Congressional Briefing on Aging in Rural America: 21st Century Trends

E. Helen Berry, Utah State University and Nina Glasgow, Cornell University

Once rural America was young; now it is a lot older, resulting in opportunities and challenges for nonmetropolitan areas. The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) hosted a congressional briefing in Washington, DC, on June 20, 2013, that addressed those prospects.

In an overview at the briefing, Nina Glasgow (Cornell University) observed that, in 2012, nearly 17 percent of the nonmetropolitan population was age 65 or older compared with only 13 percent in metropolitan areas. The last of the baby boomers will reach age 65 by 2030 and will outlive the next of the baby boomers who were born in 1960 by 22 years. Rural counties, primarily in the South and West, receive internal immigration from well-to-do retirees.

Manuscript Review Strategies

David Brunsma, Virginia Tech; Monica Prasad, Northwestern University; Ezra Zuckerman, MIT

In August 2011 the ASA Council appointed an ad hoc committee to investigate manuscript review times in journals. The subcommittee identified several areas in need of improvement, such as presenting more accurate measures of editorial lag statistics. Another recommendation was that ASA interview reviewers nominated by editors as unusually skilled and then create and publicize a document summarizing these reviewers' strategies for reviewing articles thoroughly and in a timely manner. The subcommittee's full report on "best reviewer practices" is available at <www.asanet.org/about/Council_Reports.cfm>. After identifying the standout reviewers of ASA and non-ASA journals, the three of us conducted these "interviews" over email with a total of 26 reviewers. We asked:

1. How long does it take you to review a manuscript on average, counting only time actually spent reviewing the manuscript (i.e., only the net work time)?
2. Are there standard things that you look for, or standard issues that crop up with manuscripts?
3. What are your strategies for reviewing the manuscript quickly?
4. What are your strategies for reviewing the manuscript thoroughly?

We note that, because we did not attempt to identify average or poor reviewers and compare them with these good reviewers, we have no way of knowing whether these good reviewers' stated strategies actually contributed to their reputation for providing high-quality, fast reviews. Our aim in this project was not to assess causation, so much as to start a conversation on this central but invisible task of our profession. As one respondent noted, "Manuscript reviewing must be one of the most important, least formally trained invisible task of our profession. As one respondent noted, "Manuscript reviewing must be one of the most important, least formally trained invisible task of our profession."

Major ASA Award Recipients Honored in New York City

The American Sociological Association (ASA) presented the 2013 major awards at this year's Annual Meeting on August 12 in New York City. The Awards Ceremony, followed by the Presidential Address, was well attended. These awards are given to sociologists for their outstanding publications, achievements in the scholarship, teaching, and practice of sociology, as well as for their overall advancement of the discipline. Below are the profiles of the award winners. The profiles of the Dissertation co-winners will appear in the December issue.

W.E.B. DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award

Joe R. Feagin, Texas A&M University

W.E.B. DuBois is one of Joe Feagin's sociological heroes. Feagin's...
Congressional Impasse and Government Shutdown Hurts Science and the Nation

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Career Fair (see page 3 for ASAs participation) was one of the last public engagement programs the National Science Foundation (NSF) participated in prior to the October 1, 2013, federal government shutdown, which lasted 16 days. While this STEM Career Fair occurred in a suburban Washington, DC, shopping mall with thousands of eager children participating, events like this occur throughout the country most weekends of the year. Federal agencies like the U.S. Census Bureau; NASA, NOAA, Department of Energy, EPA, and National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsor and participate in these events regularly to help the public, especially younger students and teens, gain an appreciation for science and a better understanding of the numerous science careers available to them. Students may be inspired by these events and among them are our nation’s future innovators.

Because of the federal government shutdown, these worthwhile events were diminished in scope and impact and even cancelled. Will some children choose a different career path because they were not exposed to science outside the classroom or could not sustain their initial interest?

During the shutdown, students from elementary school to graduate school were unable to use the latest online and widely accessed government data because of the shutdown. Elementary school children (including one of our own ASA staff kids) were unable to access NOAA maps as they researched our world’s oceans; college courses and class projects that examined data collection saw their assignments altered because of unavailable resources (“Government Shutdown Reaches into the Classroom,” October 4, 2013, The Chronicle of Higher Education); and, middle school-age children saw class trips to Washington, DC, cancelled because our National Mall, Smithsonian Museums, and historic monuments were closed and barricaded.

Not just kids, but sociological science impacted

Obviously, students were not the only ones hurt from the government shutdown, but the younger among them are newer to science and politics. ASA members and other researchers faced significant difficulties as well. With only 40 federal employees at the Census Bureau headquarters, the Bureau’s work stopped. Sociologists and other data users across the country could not access the Census Bureau’s demographic and socioeconomic data. Federal data-collection was halted, including the American Community Survey (ACS) and Current Population Survey (CPS), which means that unemployment and other labor force reports will be delayed or cancelled. Analysis for widely used data products, including ACS estimates for 2012, was put on hold, delaying the availability of this information for months. The resulting gaps in social data and other scientific data (e.g., Antarctic research because the U.S. scientists were stuck in budget limbo) will haunt scientists for a very long time. According to an article in Politico, “[T]hese data, the observations are all just gone forever. We never get them back,’ said Hugh Ducklow, an oceanographer and professor at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.”1

Research proposals at NSF, NIH, and other agencies were not examined, funded, or otherwise supported. NIH, for instance, operated with over 70 percent of its employees furloughed. The approximately 30 percent of employees who continued to work at NIH maintained intramural experiments, cared for patients, provided security and other tasks. NSF had even fewer staff on hand. Because of this, research money did not make its way to investigators—closing facilities and putting research on hold.

And the future of public service too

The shutdown took a personal toll on the more than 800,000 furloughed employees. While federal employees will receive retroactive pay, they did not receive full paychecks until after the shutdown ended. The many more federal contractors are unlikely to see any retroactive pay. Federal employees scrambled to find money to pay mortgages, college tuition, and other debts. The national newspapers reported on the many workers who dipped into their retirement or leveraged their home equity to cover expenses, or missed a rent payment and had to take their kids and move in with parents. The press also reported on those Americans who believe the shutdown had no negative consequences. I guess these folks didn’t notice that preparation for the flu season by the Centers for Disease Control is significantly behind schedule; many die from the flu each year in the United States, especially children and the elderly.

In addition to financial stress, growing negative morale among federal employees strengthened. Having someone identify your work as “non-essential,” not knowing when you will be returning to work, and being used as a pawn in a political game weighed heavily on federal employees. In addition, when employees went back to work they faced more than two weeks of backlogged projects and work in their inboxes. The spirit of pride at serving your country through federal service—civil service, appointed or elected—is eroding so quickly one wonders who will fill these vital roles on behalf of our nation in the coming years. I know this personally; I and many of my professional colleagues have served one or more of these roles.

Not the Way to Govern or Advance Science

It is now apparent that shutting the federal government (and holding the debt default hostage) was an attempt to achieve a narrow political objective. This type of governing is short-sighted and deeply damaging, especially to long-term national commitments such as our investment in science. This past several weeks has done damage, some of which is not repairable, but it is also a scary precedent.

Shutting down the nation’s government by a few elected leaders is difficult to reconcile with a modern democratic society. When they caused the shutdown, they failed to act in the best interest of our nation and the American people.

Share Your Shutdown Story

The federal government shutdown affected all of us. At first the shutdown did not appear to have a lasting negative impact, but its ripples soon became waves. Share your story with us so that we can help Congress understand that forcing a shutdown of the government is not an appropriate legislative choice. Comment on our Facebook page, via Twitter at @ASAnews, or via email at public.affairs@asanet.org.

(Endnotes)

1. Politico: Shutdown's science fallout could last for years, by Darren Samuelsohn, October 17, 2013.
The Future of the Sociology of Aging: An Agenda for Action

The aging of the population of the United States is occurring at a time of major economic and social changes. These economic changes include consideration of increases in the age of eligibility for Social Security and Medicare and possible changes in benefit levels. Sociology offers a knowledge base, a number of useful analytic approaches and tools, unique theoretical perspectives that can facilitate understanding of these demographic, economic, and social changes, and, to the extent possible, their causes, consequences, and implications. The National Academy of Science publication The Future of the Sociology of Aging: An Agenda for Action evaluates the recent contributions of social demography, social epidemiology, and sociology to the study of aging and identifies promising new research directions in these sub-fields. Included in this study, authored by sociologist Linda J. Waite, are nine papers prepared by experts in sociology, demography, social genomics, public health, and other fields, that highlight the broad array of tools and perspectives that can provide the basis for further advancing the understanding of aging processes in ways that can inform policy. For more information, see <www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13473>.

Census: Asians Fastest-Growing Race or Ethnic Group in 2012

In 2012, Asians became the fastest-growing ethnic group in the country, the Census Bureau reports. The United States’ Asian population grew by 530,000, or a 2.9 percent increase, to 18.9 million. Over 60 percent of the Asian population growth came from international migration. California had the largest Asian population of any state, with 6 million in July 2012, a 136,000 increase since the previous year. Hawaii is the only state with an Asian majority, with over 56 percent of the state’s population claiming Asian ancestry. Los Angeles county had the largest Asian population of any county in the United States, with 1.6 million. Honolulu County had the highest percentage of Asians, 60.9. In direct comparison, and the country’s largest minority group, Hispanics, grew by 2.2 percent, or by 1.1 million, to over 53 million. Hispanic population growth was largely supported by natural increase (births minus deaths), which accounted for 76 percent of Hispanic population growth. Hispanics account for 17 percent of the country’s population, and remain the second largest ethnic group (after non-Hispanic whites). “Asians and Hispanics have long been among our nation’s fastest-growing race or ethnic groups,” said Thomas Mesenbourg, the Census Bureau’s acting director. In total, the nation’s minority population increased by 1.9 percent, to 116 million, or 37 percent of nation’s 300 plus million citizens. A little over 11 percent (353) of the nation’s 3,142 counties were majority minority. In the last year, an additional six counties have become minority-majority counties. For more information, see <www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/cb13-112.html>.

Toolkit for Community Conversations about Mental Health

SAMHSA designed The Toolkit for Community Conversations About Mental Health as a resource to help those interested in holding a community dialogue about mental health. SAMHSA works to improve the quality and availability of substance abuse prevention, alcohol and drug addiction treatment, and mental health services. The Toolkit is composed of three parts that will help communities and groups plan and facilitate a dialogue about mental health. It provides data and other facts about the promotion of mental health, prevention of mental illness, and how to promote awareness, early identification, access to treatment, crisis response, and recovery supports. For more information, see www.samhsa.gov/communityconversations/.

2013 Section Awards

The winners of this year’s section awards are now available on our website. ASA has also placed all records of past award winners online for your reference. See <www.asanet.org/sections/section_recipients.cfm>.

Not Your Usual Day at the Mall: A Science Career Fair and an Informal STEM Education Experiment

On September 27-28, hundreds of visitors to the Dulles Town Center shopping mall in Northern Virginia learned about sociology, the difference between a census and a sample, how to distinguish independent variables from dependent variables, and the meaning of a p-value in a test of significance. This was all part of the ASA’s booth at the “Change the World: Careers in Science and Engineering” event, sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the office of Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA). Working with staff from the “Teaching with Data” project at the University of Michigan, ASA developed an informal STEM education experiment that not only introduced local middle and high school students and other mall-goers to sociology and sociological careers, it also attempted to teach them scientific concepts central to the discipline. After being led through a 15-minute interactive exercise called “Family Structure and Kids’ Health Behaviors,” participants were asked to fill out a “mini-quiz” that included two demographic questions (age, gender) and three substantive questions. Anyone who participated in the activity and filled out the mini-quiz was then invited to pull a “ticket” from a raffle box for a chance to win one of several iPod Shuffles. Control group data were collected by inviting people in the mall who had not participated in the activity to fill out the mini-quiz.

