ensure that the bullets or lines of text are easy to read by choosing large fonts (e.g., 36-point Arial bold) along with a low-key background color. Explore the “background fill” section of the program to find light colored textures.
• Keep the bullets to a minimum in both length and number. This brevity, along with simple animation, will help to focus the audience’s attention.
• Use pictures selectively. An excessive number of illustrations, especially clip art, can be distracting. In some situations, however, images enhance the presentation. In a social theory course, for example, pictures of early sociologists may stimulate the interest of students who feel daunted by the classical writings.
• Ensure the smooth delivery of the presentation by inserting reminders into the lecture notes (such as the word “click”) to advance the slides at specific points. These written reminders help to synchronize the visual cues with the oral commentary.
• During the delivery of the presentation, pause with the appearance of each line of text and elaborate on it. Moreover, in the definitions of concepts in the class, give a further explanation of each concept, along with one or more examples.
• Ask students to suggest additional examples.

• During a class, pause at regular intervals to ask questions of the students in order to engage them in discussion, for example, by encouraging them to talk about how the information relates to their own experiences and observations.
• Do not hand out printouts of the slides before or during a class. This practice tends to take the place of active learning.
• If there is a website for the course, do not upload the slides in advance of the lecture. Let students know that the presentations will provide a useful reference for the next day for review, but that they should take notes during class.

Although this presentation software is neither the worst evil to invade academia nor the most brilliant teaching technique available, it is simply a tool. One may employ it in a useful manner or in a destructive one, just as a physical tool, such as a hammer, may be used to build homes for low-income people or to commit a brutal murder. Foremost, it is important for the student to be aware of the cloudy use of PowerPoint are not fatal. On the other hand, skill with this program provides a means to achieve the goal of holding the attention of an audience, whether in a classroom or a presentation to colleagues. When one has important information to deliver, it is worthwhile to use the tools that will get it through across the clear and compelling manner.

Delgado to Take on Social Problems

In August 2009, Hector L. Delgado, University of La Verne, will begin his tenure as the new Executive Officer (EO) of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), succeeding Thomas C. Hood, who served the SSSP with distinction as EO for 19 years.

Hood, who retired from classroom teaching in 2004, plans to continue to nurture the SSSP and work with other scholarly societies. Hood, Professor Emeritus at University of Tennessee, believed that it was time for him to step down and for a new EO to step in and provide important leadership in moving the organization forward. Continuity in the SSSP administrative office will be provided by Michele Koontz, who will remain as the organization’s Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager. While Delgado resides in California, the administrative office of the SSSP will remain at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The University of Tennessee and the University of La Verne will be excellent supporter institutions for Delgado’s work at University of Tennessee, 200-year-old Research

Hector Delgado

Tom Hood

Delgado was chosen by the SSSP Selection Committee and the Board following their interviews of candidates in Boston in August 2008 and site visits to candidates’ campuses in November. Delgado has been a member of the SSSP for more than a decade, most recently serving as the co-chair of the 2009 program committee and the chair of the 2007 C. Wright Mills book award committee. Delgado has been, and continues to be active in the ASA. Currently he is the secretary/treasurer of the Labor and Labor Movement section of the ASA and has served in the Latino/a Sociology section since its inception.

Delgado earned his PhD and an MA from the University of Michigan, an EDB from Rutgers University, and a BA (1971) in Political Science from Temple University, where he attended on a baseball scholarship. He is the author of New Immigrants, Old Unions: Organizing Undocumented Workers in Los Angeles (1994), one of the earliest studies of the rapid growth and influx of unskilled workers who are vulnerable to exploitation. He is the author of The Face of America: Undocumented Workers in Los Angeles (1998). He is the author of Undocumented Workers in Los Angeles (1998), one of the earliest studies of the rapid growth and influx of unskilled workers who are vulnerable to exploitation. He is the author of The Face of America: Undocumented Workers in Los Angeles (1998) and the author of Latinas/os and the Face of America (2007), edited by Havidan Rodriguez, Rogelio Sáenz, and Cecilia Menjivar. His research continues to focus principally on the Unionization of immigrant workers. Prior to returning to graduate school for his doctorate in sociology in 1983, Delgado worked in higher education administration for several years, including as an admissions officer and coordinator of Latinas/o student recruitment for Rutgers University, and as an assistant dean of students at Princeton University. He brings a wealth of administrative and community activist experience to the position.

The SSSP, founded in 1951, is an interdisciplinary community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and students interested in the application of critical, scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems. The 22 different special problems section provides opportunities for young scholars to establish networks both at the annual meeting and online. Membership in the SSSP is open to all social scientists by training, increasing numbers work in applied research and policy settings. Many, if not most, of SSSP’s members are members of the ASA as well. The relationship between the two organizations is a healthy one, and one Delgado plans to continue to nurture during his tenure as EO. The August 2008 annual meeting usually precedes the ASAs in the same city. The SSSP promotes research and dialogue through presentations at the annual meeting, publications in Social Problems, a leading journal in the field, awards to community groups; conference presentations; and the generation of new ideas. Student members and newcomers are especially welcomed by the organization.

Delgado can be reached at delgadoh@artic.edu. He would love to hear from you, especially if you are part of the SSSP. More information, see www.sssp.org

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American Sociological Association

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footnotes • March 2009
In January 2009, the ASA Research Department and ASA put a call for papers on the Master's Degree in Sociology invited graduate directors in 224 departments to participate in an online survey about their programs. This survey serves as the first part of a new study of the training and early career experiences of current master’s candidates in sociology departments.

The survey emerged from the Task Force’s response to chairs who requested help from ASA to develop strategies to ensure that the terminal master’s degree in sociology is meaningful for those who wish to secure careers closely related to their sociological studies. Of the 224 departments that had awarded at least one master’s degree in sociology in 2006/07, more than half (122) completed the survey. The information on departments obtained from the gradu- ate directors provides the background and the context for the online survey that will be sent to more than 1,400 master’s candidates this month. The first phase of this survey will ask about program experiences, including curricular and extra-curricular activities, finances, goals after graduation, and demo- graphic characteristics.

Many sociology departments, especially those with fewer than six faculty members, report that they do not have the resources or support to build programs to help graduates take full advantage of their sociology training when they enter the job market. Currently, there is a lack of information about the career trajectories of master’s degree recipients that would help inform current students. Few departments track their students, especially those that do not have a Ph.D. degree in sociology. The Master’s Task Force recommended the longitudinal survey to help close this information gap and to better position programs to help students.

Departmental Context

Of the 122 departments that completed the survey, 85 percent reported a freestanding master’s program, while 15 percent reported not offering a separate master’s degree. This is an interesting trend. The first wave of this survey will ask about program experiences, including curricular and extra-curricular activities, finances, goals after graduation, and demographic characteristics.

The departments with applied, professional, or clinical tracks have somewhat different characteristics from those offering traditional programs in sociology. It’s an interesting trend that these two types of programs have different sorts of offerings.

Differences between Types of Degrees

The departments with applied, professional, or clinical tracks report a master’s thesis for students compared to 58 percent of departments with no such track. Because about 70 percent of both types of departments report that they offer a non-thesis option, this suggests that programs have more than one track.

One-third of programs with applied, professional, or clinical tracks require students to participate in an internship program compared to 4 percent of students being required to do so in programs without this track.

The long-term survey aims to help current students. Few departments track their students, especially those that do not have a Ph.D. degree in sociology. The Master’s Task Force recommended the longitudinal survey to help close this information gap and to better position programs to help students.

Vantage Point

Almost two-thirds of master’s programs (64 percent) are found in freestanding sociology departments. The next largest group of master’s programs (18 percent) is found in combined sociology and anthropology departments, followed by sociology and criminal justice programs (8 percent), and sociology combined with more than one discipline (5 percent) or included within a broader social science division (4 percent).

