Tenderloin Mosaic

by Sherri Canaan, San Francisco State University

The San Francisco Hilton is located in the middle of the Tenderloin. Historically, the term evoked to designate that part of the city associated with various forms of vice and corruption.

Now the Tenderloin is a much more complex mosaic of urban life styles, but the historic features of the district are still important.

The Tenderloin is one of the main gathering places for San Francisco's transvestite community. It is also a turf for pretentious of various sizes, ages, and races offering a diverse repertory of tricks. There are drug dealers and muggers, petty thieves and small-time operators. There is gambling. There are exotic backrooms and peepshows and dark, smoky bars night out of some Danielle Hammet mystery.

This patch of the mosaic comes alive at night and guidesbooks regularly advise the casual visitor to avoid the Tenderloin streets after dark. At night, even the intrepid sociologist ought not venture out alone. But during the day the entire panoply of Tenderloin life is visible, and urge you to take half an hour to explore the astonishing diversity of this urban neighborhood.

Start off from the Hilton Tower, it is one of many luxury high rise hotels that dominate the skyline and cater to business people, conventioneers, and other upscale tourists. Some of these people will see little of the streets of the Tenderloin as they move from san to lobby to suite. Nevertheless, they bring a level of affluence into the neighborhood and their interests are often pitched against the more impoverished interests of the residents. Transiency creates much of the character of the Tenderloin. In addition to the luxury hotels that dominate the neighborhood in scale and grandeur, there are many other moderate and inexpensive lodgings. The airport limousine service comes directly to the neighborhood, and the Greyhound Bus Depot is only a few blocks away. Travellers of every economic strata and from every part of the world come to or through the Tenderloin.

Examination for ASA Certification at the MA Level Available at the 1989 Annual Meeting

by Herbert L. Corder, University of Washington

Persons who wish to enter the non-academic job market following the completion of an MA degree in sociology may be able to enhance their employment prospects by achieving ASA certification as an "Applied Social Research Specialist." The ASA certification program at the master's level is designed to provide a means by which, on a voluntary basis, persons who satisfy high standards in training, experience, and professional accomplishment may be so identified. The ASA certification program is not intended to restrict the use of the title "sociologist" by persons who are not certified.

One of the requirements for ASA certification at the master's level is the satisfactory completion of a written examination, and the opportunity to do so will be available for the first time at the 1989 ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

The requirements for ASA certification as an "Applied Social Research Specialist" are:

1. A master's degree in sociology (or its equivalent in another social or behavioral science) from a regionally accredited institution.
2. Evidence of at least one year of experience in social or behavioral research under competent supervision. In most cases, this requirement may be fulfilled by work on the master's thesis, and in some cases, by other work as a student. Applicants with unsupervised experience may request a special review of that experience by the Certification Committee.
3. Satisfactory completion of a basic certification examination designed to assess the applicant's professional competence in basic research skills, including analytic and statistical procedures.
4. Satisfactory completion of a certification examination in at least one of the following four specialties: (a) advanced quantitative analysis, (b) survey research, (c) demographic analysis, (d) qualitative analysis. In the fall of 1989, the only specialty examination available will be an advanced quantitative analysis. Certification in the other specialties will become available as the examinations are developed.
5. Two letters of recommendation from persons qualified to evaluate the applicant's training, professional experience, and research competence. One of the letter writers must be a Full or Associate Member of the American Sociological Association.
6. Full Membership in the American Sociological Association with paid dues for the current calendar year. (ASA certification is automatically terminated if ASA membership is allowed to lapse.)
7. Agreement in writing to adhere to the standards described in the Code of Ethics of the American Sociological Association.

Applications from those who do not have an MA degree conferred by the deadline for registration for the 1989 examination may nevertheless register for the examination, provided they have completed a minimum of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of graduate level course work in sociology or a related social science.

See Certification, page 9

Published by the American Sociological Association
ASA Council Adopts a Revised Code of Ethics

by Barbara Walters (Altman), Charlottesville, VA

On January 28, the ASA Council accepted a newly revised edition of the ASA Code of Ethics. This major revision represents the culminating efforts of the ASA Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE). Under the chairmanship of the immediate past Chair of COPE, Benigno E. Aguinaldo, Texas A&M University, the committee worked through a common standard of the participation of all COPE members, with the support of all members of the Committee on Sociological Practice, the Committee on Publications, and the Committee on Nominations. The Council lauded Aguinaldo’s extraordinary efforts. Despite technical problems in the early revision of the Code and the membership (see Footnotes, February 1989, page 2), members of COPE received abundant feedback on the revisions from which suggestions were reviewed and incorporated through conference calls through midnight on January 27 preceding presentation of the final form to Council. The Committee in its efforts to secure the benefits of the opinions of those who wrote are especially grateful to Steve Bowd of the Executive Office who has coordinated COPE efforts from beginning to end. To all who participated in these activities we express our thanks.

