Dear Sexualities Section Members:

Happy New Year to all our section members! Despite ongoing political and academic challenges to the legitimacy of our work as sexualities scholars, this year promises to be a happy one, indeed, for our section – our second sexualities pre-conference, “Sexualities, Race, and Empire: Resistance in an Uncertain Time” is scheduled for August 9-10, 2018. The previous pre-conference is among my favorite of all conferences I’ve attended and I have no doubt this year’s pre-conference will rank alongside it! In 2012, we gathered in Denver, Colorado for our first ever section-sponsored conference, “Crossing Boundaries, Workshopping Sexualities.” I was, at the time, a fairly recent Assistant Professor and the networks and friendships I built during that event were instrumental in developing both my career and the community of scholar activists I’m honored to call friends six years later. This year’s conference presents another such opportunity to us, regardless of career stage, and I am very much looking forward to spending two days with what is (in my opinion, anyway) the most exhilarating, nurturing, and truly fun section of ASA! As the pre-conference website suggests, this is a unique opportunity to “pursue and offer mentorship, build intellectual networks, [and] help set an agenda for the Section’s next two decades”.

(Continued on page 2)
DIVISION NEWS & NOTES

CHAIR’S LETTER, CONT.

Something that made the previous pre-conference so memorable for me was the workshops, which offered valuable and very practical tools for navigating a career in sexualities research — and this year’s event continues and builds on this strategy. The current line up includes workshops on developing your research “elevator pitch,” the chance to get feedback on your dissertation from leading scholars in your field, and advice on navigating job markets (both in and out of the academy) while “professionally queer,” among others.

Another exciting part of this event are the invited plenaries, which invite leading scholars in the field to discuss the conference theme, the history and future of sexualities studies, and the methodological rewards, challenges, and skills particular to our sub-discipline. Finally, alongside the plenaries and workshops, the pre-conference will include the opportunity to share our own work with each other via dialogue-based panels and roundtables. The deadline for submissions for the pre-conference is 11:59pm EST on February 16th. Check out the pre-conference website for the full Call for Papers and for many more details on the event.

Also make sure you read the interview with the conference organizers on pages 4-6 of this newsletter – it offers an inspiring and intimate vision for this conference that I know will be realized (and then some!) by the members of this section. Thank you to the conference organizers and steering committee for what will surely be an incredible event for us all.

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**Sexualities PreConference Information can be found on pages 4-7!**

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**Want to help make the preconference a success?**

**VOLUNTEERS needed to review preconference proposals**

The ASA Sexualities preconference deadline is approaching—February 16, 2018—and the Program Committee is looking for volunteers to help review presentation proposals and then assemble panels and roundtables. Proposals will be brief (250-300 abstracts), and Committee chairs (Marysol Asencio and Jyoti Puri) will coordinate the review process. Work will be complete by the end of March. Sociologists of all ranks, including graduate students, and sociologists inside and outside the academy are all welcome to volunteer. If interested, e-mail Marysol Asencio (marysol.asencio@uconn.edu) by February 16th and include “volunteer reviewer” in the subject line.

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**NEW BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS, AND BLOGS OF INTEREST**

For courses on Sexualities or Gender, the blog posts by Paula England and her team at NYU on the [Contexts blog](http://wwwcontexts.org) are helpful and open-access. Topics include queer sexuality, fluidity, college hookups, sexual assault, and more.


IN MEMORIAM, JOHN DELAMATER

by Laura M. Carpenter, Vanderbilt University

The sociology of sexualities community lost a treasured and highly accomplished member on December 13, 2017, when John DeLamater died unexpectedly at his home in Madison, Wisconsin. Over the course of his career, John made an indelible contribution to the sociological study of sexualities through his publications, his 11-year tenure as editor of The Journal of Sex Research, his teaching, and his generous training and mentoring of three generations of sexualities researchers. He also made major contributions in the field of social psychology.

After receiving his PhD in sociology from the University of Michigan in 1969, John spent 48 years as a professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, ultimately becoming Conway-Bascom Professor, later Emeritus, an honor bestowed on professors who blend teaching and research with exceptional skill. Along the way, he amassed an impressive and influential body of empirical research on sexualities and intimate relationships, much of it focused on sexuality at different stages of the life course. In all, John published more than 26 peer-reviewed journal articles, 7 book chapters (not including chapters in books he edited), and several books on sexuality-related topics, including Premarital Sexuality: Attitudes, Relationships, Behavior (University of Wisconsin Press, 1979) with Patricia MacCorquodale; Understanding Human Sexuality (13th US edition, McGraw-Hill, 2014), with Janet Hyde; and the Handbook of the Sociology of Sexualities (Springer, 2015) coedited with Rebecca Plante.