Almost Princeton departments (63 percent) report that a master’s degree is the highest degree offered. Of the reporting departments offering a freestanding master’s program, more than half (53 percent) offer an applied, or a clinical track. Below are comparisons of the program characteristics between departments that offer the more vocationally oriented, professional, or clinical degree with those that offer a traditional academic master’s degree.

One-third of programs with applied, professional, or clinical tracks employ faculty members with a master’s degree in sociology. This suggests that the former type of program is more likely to provide access to the non-academic world than the latter.

Whether the majority of master’s students in a department were undergraduates in the same department varies significantly by whether the master’s program has an applied, professional, or clinical track. About 12 percent of master’s students in departments with a vocationally oriented track have their undergraduate degrees from the same department. In contrast, 29 percent of master’s candidates in more traditional departments were undergraduate majors in these departments. This may suggest a student body at vocationally oriented departments that is more likely to stay in the area and want training that will result in a non-academic career.

Programs with applied, professional, and clinical tracks are significantly more likely to offer online courses. More than one-third of the former offer online courses. This suggests that the former type of program is more likely to provide access to the non-academic world than the latter.

The first wave of the student survey is complete we will know more about the experiences of current students. This study examines different types of programs, including their current labor force status, their finances, their racial and ethnic background, their future goals, and whether the programs are meeting their needs. The second wave of the student survey (to be conducted one year later) will tell us whether those seeking jobs that reflect their sociological training have been successful in meeting this goal.

One graduate director responding to the survey expressed gratitude that ASA is examining master’s education issues in sociology, noting, “Given that this is the majority of graduate degrees awarded in sociology, it is certainly about time that we study this degree in much greater depth. I would be eager to learn [what] ASA might recommend we consider for master’s curriculum development, marketing, and, most importantly, the development of a master’s degree that might better channel our students into employment—similar to the Master of Social Work or the Master of Public Administration.”

To learn more about the work of the ASA Task Force on the Master’s Degree in Sociology, see the report “Thinking about the Master’s Degree in Sociology: Academic, Applied, Professional, and Everything in Between, at www.e-noah.net/asa/assocap_pelmservice/.

Table 1. Comparison of Characteristics of Master’s Programs Offering an Applied, Professional, or Clinical Track Versus Those That Do Not*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master’s Program Characteristics</th>
<th>Departments Offering a Professional, Applied, or Clinical Track</th>
<th>Departments Without a Professional, Applied, or Clinical Track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree offered</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-thesis option</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship required</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has an external advisory board</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty members have non-acade-</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mic professional experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority of candidates received</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>their BA’s from the same depart-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offers online master’s courses</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes freestanding master’s programs only.

Source: ASA 2009 Survey of Graduate Directors

The First Lady and Princeton Sociology

by Howard Taylor, Princeton University

I want to expand on the “Did You Know?” column in the February 2009 Footnotes about Michelle Robinson Obama as a sociology major at Princeton University. At Princeton, I was struck by her appeal, along with fellow sociologists Walter Wallace Jr. and John F. Dovidio, that this woman had had real feelings about Princeton experiences, but as a whole felt that their training at Princeton prepared them to return to and contribute to their home communities. These conclusions stand in stark contrast to certain pre-election press accounts, which erroneously made the thesis out to be about them. These figures suggest nothing of the kind, but instead a call to Princeton alumni to contribute to the betterment of racial-ethnic minorities. After graduating from Harvard Law School, she returned to her home community of South Side Chicago, and this is precisely what she did! There she met now-President Obama while her mentor at a Chicago law firm. The rest is history.!
Obama

from page 1

service and similar values thought to be associated with the revitalization of democratic institutions. This session takes up broader questions of what this specific victory says about communities and change in contemporary American society.

Panelists scheduled for this panel include Melissa Harris-Lacewell, Professor of Political Science at Princeton University. An award-winning author, Harris-Lacewell was a visible presence in diverse media venues during the Obama campaign, often commenting on the significance of Michelle Obama. Peter Levine, Director of CIRCLE (the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement), part of Tufts University’s Jonathan Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service and author of The Future of Democracy: Developing the Next Generation of American Citizens, which emphasizes issues of democracy. A philosopher, Levine will examine how the Obama campaign may signal a defining moment for youth and democracy. Jose Calderon, Pitzer College, has a long history of connecting his academic work with community organizing, student-based service learning, participatory action research, critical pedagogy, and multi-ethnic coalition building. He is the 2004 recipient of the Richard E. Cone Award for Excellence and Leadership in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education and was honored by The United Farm Worker’s Union for his life-long contributions to the farm worker movement. Lawrence Bobo, the W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University, has published widely in the field of race and politics, most recently providing provocative ideas about the Obama candidacy.

The Role of Youth

The anchor plenary for the mini-symposium has two complementary Presidential Panels. The first, “A Defining Moment? Youth, Power and the Obama Phenomenon,” will explore how Obama’s presidential campaign demonstrated innovative approaches to organizing new political communities, most notably youth. In essence, by encouraging young people from heterogeneous backgrounds to participate in something bigger than themselves, the campaign simultaneously politicized youth and helped construct a political community of youth. This session uses the construct of youth as a “community” of people to investigate two questions: In what sense did youth bring a distinctive generational ethos to questions of power, change, and democratic processes? And, in what sense have youth been empowered, changed, and engaging in new forms of civic participation in response to the Obama phenomenon?

The panel includes several esteemed panelists: Gurmindar K. Bhambra, University of Warwick, whose works examine intersections of historical sociology and post-colonial theory, recently convened a British Sociological Association conference on “1968: Impact and Implications.” Bhambra will discuss how global youth movements of 1968 might shed light on the contemporary Obama phenomenon. Doug McAdam, Stanford University, brings considerable expertise from his theoretical and empirical work on civic participation, social movements, and social activism. Cathy J. Cohen, the David and Mary Winton Green Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, directs the “Black Youth and Empowerment: Sex, Politics, and Culture,” a national project that examines how the attitudes, resources, and culture of African American youth influence their decision-making, norms, and behavior in critical domains such as sex, health, and politics. Enid Lynette Logan, University of Minnesota, directs the “Youth Speak! Perspectives on Race and Gender in the 2008 Presidential Election” project. Drawing from this study, Logan will examine the significance of race and gender in the presidential election, focusing on the candidacy of Obama. Amanda Lewis, Emory University, is a respected scholar of youth, race, and education, will preside over the session and serve as discussant.

The American Dream

A second Presidential Panel, “Through the Lens of Gender, Race, Sexuality and Class: The Obama Family and the American Dream,” will explore issues of democracy and social inequalities. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech not only imagined a future of a democratic, inclusive national community, it also pointed out the ways in which social inequalities undermined America’s possibilities. For example, the American dream of self-renewal reflects beliefs in America as a nation of immigrants, opportunity, and freedom. Yet, African Americans, women, sexual minorities, and the poor have pointed to invisible glass ceilings that have limited their dreams of upward social mobility and self-renewal. Traditional ideas about faith and family underpin the American dream, while those whose family structures and religious traditions stray too far from tradition encounter barriers. In essence, the American dream constitutes a curious combination of ideals that are refracted through changing social relations of gender, race, sexuality, and class.

The panelists of this plenary session will examine how Barack Obama’s election represents one historic moment in this core relationship between the American dream and ever-changing patterns of gender, race, sexuality, and class in the United States. Panelist Barrie Thorne, University of California-Berkeley, will focus on the sociology of gender; feminist theory; the sociology of age relations, childhood, and families; topics for which she is widely recognized. Other panelists include Alford Young, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, who studies how low-income, urban African American men conceive of the world of work in modern society, what they believe is the ideal fatherhood, and how they conceive of appropriate mentoring for younger relatives and associates; Charles Gallagher, Georgia State University, who studies racial and social inequality by examining the ways in which the media, the state, and popular culture construct, shape, and disseminate ideas of race; and Cheryl Gilkes, Colby College, who studies African American religious history, gender, and race. Elizabeth Higginbotham, University of Delaware, a leading scholar in the field of class, race, and gender studies, will preside over the session and serve as discussant.