By the end of the Career Fair, 472 people had participated in the ASA activity, with 355 in the treatment group and 118 in the control group. Sociologist Cora Marrett, NSF Acting Director and Representative Wolf had both stopped by the booth. Six young people had won a new iPod Shuffle. And, the results of our experiment? The treatment group outscored the control group by 15 points.

NSF Acting Director Cora B. Marrett with a group of students at the ASA booth. Also pictured are ASA Staff Jean Shin and Margaret Vitullo.
Public Engagement: Differences Between the U.S. and the UK

Ann Brooks, National University of Singapore

I attended the British Sociological Association’s (BSA) Conference “Engaging Sociology” in April, and I was drawn into the debate around how the sociological community in the UK can have more impact on social and political discourse. Given the traditional anti-intellectualism of the British media and its disdain for expert commentary, how then do sociologists have an impact on social and political debate in the UK? In addition, given the narrowness of the Research Excellence Framework’s (REF) definition of ‘impact’, as needing to be linked to peer review, what incentives are there for sociologists and academics more generally to engage in broader public debate on issues where they could and should have a voice as public intellectuals?

My recent experience in the United States as a Visiting Research Scholar at the University of California-Berkeley (UCB) from June 2011-December 2012 may provide some insights. This was a transformative experience for me as an international academic who has worked in global universities. It has had a significant impact on my international scholarship and on my views on the role of public intellectuals.

The Department of Sociology at UCB has, of course, an illustrious tradition within the global sociological community. More than this, there is a tradition within UCB, as a public university, for academics to make a contribution to social and political discourse as public intellectuals. Robert Reich, Arlie Hochschild, George Lakoff, and Christina Romer, among many others, are all well-established public intellectuals, contributing to U.S. public discourse through the media and in public office.

Adding to the Public Discourse in the U.S.

The public intellectual is one whose contribution goes well beyond the narrow confines of academia, to lending their intellect, expertise, and scholarship to the public good—that is, to the development of public discourse and to the development of policies on issues of public concern. UCB draws on the best minds globally to lend their voices to issues of local, national, and political concern. There is an expectation that academics will make a contribution to both intellectual life and to the wider community. The (then) Chancellor, Robert Birgeneau, frequently emailed the UCB academic community to engage everyone in issues of concern to the university and wider community.

It may be that there is greater interchange between academic and political life in the United States. This might be a motivating factor for academics who wish to flag an interest in political office.

Academics in the United States write and involve themselves with a significantly wider set of audiences. Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia, contributes regularly to opendemocracy.net and the Huffington Post and she is also on the Council for Foreign Relations.

The idea of being a public intellectual, involving oneself in issues of public concern, is an important element in defining oneself as a significant U.S. academic by offering more than routine scholarship. It seems very clear that the public intellectual barely exists in the UK academy, although the arrival of Craig Calhoun at the London School of Economics (LSE) may change that. This might be because a U.S. public university has an expectation of making a contribution to public discourse, but I think the answer lies beyond this. In the UK it appears that academics frequently do not cross the divide of writing for a wider audience than peer reviewers. This has an impact on the status of sociological debate within the wider community.

Beyond Peer Review in the UK

This point is an important one. The lack of public intellectuals may be a result of the fact that, in order to have impact, all research and publications must be peer reviewed, within research structures such as the REF. Thus there is little scope and time to write and publish in areas outside the strait-jacket of peer review. But how does this affect impact in the broader sense? I would argue that it seriously restricts an intervention by sociologists into areas relevant to public discourse, when the form of the intervention is a television interview, newspaper article, or online news contribution.

It could also be the fact that the involvement of academics more routinely as contributors in the media as experts is much more common in the United States compared to the UK. There is a problem in the British media that goes way beyond anti-intellectualism. BBC journalists, editors, and even presenters often see themselves as the experts and they draw on their own resources rather than on real experts in the field.

Thus academics are left out of any engagement as experts in a range of fields across a broad spectrum of subjects. This is a huge misjudgement on the part of the BBC and the failures are highlighted by Calhoun in his trouncing of the BBC in his article in the Times Higher Education in April. Calling out the media in this way is clearly a mark of a public intellectual and Calhoun brings that grand tradition with him from the United States. Additionally, there is little comparison between the quality of journalism and news content of The New York Times and The Washington Post in the U.S. and The Guardian or The Times in the UK.

Broadcast News

Let’s consider the approach of some of the U.S. media by comparison. Cable television has a range of programs all vying for the best and fastest news: NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN and MSNBC all call on academics routinely for expert comment. MSNBC is a centre-left network and provides a high level of engagement with academic experts across a range of debates. One of the reasons for this is the intellectual profile of many of the presenters: the Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC is an example. She has a BA in Public Policy from Stanford University and a DPhil from Oxford, where she was a recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship. She was the first openly gay or lesbian American to win the award. Her book, Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power, topped the New York Times best-seller list for five weeks. MSNBC moderators Chris Matthews and Chris Hayes have also authored books. MSNBC involves academics and others as contributors, political analysts, or policy analysts.

Then there is the academic media presenter, for example Melissa Harris-Perry on MSNBC, who presents two weekend shows discussing issues of race, gender and politics. Harris-Perry is a Professor of Political Science at Tulane University and was Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton. She attracts a wide range of academic commentators to her roundtable debates on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Apart from MSNBC, CNN also has a number of programs that include international academics on a regular basis. Fareed Zakaria on CNN’s Global Public Square is a good example.

A version of this article first appeared in the British Sociological Association’s magazine, Network, July 2013. The original article is at <www.britsoc.co.uk/publications/network>.

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Two years ago, Olaf F. Larson saw his fifth and sixth books come out in print—one from the University of Wisconsin Press and one from Penn State Press. At the time, he was 101 years old.

Born in 1910 on a farm in Rock County, WI, Olaf graduated from a one-room school. Ever the sociologist, he writes about his rural and farm life at the turn of the last century in his most recent book, *When Horses Pulled the Plow*.

Leaving the farm in 1928, he attend the University of Wisconsin. While he earned both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in agricultural journalism, it was through working with J. H. Kolb that Olaf discovered rural sociology. In 1934, he completed his preliminary exams to earn a PhD.

Olaf entered the professoriate in 1935 at Colorado A&M (Colorado State University) and in two years was promoted to Associate Professor. During this time, Olaf attended what would be a momentous meeting of the members of the ASA Section on Rural Sociology. A year after establishing their own journal, section members voted to form the Rural Sociological Society (RSS) separate from the ASA.

In 1938, Olaf left Colorado when Carl Taylor (ASA President in 1946) hired Olaf to work in the USDA’s Division of Farm Population and Rural Life. The Division, as it was called, was the first unit of the federal government devoted to sociological research. (It would also become a key focus of Olaf’s post-retirement research.) While at the Division, Olaf worked in several regional offices as well as in Washington, DC, and in 1941 he completed his PhD in rural sociology.

Seeking more stability for his young family, in 1946, Olaf left the Division to join the faculty at Cornell University. Olaf was promoted to full professor in 1949 and served as department chair for 11 years. While at Cornell, Olaf was twice a Fulbright Scholar and became the first Director of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development. In 1954, he was voted into the elite Sociological Research Association. In 1957-58 he was president of the Rural Sociological Society, and in the early 1960s he served as Vice Chair of the committee that organized the first World Congress of Rural Sociology—to name but a few of his accomplishments.

So-Called Retirement

After working at Cornell for nearly 30 years, Olaf retired in 1975. Nevertheless, Retirement did not mean an end to work. Instead, as he once told this author, being retired freed him to pursue research in areas that interested him. With Minnie Brown, he worked on a manuscript on black farmers and in 1990 he co-edited the book *Sociology of Agriculture*, which was produced for the 50th anniversary of the Rural Sociological Society. In 1985, Olaf was recognized with the Society’s highest award—Distinguished Rural Sociologist.

In the late 1980s, together with Edward O. Moe and an advisory group of six former Division members, Olaf embarked on a project to document and assess the work of the USDA unit he had once been a part of. Supported by the ASA, the Division’s successor unit, the USDA’s Economic Research Service, and the Department of Rural Sociology at Cornell, Olaf set about collecting what turned out to be the voluminous work produced during the Division’s 53 years. It was also during this project that Olaf adopted (albeit informally) his final student—this author.

In 1992, the first stage of the project was completed with the publication of a bibliography containing more than 1,500 citations of the Division’s work. In 2003, delayed in part by a change in publishers, came the unit’s analysis and history in *Sociology in Government: The Galpin-Taylor Years in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1919-1953*, published by Penn State Press. Both books were published in cooperation with the ASA and are part of the RSS Rural Studies Series.

About five years later, Olaf again joined forces with this author to write a third book to consider the Division’s work. Also part of the RSS Rural Studies Series, *Opening Windows onto Hidden Lives: Women, Country Life, and Early Rural Sociological Research* focuses on the unexpected inclusion of women in the unit’s body of research. Published by Penn State Press in 2013, it was nominated for the ASA History of Sociology Section’s Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award.

Last of a Generation

Olaf is the last of his generation of rural sociologists and the last student who worked in the first unit of the federal government devoted to sociological research. Many of the big names familiar to rural sociology, Olaf either knew or met. Today, it is not just Olaf’s students, but the students of his students who are now being counted among the senior rural sociologists. And, he continues to support students through various funds he has set up at both the University of Wisconsin and Cornell. In 2010, for his 100th birthday, the Rural Sociological Society renamed the graduate student paper award in his honor, and in 2012, a video welcome from Olaf opened the Society’s 75th Anniversary celebration.

At last count, Olaf has been formally interviewed more than a dozen times and informally an innumerable number of times. He has been a source of invaluable information on people and events that would have otherwise been just names and places in the histories of sociology and rural sociology. But Olaf is not done yet. Never one to sit still for very long, at 103 years old and nearly four decades since his retirement, he is already planning his next project.

The 2014 Annual Meeting Call for Papers is now available online at [www.asanet.org/meetings/call_for_papers.cfm](http://www.asanet.org/meetings/call_for_papers.cfm). The Online Paper Submission System will open on December 6, 2013. At that time, authors may submit their scholarly work to Regular Session topics, Section paper sessions and roundtables, and Open Refereed Roundtables. The deadline for all submissions is January 8, 2014.
My Sorokin Lecture at Passaic County Community College

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Duke University

“Philosophers have hitherto only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it.” – Karl Marx

I have given hundreds of talks in my career, but few have truly mattered. Most of the time I lecture to largely white middle- and upper-middle-class students, students whose future is all but guaranteed. Therefore, for most of these students, my interventions may be interesting, even provocative, but not significant events that will help them retool their lives. They listen to my indictment of the racial regime of contemporary America and politely agree, disagree, or ignore me altogether. Last year, however, I was invited to deliver a lecture at Passaic County Community College in Paterson, NJ, and the experience was quite different from what happens in my usual talks.

I lectured at Passaic College because the organizer, Sonia Brown, took advantage of the ASA Sorokin Lecture Program. This program, originally designed to allow the winner of the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award to participate at regional conferences, was expanded in 2005 to include as potential speakers “winners of major ASA awards in the past two years” to allow invited speakers “to deliver a lecture at a state, regional, or aligned sociological association meeting, and on an academic campus.” As the 2011 winner of the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award, ASA sponsored my trip to Passaic College.

My audience was primarily minority students of various ages (many of whom were over 30 years old) from poor and working-class backgrounds. My lecture was titled “From Dr. King to President Obama: Racial Vision, Racial Blindness, and Racial Politics in Obamafrica.” I spoke about the “new racism,” color-blindness, and about how the politics, policies, and even persona of President Obama did not represent a challenge to the current racial order. The audience agreed with my arguments on the new racism and on color-blindness, but for the most part, vehemently disagreed with my criticisms of Obama. This reaction was not news to me as I have written about the nationalism of the black and minority masses at this historical juncture and how it blinds them from seeing what is in front of their noses. Thus, we duelled passionately for about an hour on mostly the Obama phenomenon.