John also helped shape the field of sexualities research during his long tenure (1997-2008) as editor of The Journal of Sex Research. His ongoing efforts to encourage junior, mid-career, and senior sociologists to submit their research to JSR ensured that sociological insights were well represented in the burgeoning interdisciplinary conversation about sexual practices and identities. Many members of the section will recall seeing John shuttling from one ASA session to another, heavily annotated conference program in hand, listening attentively to every paper about sexualities and encouraging authors to submit promising work to JSR. John also served on the editorial boards of the International Journal of Sexual Health (2007-2012) and American Journal of Sexuality Education (2007-2014).

Especially noteworthy is the vital role John played in training and mentoring the next generations of sexualities scholars—at UW-M and other institutions alike. His style was warm, supportive, and profoundly feminist. My own experience with John is not atypical. We first met in the mid 1990s, when John attended the ASA poster session at which I presented my master’s thesis research. He invited me to submit a manuscript to JSR, and we remained in touch after its publication. Upon discovering that we both become interested in sexuality, aging, and the life course, we co-organized an invited session at ASA (in 2007) and co-edited Sex for Life: From Virginity to Viagra, How Sexuality Changes Throughout Our Lives (NYU Press, 2012).

John also made major contributions to teaching in sexualities, winning numerous teaching awards at UW-Madison, including the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2002. His thoughtful, intellectual approach to teaching a large (400+ students) lecture course on human sexuality made him something of a campus celebrity. He further promoted sexualities research by organizing sessions at various conferences, including a landmark thematic panel on “Pioneers in the Study of Sexuality” for the 2015 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. The many honors John received include the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality’s Alfred E. Kinsey Award for Distinguished Contributions to the field of sex research (in 2002) and election as Fellow of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (in 1993).

In all these ways, John DeLamater made a lasting impact on sexualities scholarship over the course of his distinguished career. He was my mentor and my friend. I am one of many who will miss him very much.

You may find his obituary here: http://www.cressfuneralservice.com/obituary/229116/John-
The ASA Section on the Sociology of Sexualities has been thinking for a while about having another preconference after the first, in 2012, generated so much enthusiasm. In 2016, Council charged Katie Acosta and Jessica Fields with chairing the preconference, and Acosta and Fields later invited Salvador Vidal-Ortiz to form a tri-chair leadership team. They then assembled committees in charge of budget/fundraising, local arrangements, program, and social media/publicity. Everyone has been hard at work for over a year setting up a program, website, fundraising, and more. The preconference website offers up-to-date information on the preconference. Here, Acosta, Fields, and Vidal-Ortiz engage in a conversation with bee coston about the preconference, its aims, and what participants can expect.

ASA’s Sexualities section was founded over two decades ago, and the field of sexuality studies in sociology has changed dramatically over those years. Can you talk a little bit about what you think are some of the bigger changes and what challenges and possibilities lie ahead for us?

KA: When I started graduate school in 2003, the ASA sexuality studies section was still in its infancy. I have been encouraged in recent years to see the racial diversification of the section leadership and award recipients. However, the section can still benefit from more consideration of citizenship and belonging. For instance, the intersections between sexualities, race and migration is an area I hope to see the section more actively supporting.

JF: I agree, Katie. I was a graduate student at the first meeting of the sexualities section, and, across my career, insights from scholars of color and scholarship on sexualities and race have kept me excited about the section and shaped my research and teaching. I especially appreciate my colleagues’ work on links between sexual identities and political disenfranchisement, the formation and maintenance of sexual communities, and the ways sexuality is deployed in conflicts over inclusion, belonging, and membership. All of these issues are deeply racialized and classed and entangled in conflicts and movements over national boundaries.

Some of the challenges and possibilities for our section might lie here. I’ll pose these as questions. What is the collective project of the section—intended or not? How do different understandings of “sexualities” circulate among section members, and what do those differences accomplish? What is our shared commitment as a section and community of scholars to thinking about sexuality as it intersects with and inflects other categories of difference? How do ideas about intersectionality, empire, and race span that project, and where do those ideas drop out of the conversation?