Thematic Sessions

Several thematic sessions round out the featured sessions of the mini-symposium. These include “Understanding Democratic Renewal: The Movement to Elect Barack Obama,” organized by Dana Fisher; “The Future of Community Organizing During the Obama Presidency,” organized by James McCarty; and “Asian-American Movements, Identities, and Politics: A New Racial Project in the Obama Years?,” organized by Michael Omi. The sessions provide a closer look at specific themes associated with the Obama phenomenon, such as community organizing, community service, and grassroots community activism.

I encourage you to consult the “Meetings” webpage on the ASA website <www.asanet.org> for more detailed information on these featured sessions, for biographical material on invited panelists, and for any additional events that may be planned as the meeting plans unfold. I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!
Online education has become an important part of the undergraduate curriculum at many colleges and universities in the United States, particularly at institutions that serve non-traditional students (e.g., students who are full-time working adults, active military). While the online option offers a greater accessibility and convenience of access, instructors are faced with the challenges of promoting a community of learners at a distance (Amendola 2006). Online students and faculty may feel isolated from the greater university community; students and faculty in online programs may never even visit or attend classes at the physical university campus. To be academically successful, online students need to be technologically competent, they require instructor and classmates interaction, and they need strong social support to attain their educational objectives (Liu, Seckel 2007). Providing students and faculty with the opportunity for the collegial and academic interchange of ideas outside of the classroom environment is an important part of the higher education experience—but how is this accomplished for online students and faculty? University of Maryland University College Our institution, University of Maryland University College (UMUC), serves non-traditional adult students. Most UMUC instructors are adjunct faculty. Students and faculty are globally distributed. In 2007, the UMUC student body consisted of more than 90,000 students, with about 75,000 undergraduate students. UMUC students are adult learners, often the first in their families to attend college. The average age is 32 years old, with 82% employed full-time. UMUC does not have a traditional campus; our face-to-face classes are held at regional sites in Maryland and on U.S. military bases throughout the world. The college has been a leader among state universities in distance and online education (graduate and undergraduate). The Social Science Department includes four disciplines: anthropology, behavioral sciences, gerontology, and sociology. The department currently has about 500 undergraduate majors worldwide. In order to inform and involve our globally distributed social science majors and also invite interested students to the major, a special online classroom—the Online Student Club for the Social Sciences—was established. A number of online student clubs, all oriented toward specific undergraduate majors, were established through an initiative of the UMUC Office for Academic Success. Among adult learners, student retention is a concern. Therefore, the online undergraduate student clubs seek to improve communication with the university and provide a community to students in order to increase retention, academic success, and eventual degree completion. Students who are interested in joining the Online Student Clubs contact the UMUC office for further information and request to be rostered into a specific club classroom. Social Sciences Online In the Social Science Club, students, faculty, and invited guest speakers engage in online discussions about social science careers, research opportunities, student publishing opportunities, current events, and social issues (Miller 2007). In the first year of the online club, the faculty advisers determined the activities, discussion topics, and schedule. As more students enrolled in the club, leadership, organization, and direction of the club and its activities has been handed to the students. There are currently 272 student members, primarily social science, criminal justice, and psychology majors. The club discussions, guest presentations, and online activities are asynchronous and held within the online UMUC club website. Faculty members are encouraged to be guest speakers in the club through presentations about their research. Because most instructors are adjunct faculty, they provide perspectives on “real-world” applications of the social sciences (e.g., in government, research, and public service). Students also have served as guest speakers, as in a recent online student panel on volunteerism. Recent guest presentations have included: Expert Your Career Options (UMUC Career Services), Caring for the Aging During Winter (Faculty), Explorations in the Sociology of Popular Culture (Faculty), Mastering APA Style (Faculty), and Research in South Asia (Faculty). Topics in the student club have included Careers and Graduate School in the Social Sciences, Networking in the Social Sciences, and “Ask the Director.” The asynchronous nature of the student club offers students and faculty more flexibility; they can enter the site whenever they want and whenever they have Internet access. Working in an online community requires an exploration of innovative ways to engage students and faculty in “real time.” For example, online chat and Instant Messaging functions could further be explored for enhancing synchronous online club activities. Future Ideas and Conclusions Overall, the Student Club has created a stronger connection for students and faculty to the University, undergraduate school, and social science department. As in any club or organization, some members tend to participate more than others. In an online context, non-respondiveness does not necessarily mean that students or faculty are not engaged in the club. There may be a fair number of “lurkers,” or those who quietly observe the online transactions. Just as instructors struggle with ways to interpret the online “silence” in their classrooms (Zemblysha & Vrasidas 2007), an examination of how to better connect with “lurkers” in an online student club is needed. How can we engage students to become a more active part of the social science community at UMUC? As a new academic year begins, we are looking forward to reaching the Student Club site and we look to new efforts to promote greater student and faculty involvement, including involving our graduate school chapter more into the Student Club site and organizing an Online Social Science Research Festival in the club classroom. The latter follows the model of Online Science Festivals that have been successfully implemented in K-12 classrooms (Tubbis 2007). Online education comprises an important part of higher education today, particularly for non-traditional adult learners. Through our Online Student Club for the Social Sciences, non-traditional students (who learn online) and adjunct faculty (who teach online) can feel more integral to the global UMUC Social Science Department. The authors would like to acknowledge Donna Mauser, faculty adviser to UMUC online Social Science Club. 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Zemblysha, Michelle; Charanjit Vrasidas. 2007. “Listening for Silence in Text-Based, Online Encounters.” Distance Education 18:5-24.
Candidates for ASA Offices in 2009

In accordance with election policies established by the ASA Council, biographical sketches of the candidates for ASA leadership positions are published in Footnotes (see below). The candidates appear in alphabetical order by office. Biographical sketches for all candidates will be available online when ballots are mailed to all current voting members in mid-April.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

Randall Collins

Present

Position: Professor

Professorial Position: Dorothy Swaine Thomas Professor of Sociology

University of Pennsylvania, 1997-present.

Former Professorial Position: Professor, Department of Sociology, Princeton University, 1988-2002.

Current Voting Member: March 2009

Viviana A. Zelizer

Present

Position:

Lloyd Cotsen '50 Professor of Sociology

Princeton University, 2002-present.

Former Professional Position: Professor, Department of Sociology, Princeton University, 1988-2002, Chair, 1992-1996, Assistant to Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Barnard College and Graduate Faculty of Columbia University, 1978-1988, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Rutgers University, 1976-1978.


Positions Held in ASA:


Publications:


Personal Statement:

From my many years on ASA committees, council, sections, and publications, I am very familiar with its local culture. I even chaired a report on ASAs organizational problems as a bureaucracy and as a collection of disparate sections (published in Footnotes, Sept. 1989). I strongly believe that you can apply sociology 24 hours a day, even to the meetings we sit through. The ASA president, like any such position, is enmeshed in sectional politics and bureaucratic powers. The most important thing the office has freedom to do is act as a symbolic exemplar of what the field is about: an intellectual enterprise we can be proud of, and an exciting adventure of exploring the world through research. There are plenty of crises ahead in the world, and, in my view, sociology is the best discipline to guide our way through them with our eyes open.

American Sociological Association


Personal Statement: As Vice President, I would vigorously with the President and Council to advance the goals of ASA. First, I would be an advocate for federal funding for sociological research. My leadership in research and my experience with federal agencies have positioned me well for this role, and new streams of scientific research funding make this a priority. Second, I would promote the public engagement of sociologists with the major issues of our time, including changing social institutions, immigration policy, environmental sustainability, and global relateness. My experience as a sociologist who addresses policy issues in education would support my efforts to create new opportunities to enhance the salience of sociology in such deliberations. Third, I would press for further inclusiveness within our association and in the broader sociological field to truly embrace diversity and recognize it as a strength of our community, our nation, and our increasingly interdependent world.