Following my presentation, I was asked some of the usual questions I get on this matter such as “So, do you support Mitt Romney in the upcoming election?” (My lecture was just before the 2012 election) and “Don’t you think Obama inherited a mess and needs more time to get us out of it?” I answered these questions with ease as I have answered them many times before, but I did get a few questions that were unique. A member of The Nation of Islam, in response to a comment from an older white man who said that the problem with minorities is that they do not work hard and play the “race card,” suggested that blacks needed to do like Jewish, Chinese, and Indian people and work hard, focus on their communities, and ignore racism as white folks will never give them anything. This generated a truly deep debate. I argued that although I appreciated the need for a version of a nationalist political and economic program for people of color, I was not at all in agreement with leaving whites and white supremacy off the hook. I also challenged this young man on his tacit agreement with the racist premises of the older white male, that is, with the notion that the problem with black is blacks. The debate was spirited and I am not sure if I changed many minds, but interestingly, after the lecture and discussion ended, we all shook hands and talked for another 30 minutes.

I am glad I did this lecture and hope more colleges like Passaic College take advantage of the Sorokin Lecture Program. It is great opportunity for students at institutions with limited financial resources, but it is also good for sociologists who labor at so-called elite institutions. Lecturing at Passaic Community College reminded me why I became a sociologist in the first place: to do work that generated discussion, passion, and, hopefully, inspire some to take action to change the world.

For more information on the Sorokin Lecture, see www.asanet.org/funding/sorokin_grants.cfm. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2014.
Call for ASA Award Nominations

ASA members are encouraged to submit nominations for the following ASA awards. Award selection committees, appointed by ASA Council, are constituted to review nominations. These awards are presented at the ASA Annual Meeting each August. The deadline for submission of nominations is January 31, 2014, unless otherwise noted.

W.E.B. DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award

This award honors scholars who have shown outstanding commitment to the profession of sociology and whose cumulative work has contributed in important ways to the advancement of the discipline. The body of lifetime work may include theoretical and/or methodological contributions. The award selection committee is particularly interested in work that substantially reorients the field in general or in a particular subfield. Nominations should include a copy of the nominee’s curriculum vitae and letters in support of the nomination. The most compelling cases contain five to eight letters from a variety of individuals able to speak to the qualifications of the nominees. The person making the nomination should obtain this material and forward it to the committee, with the nominee’s curriculum vitae, as a package.

Distinguished Book Award

This award is given for a single book published in 2012, 2013, and in the month of January in 2014. Nominations must come from members of the Association and should include the name of author, title of book, date of publication, publisher, and a brief statement about why the book should be considered for this award.

Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award

The ASA Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award honors outstanding contributions to undergraduate and/or graduate teaching of sociology. The award recognizes contributions that have made a significant impact on the manner in which sociology is taught at a regional, state, national, or international level. These contributions may include preparation of teaching- and curriculum-related materials and publications, participation in the scholarship of teaching and learning, development and communication of innovative teaching techniques, leadership in teaching-related workshops and symposia, involvement in innovative program development, and contributions to the enhancement of teaching within state, regional, or national associations. The award typically is given for a series of contributions spanning several years or a career, although it may recognize a single project of exceptional impact. The award is not designed to recognize outstanding teaching ability at one’s own institution unless that is part of a career with a broader impact. Individuals, departments, schools, or other collective actors are eligible. Nominations should include the nominee and a one- to two-page statement explaining the basis of the nomination. Nominations should also include a vita, if applicable, and relevant supporting materials. Nominations must now also include at least a paragraph within the nomination letter explaining how the CV illustrates the nominee’s contributions to teaching.

Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology

This award honors outstanding contributions to sociological practice. The award may recognize work that has facilitated or served as a model for the work of others; work that has significantly advanced the utility of one or more specialty areas in sociology and, by so doing, has elevated the professional status or public image of the field as a whole; or work that has been honored or widely recognized outside the discipline for its significant impacts, particularly in advancing human welfare. The recipient of this award will have spent at least a decade of substantial work involving research, administrative, or operational responsibilities as a member of or consultant to private or public organizations, agencies, or associations, or as a solo practitioner. Nominations should include a one- to two-page statement and the vita of the nominee. The most compelling cases contain five to eight letters from a variety of individuals able to speak to the qualifications of the nominees. The person making the nomination should obtain this material and forward it to the committee, with the nominee’s curriculum vitae, as a package.

Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues Award

The Award for Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues honors individuals for their promotion of sociological findings and a broader vision of sociology. The ASA would like to recognize the contributions of those who have been especially effective in disseminating sociological perspectives and research. The ASA is cognizant of the fact that there are many professionals (e.g., journalists, filmmakers) whose job it is to translate and interpret a wide range of information, including sociological perspectives and research, for the general public. This award is intended to promote a broader vision of sociology and gain public support for the discipline. The most compelling cases contain five to eight letters from a variety of individuals able to speak to the qualifications of the nominees. The person making the nomination should obtain this material and forward it to the committee, with the nominee’s curriculum vitae, as a package.

Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award

The Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award is given to an individual or individuals for their work in the intellectual traditions of the work of these three African American scholars. Cox, Johnson, and Frazier placed their scholarship in service to social justice, with an eye toward advancing the status of disadvantaged populations. Their scholarship was not limited to just the gathering of more data, but was rather scholarship that was attempting to better conditions globally. Cox, Johnson, and Frazier worked to broaden the thinking of society and to broaden what the mainstream included. In the spirit of the lifetime efforts of Cox, Johnson, and Frazier, the committee invites nominations of individuals or institutions with a record of outstanding work, such as, but not limited to: work on social justice issues, work on human rights, activism, community efforts, the building of institutions, or sustaining programs, with an emphasis on African American or similarly disadvantaged racial/ethnic populations that have experienced historical racial discrimination. Occasionally institutional commitment to social justice and to broadening the tradition to include and empower marginalized scholars and marginalized people, is so compelling that this award can recognize a communal institutional effort. Nominations should include a one to two-page cover letter that explains why the individual or institution fits the criteria, a CV, and possibly one or two additional letters of recommendation.

Award for Public Understanding of Sociology

This award is given annually to a scholar or scholars who have made exemplary contributions to advance the public understanding of sociology, sociological research, and scholarship among the general public. The award may recognize a contribution in the preceding year or for a longer career of such contributions. Nominations should include the nominee’s vita and a detailed one to two page nomination statement that describes how the person’s work has contributed to increasing the public understanding and knowledge of sociology. The most compelling cases contain five to eight letters from a variety of individuals able to speak to the qualifications of the nominees. The person making the nomination should obtain this material and forward it to the committee, with the nominee’s curriculum vitae, as a package.

Jessie Bernard Award

The Jessie Bernard Award is given...
Joe R. Feagin

sociological research is focused on what Du Bois himself regarded as the preeminent problem of the 20th century: “the problem of the color line.” His continuing research shows that due to systemic racism, the problem has still not been solved in the 21st century. Like Du Bois, he is committed to dissecting the sociological dynamics of white racism with an emphasis on the institutional and social structural context in which racism emerges.

Feagin has made significant contributions to the fields of racial-ethnic relations; the new urban sociology; sex and gender inequality; race, gender, and class analysis; and sociology of education. He was the 1999–2000 ASA President. His concepts of systemic racism and sexism influence the work of social scientists worldwide. Most of his extensive scholarship uses a lens of race, class, or gender. While he stresses social structure, he also addresses the social psychological dynamics that allows whites/men to deny racism and sexism while actively reinforcing both forms of oppression. While he analyzes structures of oppression, he also points to the amazing resistance and achievements of oppressed groups that have positively impacted social, educational, and political structures. He often looks carefully at the myths used to exclude racial groups, and he finds the personal and organizational resistance to racism of those oppressed.

As former SSSP president Claire Renzetti notes, “In all his work, Joe, like Du Bois, shows himself to be a risk taker; he unapologetically, though uncondescendingly, challenges everyone to examine their taken-for-granted assumptions, attitudes, and behaviors around race…. Joe has brought to light the ‘backstage’ racism of many who loudly proclaim that they are not ‘racist.’” His research continues to demonstrate the significance of race in our supposedly “post-racial” society. He continues to engage other scholars and students through his sociological publications, as well as the concerned public through the social science blog he initiated with former student Jessie Daniels, www.racismreview.org.

Joe was a scholar-in-residence at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in 1974-75. His experience working with leading black, Latino, and white feminist scholars and activists educated him on the importance of civil rights laws and of protest strategies. It informed and renewed his commitment to the study of racism and sexism as fundamental social forces in the United States. He continues to work with a variety of governments, universities, and community organizations, addressing issues of discrimination and antiracism in their jurisdictions.

Currently the Ella C. McFadden Professor in Sociology at Texas A&M University, Feagin loves teaching and mentoring students. He stated firmly, “Teaching is so much fun!” Student engagement and mentoring are an integral part of his scholarship, including working with graduate and undergraduate students as co-authors. His many publications over nearly five decades demonstrate the diversity of his collaborations and collaborators, from colleagues to undergraduates. He is the founding editor of two book series that provide publication venues for scholars concerned about race, class, gender, and social justice.

Hernan Vera, in a recommendation letter, wrote: Feagin “seeks to define an identity for the discipline of sociology.” His research and lecturing reinforce sociologists’ professional commitment to the values of social justice, egalitarianism, and human freedom.

Elijah Anderson said, “Professor Feagin is quite simply a giant among scholars of his generation, a major figure in our field who has added mightily to this discipline, but particularly to the critical area of race relations…. He has pressed up all to stand a little higher, and to be a bit bolder and braver in our work.” Feagin’s extremely prolific collection includes important theories and findings, which are shared with colleagues, students, and activists. He has completed 60 books, with four in progress. Among these are Systemic Racism (2006); Racist America (2nd ed., 2010); and White Party, White Government (2012). In his current work, How Blacks Saved America: Making Liberty, Justice, and Democracy Real, he demonstrates the important positive contributions of Black Americans to the educational, cultural, scientific, political, and social patterns and institutions of the United States. He has 203 research articles and book chapters, many in collaboration with colleagues and students who share his concern for contributing to a better society. His impact on the field of sociology is enormous, not because of the quantity of his work, but because of its intellectual and socio-political importance.

**Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award**

**Elijah Anderson, Yale University**

A master ethnographer of race, Elijah Anderson, the Lanman Professor of Sociology at Yale University, is the recipient of the 2013 Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award. He previously held faculty appointments at Swarthmore College and as the Charles and William L. Day Distinguished Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. Beginning his graduate studies at the University of Chicago, he earned his doctorate at Northwestern University.

For three and a half decades, Anderson’s prominence and production undoubtedly placed him in elite company. How many other contemporary ethnographers’ research endeavors have produced four solo-authored ethnographies? His include A Place on the Corner: Study of Black Street Corner Men (1978), Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community (1990), Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City (1999), and most recently, The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Race and Civility in Everyday Life (2011). Two of the four titles are award winners. Streetwise received the 1991 ASA Robert E. Park Award for the best published book in urban sociology, while Code of the Streets received the 2000 Komarovsky Award from the Eastern Sociological Society. In addition, Anderson has published 5 edited volumes and more than 50 articles.

The responsibility of the ethnographer, as Anderson instructs us, is to observe, apprehend, comprehend, and understand the shared conventions of the people being studied. From the extensive explorations of a midwestern bar and liquor store in A Place on the Corner to the streets, homes, and gentrifying neighborhoods of a northeastern city in his next two books, Anderson has cultivated critical interpretations of the sociological significance of urban spaces. His commitment to the analytical prowess and narrative artistry of ethnography has produced illuminating and thought-provoking accounts of how people—especially African Americans and the urban poor—understand and conduct their lives under the shattering impacts of deindustrialization, drug wars, gentrification, a growing wealth gap, and enduring, if morphed, manifestations of racial discrimination. His most recent work, Cosmopolitan Canopy, is situated in public parks and markets as well as workplaces. There he identifies the emergent norms of seemingly desegregated spaces, while revealing the negotiated occupation and bounded interactions by race and class within these civic spaces.