The revisions of the Code as adopted do not incorporate all the changes requested in the reversion of the former Code. The Committee found much of enduring value in the work of predecessors and these elements of the Code were left intact. The revision was guided by a perceived need on the part of many members of the association to update the Code and to incorporate concerns of sociologists working in government, corporate, non-profit and other practice settings. Many of the changes are linguistic but nonetheless represent efforts to frame guidelines on principles rather than specific activities in specific contexts. For example, the section on sociological research on international contexts was eliminated while the principles governing research and concerns regarding human subjects were incorporated in other sections of the Code. A section on the employment practices, which reflects the consensus in the profession regarding equal opportunities for qualified protected minorities and women was added. The revised Code now specifies that persons who initiate complaints will be protected from retaliation. We have strengthened the sections pertaining to sociological practice and on disclosure and the rights of research populations. The section on publication and review processes has been revised to emphasize the interdependent professional responsibilities of authors, editors, and reviewers.

COPE and the Executive Office have developed procedural guidelines for COPE members to minimize conflicts of interest and to ensure the confidentiality of the complaint process. The section on policies and procedures has been modified to streamline the processing of cases and to emphasize mediation in the resolution of disputes between parties.

The ASA Committee on Professional Ethics regards this revised Code as a living document, subject to future revision as the need arises. As representatives of a voluntary association, we emphasize the role of education over that of litigation. Copies of the Code are available through the ASA office, and we urge its incorporation in the general educational process. (C)

William V. D’Antonio, Executive Officer

while the present financial condition of the Association is stable, it is far from robust. Interest from the reserves helps to cover general operations, and the principal is used from time to time to purchase new equipment or meet emergencies like building repairs. 

Aiken further pointed out that the dues revenue has varied during the past decade was the result of one moderate and two major enhancements. In 1983, revenues increased by some $243,878, as the result of the sharp increase in membership dues approved by the members. But that increase also cost the Association 1,200 members who declined to pay the new dues rate. It has taken the Association six years to return to the membership level of 1982.

The second major enhancement came in 1986 when subscription rates were raised to bring them in line with those of other social science associations. The new revenue increase was $439,029. The third moderate enhancement came in 1988 with factors working positively to help us achieve an increase of more than $200,000, an increase in early payment of dues, which yielded about $32,000 in new revenue, (3) added income of some $80,000 because of higher than anticipated library subscription revenue, employment bulletin listings, cumulative index of Sociology, and increased advertising. Some of these, like the Index, have peaked, while library subscriptions are now being evaluated, and job listings continue to increase as the job market slowly expands. Finally, (4) the 1988 Annual Meeting produced $32,000 more in income than expected, as attendance was up slightly, and we had more advertising and exhibitors than anticipated.

As Aiken noted to Council, the four factors that produced a good year in 1988 are always hazy, and we cannot count on them from year to year. For example, Annual Meeting attendance varies by 200 to 600 depending on location, transportation, and room rates. Let me use one factor to illustrate the steps we have taken to protect ourselves and the uncertainty that still prevails.

At the same time that the members voted in 1982 for the new dues structure, they also approved limiting future dues increases to the inflation factor of the previous year. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to determine what is expected to be spent on a household. This, then, is a fair mechanism for the Executive Office to keep up with inflation. For the same principle applies to this office, namely, that the staff expects a salary increase each year, assuming no financial exigency and the editorial assistants, managing editors and other persons who work for ASA journal editors on various campuses throughout the country also expect increases. So the CPI has become a vital mechanism to help keep the Association’s books in balance.

At the same time, a majority of ASA members are just now moving into the prime years of their working lives, in or out of academia. Thus, over the past three years especially, there has been a slow but steady growth in the number of members in the top dues categories. The combination of CPI based increases and higher dues categories has helped provide the funds needed to handle annual cost increases for staff and publications. At the same time, the number of members retaining a salary increase is also growing, slowly from 600 to 800 in the past five years. We know that number will increase and reach 1,000 and more in the decade of the 1990s. Essentially, that means members will be moving from the top dues categories to much lower categories. There will be a referendum in the May elections to ask retired members to pay a minimum of $5.00, if they are currently not required to pay dues, if they have reached the age of 70 and have been members for at least 10 years.

The present dues structure fits ASA well; we need to raise between $75,000 and $100,000 in new revenue every year, and this structure can, for a while at least, account for a quarter to a third of that amount. The trend is contrary to that of earlier years. Without this revenue, we have had to rely on the financial support of our members. The dues are not just revenue but a necessary part of our association's total revenue stream.
Candidates for ASA President, Vice-President

AMITA JETEONI


CHARLES M. BENJAMIN


BARBARA F. BESKIN


Tendernote from page 3

creates a substrate of the elderly that is further served and supported by the North of Market Senior Services program.

In recent years the mosaic of the Tendernest has become even more complex with the influx of Southeast Asian families. They are drawn to the Tenderloin by the fact that they are cheap; they know others who have settled there and because there are things goods, services, and language. Once they have settled in the Tendernest, they tend to stay because the neighborhood has become home.

Some of these new immigrants are on assistance. But others operate small businesses: restaurants, laundries, video stores. Many work in low paying jobs throughout the city and some commute as far as Silicon Valley (about 20 miles round-trip) to work at the companies in the electronics industry.

The children of these immigrants do a lot of commuting themselves. There is no school in the neighborhood so children are bused all over the city, some as far as Treasure Island, a government installation in the middle of the bay. Often children of the same family are bused to different parts of the city; it is difficult for them to make any involvement in their children's education, even if they had the language skills to do so.