David A. Snow

Present

Position:

Chancellor’s Professor of Sociology

University of California, Irvine, 2001-present.

Footnotes

David Snow

Positions:


to the important solutions . . . in terms of broad and complicated challenges, but they are fundamental to our enterprise and will undergird and connect our substantive theoretical and methodological principles that are integral to solving the major problems that face the ASA, the discipline, and the society. Second, we need to vitalize a set of theoretical and institutional boundaries that define sociology and distinguish us from our sister disciplines in the social sciences—understanding the diversity and openness necessary for innovation and creativity. Lastly, we must understand more fully that the viability of our discipline and practice mandates that we engage pressing domestic and global issues publicly by conversing with the various politics and publics relevant to these issues. These are broad and complicated challenges, but they are fundamental to our enterprise and will thus receive your attention as an officer of the ASA.

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

Catherine White Berheide

Present Professional Position: Assistant to Full Professor of Sociology, Skidmore College, 1979-present.


Personal Statement: As Secretary, I would promote the importance of the American Sociological Association’s mission of advancing sociology as a scientific discipline and profession serving the public good by strengthening the presence of sociology, the teaching and learning of sociology, and sociological research. My extensive experience with the ASA governance system over the past 30 years, including as a member of Council, has allowed me to see firsthand the work the ASA does from the editorial boards, to the annual meetings, to task forces and briefings on Capitol Hill. As chair of the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget, I would work with the Executive Officer to ensure that the ASA remains financially sound as it continues these important activities and broadens its outreach to the full range of sociologists from students to contingent faculty, from those working in non-academic settings and teaching colleges to those at research universities.

Dan Clawson

Present Professional Position: Professor of Sociology, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 1989-present.

Former Professional Positions: Assistant Professor to Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA, 1979-1989.

Education: PhD, State University of New York at Stony Brook, 1975, BA, Washington University, 1970.


Personal Statement: The Secretary is a trustee of the organization, elected to address behind-the-scenes issues. The Secretary is also a member of a wide range of committees and thus serves a bridging role, helping to connect members and committees to each other and to the ASA staff. I would identify three concerns, starting with our resources, including the web, which should be used in ways that facilitate member engagement with public sociology, making it possible for clusters of members to bring their work to larger audiences. Second, the ASA is, and should remain, a leader in modeling the practices we would like to see in the larger society, whether that be on gender, environmental, racial, or labor fronts. Lastly, as a professional association, we must be concerned with job markets in relation to the changing character of colleges and universities—and that is more than ever true in hard times.
The Golden Anniversary of Medical Sociology

The ASA Medical Sociology Section is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding. In his *The Word as Scalpel: A History of Medical Sociology*, Samuel W. Bloom enumerated the establishment of the section on medical sociology, which seeks to examine the phenomena of health and illness, the sociology of health care delivery, and differential access to medical resources. The American Sociological Society (now the American Sociological Association) approved the formation of the Section on Medical Sociology in September 1959. This followed the formal creation of ASA’s sections as they existed today, which were established “as a means for accommodating ‘special interest’ groups in the Society.” Formerly their activities were primarily limited to organizing a session for the Annual Meeting. By January 1960, the section had 407 members. A. B. Hollingshead was Chair, Olin Anderson served as Chair-Elect, and Samuel Bloom was Secretary-Treasurer. Everett Hughes, George Reeder (a physician), and Benjamin Paul (an anthropologist) were council members. From that auspicious beginning, the section has swelled to 1,022 members (as of 2008), making it the fourth-largest section. The medical sociology field is concerned with basic sociological and psychological implications for public policy and practice, including medical care, financing and health insurance, incarceration, access to care, medical technology, bioethical concerns, the continuum of care, and comparative health policies. Annual Meeting Activities

To celebrate the Golden Anniversary, Janet Hankin, Chair of the Medical Sociology Section (Wayne State University) has planned special sessions for the 2009 Annual Meetings that highlight a common theme, “Fifty Years of Medical Sociology: Contributions and New Directions.” The sessions include the topics of Patients Meet Providers, Health and SES, Health Policy and Reform, and Fifty Years of Methods in Medical Sociology. Special activities at the meetings include student roundtables, organized by our student council representatives, which will feature famous medical sociologists who will share their expertise with the next generation of medical sociologists. We will recognize past chairs and Reeder Award winners at our reception. The special sessions will feature authors who are contributing to the Extra Issue of *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Do We Know? Key Findings from 50 Years of Medical Sociology” to be published in 2010.

Extra Issue of *JHSB*

Thanks to a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the ASA, the section is publishing an extra issue of *JHSB*. In the past half-century, medical sociologists have provided key insights and findings on social dimensions of health and health care ranging from causes and consequences of health disparities to the organization and financing of health care. Unfortunately, many policymakers, funding agencies, and health scholars outside sociology are unaware of the scope and breadth of these sociological contributions. This forthcoming issue seeks to remedy this. The extra issue of *JHSB* will review key findings on core topics from sociological studies of health, illness, and healing and suggest the policy implications of those findings. Leaders in each of the core topics are invited to submit brief comments reviewing the key findings that have been produced in their subareas. The extra issue will seek to accomplish two specific goals. The first will be to provide a broad overview of the state of research on health, illness, and healing for sociologists and health scholars interested in these disciplines. This should also be accomplished through the scheduling of sessions at the 2009 and 2010 ASA Annual Meetings. The second goal will be to produce an executive summary highlighting three or four key findings for each topic. This executive summary will be written by a professional science writer and disseminated widely to policymakers, funding agencies, media outlets and other non-academic stakeholders.

Are Journal Accept Rates as Low as They Look?


A
tors aspiring to publish in a sociology journal typically understand that, in the best case, an article gets accepted after an invitation to revise and to resubmit (an R&R). They often want to know the probability that an author sending an article to this journal will eventually get it accepted by this journal. But, oddly enough, this is not what ASA journals’ “accept rates” show. In an article published in Footnotes but now online, tell us, here is how ASA (and some other scholarly organizations) calculate accept rates. The basic concept is to take acceptance rates during the year as a ratio of all decisions—positive and negative—made in the year. ASA puts all decisions in the denominator, including accepts, rejections, conditional accepts, and invitations to revise and resubmit. In effect, original submissions and revisions (after an R&R or conditional accept) count as separate manuscripts for purposes of the accept rate. A manuscript that ultimately gets accepted counts twice—as one accept and one nonaccept. If we want the accept rate to reflect the actual number of decisions it went through or a rejection was ultimately rejected, either originally or after a revision.

For Example

Consider the following hypothetical—a journal in which all papers submitted are eventually accepted, but every paper goes through one R&R decision on the way. An author submitting would know her or his paper was sure to be accepted eventually, so calling the acceptance rate 100% makes sense in this scenario, and this is what we would get if only final decisions were in the accept category. However, the way ASA calculates their journals’ accept rates, the rate is only 50% despite the fact that every paper is ultimately accepted. If every paper required one R&R and one conditional accept, the rate would drop to 33%. Thus, under the present way of calculating rates, differences across editors within a journal, between journals, or between disciplines may be affected by how many revisions editors typically require before acceptance.

Clearly, accept rates would be higher if only final decisions were in the denominator (the numerator is the same under either system). How much difference would it really make if only final decisions were put in the denominator? To find out, I asked the editors of two ASA journals and the journal of Sociologists for Women in Society to share their 2008 statistics with me so I could see what differences it makes to calculate accept rates with only final decisions included in the denominator. I asked hydrologist and Vincent Rocigno, editors of the American Sociological Review (ASR); Gary Alan Fine, editor of *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and Dana Britton, editor of Gender & Society, for the data from which I calculated the rates. In 2008, ASR’s official acceptance rate was 8.25%, calculated using ASA’s method, with a denominator including initial accepts and rejections, as well as the intermediate decisions allowing revision. If the denominator had included only final decisions, the accept rate would have been 11.42%. The second rate is 38% higher than the first (the difference between the two over 8.25 is 38). Similar computations for *Social Psychology Quarterly* show that their official 2008 accept rate of 9.43% would be 15.96% if only final decisions were in the denominator, a 69% increase. If I apply the ASA method to Gender & Society’s statistics, their accept rate would be 9.67%, with only final decisions in the denominator, it is 11.88%, which is 23% higher.