Anderson’s writings are noted for weaving theory, method, thick descriptions and in situ interviewing, coupled with a rigorous, reiterative process of interpretation. As one recommender rightly observes, “Few can boast of studying race in urban America as carefully, thoroughly, and sensitively as Elijah Anderson,” or as another attests, “of honoring the humanity or what Du Bois called the ‘soul beauty’ of Black Americans.” Anderson has received numerous professional recognitions. He was the Robin M. Williams, Jr., Distinguished Lecturer of the Eastern Sociological Society; on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Political and Social Science; and the ASA Vice President in 2002. He also served on the editorial boards of many key journals, among them the

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Elijah Anderson has also been instrumental in the professional development and success of generations of ethnographers, educators, and scholars. His former graduate students, young scholars of all races and ethnic backgrounds, and other colleagues wrote highly of him as a generous and dedicated mentor as well as a conscientious and constructive critic. In hosting a series of conferences, Anderson and his colleagues have helped sustain the significance of ethnography within sociology. Moreover, the conferences have featured compelling accounts of what is at stake in the most important social justice battles of our time. His analyses resound well beyond the walls of the academy, as community members, media, and public officials have relied on his insights in informing urban politics and policy. Anderson has served as a consultant to a variety of national entities, including the White House, the U.S. Congress, and the National Academy of Science; and as a member of the National Research Council’s Panel on the Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior. These are but a few of myriad reasons for which we honor Elijah Anderson as the 2013 recipient of the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award.

Award for Public Understanding of Sociology Award

Ruth Milkman, CUNY-Graduate Center

This award is given annually to a person or persons who have made exemplary contributions to advance the public understanding of sociology, sociological research, and scholarship among the general public. This year, we honor Ruth Milkman, Professor of Sociology at the City University of New York Graduate Center and Academic Director of the Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies.

Through a combination of traditional scholarship and presentations to community organizations, Milkman provides a model of the engaged public sociologist, focusing on issues of inequality, labor, gender, and immigration. In addition, she has presented her research findings to both the U.S. Congress and the California legislature. Notably, she also has headed research centers—in California and New York—that focus on issues of employment, labor, and industrial relations.

Professor Milkman received her PhD in Sociology from the University of California-Berkeley in 1981 after having earned her MA four years earlier from the same institution. She began her academic career at Brown University, where her independent major, “Women in Society,” presaged her later contributions to scholarship on gender.

Her academic career then brought her to CUNY, UCLA, and then, a few years ago, back to CUNY. She has authored or co-authored nine books, including her 2010 co-authored book (with Joshua Bloom and Victor Narro) Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy (which followed up her earlier award-winning book L.A. Story: Immigrant Workers and the Future of the U.S. Labor Movement). In addition, she has produced more than 65 chapters and articles, almost as many reviews and review essays, and numerous policy reports. Her research has covered a wide span of issues related to inequality, including work on labor violations, union membership, women and work, immigrant activism, and paid family leave. The Centers she has directed—the UCLA Institute of Industrial Relations, the statewide University of California Institute for Labor and Employment, and, most recently, the Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies—have helped academics bring their research to the policy forefront.

Across all of her work, Milkman challenges taken-for-granted assumptions that influence academia, policy, and activism. For example, immigrants have long been thought to be resistant to unionization efforts. However, through research and work with unions in Los Angeles, she and her collaborators have challenged this view, documenting how immigrants have embraced unionization. And in work about California’s Paid Family Leave policy, Milkman and collaborator Eileen Appelbaum found that contrary to businesslobby fears, the policy did not have a deleterious effect on the economy. This is important in an era when many employers are arguing that it is not possible to provide increased benefits during troubled economic times. In addition, they found that the policy benefited both low- and high-wage employees, and that the percent of men taking advantage of the program increased over time. Lastly, they found that there was a lack of awareness about the policy among many workers. Their research and the publicity it garnered have enriched debates about improving employment conditions and workers’ work-life balance.

In his 2004 Presidential address to the American Sociological Association, Michael Burawoy noted that many of us were drawn to sociology because of a “passion for social justice, economic equality, human rights, sustainable environment, political freedom or simply a better world.” He then bemoaned the fact that often those passions get subsumed by the requirements of academia. However, Milkman’s career demonstrates that praxis is possible. Sophisticated theories and rigorous research can be put to the service of the public, to further social justice, to work toward economic equality and human rights, and perhaps, to help move us towards a better world.

Issues of labor, inequality, gender, and immigration are splashed across the daily newspapers and in the cacophony of opinions raised on all sides of policies and politics about inequality; it is good to have informed voices inserted into these debates. Thankfully, sociologists such as Ruth Milkman opt not to stay in their ivory towers, but instead jump into the fray and get their hands dirty, so that the public will better understand the underlying social issues governing their lives and politics. It is because of this tireless work and her impact on alleviating inequality in our society, that we honor Milkman.

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American Sociological Association

Jessie Bernard Award

Kathleen Gerson, New York University

The Jessie Bernard Award recognizes scholarly work that significantly expands the scholarship on women in society. This year, the award goes to Professor Kathleen Gerson, New York University, for her lifelong scholarship on the gendered nature of constrained choices that arise from the interaction of structural opportunities and constraints, gendered cultural norms, and individual negotiations in relationships.

The Committee on Awards agreed with the nominators that Professor Gerson has steadfastly led the feminist cause over the last 30 years by writing path-breaking books and articles that enable us to understand gender as the outcome of a combination of possibilities and constraints of structural conditions and cultural moorings, both within and across individual lifetimes.

Gerson’s first two books, Hard Choices: How Women Decide About Work, Career, and Motherhood (1985) and No Man’s Land: Men’s Changing Commitments to Family and Work (1993), based on life history analyses, provide early frameworks for understanding women’s and men’s paths and strategies amid revolutionary shifts in work, marriage, and parenthood. As one of the nominators said, Hard Choices helped bring “a sociological frame to the study of women’s lives in an era when role theory was the only game in town.” She convincingly demonstrated that childhood socialization did not create feminine women who desired domestic lives, but that experiences in the labor force and in marriage could explain how women chose, within constraints, to balance work and family. This book was a finalist for the C. Wright Mills Award and the William J. Goode Distinguished Book Award. Similarly, No Man’s Land, which was selected as a “new and noteworthy” paperback by the New York Times Book Review, documented men’s responses to contemporary work-family issues.

Kathleen Gerson
that have given them both expanded freedom to avoid family responsibilities and rising incentives to become more involved in family life.

Gerson’s co-authored study with Jerry Jacobs, The Time Divide: Work, Family and Gender Inequality (2004), moved us beyond studies that focus only on individuals. Instead, by focusing on the individual lodged within a family, they showed that the context and content of work matter in the shaping the ways in which individuals experience the hours of work time. The Time Divide was named a “best business book” by Strategy Business magazine, received honorable mention for the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award, and was featured at “Author Meets a Critic” sessions at the ASA, the ESS, and the Southern Sociological Society annual meetings. Work from this project also received the Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research.

Gerson’s recent book, The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and the Family (2011), which was awarded the William Goode Distinguished Book award by the ASA section on Family in 2012, furthers addresses the significant changes in gender, work, and family life that have impacted the choices and possibilities for future generations of families. She leads us to examine generational gender trajectories, culturally embedded strategies, workplace constraints, and the moral responsibilities of social institutions.

The committee was not only impressed by Professor Gerson’s scholarly record, they noted that she has developed an outstanding record of guiding a new generation of scholars who credit her with “being a great intellectual mentor, a tremendous social mentor, and role model. She exemplifies both professional and personal success, and how to balance the two, in ways that are critical for graduate students to observe in action.”

Gerson has also been an effective advocate in bringing her scholarly insights to the public realm. She has developed an excellent record of persuading reporters to look beyond their culture-war frameworks and into more expansive and complex views of women and gender. She has actively participated in a wide range of efforts to apply sociological insights about women and gender to public debates and social policy.

Kathleen Gerson’s scholarship has made—and continues to make—significant contribution to the literature and policy on gender, furthering our understanding of the complex interplay of culture, economy, and public policy in shaping the possibilities for gender justice.

The Committee extends its warmest congratulations to Kathleen Gerson and looks forward to reading her current work investigating “new moral dilemmas of work and care.”

Distinguished Scholarly Book Award

Greta R. Krippner, University of Michigan, for Capitalizing on Crisis

The Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award Committee read and evaluated more than 60 nominated books, a great many excellent works of scholarship, with quite a few worthy of significant distinction. This year, the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award goes to Greta Krippner for Capitalizing on Crisis: The Political Origins of the Rise of Finance.

In Capitalizing on Crisis, a very significant and particularly timely book, Krippner illuminates the historical and structural origins of the recent financial crisis. In particular, she shows how and why leaders embraced financialization as a solution to the problems of inequality, and how doing so depoliticized a significant source of conflict in American society. It tells a remarkably insightful story about an extraordinarily complex and consequential process, and as such it represents the best of contemporary American sociology.

Krippner begins and ends her book with Daniel Bell. Agreeing with Bell that the rise of a service economy would come to characterize a “postindustrial society,” Krippner nonetheless argues that this new economic and social structure was realized “with a slight twist: rather than the rise of services in a generic sense, the rise of a particular kind of service—finance—proved to be the dominant trend.” Her argument rests, however, on her agreement with Bell that “there is no escape from economics.”

Capitalizing on Crisis has a large number of sociological virtues. Its theoretical framing, conceptual development, and empirical documentation are meticulous. The book has been widely praised, for instance, for its chapter on “financialization,” which she defines as “the growing importance of financial activities as a source of profits in the economy.” This first chapter not only explicates the concept, but presents a nuanced quantitative analysis, which leaves no doubt that the process she sets out to explain clearly happened and had the contours she attributes to it. The main body of the book then turns to explaining why financialization occurred, and what theoretical and practical lessons can be drawn.

Krippner’s book is both a synthesis of, and advance on, a number of approaches. First, she examines those sociological approaches that criticize the economic theory that financial markets are, by definition, efficient by pointing out the dynamics inherent in markets that lead to manias and bubbles; the problem with these established critiques, she argues, is that they treat politics and the state as exogenous. Second, she addresses “shareholder value” approaches developed by organization theorists, which pay more attention to the state, but more as a context for firms than as something requiring explanation in its own right. Finally, Krippner examines Marxist and world-systems perspectives, which account for financialization in terms of the goals of the state, but take such a broad historical sweep that the specific boundedness of these goals is lost.

With this profound understanding of complex literatures, Krippner then delves into the details of the history, identifying the combination of three distinct processes: deregulation of financial markets, encouragement of global capital flows, and altered monetary policy. Each of these was a response to immediate problems as well as more general social and political crises. Beyond the important history, is the more general lesson that particular solutions pursued for particular purposes in response to particular crises produced consequences that could not be predicted in advance. It leaves one with profound concerns not only about the course of public policy, but about its very possibility. As such, it is a powerful warning to any self-confident policymaker.

Although Krippner’s work on these issues began before the financial crisis of 2008, Capitalizing on Crisis illuminates the historical and structural origins of the recent crisis, proving once again the importance of sociological work to pressing contemporary events. It does so, moreover, in an extremely economical and elegant form. It tells a remarkably insightful story about a complex and consequential process, and as such represents the best of contemporary American sociology.

Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award

Rose Brewer, University of Minnesota (co-recipient)

Rose M. Brewer, Professor of Afro American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, is recognized for her outstanding contributions to reforming the sociological curriculum to better incorporate the intersections of race, class, and gender.

Brewer previously received the University of Minnesota’s Morse Learning Resources Center Award for teaching excellence, and the
Faculty Member of the Year award from the University of Minnesota Black Student Union. Moreover, she was named a MacArthur Program Faculty Fellow in 2002 and inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 1999.