Opportunities for acquiring a new language are available through the San Francisco City College Community Center Program. Eighty sessions of English as a Second Language are offered in the immediate neighborhood and almost as many in a second setting not far away. Some new immigrants take advantage of these opportunities; others do not.

The Tenderloin is a neighborhood alive with various agencies and organizations. The Tenderloin Thrift is published monthly in English, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian. In addition to these organizations, there are the problems of the homeless, the elderly, and the refugees, who are agencies and organizations addressing the problems of the poor, youth, women, families, the ill and the disabled. These formal organizations bring real political power to the otherwise disenfranchised groups who make this their home.

Indeed, working throughout these various agencies and organizations, activists were able to have the Tenderloin designated a special residential use area. The designation prevents the further conversion of existing low rent buildings. Some of the improvements are still ongoing. Members of the Hilton were grandfathered in, but now it is very difficult to demolish or convert existing structures.

As David and Golah, the residents of the Tenderloin have managed to hold off the economic interests of the corporate powers that would transform their iconic Tenderloin neighborhood into luxury hotels and up scale restaurants. As a result, the Tenderloin is a unique example of diversified land use.
Online Searches as a Data Source

by Michael a. Faia. College of William and Mary

Among the hundreds of databases available through Lockheed Dialog, there are three that I use most often: a numeric database (Dialog Information Services, 1988:62-67). In the following list, I have provided annotations for those numeric databases that seem to have special value for social scientists:

(1) American Library Directory (R. B. Bowker)
(2) American Men & Women of Science (R. B. Bowker)
(3) Condus (U.S. Bureau of the Census): Contains statistical data, price indexes, and population data. Demographic data include excerpts from the CIP, the 1960 census, and information on more than 800 countries. Data generally consist of tables.
(4) Chemical Abstracts (Chemical Abstract Intelligence Services, London): Contains data on the organization and operations of the chemical industry.
(5) DeNunzio Demographic (Donnelley Marketing Services): Contains demographic and market data.
(6) Donnan’s Financials (Donnan’s Marketing Services): Contains up to six years of data for more than 200,000 companies. Individual companies may be compared against industry norms.
(7) De-Nu Internationals (Donnan’s Marketing Services): Contains data on organization and operations for over 50,000 non-U.S. companies.
(9) Disclosure/Screening Ownership (Disclosure Information Group): Contains data on stock ownership for approximately 5,000 companies. Based on SEC files.
(10) Echbase Timeseries & Forecasts (WIEFA Group): Contains econometric time series on business and demographic data.
(12) Investment (Technical Data International).
(13) Media General Plus (Media General Financial Services Inc.).
(14) Moody’s Corporate News-International (Moody’s Investor Services, Inc.).
(15) Moody’s Corporate News-U.S. (Moody’s Investor Services, Inc.).
(16) Moody’s Corporate Profiles—Investor Services (Moody’s Investor Services, Inc.). Contains organizational and financial data for about 1,800 U.S. firms, highly active on the stock market.
(17) IT S Annual Reports Abstracts (Precedence): Contains abstracts of annual reports for 3,000 U.S. and international firms.
(18) IT S F&A Indexes (Precedence): A large database containing company profiles and financial data, and information on mergers, acquisitions, new products, technology, and sociopolitical factors. Also contains historical financial data.
(19) IT S Forecasts (Precedence).
(20) IT S Prompt Daily (Precedence). Contains data on organizational and financial characteristics of companies, including information on international trade and technology.
(21) IT S Prompt Daily (Precedence). Historical and projected time series for the United States, including data on population, GNP, prices, wages, employment, production, consumption, energy, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, foreign trade, etc.
(22) Standard and Poor’s News (Standard & Poor’s Corporation): Provides news, company profiles, and financial information for more than 10,000 U.S. companies.

Data Reduction: Obtaining Simple Counts

Appendix 1 provides an illustration of data from ICC British Company Financial Databases. When we examine the complete ICC record for Honeywell Aerospace (1979), which happens to be a distributor of computer technology, we realize that we are in the presence of a taxonomy that contains (or implies) concepts such as spatial location, administrative structure, type of industry, sales, exports, pre-tax profits, employee remuneration, fixed assets, net assets, and so forth. It also contains an assortment of ratios and indexes. Incidentally, it is incumbent on social scientists to try to influence this taxonomy in the same way that we influence the taxonomies of say, the General Social Survey of the National Opinion Research Center, or the Data Archive for Adolescent Pregnancy and Pregnancy Prevention (DAAPP). Variation in rate of profit, perhaps brought about by variation in "organizational composition of capital," is the major theme of this illustration. However, what is significant is the way in which the data permit the examination of the relationships between industry characteristics and profitability. He suggests further that at present, economic crises tend to occur in the traditional industrial sector while more profitable"innovative methods" are found in industries such as electronic data processing. One presumes that holding constant for the size of firms, innovative methods and products would be associated with a relatively high profit rate; holding constant for type of firm, profit rates would be highest for relatively small firms (Mann and Cohen, 1975: 69-71). The SPS-X analysis presented in remaining parts of Appendix 1 provides support for these hypotheses.