Arguments For and Against

An argument sometimes made for the status quo is that, in trying to convince an interdisciplinary tenure and promotion committee that a colleague has published in very selective journals, the lower the rate the more useful for the case. However, even the more realistic accept rates that I calculated above using only final decisions as the base show that our journals are extremely selective. A downside of the current system is that it gives authors an unrealistically low idea of their chances that their paper will be ultimately accepted by a journal. Moreover, the rate as now calculated is reduced when editors increase the typical number of revisions required before papers are ultimately accepted, even if the probability of eventual acceptance doesn’t change. I suggest that we change how ASA calculates accept rates, taking a given year’s number of accepts as a percent of all final decisions made that year (accepts and rejects).

JHSB Research Gets Local Airtime

Sociological research is now showing in a living room near you. As a result of ASA’s partnership with the *Discoveries and Breakthroughs Inside Science* (DBIS) program, sociological research published in *ASA’s Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (JHSB) was covered in a 90-second broadcast news segment distributed to more than 500 local television affiliates across the United States. DBIS is a broadcast news service launched with a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and supported by a coalition of science and engineering societies with the goal of bringing the latest science news to a general audience that is underserved with quality science reporting. DBIS provides its news reports to local television newscasts. Local television news is the medium by which about 40 percent of the American public gets its news, and 44 percent of American adults watch local television news as their top source of science and technology information, according to NSF’s 2006 Science and Engineering Indicators. JHSB released its first segment reporting on research findings from the social sciences. The news report, available at www.4ip.org/dbis/ stories/20090212, resulted from the research of Purdue sociologists Markus Schaffer and Kenneth Ferraro surrounding the connection between obesity and hospitalizations. The article, “Obesity and Hospitalization Over The Adult Life Course: Does Duration of Exposure Increase Use?”, appeared in the December 2007 issue of *JHSB*. ASA is continuing to work with DBIS to ensure that pertinent sociological research is covered by local broadcast media. Stay tuned!
**San Francisco**

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“The Chaotic Society: Product of the Social Morphological Revolution”

In the advance of the 1969 meeting, sociologists elected as 56th president Arnold Rose, who had a long career at Minnesota. He was as much if not more of an “activist” in race relations, civil rights, school desegregation, and the labor movement as in academic affairs. Tragically, terminal cancer took his life before he could take office, but the ASA Council decreed that Rose should be taken as President. Accordingly, his already prepared presidential address, “Varieties of Sociological Imagination” was read in San Francisco by his wife, Caroline Rose (and published in the October 1969 issue of the American Sociological Review).

On short notice, Ralph Turner became ASA President.

**Social Context**

Before the ASA Annual Meeting in September, 1969 saw tumultuous events taking place on college campuses, throughout the United States, and abroad. In January, Richard Nixon, hardly a favorite of academia, took office as the 37th U.S. President, and martial law was declared in Madrid and the university closed. In February, the radical Front de Liberation du Quebec bombed the Montreal Stock Exchange; in April members of the Students for Democratic Society (SDS) announced a disengagement of the United States in Southeast Asia, the cultural scene was rocked in August by the Woodstock Festival in New York State, and by the desegregational killings in California by the Manson Family cult. Lastly, the first week in September (when ASA met) saw news of the My Lai massacre with an American military charged with premeditated murder for the slaughter of 109 Vietnamese civilians, victims of torture (and collateral damage). This served as further fodder for the anti-war movement, which mobilized students across the United States (and elsewhere in Europe).

ASA in 1969 San Francisco

Perhaps reflecting the mood of the country, there was an “establishment” annual meeting and a “rump” meeting. The latter was organized by students who found a nearby church as a “sanctuary” from the official program of activities, the latter held at the comfortable Hilton Hotel. I signed in at the registration desk, and then wandered around looking at the various display tables, noting the diversity of professional and non-professional literature, advertisements, pamphlets. I noticed a flyer announcing that students had organized a session in honor of Pitirim A. Sorokin that afternoon at a nearby community church. I had been his teaching assistant at Harvard, and enjoyed a long friendship with him (despite his nemesis, Talcott Parsons, being my thesis advisor). Sorokin, like Arnold Rose, had taught at Minnesota, and also like Rose, had died of cancer in 1968. Leaving the Hilton and the more staid sessions in progress, I went to the student gathering. Dozens of students—perhaps hundreds—proudly displayed buttons, which I have kept to this day. The three buttons in greatest display proclaimed: “Sorokin Lives!”, “Sociology Liberation Movement,” and “Revolution not Counter-Insurgency.”

The last referred to the medical use of social science research in ascertaining the appeal and strength of insurgents—actual or potential—in other countries, most notably in Latin America, which had equally violent protest movements in the later 1960s. “Project Camelot” had been exposed in 1965 and together with the Vietnam War provided radical sociology students with an important target for anti-military feel- ings. But why would the “Sociology Liberation Movement” adopt Sorokin’s term “thematic”? Sorokin’s posthumous attraction for radical students was multifaceted: He himself had been a student sentenced to death for revolutionary activities in Tsarist Russia; he had been a maverick, anti-establishment figure during Parsons’ hegemonic years; in his later writings he concerned the power elite, yet still elected 55th President of ASA on the first write-in campaign in ASA history; and as a badge of honor, he had been bitterly opposed all along to the Vietnam War. For more details, see Barry Johnstone’s excellent Pitirim Sorokin, an Intellectual Biography, 1995.

The students had taken the initiative to organize a panel session in his honor, with a distinguished panel speaking about different facets of Sorokin’s voluminous life and work. I listened and appreciated the testimonies about Sorokin, his commitment to sociology and social justice, nuclear disarmament, and other laudable causes. Then came the last speaker, perhaps the most imposing figure in sociological theory after Parsons at the time, Alvin Gouldner. Gouldner strode on the stage, and startled us all—faculty, students, and non-sociologists attending this event—by deriding and mocking Sorokin. “To paraphrase, Gouldner said there have been only two radicals in the social sciences Marx, who is now dead, and himself, who is alive. Gouldner’s ill-timed remarks brought consternation to the jowly gathering, and left a bad taste in the mouth of all, save perhaps his devotees. This may have been a preview of his next target, Parsons, in The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology, which came out the following year. And, in 1970, with Reinhard Bendix as ASA President and with the United States entering a new policy toward Asia, the Annual Meeting (and the country) returned slowly to more normal conditions, although far from being drab.

As I reflect on San Francisco 1969, I like to think the tumult, conflicts, and challenges of the crisis of that period laid the foundation for this year’s ASA theme of “The New Politics of Community.” There was then, implicitly if not overtly, a search for a new community with “a variety of contradictory meanings and around which diverse activities, feelings and understanding occur” (to quote from this year’s theme description). The student grass-roots “Sociology Liberation Movement” did well to seek the recon- structing of the sociology community, and in my opinion, did well to select Pitirim Sorokin as an icon (and we all would do well to read his presidential address, “Sociology of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” published in ASR, December 1965). Yes, I plan to wear my 1969 buttons at our 2009 meetings!

Edward A. Tiryakian can be reached at Dunkh@soc.duke.edu

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**ASA Forum**

for public discussion and debate

**Putting Theory First**

I take issue with Sally Hillsman’s argument in the November 2008 Footnotes Executive Officer column. She stated that “there is strength in diversity” and that “research suggests that tapping and nurturing a diversity of perspectives and talents in science increases complexity of our threatening social problems “is the promise of sociology. “ His reference to the importance of the theoretical breadth of the classical sociologists, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and Simmel— for inspiration at this time of what I see as escalating problems throughout the world. We can also gain inspiration from several more contemporary sociologists, such as Mills, Gouldner, and Wallin. It is essential that we learn to penetrate human complexity if we expect to follow through on the promise of sociology for becoming a genuinely public science. Mills wrote in The Sociological Imagination that the failure of social scientists to confront our threatening social problems “is the great social tragedy and is the tragedy being committed by privileged men in our times” (176). Yet our discipline need not continue to fail society during its time of need.