Brewer has been a leader in the movement to create a multicultural curriculum in sociology and beyond. Her scholarship in this regard was showcased in the 2007 publication of *The Critical Classroom: Education for Liberation and Movement Building* (with Walda Katz-Fishman and Lisa Albrecht). Her current book projects, including an introductory text on race theory and one on the sociology of African Americans, will continue her efforts toward a more inclusive social science. Brewer has also published dozens of articles and book chapters on intersectional analysis and its applications to teaching and learning. In addition, she has generously shared her insights in over 30 workshops on curriculum transformation and multicultural education. Her impact was first observed at the University of Minnesota, but over the past 25 years, Brewer’s influence on the teaching and learning of sociology has reached far beyond the local level.

Brewer has been instrumental in enhancing the professional training of graduate students and faculty by serving as co-director of the University of Minnesota’s Multicultural Teaching and Learning Fellowship Program for the past four years and as the current Faculty Director of the University Center for Teaching and Learning. Several of Brewer’s former graduate students and colleagues attest to the transformative effect of her instruction and mentoring on their own teaching careers.

Throughout her career Brewer has worked tirelessly to link the academy and the community. Her current efforts in this regard exemplify the best of community engaged teaching and learning. Brewer arranges service learning placements for her students to discover firsthand the history of civil rights activism of the Twin Cities area as well as the critical issues confronting the current African American community. Moreover, Brewer asks her students to apply their sociological imaginations in identifying new avenues for creating change in their communities.

Brewer is given the 2013 Distinguished Contributions Award in recognition of her comprehensive impact on teaching in the social sciences. As indicated by her nominator Bernice McNair Barnett:

> “Professor Brewer’s contributions go beyond her department and her university. For example, over the years I have had the pleasure of attending her regional and national ASA workshops on teaching race, class, and gender and found her workshops, lectures, teaching materials, handouts, and innovative strategies to be enormously helpful in my own teaching here at Illinois. In my observation, Professor Brewer has made a commitment to teaching not only at the department, university, regional, and national levels, but also at the international level as reflected in her teaching, lecturing, and workshops in Latin America, Africa, and other countries.”

### Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award

**Jay Howard, Butler University (co-recipient)**

Jay R. Howard, Professor of Sociology and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Butler University, is recognized for a career of outstanding contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning in sociology and in undergraduate education more broadly.

Howard is also past winner of the Indiana University President’s Award for Teaching Excellence, the P.A. Mack Award for Distinguished Service to Teaching from Indiana University, the North Central Sociological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award, and the Hans O. Mauksch Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education. He serves as a member of the Board of Advisors for the P.A. Mack Center for Inquiry on Teaching and Learning.

Howard has been a leader in the scholarship of teaching and learning movement within sociology. He has contributed more than 35 publications on teaching and learning. His work covers many of the important nuts and bolts aspects of teaching such as how to write a syllabus, engage students in class discussions, develop effective writing assignments, motivate students to read the textbook, teach mass classes, and develop critical thinking skills in students. Howard’s contributions extend beyond the foundational basics to encompass scholarly work on the significance of the introductory sociology course for a liberal arts education and research on how and what students learn in our classrooms. His recent book (with Nancy A. Greenwood), *First Contact: Teaching and Learning in Introductory Sociology*, is destined to become a necessity for both new and more experienced teachers of this all-important course.

Howard is not only a distinguished teaching scholar, he has also played a pivotal role in developing other teaching scholars. At the regional level, Howard has organized and presented in numerous teaching and learning sessions at the North Central Sociological Association (NCSA) annual meetings, made teaching and learning the focus of his address as president of that organization in 2007, and played a key role in developing the NCSA Future Faculty Certificate Program.

Howard’s many contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning at the national level provide a blueprint for aspiring winners of this award. In the ASA section on teaching and learning, Howard held the position of treasurer and was elected for a three-year term on the section council. He currently co-edits (with Nancy Greenwood) the “Introductory Sociology” section for the ASA online database TRAILS. Howard has given invited presentations at the Section on Teaching and Learning preconference workshops, at the ASA Department Chairs Conference, and in numerous workshops at annual meetings. Since 2001, Howard has served on the ASA Departmental Resources Group, which assists sociology departments throughout the country with external reviews, curriculum revision, assessment tool development, and mentoring for departmental officers. Howard serves as a regular reviewer for ASAS’s *Teaching Sociology* and previously held the positions of Associate Editor (1997–99) and Deputy Editor (2003–09) of that journal.

In sum, Howard’s career epitomizes the criteria and the spirit of this award. As his nominator (Keith Roberts) wrote:

> “He has contributed to (1) the scholarship of teaching and learning; (2) to the eminence of our discipline’s flagship teaching publication; (3) to the quality of instruction around the country via publications, workshops, and consulting under the banner of the Departmental Resources Group; (4) to the training of graduate students on the professorial role, especially the teaching dimensions of that position; and (5) to the advancement of sociology through serving on awards committees and section leadership positions. Jay Howard’s work, in behalf of teaching is varied, substantial, and always done with attention to quality.”

### Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology

**Donald Light, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey**

Over the past 35 years, Don Light has applied his training in medical and organizational sociology toward the goal of reducing barriers to health care among disadvantaged populations. After leaving the sociology department at Princeton in 1975, he became a senior social scientist with the Sophie Davis School for Biomedical Education in Harlem that was dedicated to teaching students to assess the health needs of the community and address those not being met. The program provided integrated college and medical school training at a low cost to many.
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talented minority and lower-income high school students and continues to be successful in graduating most of its students with BS and MD degrees.

This work led to an appointment in 1980 as professor and director of community medicine at the School of Osteopathic Medicine, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, where Light taught community medicine to medical students. During this time, he discovered that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey was violating its charter to provide community-rate, level premiums to individuals and small groups through rates that discriminated by race, gender, and age. He organized a statewide campaign to stop the increases; NOW, NAACP, and AARP joined in this coalition. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund took the case to the Public Advocate and eventually won, rolling back premiums for 600,000 people. Blue Cross tried other tactics and successful campaigns were organized against each. For these efforts, Light won the President’s Award from the New Jersey Public Health Association, a University Excellence Award for Community Service, and a Certificate of Merit from the American Public Health Association.

Because of this advocacy work, Light began to write about the ethics of health insurance, and in 1990 he was accepted as a visiting fellow at Oxford where he studied social ethics. At the time, Margaret Thatcher launched a radical restructuring of England’s National Health Service (NHS) from a public service to a series of contracts between purchasers and providers ostensibly in order to create managed competition, reduce costs, and increase efficiency. Light wrote a series of critical articles on how these changes would increase management costs as well as inequalities, which he termed as “pernicious competition.” He applied his expertise to various parts of the NHS and was invited to be the overseas member of the planning committee for the NHS 50th anniversary. He also co-authored an anniversary monograph with Tony Blair. Over the years, he campaigned against managed competition reforms in Europe. This work led to a special issue of Social Science & Medicine in 2001.

As a founding fellow of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania in 1995, Light also became concerned about price barriers for access to drugs and vaccines among lower income patients. Since 2000, he has undertaken critical research on claims by the pharmaceutical industry that huge R&D costs force companies to charge high prices, and further that U.S. prices are so high because European prices are too low to recover costs. A campaign with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) set out to document that global companies had lower research costs than they claimed for important new vaccines against rotavirus, and they ultimately recovered these costs within two years. PAHO successfully used this research to reduce prices for infant vaccination by 75 percent in Pan American countries.

Most recently, Professor Light’s work has focused on the harmful side effects of prescription drugs. His latest book, The Risks of Prescription Drugs, which was commissioned by the Social Science Research Council, assembles evidence showing that such side effects are a leading cause of accidents, hospitalization, and the fourth-leading cause of death in the United States. The September 2011 issue of AARP Bulletin, with a circulation of 42 million seniors, made the risks of drugs its cover story. He demonstrated that the medical barriers to access need to be higher, by approving drugs that are clinically superior and safer. This work led to a fellowship for Light this year at Harvard University’s Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics.

Excellence in Reporting on Social Issues Award

Ira Glass and the Staff of This American Life

The ASA Award for Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues honors individuals for their effective translation, promotion, and dissemination of a wide range of information, including reporting that conveys a sociological perspective on social issues to the general public. This year’s award honors Ira Glass and the producers of the radio program This American Life. Each week, This American Life combines Glass’s long-standing interest in social issues with the story format in a revelatory sociological way, using immersive reporting and intimate interviews to show the backstage of social life.

Ira Glass began his career with NPR as an intern at age 19. Over his public radio career of some 30 years, he was a reporter and host on several NPR programs, including Morning Edition, All Things Considered, and Talk of the Nation. During this period, he laid the foundation for a career of reporting social issues, such as extensive coverage of the Chicago Public School System. He credits his early work with radio pioneer Joe Frank as the source of his inspiration that radio could be used to tell a certain kind of story.

Since 1995, he has hosted and produced This American Life, which reaches over 1.7 million listeners a week on more than 500 stations. The programs routinely involve sociologically informed storytelling. The in-depth coverage in the weekly show is made possible by the collective efforts of the show’s accomplished team of reporters, producers, and editors, who invest great time and energy engaging in what Kristen Luker calls the “logic of discovery”—conducting fieldwork, analyzing findings, and crafting narratives imbued with sociological meaning. For nearly two decades, this strategy has consistently produced programs that offer new and surprising insights into social issues from a diverse set of contributors. Several sociologists have participated in the program, and the sociological imagination animates every show.

There have been shows about quantifying things that are hard to quantify, like love; about summer camp and the mystery of its importance in many people’s lives; about people who find themselves in situations with no normative map; about America as seen through the eyes of new immigrants; and about the role of television in everyday lives. An early show considered class mobility through the stories of people trying to make something for nothing; another traced the 1973 American Psychiatric Association decision to end listing homosexuality as a mental illness; and another compiled stories of people who gave up firmly held beliefs. Recently, “Act V” followed prison inmates, all murderers, through the casting, rehearsals and performance of Hamlet, a play about murder and its consequences. In response to a letter from a 14-year-old requesting a show about middle school, This American Life aired “Life in the Middle Ages,” a full-hour probe into the physical, emotional, and social experiences of middle school students. After a program highlighting the one-man theater performances of Michael Daisy about the exploitation of foreign factory workers for Apple, Glass issued an on-air retraction, exposing the factual distortions in Daisey’s performance. This action generated new discussions about the boundaries between the creativity of theater and fact gathering in reporting.

The impact of This American Life is both broad and deep. In 2007, Ira Glass and his production team began airing a television version of the show on the Showtime network. In 2009, Glass was named the recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Radio. In 2011, he was awarded the George Polk Award in Radio Reporting for “Very Tough Love,” a program showing severe punishments handed down by a judge in a Georgia drug court, whose charge was to rehabilitate. As a result of the This American Life investigation, ethical misconduct charges were brought against the judge, who stepped down. Glass is not the only member of the This American Life team to win high honors for reporting. The show’s producers include a Pulitzer Prize winner for human interest reporting and an Emmy winner for documentary television.
Council Highlights

At its August 13-14, 2013, meetings in New York City, ASA Council welcomed six new Council members: President-Elect Paula England, Vice President-Elect Cecilia Menjivar, and Council Members-at-large Karyn Lacy, Leslie McCall, Tina Fenster, and Patricia E. White. Pending Council approval and online posting of the minutes, the following is a brief snapshot of key decisions and information.

Minutes. Meeting minutes for January 26, February 21, and July 25, 2013, were approved. All Council minutes are posted online at www.asanet.org/about/Council_Minutes.cfm.

Audit. The final audit for Fiscal Year 2012 was approved and is now available online at www.asanet.org/about/audit.cfm.

Annual Report. The 2012 ASA Annual Report was distributed and is now posted online at <www.asanet.org/about/annualreport.cfm> and available for free through iTunes.