The twenty-seven record sets listed by Dialog in Part II of Appendix 1 (quadrant delimited) were created through use of the SELECT command. Set S1, for instance, contains records for 1,797 U.S. firms that have descriptor indicating that they deal primarily with computers or with personal computers. The use of a question mark at the end of key words indicates that any suffix may be substituted for the question mark — computers, computerized, etc. The set S4 begins the process of grouping firms by number of employees (size) and by profit per employee. The frequency counts for sets S1 through S7 can be treated as cell frequencies for a 2 by 3 table involving size, type, and profitability of firms. Set S1, for instance, contains 234 computer firms that are small (99 or fewer employees) and have a low profit rate (2,499 pounds or less per employee). In Part III of Appendix 1, I suggest a reasonably efficient way of listing data for analysis by SPS-X. Notice that the three variables—type, size, and profitability—were all coded on the basis of their Dialog set numbers; a practice that minimizing errors. The information contained in the Dialog output can readily be transformed into raw data through manipulation by an effective editor such as EMACS. This process is facilitated considerably when the original interaction with Dialog is saved to a PC disk by PClink, a similar program. Part IV (Standard and Poor’s News) describes the tabular output, with appropriate statistical tests.

Data Reduction: The Report Command

Several databases, including Donella Demographics, have a REPORT capability that permits datasets to be constructed according to user specifications and to be saved in a rectangular format. The dataset found in Appendix 2 was created by the following series of commands:

SELECT LCITY AND ST-VA
SELECT SI AND AG-0000-9999999999999
SORT S0 ALL/ALL
REPORT S3CV,YAHALLAH.

The first command creates a set containing all cities located in Virginia. The second command selects cities in the first set that have at least 20,000 inhabitants. The third command lists those cities by descending order of median family income. The final command causes the cities to be printed out (or saved to disk) by name, number of households, family income, median income, and year of schooling.

Notice that, with minimal editorial input, a large database could be transformed into a fixed-format file for analysis by SPS-X, SAS, etc. Dialog Information Services (1987) has brought it to the attention of market researchers that these made-to-order demographic databases can be matched with market data such as warranty registrations or sales; the same principle applies to sociological research using combined datasets. In fact, I should mention in closing that Dialogue Information Services (1988:40-49) has implemented a "Dialog" procedure that makes it possible to search several databases simultaneously on a given topic. The keyword usage available for multiple database searches is not highly sophisticated, but this sort of procedure may well be the wave of the future.

Notes

The cost of this dataset, covering 7,756 British firms, was $13.31, and available software packages with search protocols could have reduced the cost further. The low cost is one of the major reasons why I believe that databases such as ICC will be drawn upon more heavily in future research. (Information deleted from the appendices is available from the author.) A separate loglinear analysis confirms that type of industry, net of size of firm, has a significant impact on the likelihood that a given firm produces a high profit. For instance, when we compare medium-sized automotive firms against medium-sized computer firms, the odds for high profitability increase from around 54,965 for automotive firms to around 55,113 for computer firms. The logodds of the odds ratio increases from .233 to .102. A loglinear model giving the odds ratios as a functions of type of industry and size of firm, produces expected cell frequencies that do not differ significantly from observations.

See Data, page 9

Appendix 1

(1) Vehicle Sales

<table>
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NSF Sociology Program: New Initiatives, Cautious Optimism

by Carla R. Hauer

A recent interview with NSF’s Sociology Program’s Director, Phyllis Moen, and Associate Director, Robert Althausen, reveals a program energized with three new initiatives: seeking funding, gratified with the number and quality of proposals, and eager to work with sociologists to bring our work to bear on important scientific questions.

The first new initiative addresses the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change. “We want the research to go beyond the normal boundaries of geography to see the world as an environmental system,” says Moen. “How can social and economic factors, and demographics, be encompassed in studies of environmental change?” This program is funded across several programs to encourage multidisciplinary work. (See the program description in the Funding Section on page 11 of this issue.)

A second initiative looks at the scientific careers of women and minorities. Moen notes that the U.S. faces a shortage of scientists and engineers, and one way to address this need is to encourage women and minorities to pursue careers in science. “But we need studies that address all these important social problems that discourage women and minorities in the entire education process,” she says. For example, 47% of U.S. math majors are women, but then only a small percentage go on for graduate work. Further, there is a gap between the incomes of male and female scientists. She encourages sociologists to exploit the data that already exist, such as the Hispanic and Beyond surveys of recent doctorates. “We need proposals that are more analytically and theoretically driven, and not just descriptive data about how many women and minorities drop out,” she emphasized. “We also need to know about women and minorities who make it, and why.” The Sociology Program plans to hold a conference that brings together social scientists interested in this topic to learn how to exploit the existing data bases.

Sociological knowledge has been useful to NSF as a fund of scientific work in all disciplines. Many of the best resources on career patterns of women scientists and has made presentations to NSF divisions (such as Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences) on how sociologists can contribute to the science of careers. Moen expects that NSF will develop a “pipeline” to encourage women and minorities in graduate school in science. As many of you may have experienced, when physical scientists are first exposed to social science work they are often taken aback at its value and import. Moen and Althausen are open to other ways in which they, or other sociologists, can serve the Foundation’s internal needs.