Hillman refers to the name change of the section on Sociological Practice to Sociological Practice and Public Sociology. I applaud that change, but I find it a species of lip service that is not backed up by the theoretical breadth of the papers in that section, granting that such a failure exists throughout the discipline. As a co-founder of that section, I was appalled by the theoretical narrowness of members and left as a result. Our physical and biological technologies, our engineers and physicians must follow the scientific ideal of exploring all relevant variables in order to be effective, granting they could do more cross-fertilization. The same is true for our educators, political leaders, journalists, social workers, business people, and psychotherapists. Yet we sociologists— like other social scientists— have failed to use our act together.

It was Mills and Gouldner who suggested the path to fulfill what Mills called “the promise of sociology.” His sociological imagination, and the vague, points toward the breadth that each one of us—not simply the discipline—requires. And Mills’ idea of the importance of shutting up and down language’s ladder of abstraction points to the importance of general theory. Gouldner’s call for a “reflexive sociology” in The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology (1970) suggests that we look to the contradiction between our own ideals and practices, such as the violation of the scientific method by our specializations coupled with limited communication across specialized areas. His reference to the importance of the “background assumptions” behind the theory suggests that we examine our metaphysical assumptions, just as Thomas Kuhn suggested that we look to the paradigms that shape scientific theories. This call for a focus on the “extraordinar- y language” of social science suggests that we act toward integrating our theories—combining concepts “to mediate between the deficient understanding of the ordinary language and the different and liberating perspectives of the extraordinary languages of social theory.” This gives practitioners a solid basis on which to make progress on our humongous problems.

Bernard Phillips, bernieflps@aol.com, www.sociological-imagination.org
**New NIH Program**

Discussing the effort to make the elimination of health disparities a priority across NIH, NCMBH director John Ruffin presented over a panel, chaired by Mary Woolley of ResearchAmerica. The panel also included NIH Acting Director Raymond Kington, former NCMBH Director Harold Varmas and Bernadine Healey, as well as former HHS Secretary Sylvia R. Burwell and Surgeon General David Satcher, and NCMBH Deputy Director Joyce Hunter.

“This is the first time since the establishment of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities that all of the NIH institutes and centers and their partners have come together to collectively showcase the breadth of our accomplishments in health disparities,” explained Ruffin.

To much applause, Kington announced the newly approved enhancement and reorganization of the NCMBH's NIH intramural research program on eliminating health disparities. The expanded NIH-campus- and disparity-community program will be comprised of two major aspects: a five-year health disparities career development element, and (2) a health disparities research intervention element, in which, biological and behavioral aspects of health disparities will be examined.

Kington referred to W.E. Dubois' *The Philadelphia Negro*, describing his chapter on “health that included a discussion of the social factors that might account for the poor status of health among African Americans in the late 1800s.*

Dubois was in charge of an annual conference to address the problems of the African American population in the country at the time, Kington said, which he steered increasingly toward science.

“He had tremendous faith in the ability of science to solve the Negro problems, as they were called then, problems of disparities between Black and White populations that ranged from economics and education to morbidity and mortality.”

“However, this was, a time not only of deep racism but also of growing scientific racism, the belief that such disparities were somehow virtually impossible to be made but that it could only be made by following scientific methods,” Du Bois’ argument “could serve as a charge for our efforts to integrate science and policy in the elimination of health dis- parities today,” Kington concluded.

**Awards to Sociologists**

Among the award semifinalists honored at the gala were sociologists David Takeuchi and James S. Jackson, who received a Health Disparities Innovation Award for their work with colleagues Margaret A. Braithwaite on the National Survey of American Lives.

NCMBH is the focal point for leading the planning and coordination of minority health disparities research within NIH, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The NCMBH is authorized to head the development and updating of the NIH health disparities research agenda. In 2002, NCMBH, in collaboration with NIH's 27 institutes and centers and the Office of the Director, developed the first comprehensive NIH health disparities strategic plan: NIH Strategic Research Plan and Budget to Reduce and Ultimately Eliminate Health Disparities, Fiscal Years 2002-2006. It was developed with involvement of academic, health care professionals, and representa- tives of affected communities and the fact that large segments of populations in the United States and currently struggle to diagnose, treat, and control the disease, disability, and illness.

**See more information, disparities facts, and video and audio archives of the meeting at <www.ncmbh.nih.gov>**.

For research opportunities, see NCMBH's Request for Applications (RFA-MD-09-004).


**July 11-17, 2010. XVI IA World Congress of Sociology RSCJ Program, Gothenburg, Sweden. For more information, visit <www.sisa-society.org/congress/2010/ nch32.htm>**.

**Funding**

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), invites applications from eligible institutions to conduct health disparities-related research, training, and symposia with community organiza- tions. The primary objective of this FOA is to assess the benefit of bringing community organizations and academic institutions/organizations together to identify opportunities for Community- Based Participatory Research (CBPR). They may include (but are not limited to) public schools, community-based organizations, community health centers, and/or advocacy groups. The purpose of the FOA is to identify important community partners, establish community research priorities, and to develop a long-term CBPR agenda. It is expected that the academic-community partnerships developed through this in-

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**Note**

The editors of invite scholars from all disciplines, activists, and practitioners of restorative justice to submit an essay title and abstract for a special issue on “Celebrating the 35th Birthday of Restorative Justice” Those with ques- tions or interested in participating in their work for this special issue of RJ should contact Dan Okada at dokada@csus.edu. The editors are interested in and seek to be informed of work that should be included in this special issue and request short, topic-oriented abstracts to be a part of the project. For more information, visit <www.restorativejusticeconference.com>.

**Meetings**

April 1-4, 2009: 10th Annual Conference on Mixed Privilege (WPC 10), Hilton Mem- phis. Theme: “Understanding, Respect- ing, and Connecting” The Conference is a program of The Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. For more information, visit <www.uccs.edu/AcademicsDocs/CC_Hisp/Announcements_Call For_Papers.pdf>


June 28-30, 2009: AcademyHealth 2009 Annual Research Meeting, Chicago, IL. Sociologists interested in all aspects of healthcare institutions, practice, policy, and outcomes are welcome. For more information, visit <www.academyhealth.org>.


**Footnotes**

**March 2009**

Footnotes. From page 9

the current fiscal and monetary crises. They are now distancing themselves, say many, “well, we didn’t know how to imple- ment them.”

Second, Karl Marx’s “conflict theory” addressed etiologies as social levers or weapons used by groups to further their political and economic interests for power and advantage, said Takeuchi. Boundaries emerging from such informal mechanisms wield powerful influence. “In sociology, those who focus on medical soci- ology are often called too applied. That is, we’re not sociological enough. It creates this boundary around what is sociology.” Takeuchi suggests blurring boundaries through incentives. For example, NIH’s recent attempt to engage researchers and community organiza- tions in community-academic research partnerships is excellent, he said.

Mary Woolley of ResearchAmerica, James S. Jackson, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, and Amy Schull, University of Michigan School of Public Health, participated as speakers to break open the black box of the at- matic track sessions at the summit as well Jackson spoke on the topic of disentangling race, immigration, culture and ethnicity effects on disparities in mental disorders.
be a Part of the Action
Show your support for the ASA by staying within the ASA block. For more information, visit <www.asanet.org>.

March 2009

Hotel rates at the ASA properties are some of the most competitive in the area and rooms sell out fast. The ASA understands those concerns and has partnered with the meeting hotels to offer you a competitive hotel rate and incentives that will help stretch your travel dollar. Staying within the ASA block allows us to share with each other during those informal moments in the city or over the Annual Meeting.”