DOMA Amicus Brief. Council expressed its deep appreciation to Wendy Diane Manning for her outstanding work in preparing and writing the Association’s Amicus Curiae Brief, and to Carmine D. Boccuzzi, Jr. (Counsel of Record), Scott Thompson, and Mark Lightner of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP of New York City for their outstanding work in preparing and submitting the Brief in the cases of Hollingsworth, et al. v. Kristin M. Perry, et al. (California Proposition 8) and the United States v. Edith Schlain Windsor, et al. (Defense of Marriage Act).

Membership. Feedback from members regarding changes in Gender categories on the membership application will be collected for review with ASA Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons in Sociology.

Subscription Rates.
- Approved no increase in Member rates, which remain at 2010 levels.
- Approved institutional subscription rate increases of 5 percent to 9.7 percent for 2014 as negotiated with the publishers.

Annual Meeting.
- Approved no increase in fees for general registration, events, and services for the 2014 Annual Meeting (all rates remain at 2013 levels).
- Directed the Executive Office to proceed with contract negotiations to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting in New York City.

Publications.
- Approved a one-time allocation of 30 additional pages for Social Psychology Quarterly.
- Approved a one-time allocation of 30 additional pages for Sociology of Education.
- Approved the 2014 honoraria for journal editors and asked the Committee on Publications to review honoraria every five years for possible adjustment.
- Approved a staffing formula for editorial offices, which will be implemented as upcoming editorial transitions occur.
- Requested the Committee on Publications to prepare a memo for the winter Council meeting with the committee’s views of the pros and cons regarding: term limits for the editorships of all journals, shorter maximum lengths of service for the ASR editorship, and a requirement for extension of an editorship to be approved by Council if there is a reduction in the editorial team.
- Confirmed that the Committee on Publications should work with the ASA Research Department on a membership questionnaire to get feedback about requesting future authors and peer reviewers to agree to permanent, embargoed retention of their documents.
- Accepted the report of the Committee on Review Times in Sociology Journals and approved publication of a report summary in Footnotes, with the full version of the report to be posted on the ASA website.
- Approved moving forward with SAGE on plans to launch a premier open access general sociology journal. A detailed proposal is expected for review at the next Council meeting, including the payment model, copyright provisions, candidates for editorship, and journal name.
- Directed the Executive Office to develop potential changes to the ASA Bylaws in order to increase the number of voting members on the Committee on Publications and designate the Past President as the officer to serve on that committee.

Committee and Task Force Appointments.
- Accepted the recommendations of the Committee on Committees, ASA Secretary, and ASA Executive Officer for 2014 appointed Association positions.
- Approved President-Elect Paula England’s selection of the following members for the 2015 Program Committee: Elizabeth Armstrong, David Grusky, Rosalind King, Brian Powell, Vincent Roscigno, Verta Taylor, Celeste Watkins-Hayes, Eliot Weininger, and ex-officio members Cecilia Menjivar (ASA Vice President-Elect), Mary Romero (Secretary), and Sally T. Hillman (Executive Officer).

Sections. To ensure that all Sections submit their required annual reports in a timely manner, a policy was instated that ASAs’ allocation of a section’s funds for the upcoming year will be held until the section turns in a completed annual report.

Nonprofit Incorporation Status. Action was taken on four recommendations from the ASA Committee on the Executive Office and Budget aimed toward maintaining ASAs’ nonprofit status in response to recent revisions of nonprofit corporation laws in the District of Columbia.
- Passed a resolution informing the District of Columbia that ASA is electing to remain an “old law corporation.”
- Authorized the ASA Executive Office to file by April 2014 the first of the biennial reports on the corporation as required by law.
- Appointed Michael B. Trister as the ASA “registered agent” under the 2010 law to receive any official communications or legal process from the DC Corporation Council.
- Created a subcommittee of Council, with the Executive Officer and Director of Governance as ex officio members, to work in consultation with Trister to develop a list of changes to the ASA Constitution and Bylaws that would improve ASA governance by incorporating provisions and language from the 2012 DC Nonprofit Corporations Act.

Social Media. A report about the first meeting of the Task Force on Using Social Media to Increase the Visibility of Sociological Research led to a debate in Council about the confidentiality parameters that apply to discussion of issues on the Council agenda and revealed differing views about the implicit norms for Council meetings. The development of a policy recommendation was delegated to a Council Subcommittee on Social Media Policy.

New Business.
- Empowered the Executive Officer to draft a letter in consultation with the President, and authorized the President to send the letter, to protest actions the Russian government has recently directed against Russian colleagues at the Levada Analytic Center.
- Acknowledged that information about the Harvard dissertation accused of scientific racism was brought to Council and the ASA President-Elect, and indicated appreciation that sections with the appropriate expertise have been involved.
- Authorized the ASA Executive Office to collect data on sociology students and faculty regarding who was first in their family to attend college.

Next Council Meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on March 1-2, 2014, in Washington, DC.
Shakers and Shakees: A Defense of Social Science

In his July 19, 2013, New York Times piece, “Let’s Shake up the Social Sciences,” Nicholas Christakis claims the social sciences have low prestige because, unlike the physical sciences, they have not developed creative interdisciplinary programs. Based on my extensive experience in academia, I am quite confident that creativity and interdisciplinary programming are not missing from the curricula and work of social scientists. The lower prestige of the social sciences exists for the same reason as does their lower external funding: United States culture is focused on producing/protecting private money and wealth and the vast majority of work in the social sciences is primarily about advancing the public good.

I was struck by Christakis stating: “...everyone knows that monopoly power is bad for markets, that people are racially biased and that illness is unequally distributed by social class. There are diminishing returns from the continuing study of many such topics.” In fact, not everyone does sufficiently know about these phenomena, or understand them effectively. Only about 29 percent of the U.S. population attains a four-year college education. While there are alternative sources of information, it is primarily through the general education requirements of a college degree that people learn about power relations, racism, and inequality. Many college graduates, especially in the physical sciences, are able to systematically avoid these courses. Additionally, many high schools no longer offer a single sociology course and the social science courses they do offer are often basic and perfunctory.

Contrary to Christakis’ claim, the social sciences have far surpassed the physical sciences in interdisciplinary endeavors. For example, social science programs have been combined to form degree programs and/or departments such as urban & regional studies; law enforcement; undergraduate social work; gerontology; criminal justice; women and gender studies; social psychology; political economy; community studies; minority and ethnic studies; social justice; human services; social responsibility; industrial psychology; school psychology; peace and conflict studies; paralegal studies; public administration; international relations; historical archeology; behavioral economics; American Indian studies; East Asian studies; African studies; Latin American studies; and American studies. Many of these interdisciplinary fields include sociology, which is one of Christakis’ advanced degrees.

Christakis expects the social sciences to create interdisciplinary programs that include physical science disciplines, but, does not have the same comparable expectation of the physical sciences. Notwithstanding, there are, indeed, examples of social science-based programs crossing over to include the physical sciences: cognitive science; environmental studies; earth science; econometrics; psychometrics; law enforcement forensic science; social ecology; and GIS mapping.

Why not lobby for the physical sciences to integrate more social science content into their programs? There is a significant need for such interdisciplinary curricula. Try these titles: genetic modification and social ecology; bio-chemistry and war; science and over-consumption; minerals and global stratification; environmental degradation and social problems; technology and social disorganization; pharmacology and over-medicalization; agriscience and world hunger. While we may find isolated individual course titles like these, they are missing from physical sciences programs that include physical science courses.

The ASA Dissertation Award is presented for significant cumulative work done throughout a professional career. The award is open to women or men and is not restricted to sociologists. Only members of the American Sociological Association may submit nominations for the Jessie Bernard Award. Nominations for career achievement should include a narrative letter of nomination, a copy of the vita of the nominee, and three supporting letters.

Manuscripts

From page 1

professional functions that we serve.” Our reviewers’ thoughts and strategies may suggest ideas for others on how to accomplish this central task.

Although the responses do not reveal a silver bullet that can reduce manuscript review times, the responses suggest that good reviewers see the task of reviewing as part of the life of the mind rather than a burden; that they schedule the hours it will take to conduct the review as soon as they accept the invitation to review; that they focus on big picture issues rather than long lists of problems, such as “how the argument holds together; connections between argument and analysis; methodological clarity and appropriateness”; and that many of them have a set list of things they look for in manuscripts, even going so far as to cut and paste text into their reviews. Average time spent on reviews was 3.4 hours (excluding one reviewer who claimed to spend 24 hours per review). But we were interested to note that a few of these reviewers nominated by editors as good reviewers spend very little time on individual reviews, in some cases an hour or less. Several reviewers suggested that the review process could be sped up if editors gave reviewers less time to conduct the review and sent prompt reminders.

In addition to the full report, all of the reviewers’ original comments, redacted for anonymity, are available at <www.asanet.org/documents/asanet/pdfs/Review_Times_in_Sociology.pdf> following the full report.

Call for Nominations

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in recognition of scholarly work that has enlarged the horizons of sociology to encompass fully the role of women in society. The contribution may be in empirical research, theory, or methodology. It is presented for significant cumulative work done throughout a professional career. The award is open to women or men and is not restricted to sociologists. Only members of the American Sociological Association may submit nominations for the Jessie Bernard Award. Nominations for career achievement should include a narrative letter of nomination, a copy of the vita of the nominee, and three supporting letters.

Dissertation Award

The ASA Dissertation Award honors the best PhD dissertation from among those submitted by advisors and mentors in the discipline. Dissertations from PhD recipients with degree awarded in the 2013 calendar year will be eligible for consideration for the 2014 ASA Dissertation Awards. Nominations must be received from the student’s advisor or the scholar most familiar with the student’s research. Nominations should explain the precise nature and merits of the work.

Please send nominations to: American Sociological Association, 1430 K St. NW, Suite 600; (202) 383-9005; governance@asanet.org. For more information, see www.asanet.org/about/awards.cfm.
Call for Papers

Publications

Contexts is currently seeking contributors to compose short "In Brief" pieces for its upcoming issue. These articles summarize research related to newsworthy topics. While these articles are academically informed, they are written for a broader audience and are largely free of academic jargon. Sample articles can be found at <www.con-texts.org/articles/issues/winter-2013/>. These articles are a great way to write about your research and explore an entirely new topic, while getting a publication under your belt. We are open to any creative article ideas. Contact: Joanne Chen at jchen@sociology.rutgers.edu; <contexts.org>

Contemporary Perspective in Family Research (CFPR), an annual series focused on cutting-edge topics in family research around the globe, is seeking manuscript submissions for its 2014 volume. The 2014 volume will focus on the theme of Family and Health: Evolving Needs, Responsibilities, and Experiences. Manuscripts should not exceed 40 Double-Spaced pages (not including tables, figures, and references). Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in CFPR. Manuscripts should adhere to the APA format. Manuscripts should not represent previously unpublished work. An abstract of 150-200 words should be included at the beginning of each manuscript. Deadline: January 20, 2014. Contact mccormickj@trocaire.edu or slblair@buffalo.edu.