The funding of dissertation is a third area of change. As of June 1, the Sociology Program will have a special review panel to evaluate the quality of dissertation proposals. This panel will meet on June 15, with notification on July 1. The maximum award will be $30,000. Althausen notes that the Sociology Program wants to set aside a pool of money in the past to fund dissertation research. A relatively small award can produce a nice piece of research.” Contact the Sociology Program or appropriate funding agencies for further information on dissertation awards.

The Funding Outlook

The NSF Sociology Program budget for FY1989 is set at $3.3 million, of which $1.3 million is already committed, mostly to ongoing data collection projects such as the General Social Survey and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. The remaining $2 million dollars are available to assign to projects. Although the Sociology Program was assigned the largest percentage recommended increase in the Division of Social and Economic Sciences for FY1990, the budget has been in steady state funding for the past four years. Moen and Althausen are cheered by the increase in quantity and quality of proposals coming to the Sociology Program. Fall 1988 showed almost double the number of high quality proposals compared to fall 1987. They attribute the increased interest in funding to the Sociology Program as a response to the increased flow of good proposals. Nonetheless, all proposals of high quality are not getting funded. “The current crunch is bad,” says Althausen, “but we ask the sociology community to hang in there and not give up. The shared pain of some good proposals going unawarded is the unintended pressure on the infrastructure of the Foundation that results in more funding.” When asked about their views of the Bush administration’s support of science, both answered in bureaucratic unison: “We are cautiously optimistic.”

Moen highlighted the desirability of applying for money from several sources. “Proposal submission isn’t like writing articles for journals where multiple submissions are taboo. We encourage people to apply to NSF and other places. Some time we can leverage money from another place; a small grant from NSF can help you get money elsewhere.”

Advice and Encouragement

The Sociology Program is looking for tightly constructed proposals that make the theoretical underpinnings, the research design, and the plans for collecting and analyzing data “a seamless whole,” says Moen. The mechanics as well as the content are important. “You’d be surprised at how many proposals we receive with miss- ing references, misspelled words, and excessive jargon.” They suggest having a colleague read the proposal and edit it before submitting it to NSF.

They also emphasized the value of persistence. “When you see the names of the researchers who have submitted proposals and were turned down before getting funded,” says Moen. Althausen pointed to the useful feedback that people receive on their proposals from the review panel and the importance of using that feedback to make changes. Keep trying!

Also important is the “broader significance of the proposed work,” says Moen. “We are asked, why should the farmer in Iowa fund this [with tax dollars]?” Although NSF’s purpose is to fund basic research, the Sociology Program is always interested in the relevance of the work to larger social issues. (See letter by Robert Miller in this issue). Congress, who passes on the NSF budget, must be reassured of the relevance of this research; it’s incumbent upon sociologists to show why the basic research done with NSF funds, research that is theoretically driven, has a purpose,” says Moen. Althausen notes that out of the buzzwords in Washington and in NSF is “competitiveness.” What social science can contribute to this is not fully developed and they encourage sociologists who do labors market, manpower, and other research to address the competitiveness angle.

New Leadership in the Sociology Program

Moen and Althausen are on visiting scientist (temporarily) positions and will return to their home institutions (Cornell and Indiana, respectively) on a staggered basis. The ad in the February Footnotes outlines the openings, and they encourage people to apply. When asked about the qualifications of an effective program officer, Althausen highlighted: (1) a broad interest in and familiarity with the discipline as a whole; (2) a publication record, showing your experience as a hands-on scholar; (3) good judgment about research and the ability to make the hard choices on funding; and (4) the commitment and skill to “do case for sociology” within the Foundation. Also helpful (but not essential) is an interest in the sociology of science. There are ample opportunities to study science from within NSF and to have access to a volume of interesting meetings, conferences, and colleagues. “To some people within NSF, social science is an oxymoron; you have to be willing to operate as a minority discipline.”

Althausen particularly noted the value of his experience as an associate editor of the American Sociological Review, which gave him the broad view of the field, and his stint as a soccer referee which taught him to make judgment calls without looking back. Last but not least, they noted the value of experience in dealing with bureaucrats.

The job also involves a lot of networking. “We use the phone a lot,” says Moen. “When we have to make a presentation on some issue, perhaps responding to a request from National Science Board members, we spread the word and we do so by phone tomorrow, we pick up the phone and call experts and ask their advice.” Althausen commented on the creativity that has developed through “phonework,” as he and Moen help prospective investigators refine ideas for proposals, look into funding for research abroad, or suggest alternative sources for funding.

Program Officers must be champions for social science. “The continual frustration and yet the challenge of our job is to encourage our colleagues here at NSF to conceptualize what social science can contribute to our knowledge of problems like national competitiveness or global change,” says Althausen.

The Sociological Community

After hearing the term “sociological community” throughout the interview, I asked them about how they emphasized that idea. Who speaks for the community and is there one? “This is a job we make you curious about the nature of the leadership of the sociological community,” says Althausen. “It can have an impact on the review panels. Would they point out that the physical scientists always speak about "scientific community" and it seems to mean something.