Q&A continued on next page.
SEXUALITIES PRE-CONFERENCE Q&A
WITH TRI-CHAIR LEADERSHIP, CONT.

SVO: I posed a question at the last ASA Sexualities Section panel (on the 20 years of the field): “What can we do to make sociology of sexualities more transnational?” There was no response from the panelists, who I (perhaps mistakenly) viewed as USAmericans. Our background is not necessarily the issue (not just those panelists, not just those attending that session). But if we cannot expand on a view that is grounded on a so-called “canon”—often reduced to our places of training—then we sustain the sociology of sexualities as an insular project, as only and inherently US-based. I’d be extremely proud to see our section thrive beyond the US borders, not literally, as in the study of other countries with a development or area studies gaze, but substantively, almost philosophically—to dissolve some of these conceptual ways in which we view “ourselves” and in turn, how we view the world.

KA: When I first became an academic, I remember senior scholars disregarding sexualities. It was a new section that they dismissed as being "in style" but without long-term relevance to Sociology. I’m really proud to see the section becoming more and more integral to Sociology as a whole. I’m also really proud of how many student members we have. I think it forces the skeptics within our discipline to recognize that we aren't going anywhere. Our section is thriving, it's growing.

The theme of the preconference is "Sexualities, Race, & Empire: Resistance in an Uncertain Time." How did you settle on this theme and what important dialogues do you hope will arise from the scheduled plenaries and keynotes?

KA: We gave a lot of thought to the theme of the preconference. We saw it as an opportunity to help shape the future direction of the section. 2017 was an incredibly hard year in the United States politically. We wanted to make sure that the theme for the conference captured the intense political landscape and that we can come together to work on a collective response.

JF: We did give the theme a lot of thought. (Thanks to the steering committee for the many conference calls on just this question.) We wanted to respond to a few things. First, 2017 was the section’s 20th anniversary and the section’s leadership felt moved to mark our accomplishments over those years. Second, our work began during the 2016 presidential campaign and has spanned Trump’s election, inauguration, and presidency—what did this context of political uncertainty and social violence mean for sociologists studying sexuality? And, third, what call did we want to issue to the section as we considered the next decade of work?

SVO: As a Puerto Rican born and raised on the Island, empire to me made extreme sense; it connects to an inherently feminist, transnational, and decolonial project of thinking about our scholarship and activism differently. But it also connects to the land where we’ll be: Philly, and Pennsylvania overall, are dominated by Puerto Ricans, and there is about 100 years of migration of Puerto Ricans specifically to the State—geopolitics matter.

KA: I agree, Salvador. Resistance was also an integral part of the theme for me. Anti-immigrant sentiment has been painfully palpable to me in recent years. Like many Dominicans, I have lived my entire life in a back-and-forth dance between the Dominican Republic and New York. My US citizenship is something I do not take for granted because my undocumented kin have had a fundamentally different experience. It was important to me that resistance be incorporated in our theme because I think, now more than ever, we need to avoid normalizing the attacks on raced, gendered, queer, and immigrant bodies.

Q&A continued on next page.
**SEXUALITIES PRE-CONFERENCE Q&A WITH TRI-CHAIR LEADERSHIP, CONT.**

**SVO:** Within the committee, we had conversations about what it would mean to be specific with the theme and what some might read as discouraging the membership from participating. I was one of the most vocal critics of that view, which I consider a colonial mentality trap: “Let’s not have a theme on race or empire; that will not invite others who don’t do such scholarship.” That view tends to reproduce the same ol’ networks of peers speaking to each other, thus limiting the potential of any transformative growth and new experiences. I was interested in questioning the idea itself: why would breaking into new ground be unfriendly to sociology of sexualities scholarship—unless such scholarship was already denying many voices a space? In the end, the conversations moved the committee to agree on the theme, and the overall response from the membership has been incredibly positive.

**What opportunities will there be for conference participants to meet one another and enjoy Philadelphia?**

**KA:** We are expecting approximately 150 people and are excited about the prospect of creating a more intimate environment so that people can really get to know one another. We plan to have a closing reception to facilitate some mingling. I also think it’s important for us to see a little bit of Philadelphia. I always think it’s a shame the way we always go to these great cities every year for conferences and sometimes I barely leave the hotel. While we are still developing specific plans, we do hope to have some structured downtime for everyone to see a little bit of Philadelphia.