From the Past to the Present and Towards Possible Futures: The Collected Works of Norbert Elias. In 2014 the eighteenth and final volume of the Collected Works of Norbert Elias in English will be published by the University of Dublin Press. The conference marking the completion of the whole project will appropriately be held at the University of Leicester, where Elias lived and taught from 1954-1977. The conference will be organized around some of Elias's key works. Deadline: December 31, 2013. Contact: john.goodwin@ie.ac.uk and jason.hughes@le.ac.uk; <www.ucdpress.ie>

Laboratorium: Russian Review of Social Research invites submissions of article manuscripts for publication. Laboratorium is a bilingual (English and Russian) open-access journal; submissions undergo double-blind peer review. The journal's focus is on historical, comparative, critical and ethnographic sociology, but is also open to contributions from neighboring disciplines including sociology. All submitted texts require original empirical research grounded in relevant theoretical discussions. Contact: Anna Isakova at aisakova@soclabo.org; <www.soclabo.org>

Place-Based Perspectives on Food in Society. This proposed volume will encourage multidisciplinary examinations of the context of food that primarily focuses on place. We are particularly interested in essays which address solutions to the global food crisis, focusing on how we address the diversity in that crisis across place. Chapters should be a maximum of 8,000 words (not including tables, charts, figures, etc.). This volume is intended to inform students and scholars from related disciplines, but just as importantly to attract and interest the college-educated lay reader. Deadline: January 15, 2014. Contact: Kevin M. Fitzpatrick at kfitzpa@uark.edu; <www.sociology.uark.edu/Contemp_of_Food_Call_for_Papers_092713.pdf>

Qualitative Inquiry. Call for papers for a Special Issue on: "Embodiment and Social Difference: A Tribute to Laurel Richardson." Well known for her work on gender, Richardson's recent book, After the Fall, focuses on issues of disability, aging, and ableism. In the spirit and practice of Laurel Richardson, we invite you to submit essays and research articles on the embodied axes of social difference—ableism/ableism, gender/sexism, age/ageism, sexuality/heterosexism, race/racism, and the intersections of these social experiences. Deadline: February 1, 2014. Contact: Ronald Berger at berger@uwu.edu; Carla Corotto at ccorotto@gmail.com; Julie White at jwhite@uwm.edu.

Solving Social Problems series from Ashgate Publishing, is seeking book proposals. They are looking for proposals describing any social problem (environmental, human rights, immigration, medical issues, any form of social inequality and bias, mental illness, terrorism, etc.) couched in theory and supported by empiricism. Contact: Bonnie Berry at solvingsocialproblems.org, or Neil Jordan at njordan@ashgatepublishing.com.

Conferences

Australian & New Zealand Studies Association of North America (ANZASA) 2014 Annual Conference, February 6-8, 2014. Austin. ANZASA is a multidisciplinary organization that welcomes papers on any aspect of Australian or New Zealand studies as well as comparative studies involving Australia, New Zealand, and North America. It welcomes proposals for individual papers as well as proposals for panels by groups of scholars. Deadline: October 31, 2013. Contact: David Snow at DaveSnow@anzansa2014@gmail.com; <www.anzansa.net>.


Museum of Motherhood (MOM) Conference, March 7-8, 2014, New York City. Theme: "Making Motherhood Visible: (Re-) Writing Narratives of Contemporary Mothers." Drawing on Andrea O'Reilly's and Barbara Katz Rothman's notions of patriarchal motherhood, MOM asks what factors, past and present, inform our new ways of understanding motherhood, fatherhood, and notions of family? MOM encourages submissions that provide critical insights into mothering, fathering, and family issues, etc. Deadline: December 10, 2013. Contact: Roksana Badrudjoja at roksbad@gmail.com; Amber Blair at abla@georgiasouthern.edu; Lynn Kuechle at mms@monmuseum.org; Laura Tropp at latripp@mms.edu; <www.mommuseum.org/aply>.

Urban Research and Development Society 2nd Annual Conference, December 5-7, 2013. Dhaka, Bangladesh. Theme: "Democracy, Citizenship and Urban Violence." During the period of neoliberal democracy everyone faces huge challenges of inequality and social polarization which leads to forms of urban violence. This conference aims to draw together from academicians and researchers ways to address violence under neoliberal democracy and insurgent forms of citizenship. Deadline: October 15, 2013. Contact: urdsdh@gmail.com; <www.urbanafairsassociation.org/2013/08/26/call-for-papers-conference-of-urban-research-and-development-society>.

Meetings

April 8-12, 2014. Association of American Geographer Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL. Themes include: geography of climate change, GIS and policy, racism and violence, scale and sustainability, the American South, environmental hazards, emigration, and the aging of america. Contact: meeting@aag.org; <www.aag.org/annualmeeting>.

Funding

Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies offers up to one year of research support at the Freie Universität Berlin. It is open to scholars in all social science and humanities disciplines, including historians working on German and European history since the mid-18th century. Deadline: December 1, 2013. Contact: bprogram@zedat.fu-berlin.de. For more information, visit <www.fu-berlin.de/bprogram>.

Crime & Justice Summer Research Institute: Broadening Perspectives & Participation. July 7–25, 2014, Ohio State University. The institute promotes successful tenure/careers among faculty from underrepresented groups working areas of crime and criminal justice. Each participant will complete an ongoing project for journal or conference funding review. The Summer Research Institute will provide living and travel expenses for the duration of the workshop, and will culminate in a research symposium where participants present their completed research before a scholarly audience. In addition to presenting their research, participants will have the opportunity to be exposed to leading scholars in the field. The institute is supported by the College of Criminology and Justice Studies and is co-directed by peppers, and the types of research productivity that is expected of faculty. During the workshop, participants spend time with faculty and department heads in their discipline discussing how to best prepare for this type of work, what the life of a faculty member is like, and receiving personal tips and feedback. Deadline: November 10, 2013. Contact: Marcia Gumpertz at gumpertz.1@osu.edu; <www.oied.osu.edu/faculty/building-future-faculty-program>.

Wilson Center European Studies Research Grants. Research scholarships are available to American citizens, with a special emphasis on scholars in the early stages of their academic careers (generally before tenure but after Ph.D. or equivalent degree of professional achievement is expected). Research scholarships will be awarded for 2-4 months of research in Washington, DC, and the stipend amount is $3,300 per month. Office space at the Wilson Center and a research assistant will be provided whenever possible. This is a residential program requiring visiting scholars to remain in the Washington, DC area and to forego other academic and professional obligations for the duration of the grant. Deadline: December 1, 2013. Contact: European.Studies@Wilsoncenter.org; <www.wilsoncenter.org/collection/grant-opportunities>. 

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Fellowships

The Department of Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health will offer at least one and possibly two Predoctoral Fellowships in Gender, Sexuality and Health to PhD applicants entering in the fall of 2014. This fellowship is funded by a training grant award from the National Institute of Child Health and Development, Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch. Contact: Peter Messeri at pam9@columbia.edu, Andrea Constancio at an99@columbia.edu; <www.publichealth.columbia.edu/degree-programs/dph-and-phd/sociomedical-sciences/phd>.

The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress announces a new fellowship to examine the effects of the digital revolution on how people think, how society functions, and on international relations using the Library’s collections. The paid research opportunity is open to scholars and practitioners worldwide. Deadline: November 15, 2013. Contact: scholarly@loc.gov; <www.loc.gov/loc/kluge/fellowships/kluge-digital.html>.

Mellon/ACLs Dissertation Completion Fellowships announces the Online Fellowship Application (OFA) system is now open for the 2013-14 competitions. ACLS invites applications for the eighth annual competition for the Mellon/ACLs Dissertation Completion Fellowships, which support a year of research and writing to help advance graduate students in the humanities and related social sciences in the last year of PhD dissertation writing. For more information, visit:

In the News

Robert Andersen, University of Toronto, Leslie McCall, Northwestern University, and Philip Cohen, University of Maryland, were mentioned in a September 15 Los Angeles Times article, “Amid Slow Economic Recovery, More Americans Identify as ‘Lower Class’.”

Kenneth Andrews, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Clark McPhail, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, and Deana Rohlinger, Florida State University, were quoted in an August 28 LiveScience.com article, “What Will Spur the Next March on Washington?” The article also appeared on NBCNews.com on August 28.

David Bartram, University of Leicester, was mentioned in a July 29 TIME.com article, “Moving to a Richer Country: Probably Won’t Make You Happier,” about his research on happiness and economic migration.

Chase Billingham, Wichita State University, and Shelley McDonald Kimelberg, Northeastern University, were mentioned in a June 4 post, “Middle-Class Parents in the Boston Public Schools,” on the Boston Globe blog, “Brainiac.”

Amy Blackstone, University of Maine, appeared on the September 16 Katie (Couric) show to talk about the decision more young couples are making in the U.S. these days not to have kids. Her appearance on the show and her research were also the subject of a September 16 segment on WCSH Portland, a Maine-based NBC affiliate, and an article on the television station’s website. Blackstone was also featured in a September 11 Bangor Daily News article, “UMaine Professor to Appear on Katie Couric’s TV Show.”

Fred Block, University of California-Davis, Matthew R. Keller, Southern Methodist University, were mentioned in an August 28 Wall Street Journal article, “Government Is a Good Venture Capitalist.” Block was also quoted in an August 28 Foreign Affairs article, “The Next Economic Bubble.”

Shelley Correll, Stanford University, and Lawrence D. Bobo, Harvard University, were quoted and Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, was mentioned in an August 12 Chronicle of Higher Education article, “The Hidden Biases That Shape Inequality.”

Sarah Corse, University of Virginia, and Jennifer Silver, Harvard University, were quoted in an August 18 USA Today article about their study, which found that the decline and disappearance of stable, unionized full-time jobs with benefits for people who lack a college degree has had profound effects on working-class Americans who now are less likely to get married, stay married, and have their children within marriage. The study was also covered by Slate, WTOP.com, and The Huffington Post on August 13, the Daily Mail and the Chicago Tribune on August 14, The Indianapolis Star on August 27, and a number of other media outlets.

Douglas Downey, Ohio State University, and Donna Bobbitt-Zeig, Ohio State University-Marion, were quoted in an August 13 TIME.com article about their study, that found that having more siblings means less chance of divorce as an adult. Joseph Merry, Ohio State University, co-authored the study, which was also covered by USA Today, Slate, The Plain Dealer, the New York Daily News, the Detroit Free Press, and the Des Moines Register on August 13, the Columbus Dispatch and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on August 14, and a number of other media outlets.

Mitchell Dunier, Princeton University, was quoted in a September 3 Chronicle of Higher Education article, “A Star

MOOC Professor Defects—at Least for Now.”

Mary Ebeling, Drexel University, was quoted in a September 24 Philadelphia Daily News article, “‘Rebels’ Proliferate up North, But What’s Their Cause?”

Nancy Foner, Hunter College and CUNY Graduate Center, was quoted in a September 11 Wall Street Journal article on the impact of immigration on New York City’s changing electoral politics.

Hilary Levey Friedman, Harvard University, was quoted in a September 22 USA Today article, “Could Child Beauty Pageants Be Banned in the USA?,” a July 8 ESPN The Magazine youth sports issue article, “Exceptionally Normal,” and a June 4 Washington Post article about beauty pageant winners running for political office.

Samantha Friedman, University of Albany-SUNY, was quoted in a June 18 CBSNews.com article on a HUD-sponsored study on which she was the lead author. The study on rental discrimination of homosexual couples was also covered by the Huffington Post and the Baltimore Sun.

Brad Fulton, Duke University, and Richard L. Wood, University of New Mexico, had their national study of community organizing coalitions profiled in the Summer 2013 edition of Responsive Philanthropy.

Charles Gallagher, La Salle University, was interviewed on July 20 on CNN Newsroom about the Trayvon Martin case.

David Gartner, University of South Alabama, was quoted in a September 22 New York Times article, “Oh, the Vanity”, Left-Right Divide Persists in Interior Mirrors.”

Jennifer Glass, University of Texas-Austin, participated in an August 14 Huffington Post Live discussion about who does and who doesn’t get flex time at work. A study she co-authored on the issue was also the subject of an August 13 Huffington Post article, “Why Women Aren’t Getting Flex Time At Work—but Their Male Coworkers Are.” Interviewed on September 1 on CBS Sunday Morning about telecommuting.

Mark Granovetter, Stanford University, was quoted in a September 21 Wired article, “Your Casual Acquaintances on Twitter Are Better Than Your Close Friends on Facebook.”

Kevan Harris, Princeton University, was quoted in an August 17 Washington Post article, “An Uphill Battle for Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani.”

Matthew W. Hughley, University of Connecticut, was quoted about his research on racism and collegiate fraternity in a September 19 Inside Higher Ed article, “It’s Not Just Alabama,” and was interviewed about the research on September 26 on NPR’s All Things Con.
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Shocker! Men and Women Aren’t That Different."