Support Your Association

Footnotes

American Sociology Association

Netherlands is pleased to announce a 5% discount on the CNet.com blog, “The Digital Home.” Elsewhere, U.S.A.: How We Got There, by Charles Gallagher, La Salle University, was quoted in a January 21 Associated Press story about the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Gallagher discussed the impact of a down economy on the impoverished. The article was published widely in print and online news outlets in the United States. He was also quoted on November 9 in the New Orleans Times-Picayune about the role of race and economy in the election of President Obama.

Donna B. Raybill, Elizabethtown College, was quoted in an article on Asian businesses which appeared in the January 9 New York Times.

Sociology of Education

Sandra L. Hanson, Catholic University, was quoted in an article about near-death experiences. She is author of Worst Cases: Terror and Disease, published in the January 18 Washington Post.

Jennifer Lena, Vanderbilt University, was quoted in a January 25 Chicago Tribune article about youth culture and the Obama presidency.

Christopher J. Schneider, University of British Columbia-Okanagan, was quoted in a January 26 Maclean’s magazine article about cell phone ring tones. He was interviewed on Kelowna’s (B.C. British Columbia, Canada) AM1150 Early Edition Radio, and he also recently gave a guest on the Cana- dian Broadcasting Corporation Radio’s Daybreak discussing BlackBerry and laptop-computer use during city council meetings.

Jerome J. Snyder, Baruch College, had his book Grief Lives discussed in a Janu- ary 27 piece in New York Times Academic magazine. The book is about the impact of a down economy on young people and the effect it has on their trajectory to success in college.

Charles Gallagher, La Salle University, was quoted in a January 19 Associated Press story about the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Gallagher discussed the impact of a down economy on the impoverished. The article was published widely in print and online news outlets in the United States. He was also quoted on November 9 in the New Orleans Times-Picayune about the role of race and economy in the election of President Obama.

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news websites such as CNBC.com and MSNBC.com.

Medical Sociology
Nicholas Christakis, Harvard University, was a guest to discuss nut allergies on The Conversation, a radio show produced by RNWFM, a Public Radio Interna
tional affiliate in Seattle.

Organizations, Occupations & Work
An article on the Husband of Houston, who had "role exit" theory cited in a January 25 Inside Higher Ed article that reported on the research of Jeffrey Breese, Marymount University, who found that people's identi
ties are as shaped by the positions they left as by the positions they enter.

Peter Dreier, Occidental College, discussed the Service Employees Interna
tional Union in a December 31 Los Angeles Times article. He wrote about a sit-in at a Chicago factory in the Febru
ary issue of LA's La Diplomate, the December 9 Huffington Post, and the 12 January 17 Dissonent: He authored an article about labor law reform in the December 2 American Prospect.

Michael Sauder, University of Iowa, and Wendy Nelson Espeland, Northwestern University, asserted that their American Socio

Bruce Western, Harvard University, had his research on income inequality detailed within a January 21 Wall Street Journal.com article that appeared on the Yahoo/News website. Western's study appeared in the December American Sociological Review.

Political Economy of the World System
Ching Kwan Lee, University of California-
Los Angeles, was quoted in the January 30 edition of Science magazine regarding civil unrest in China. Lee authored an ar
ticle about the growing rights revolution in that country in the summer 2008 issue of Contexts.

Anthony P. Maiorga, Florida Interna
tional University, was interviewed on a piece about the admission of Cuba to the G8 Group in mid-November. The column also appeared in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on January 12.

Christina Schnitzler, Georgetown Univer
sity, was quoted in an Associated Press article regarding the evolving social impact that the Affordable Care Act has discussed and how technology influences reputations in the digital age.

Peter Dreier, Occidental College, was cited for his work collaborating on a report about the impact of privatization on mortality rates in post-invasio

Immanuel Wallerstein, Yale University, was interviewed about capitalism and the global financial crisis in a January 15 discussion on the website of the History News Network.

Political Sociology
Daniel B. Cornfield, Vanderbilt Univer
sity, was quoted in a New York Times article about a city proposal to limit communication to English in Newcastle. He suggested that anti-immigrant senti
ment grew as the economy weakened.

Sandra Patino, University of Colorado-
Denver, was quoted in a January 14 CNN.com article about the impact on mortality rates in post-invasio

Paula England, Columbia University, was quoted in a January 12 question and answer column on the website of the History News Network.

Political Sociology
Daniel B. Cornfield, Vanderbilt Univer
sity, was quoted in a January 19 front-page article in the Chicago Tribune discussing quality of life. He mentioned the importance of health care and education and discussed the political feasibil
ity of the Obama Administration's energy initiatives immediately following the president's January 28 speech laying out his agenda.

Michael Eric Dyson, Georgetown Univer
sity, published an opinion piece in the January 18 Washington Post Outlook sec
tion about President Obama's word usage in pre-election speeches and debates.

Paul Hollander, University of Massachus
sets, spoke about a global decline in anti-
Americanism in an article in the January 21 International Herald Tribune.

Tomas R. Jimenez, Stanford University, authored an opinion piece in the January 23 San Francisco Chronicle. He said that the United States needs an immigrant policy, not an immigration policy.

Amitava Kumar, MIT, was featured on WGBH Radio in New York to talk about the Obama presidency and political challenges in Africa on Janu
ary 8.

Michael W. Macy, Cornell University, dis
cussed political homophily in a January 20 Washington Post article.

John Skrentny, University of California-
San Diego, authored an op-ed in the October 1 San Diego Union-Tribune. The article explored the cultural identities of the crucial swing voters of the Rust Belt.

Doug Snyder, Maryland Legal Services, was quoted in a January 15 Front Page Washington Post article. The quote was drawn from Snyder's letter to the editor which, according to the Baltimore Sun, was read by a federal judge. The letter was submitted as evidence to the 1995 Voting Rights Act.

Race, Gender, and Class
Joe Feagin, Texas A&M University, and Sharon Cotton, Northeastern University, were cited in a January 24 Newsweek article about race and class.

Derek Taira, University of Colorado-
Colorado Springs, has a regular blog that appears in the Huffington Post.

Charles Gallagher, La Salle University, was interviewed about his findings surrounding women and divorce discussed in a February 1 San francisco Chronicle article. The article also quoted Paulina England, Stanford University, who commented about cohabitating Americans.

S. Philip Morgan, Duke University, discussed the potential for a recession-
based fertility drop in a January 15 MNBIC.com article.

Virginia Rutter, Framingham State College, was quoted in a January 2 Boston Globe Sunday Magazine article about marital intimacy.

Pepper Schwartz, University of Washing
ton, was quoted in a January 29 New York Times magazine article about the rela

tionship between mothers and fathers.

International Migration
Andrew Beveridge, Queens College, was interviewed for a January 27 New York Times story on the views of new New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand on immigration.

Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan, was cited in a Pravda, Slovakia, publica

tion on November 4, 2008. His talk was titled “Is There Hope for America’s Cities?”

Sharon Araj, University of Colorado-
Denver, was elected the 2010-2011 President of the Pacific Sociological Association.

Don Barnett, California State University-
San Marcos, was quoted in the 2010-2011 Vice President of the Pacific Sociological Association.

Peter Dreier, Occidental College, was invited to give the annual Urban Studies Lecture at the University of Pennsylvania on November 14, 2008. His talk was titled “Is There Hope for America’s Cities?”

Glen H. Elder, Jr., University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, was elected the 2010-2011 President of the Southern Sociological Society.

Richard Sennett, London School of Eco
nomics, has been reserved for architects and urban designers. The special issue, “Glen H. Elder, Jr., and the Importance of Livable Environments,” was edited by Michael Eric Dyson, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, is Volume 12 Number 4 October-December 2008.

Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan, was the keynote speaker at a conference on immigration organized by the Uni

versidad de America in Spain, December 17-18, 2008.