**JF:** Our commitment to that intimate environment runs through the program. The Program Committee has been careful to design panels and roundtables that themselves encourage discussion. The panels and roundtables will be structured (with presentations, presiders, and time limits), but we’re asking people to prepare comments that prompt dialogue. We want folks to share emerging ideas, to take risks, to enter unexpected conversations. Many of us left the 2012 sexualities preconference in Denver with new colleagues, projects, and frameworks—those were some of the most important outcomes of that event. And Salvador is working with Philadelphia sociologists and venues to plan the closing reception Katie mentioned. I’m excited about that.

**SVO:** Having this preconference downtown, but outside the hotels for ASA, SSSP, SWS, etc., produces a different relationship to the space. It makes for multiple conversations and for feedback that begins before a panel, and does not end even after ASA ends. So many of the best intellectual conversations happen in the hotel lobby, at a reception, or while having a drink at the bar. A relaxed environment where folks—from graduate students, junior faculty, to seasoned scholars—can converse and get to know one another and one other’s work without the banality or formality (or that feeling of being in a hermetic bubble) of the ASA meetings proper, helps more people engage and engage in more meaningful ways!

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**Help the Sexualities, Race & Empire Preconference boost our social media presence!**

- Like us on Facebook and Twitter.

  **Twitter**
  @SexualitiesConf (https://twitter.com/SexualitiesConf)

- **Facebook**
  Sexualities Section (https://www.facebook.com/sociologyofsex/) Sexualities Research and Writing Group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/254948751290893/)

- Like, share, and retweet our social media posts.

- Generate your own posts about the preconference and tag conference organizers and speakers in any pictures you include in those posts.
2017 SECTION AWARD WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

BEST GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD
Jody Ahlm, University of Illinois, Chicago: “Respectable Promiscuity: Digital Cruising in an Era of Queer Liberalism”

DISTINGUISHED ARTICLE AWARD
Tony J. Silva, University of Oregon: “Bud-Sex: Constructing Normative Masculinity Among Rural Straight Men that Have Sex With Men”

MARTIN P. LEVINE MEMORIAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP
Sarah Dieffendorf, University of Washington: “Sex, Gender and Sin in the Evangelical Church”

SIMON AND GAGNON AWARD
Mary Bernstein, University of Connecticut

For more information about these awards, including how to submit for 2018 see The Sexualities Section Awards Website.
PRE-CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

The Sexualities Section invites you to participate in the second national pre-conference from August 9-10, 2018 in Philadelphia.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

All submissions are due February 16, 2018, 11:59pm EST. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out end of March, 2018.

CALL FOR PAPERS (Download a PDF copy here: FINAL CFP)

The preconference will host open submission panels and roundtables. To be considered, please submit abstracts (250-300 words) for either of the two formats below and limit yourself to one submission. In order to foster dialogues and connections, organizers will assemble individual submissions into panels and roundtables (proposals for pre-assembled panels or roundtables will not be accepted).

Panels: Accepted submissions will be organized into dialogue-based panels. Therefore, participants are asked to make brief presentations (no more than five double-spaced pages) that generate questions and conversations based on their research findings and/or theoretical frames.

Roundtables: Roundtables are intended to encourage informal discussion on topics of interest to participants. Participants will come ready to share ideas and brainstorm new directions.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:
- intersectional analyses of race and sexuality;
- sexual intimacies, practices and behaviors;
- transnational, postcolonial, and/or decolonial queer of color approaches;
- homonationalism, homophobia, heteronormativity and/or critical heterosexualities;
- transgender studies and/or intersex studies;
- disability studies;
- social movements;
- mental and physical health;
- queer theory;
- sexualities across the life course; and
- institutions and organizations.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NOTES

Members of Sexualities Section:
I hope you are enjoying the beginning of your spring semesters! I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I will soon be finishing my term as newsletter editor and in its place, will be running for a position on the Sexualities Council. I’d be honored to serve in this position, and as such, hope you will consider voting for me when the times comes! As always, it’s an honor serving you in any and all capacities!

We're on Facebook! You should like us as much as we like you...
https://www.facebook.com/sociologyofsex/
Just search: “ASA Section on Sexualities”

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