One of the most satisfying aspects of their job is the opportunity to represent sociology to NSF and NSF to sociology. They noted the significance of the National Academy of Sciences report on sociology as the most important recent act of leadership, despite some controversy in its development. “In sociology could more commonly be used in our work.” Where do they turn for leadership from the elusory “sociology community.” Moen mentioned the review panel, the ASA, and the oversight panel (evaluating the Sociology Program) And Moen noted the role of the Sociology Program staff as advocates for sociology, who monitor what is coming over the transom.

The Sociology Program staff is eager to help colleagues with their ideas at the beginning stage. “People should be ready and willing to be helped,” says Moen. “Part of the job that we like is helping wannabe sociologists cut into proposals.” She notes that before coming to NSF she never would have thought of picking up the phone and asking for advice, but now she encourages colleagues to do that.

Without a doubt the physical building of NSF exudes a feeling of bureaucracy. “We teach about bureaucracy, but here we are living in it,” says Althausen. He relates a story of a conversation that concluded with a colleague commenting that he didn’t sound like a bureaucrat. Althausen says he thinks of himself as “a visiting scientist” not a bureaucrat, and has meant that we can represent our community, and not fall victim to “dogholes” at all. At the same time working here has given them both a chance to meet career government professionals, and they commented extensively on their esteem for these colleagues.

The two person Sociology Program team is plucky, competent, and eager to promote sociological work. For more information, contact Phyllis Moen or Robert Althausen. Sociology Program (National Science Foundation, Washington, DC 20550) (202) 357-7802.

Section Needs Teaching Ideas

The Section on Sociology of Education is working on a revision of a set of curriculum materials for teaching sociology in various education courses. If you have been teaching in this area, please share your syllabus, class assignments, software and film reviews, and other instructional materials. Send items to Jeanne Ballantine, Department of Sociology, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435.
Open Forum

A Call to Read the Original Sorokin and Sumner

It is good to know that “Sorokin Lives!” and that his centennial is being celebrated this year. Barry V. Johnson’s article in Footnotes (January 1980) will stimulate interest in reading Sorokin’s own creative works and not just what others have said about him. I trust also that the 100th anniversary of W.G. Sumner next year will also be enthusiastically honored.

The way in which such creative social scientists as Sorokin and Sumner tend to be conceptualized and their work rationalized and otherwise inaccurately used after their deaths is a disturbing phenomenon. But it is still difficult to gainsay such a statement as that by Sorokin in his Faith and Fools in Modern Sociology and Religion: "Science" tends to have the pretensions of originality, poor logic and vagueness of ideas, together with a desire to cover these defects by "impressive verbal raiment," are responsible for numerous "spectre theories" among many modern sociologists and psychologists.

He spells out in detail implications of this that are as applicable today as they were more than three decades ago.

I am happy to remember and benefit from the comments of Sorokin and Sumner. We need to try to understand them as they were and in their social contexts. Too often, our successors find it expedient to portray them otherwise. For example, how many sociologists who look upon Sumner as an apologue for psychoanalytic and social Darwinism are acquainted with this incisive prediction he made in 1901:

"The great foe of democracy now and in the near future is psychoanalytic. Every year that passes brings out this antagonism more distinctly. It is to be the social war of the twentieth century. In that day militarism, expansion and imperialism will all favor psychoanalytic. In the first place, war and expansion will favor robbery both in the dependencies and at home. In the second place, they will take away the attention of the people. Nobody will notice what the plutocrats are doing. In the third place, they will cause huge expenditures of the poor, most of whom will be members of the plutocracy. In the fourth place, they will call for a large public debt and taxes, and these things especially tend to make them unequal, because any social burden bears more heavily on the weak than on the strong, and so make the weak weaker and the strong stronger."

Alfred McCaig Lee, Professor Emeritus, Brooklyn College (CUNY), and Visiting Scholar, Dean University

On the Confusion of Social Justice and Social Reality

I should like to respond to the Editor’s call for comments upon James Coleman’s acceptance speech for the 1988 Putnam Award. It is an excellent opportunity to engage in the January Footnotes, and hope those ideas may qualify as “thoughtful reflections.”

Professor Coleman is to be commended for bringing to the matter the attention of the general Association membership, and for his succinct statement of a problem which has (I hope) concerned many of us for some time. He

sums it up in a single sentence: "What is threatening to the discipline of research that provokes these responses?"

The kind of research referred to, of course, is that upon topics teoped by popular norms in the discipline. He suggests as examples his own work investigating the effects of banning on white flight, the possibility of genetically-based differences between the races or sexes, or the merit of educational systems in political regimes offensive to American sociologists.

His question is an excellent one. Why, indeed, should people who style themselves "social scientists" object to principles based upon empirical research findings on questions about which they feel strongly? He asks for answers. I presume that the reason is ethical, for the answer appears obvious: the objects have made value commitments to specific postures on the basis of moral, political, ideological, or other grounds, and not on the basis of facts. And, collectively, we sociologists have permitted such commitments to be accepted as sociologically grounded, at minimum, if not as "scientific."

It is tempting to say that this distortion began in the 1900s, but that is not historically correct; it can be found in the meliorative thrust of the First World War. The 1900s probably didn’t help make it any worse, however, when we made us accept uncritically the slogan that "If you aren’t part of the solution, you’re part of the problem."