Antonio Rosseti, University of Colorado-
Denver, was elected the 2010-2011 Vice President of the Pacific Sociological Association.

People
Jeffrey A. Cressy, Yale Univer
sity, was named Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Library of Congress John W. Hay Center.

Aldon Morris, Northwestern University, was quoted in a January 19 article in the Wichita Enquirer in which he discussed the significance of Barack Obama's inaugura

tion. Susan Pearce, Eastern Carolina Univer
sity, commented on a December 19 article. She discussed the role of parents in shaping the children's qualities that children want to emulate.

Mary Bernstein, University of Connecti
cut, was quoted in the Hartford Courant on November 12 about Connecticut’s new same-sex marriage legislation. She was also quoted in the Chicago Tribune, paper El Diario on February 4 about her research on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender movement.

Lauren Carpenter, Vanderbilt University, was quoted in a January 22 CNN.com article about a woman who was attempting to auction off her virginity.

Melissa Embser-Herbert, Hamline University, was quoted in an article in the January 13 San Francisco Chronicle about the President Obama’s plans regarding the new “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

Kristen Schilt, University of Chicago, had her research on how when transgender people become women, the pay drops, and when they become women, their pay rises published in Time and Ms. Magazine.

Meiyi Wang, University of Colorado-
Denver, was interviewed for the January 15 National Public Radio show On Point about the release of a revised edition of The Joy of Sex.
Other Organizations

International Sociological Association
Search for Editor. The present for the current Sociological Monograph and of the Sagar Studies in International Sociology Book Prize is available from the American Sociological Association. The new editor will take on responsibilities six months after the search committee has made a final decision, and information can be found at www.asanet.org/search/for-editor.htm.

Caught in the Web

WGBH Media Library and Archives has made available the findings of its Assessment for Scholarly Use, an examination of the public broadcaster’s television and radio holdings that date back 50 years. The project sought to determine the educational value of WGBH’s archival collection for academic research and instruction by designing a model assessment tool and methodology available to researchers seeking to survey WGBH’s audio-visual collections. The report and model assessment tool are now available at Open Vault, a searchable online digital library featuring 1,200 multimedia clips. Anyone using the tool can report back to the site, and the report can be found at “About Us” at www.openvault.wgbh.org.

New Programs

PhD in Sociology, University of South Florida. The PhD in Sociology emphasizes research, teaching, and scholarship related specifically to the sociological study of communities in Global and Urban Environments. Designed to prepare students to engage in research and teaching that focus on the post-industrial urban environment, the program requires at least 60 credit hours beyond the MA and includes an interdisciplinary professional sequence, independent core requirements, disciplinary electives, interdisciplinary electives, a capstone interdisciplinary seminar, and a dissertation. The program is currently accepting applications for the Fall 2009 term. For more information, visit dss.socsf.usf.edu – “sociology uf.edu”.

Summer Programs

ICPSR Summer Program Workshop Data User Training for the NICHD Study of Early Child and Youth Development, July 8-10, 2009. The Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research is workshop to train researchers to access, analyze, and use the datasets of the Eunice Kennedy Society. The program is conducted as a workshop of the ICPSR data collection efforts. In this workshop, participants will learn about the most appropriate methods for analyzing and about cutting-edge analytic methods. The expected outcome of the course is for participants to be able to independently use train others to use the ICPSR databases for original scholarship and publication. Application deadline: May 1, 2009. All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation. For more information, contact Center for Planning, 733 Hathaway (733: 651-9529; rhayward@icpsr.umich.edu)

ICPSR Workshop on Sentencing and Other Federal Case Data Analysis, July 20-22, 2009. The Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, in partnership with the U.S. Sentencing Commission, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the National Institute of Justice is introducing a four-day workshop on sentencing and other federal case data analysis. The purpose is to promote federal court research by improving understanding of case processing through the analysis of federal case data collected by BJS Federal Justice Statistics Program, and knowledge of multi-level and multi-angle analysis of data. Support for non-federal employees will be made available. For more information on the call for applicants, see the following website. Application Deadline: April 27, 2009. For more information, visit www.icpsr.umich.edu/programs/icpsr-data-workshop.htm.

Deaths

Peter Kollock, a 25-year ASA member and a Sociology Professor at the University of California Los Angeles, was killed January 10 in a motorcycle accident near his home in Calabasas, CA. He was 49.

G. William Skinner, University of California San Diego, a social psychologist and MacArthur fellow in 2000, was a pioneering social scientist who has turned his attention to issues of the public sphere and accountability. He passed away on October 25, 2008.

Obituaries

David A. Ward 1943-2008

David Andrew Ward died suddenly on December 6, 2008, at the age of 65. D. Ward was a faculty member in the Department of Sociology at Washington State University and Clements was a member of the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia from 1994-96. He is also a founder member of the journal Crime, Law and Social Change. A sociologist specializing in deviance, David was the author of three books and more than 20 articles on crime, drug use, and alcoholism. During early doctoral scholarship contributions were primarily concerned with alcohol use and addiction, but he later developed a distinctive approach to the study of deviance, the effects of labels on future behavior, labeling theory, and the sociology of the self control process. He was responsible for one of the clearest experimental studies of the effects of externalization on college students’ self-concept. In that experiment he and his colleagues (Michael Krieger and John Benbow) asked a group of individuals to discuss a situation in which structural equation modeling was employed to assess causation in the association between deviant labels and deviant behavior. Finally, David’s several articles on self control theory, using Oklahoma City Survey data, came to be widely cited. In addition to his work as a scholar, David was especially remembered for his contributions to the community. He was a gifted lecturer who taught in a wide variety of classroom settings ranging from traditional lecture halls to prisoner halls. David was tireless in working with his students individually and in groups. He was always willing to work with them to help them understand their own lives and the society in which they live. He was known for his teaching in the criminal justice system, his commitment to working with the incarcerated, and his dedication to helping others reach a decision. For more information, please visit www.sociology.washington.edu.

James Rutland Wood 1933-2008

James Rutland Wood, Professor of Sociology Emeritus at University of Delaware, Bloomington, died December 8, 2008, at his home in Bloomington, IN. He was born June 18, 1933, in Vina, AL. His parents, grandparents, and great-aunts and uncles were public school teachers or Methodist ministers.

Jim received his bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of Alabama where he graduated magna cum laude and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1956, he earned his Master of Divinity degree from Yale University. He returned to Alabama as a Methodist minister and was the founding pastor of Edgemont United Methodist Church in Florence, AL. In 1960, he received his PhD in sociology.

In his 30-year career at sociology at Indiana University beginning in 1967, Jim worked as an organizational theorist and conducted research on organizational management, organizational change, and occupational roles. His work was leadership amid controversy: Jim worked to improve the criminal justice system through systematic research and policy analysis.

Studies include his 1999 study of students in a research class. His research on labeling was in collaboration with Thomas G. Dabney, Jr., University of Kentucky and Paolo Papacchini, of the University of Bath, England. Some of his current work was heavily influenced by the work of the Vera Institute of Justice and later at the New York City Criminal Justice Agency. In New York, his research helped to advance the Civic University of Alternatives in New York City. He was one of the early researchers to incorporate programs and his work on crime prediction instruments helped to improve the processing of juvenile offenders. He was a member of the ASQ and for just the real world. He was the author of four books and had published over 100 articles. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Myrmek Revel Wood, his daughter, Lillette Pratter, and son-in-law, Daniel Pratter; his son, James Rutland Wood, III; his sister, Myra Kolokay-Wood; and by his grandchildren, Myra Kolokay-Wood, Mary Wood, and Eric Wood. He is also survived by his son-in-law, Robert Wood, and sister-in-law, Myra Kolokay-Wood. He is also survived by his daughter, Lillette Pratter, and son-in-law, Daniel Pratter.

James Rutland Wood

William A. Corsini, University of Bloomington, with help from Jim G. Myrick, prepared the obituary.

American Sociological Association@2009
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