Isidor Wallimann, Syracuse University, was mentioned in an August 16 Wall Street Journal article, “Reception in Switzerland for Refugees Starts to Cool.”

Matthew Ward, University of Southern Mississippi, was quoted in an August 16 Agence France-Presse article about young activists pushing for U.S. immigration reform.

Chris Wienke, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and Gretchen J. Hill, Arkansas State University-Jonesboro, were mentioned in a September 10 Slate article about their study, “Does Place of Residence Matter? Rural—Urban Differences and the Wellbeing of Gay Men and Lesbians.” The study was also referenced in a September 9 Daily Yonder article, a September 10 Quartz article, and a September 11 Huffington Post article.

W. Bradford Wilcox, University of Virginia, wrote a September 17 Washington Post article, and a September 11 Yonder article, also referenced in a September 9 article about their study, “Use of Preferred Gender Pronouns Indicates Expanding Acceptance of Transgender People.”

Bob Wolensky, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, was quoted in a September 17 Atlantic column, “Should Washington Pay Parents to Raise Future Taxpayers?” The column also mentioned Andrew Cherlin, Johns Hopkins University.

Elroi Windsor, Salem College, was quoted in a September 5 Washington Post article, “Use of Preferred Gender Pronouns Indicates Expanding Acceptance of Transgender People.”

Bob Wolensky, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, was quoted in a series of articles in The Citizens’ Voice on the demolition of the Huber coal breaker, the last of over 100 anthracite processing plants in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area.

Awards

Joel Best, University of Delaware, received the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Gerge Herbert Mead Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Nancy S. Berns, Drake University, received the SSSI Charles Horton Cooley Award for Recent Book Article for her book, Closure: The Rush to End Grief and What It Costs Us (Temple University Press, 2012).

Joe R. Feagin, Texas A&M University, received the ASA Section on Racial & Ethnic Minorities’ Founders’ Award for Scholarship & Service; Top Professor (Lifetime Achievement) Award, Affordable-College-Online.org; Soka Gakkii International-USA Social Justice Award (2012), ASA WEB DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award (2013), American Association for Affirmative Action Arthur Fletcher Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amanda Marie Gengler, Brandeis University, received the SSSI Herbert Blumer Graduate Student Paper Award for her paper, “Emotions and Medical Decision Making among Families of Seriously Ill Children.”

J. Steven Picou, University of South Alabama, was recognized as one of 50 researchers over five decades who has made outstanding contributions to science in the areas of Sociological, Practice, Environmental Sociology, and Disaster Research.

Clinton R. Sanders, University of Connecticut, received the SSSI Mentor Award.

Markus Schafer, University of Toronto, Ken Ferraro and Sarah Mustillo, Purdue University, received the 2013 Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award from the Gerontological Society of American for their article, “Children of Misfortune: Early Adversity and Cumulative Inequality in Perceived Life Trajectories (American Journal of Sociology).

Arnout van de Rijt, SUNY-Stony Brook University, was awarded a $275,000 research grant from the National Science Foundation as sole PI. for the project “Field Experiments and Formal Models of Arbitrary Social Inequality.”

People

Gary D Bouma, Monash University, UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia-Pacific, has been appointed by the Governor-General of Australia as a Member of the Order of Australia for “Significant service to Sociology as an Academic, Interreligious Relations, and to the Anglican Church of Australia.

Marilyn Rueschemeyer, Brown University, has been named the Guest Editor for a special issue of Problems of Post-Communism: Research in Communist Countries July/August 2013.

J. Steven Picou, University of South Alabama, appointed Director of the USA Coastal Resource and Resiliency Center (CRRC). He was also appointed to the National Academy of Sciences Gulf Of Mexico Program Advisory Group.


New Books


Meg Wilkes Karraker, University of St. Thomas, Ed., The Other People: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Migration (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).


Patricia Richards, University of Georgia, Race and the Chilean Miracle: Neoliberalism, Democracy, and Indigenous Rights (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013).

Rachel Rinaldo, University of Virginia, Mobilizing Piety: Islam and Feminism in Indonesia (Oxford 2013).


Other Organizations

The Global Awareness Society International 23rd Annual International Conference, Jamaica, May 22-27, 2014. Theme: “The Search for Peace in a Challenging Global Environment.” This interdisciplinary conference invites presentations and panels from all areas of sociology, social work, and criminal justice with emphasis on international and global concerns. Contact: James Pornfret at gassi@bloomu.edu or (570) 389-5177. For more information, visit: <www.orgs.bloomu.edu/gassi>.

New Publications

Sociology of Islam Journal Volume 1 (2013) Issue 1-2 (Brill). Sociology of Islam explores modern social, political, and economic transformations in Muslim Societies through the lens of sociological analysis, social theory, industrialization, modernity, social movements, secularism and political economy. It provides a unique sociological approach in addition to a multidisciplinary approach. For more information, visit: <www.booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/22131418>.

Deaths

Carmen “Joey” Veneziano, University of Maryland Baltimore County, died suddenly from lymphoma on July 17 at the age of 30.

Robert “Bob” Bolles Zehner, University of New South Wales, passed away on August 21, 2013 after a long battle with prostate cancer.

Obituaries

J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr. 1939-2013

J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr., Professor Emeritus of Sociology and former coordinator of family studies at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire died on September 1, 2013, in Austin, TX. For the past four decades, Davidson’s research has contributed to our understanding of a wide range of topics in marriage and family, especially around sexuality and intimacy.

Davidson was raised in Martinez, GA. After receiving a teaching diploma at Augusta State College, Ken graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Master of Arts in Sociology. He went on to earn his PhD in Sociology from the University of Florida where he worked with Felix Berardo.

His 40-year teaching career began at Augusta State College. After spending two years teaching at Indiana University-South Bend, Ken and his family moved to Eau Claire, WI, where he had a 30-year career at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
announcements

Fred H. Goldner
1926-2013

Fred H. Goldner, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Queens College, CUNY, died August 19, 2013, at the age of 86, after a three-year tourist visit to cancer country without a return visa. Born in New Haven, CT, he had a long and varied career, going back and forth between academia and the public and private corporate world, which included serving both as Chief of Staff of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation and as an Executive Consultant with an emergent HMO-Sanus and its national successor NYL Care. His most notable scholarly contributions included: the development of the concept of Pronoia (the delusional opposite of Paranoia); the delineation of power relations within organizations; pointing out the necessity of following the flow of money through an organization in order to understand organizational processes; calling attention to managerial demolition; developing the concept of organizational cynical knowledge; studying the effects of belief systems within organizations; identifying correlations between managerial perspectives and future success or failure and discerning, by the analysis of survey data, the startling differences between the belief systems of older and younger priests in the late 1960s.

He served in the U.S. Navy 1944-46 and taught at Columbia Graduate School of Business from 1964–70. He was an active member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), honored twice as nominee for president and serving on the Council and as Conference Chair in 1981. He started competitive swimming for a lifetime collection with the Kinsey Institute, and we are very pleased that they will expand and enhance our collecting scope, enriching its content and making it available to scholars of sexuality from all over the world. The Institute library aims to acquire, organize, preserve as well as provide access to human sexuality resources and is visited by students and scholars of sexuality from all over the world. The Davidson/Moore collection will expand and enhance our collecting scope, and we are very pleased that they have decided to deposit their lifelong collection with the Kinsey Institute.

Throughout his career, Davidson was the consummate servant-leader. He was active in the American Sociological Association, the groves Conference on Marriage and the Family, the Midwest Sociological Society, the National Council on Family Relations, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, the Southern Sociological Society, the Texas Council on Family Relations, and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. Davidson served as President of the Mid-South Sociological Association and as President of Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociological honor society that has named its Distinguished Service Award in his honor.

In addition to his ambitious scholarly agenda and his devotion to professional service, Ken always had time to lend a nonjudgmental ear and to extend professional guidance. For those of us fortunate to have served with him (including many women navigating the academy), Ken was a gracious and just-plain-kind support, but also a reminder of the importance of generous gatekeepers who open opportunities to the next generation. Fortunate among us are those who counted Ken as “family,” celebrating marriages, births, graduations, and the other rites of passage of family life with this gentleman.

Our colleague and friend is survived by his two sons, John Kenneth Davidson, Jr. (Houston, Texas) and Stephen Wood Davidson (Atlanta, Georgia), as well as John’s wife, Emmy Davidson, and grandsons John Kenneth (Jake) Davidson III and William Laughlin (Will) Davidson (Houston).

Fred Wilkes Karnake, University of St. Thomas, and Dennis R. McGeevey, University of New Orleans

Send Us Your News
Were you recently promoted? Have a book published? Or were you quoted in the news? Did you win an award? Or are you looking for a research opportunity? Did you hear about a funding opportunity or want to promote your meeting to other sociologists? Send your announcements to Footnotes at footnotes@asanet.org.
call for applications

Community Action Research Initiative Grant

The ASA encourages applications for the Community Action Research Initiative (CARI). The purpose of this grant is to encourage sociologists to undertake community action projects that bring social science knowledge, methods, and expertise to bear in addressing community-identified issues and concerns. Grant applications are encouraged from sociologists seeking to work with community organizations, local public interest groups, or community action projects. Funding will run for the duration of the project, whatever the time span might be.

Applications are encouraged from sociologists in academic settings, research institutions, private and non-profit organizations, and government. Advanced graduate students are eligible to apply, but funding cannot be used to support dissertation research. While ASA membership is not a criterion for applying or being selected for this grant, if and when a grant award is made, the recipient must be a current ASA member. Grantees must provide documentation of pertinent IRB approval for the funded project.

ASA Congressional Fellowship

The ASA Congressional Fellowship brings a PhD-level sociologist to Washington, DC, to work as a staff member on a congressional committee or in a congressional office, or as a member of a congressional agency. This intensive 11-month experience reveals the intricacies of the policy-making process to the sociological fellow and shows the usefulness of sociological data and concepts to policy issues.

Each applicant should have a general idea about the area of interest, some experience in client-driven work, good writing skills, and a commitment to the policy process. It is helpful to investigate some placement possibilities in advance or to suggest some in the letter of interest. The application should highlight the link between one’s sociological expertise and a current policy issue. Be sure to specify the time span available to do the fellowship placement. ASA will join with other associations’ congressional fellows to offer orientation, meetings, and support for the person selected.

Applications can be obtained at the ASA website (www.asanet.org, click on “Funding”). Deadline: February 1, 2014. ASA Congressional Fellowship, 1430 K Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 383-9005 x322, spivack@asanet.org

For Members Only

The ASA website is open for 2014 membership enrollments and renewals. Log in to your ASA account to renew your membership online at www.asanet.org. Members may also register for the 2014 ASA Annual Meeting during the online renewal or enrollment process.

ASA has a few reminders to members.

• One journal subscription is included with the membership. No extra subscription fee is required for the journal selection. Of course, members have the option to purchase additional journal subscriptions.

• Unemployed Membership Category: Given the challenging economic climate, ASA offers a regular membership category for unemployed sociologists. ASA members who are not employed may renew at an affordable membership fee of $50. In addition, unemployed category members will receive a significantly reduced annual meeting registration rate and discounted section memberships.

• Benefits for Retired/Emeritus Members: Any member who has retired from the profession can become an emeritus member; ASA has waived the previous 10-year full membership requirement. Emeritus membership also includes complimentary online access to all ASA journals.

• ASA Express Renewal: This option simplifies online member renewals for the 2014 calendar year. If the contact information and the membership selections remain the same, you may advance to the payment page to complete the 2014 membership renewal. Individuals with lapsed memberships before 2013 will have to use the regular online renewal system.

• Membership ID Cards can be printed from your online account at your convenience. The online ID cards are individualized with the member name, ASA ID number and ASA member portal username. New members may also access a copy of the ASA Code of Ethics online by clicking on the “Ethics” box on the ASA home page.

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

Membership in ASA benefits you!