Certainly none of us should wish to deny anyone the right to hold political, moral, social or religious convictions. It is, however, important that we not fall into the trap of confusing assertions about what should be (social justice) with assertions about what is (social reality). More importantly, we have fallen into the trap of blaming the messenger for the bad news when someone discovers a reality (or facts) that we find morally repugnant. It is particularly tragic when we accuse that researcher of supporting or encouraging matters of which we do not approve when she or he has merely revealed them. That such judgments are uncritical, to say the least, appears self-evident. Cynics want a pristine ideal of sociologists, but most of us would eschew that role if the matters were put to us in that light, although we often appear to grasp it when cloaked in moral self-righteousness.

I think the current problem started with the "value-free" debate, and I wish many of us would re-read Weber’s ideas on the matter more carefully. Few of us today, I suspect, would argue that we can be completely value-free in our work, or that any science is. Nevertheless, a useful degree of objectivity is possible as is demonstrated by the existence of scientific and sociological prediction. If there were genetically-based differences between the races or the sexes, for example, should we not, in the pursuit of social justice, wish to know that so we could deal with it rather than pretend it wasn’t real and accept hypotheses that couldn’t work because they were based on false reality? To the degree we wish to be social scientists, should we not wish to know correctly all we can about the world, impartial as it is knowable, even if imperfectly? And would not that enable us better to adjust our lives and social structures in the manner we may desire?

Reverend McCaig, Fairleigh Dickinson University

The Possibility of a Rational Discourse in Sociology?

How refreshing to read in Footnotes Jim Coleman’s acceptance speech on receiving the Sociology of Education Award. My professional experiences have closely paralleled his. Indeed, I have probably voted more ideological taboos in our profession than he. To be sure, no geographical malignancy and political dominance of Seattle has spared me some of the ilk Coleman received in Chicago, but my eccentricity to, and alienation from, the discipline is probably greater than his. Like Jim Coleman, I was the recipient of an ASA specialty award (the 1979 Swirkski Award for Race Relations).

In a subtle display of “repressive tolerance” (Soros Marcuse), the test of the award stressed my earlier contributions (which by ideological passion and conceptual ennui, make me seem more than two decades away from the short and narrow path. Now, I am able to see my early (1971) criticism of race-based affirmative action, forced busing, quotas, etc., as my advocacy of class-based measures eloquently espoused by another prominent Chicago sociologist, William Wilson, and others for becoming the new orthodoxy. After all, Wilson was recently elected to the ASA presidency for saying what twenty years earlier earned me the epithet of “racist.” With Coleman’s award, the ASA was symbolically making amends for not recognizing that he had been correct ten or fifteen years too early.

The above remarks sound terribly self-serving and self-indulgent, and, of course, they are. But, in a broader sense, they are not. There is an idea that sociology is not immersed in ideological quagmires as to make the present pretense of so many of its practitioners a momentarily naive, self-delusion. The intrusion of ideology on subject matter is not a sociological monolith, but the problem is more acute in that than in most, and perhaps more pervasively so in that whirlpool of ideological passion and conceptual ennui known as “race relations.” I have long come to the conclusion that the conveyor belt-pathology of U.S. racism (took white and black) mixes rational discourse in the field practically impossible. The very content of what one writes, for instance, is differently interpreted depending on the author’s skin pigmentation.

Perry L. Lee, University of Washington

Overcoming Gender Bias

The recent letter by Richard A. Zeller (Footnotes, December 1986) concerning what he calls “gender bias paranoia” illustrates the neivete that persists concerning gender roles. Zeller concludes that the assignment is not based against females since the females did better than their male counterparts on it. We tend to agree with the anonymous reviewer that the assignment had a male bias due to the traditional gender role socialization concerning sports. We would submit that Zeller’s data offer at least one other equally plausible interpretation: females were able to overcome the inherent sex bias in the assignment and still outcome. As one of our colleagues frequently says, “To succeed in American society, a woman has to be twice as competent as a man.” While not endorsing this statement, we would suggest that in Zeller’s assignment females had to overcome gender bias and apparently were able to do so.

Gerald E. Duvall and James D. Peshkin, Marietta, Georgia State University

Investigating Equality of Opportunity in Ulster

The following is an account of my experience as a consultant to the Public Employment Agency for Northern Ireland (FEA) who had the mandate to produce results unpalatable to the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS). While the events recounted below lie more intense to nature and intensity to the political context which encompasses any research into equality of opportunity in the troubled province, the general issues raised, concerning the constraints that academics carry out government-sponsored research the policy implications find themselves subject to, have ample parallels elsewhere and may be of interest to the readers of Footnotes.

The FEA investigation, into the NICS itself, found regular, critical instances in religious composition and promotion in favor of Protestants, particularly in higher ranks. Since the NICS has been under the direct control of the British government since the imposition of direct rule in 1972, these results were very embarrassing. Overruling the objections of its consultants and the External Appointments appointed from outside the province, the FEA reviewed the majority of its findings and incorporated the recommendations internationally by the Civil Service into its report of the investigation.

The events surrounding the FEA investigation have not been without personal costs. Reading the FEA’s recasting of its report effectively killed the possibility of further consultancy work. Much time and energy that could have been expended elsewhere has been devoted to attempting to counteract the very debatable “official” version of events. The Civil Service is a major source of intellectual and financial resources in Northern Ireland and the controversy around the investigation has placed a strain on my relationship with some parts of NICS and with colleagues. Under the Thatcher government, our academic productivity may be measured more by the ability to attract funding than by any other criterion. A particularly disturbing part of the whole situation is the view that one’s own conduct rather than the very questionable behavior of the FEA and NICS is seen as the source of the “trouble.” Finally, it is an unfortunate fact of academic life in Northern Ireland that maintaining a neutral stance is next to impossible. Since my account of the Civil Service investigation to its potential political role of the British government, it has been picked up in Nationalist propaganda.

After a peak around the time of the report’s publication, matters came to a head a second time some years later, stirred up by the fact that the inaccurate published report was being used for propagandist purposes. I wrote a full account of the investigation. This was submitted to the Journal of Social Policy (unpublished) and was accepted for publication.
Complexity of an American's Experience in South Africa

As an American sociologist who spent one and one-half decades in South Africa, I decided to compile and comment on certain issues discussed in David Friedrich's "Humanitarian Sociology in South Africa," which appeared in the December 1988 issue of Footnotes. In 1974, at the invitation of Professor Henry Lever, I assumed a leadership position in the Department of Sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. The vacancy occurred after the resignation of Dr. E. Van Zyl Slabbert, the previous incumbent, took his elected seat in the South African Parliament.

While teaching in Johannesburg, I became very interested in examining the varieties of sociology taught at the universities in the country. The University of South Africa (UNISA), where Dr. Friedrich spent three weeks is atypical of a South African university. On a number of occasions, at the invitation of various faculty members of UNISA, I visited that facility. At all times, my reception was cordial. However, UNISA is essentially a correspondence university—the majority of its 10,000 students never visit the main "campus"—a monolithic structure overlooking the main highway between Johannesburg and Pretoria. The didactics often occur through pamphlets mailed to all students weekly. These constitute the core and a course’s syllabus. Postal mail-in assignments are graded and returned. UNISA’s multi-racial label is merely a euphemism for the various "populations groups" enrolled in this largest "distance-learning" university in the world. (Multi-racial ‘proximal’ learning universities do not exist in South Africa.)

Additionally, even the academic elite of UNISA, especially its two token black faculty members, are subject to restrictive laws in South Africa, particularly to the Emergency Powers Act. Academic freedom in South Africa is not what most Americans would expect.

Understanding this milieu is important when commenting on Friedrich’s observation that there existed considerable evidence for the development of a humanist sociology—"including the Marxist elements during his AD HOC discourse. These seminars, because of the design of UNISA, reached few students. South African legal precedent demonstrates that discussions of this nature can be regarded as tantamount to treason. Dr. Friedrich’s audience was restricted, since included in the syllabus and subsequent discussions, via pamphlets, required prior endorsement from the university senate. No university student in South Africa has free access to the writings of Marx or any other author or subject deemed controversial by the government mandating Publications Control Board.

Finally, the history of South African sociology has been neglected in Friedrich’s report—for herein lies the key to understanding its variant within the context of South Africa. Briefly, the first professor of sociology in South Africa was Dr. Hendrik Vrooek—who, in 1953 became the professor of Applied Sociology at the University of Stellenbosch. It was Dr. Vrooek who would become a Prime Minister, designing and executing "apartheid" (even the term is defined: his concept of Race, or independent tribal homelands, is still being implemented. The expansion of society in the early days was encour- aged via government funding in an attempt to solve the "poor white problem." For the full account of these matters, the reader is referred to the writings of Professors Henry Lever and Edward Higgons.

During Friedrich’s three week tour to South Africa, sponsored by UNISA, it would appear from his report that he knew what the university wanted him to see in spite of his insistence for no interference. What he did not know is about what he saw worth to be satisfied to his sponsor. In fact, given the observed nature of Friedrich’s conclusions are valid. However, as an American sociologist who went to complete the research project in South Africa after teaching there for three years, and remained a total of fourteen years, I would hesitate to draw any conclusions.

I would suggest that before Friedrichs reaches too many conclusions regarding humanistic sociology in South Africa, that he at least visit or perhaps spend equal time at all other departments of sociology there. The fact that all activities in the four English medium universities in the country are closely monitored by the Security Branch of the South African Police might be what provoked his notion that no faculty member of UNISA (or Afrikaanse speaking universities) has ever been captured by the government for "subversive activity. This is certainly not the situation for sociologists in English medium institutions. In addition, comments are too broadly on humanistic sociology, I encourage Friedrichs to explore more typical aspects.

While my goal, albeit retrospect, was none other than to promote my understanding of South African society, I do share Dr. Friedrich’s ultimate conclusion. I discontinue boycotts and sanctions against South Africa, although I am far from ready to lift and seems to be the point. Since South and Philadelphia are two proximate, I look forward to sharing more of my experiences with Dr. Friedrichs.

Michael J. Prunete, Medical College of Pennsylva- nia (Department of Psychiatry)

Response to Pravetz

Dr. Pravetz makes some very useful points, but I should point out that I say nothing in my essay that contradicts his basic assertions; or that UNISA is representative of South African institutions of higher learning; I certainly don’t argue that the systematic labor under various types of constraints (which) I became well aware of during my short stay in the country. I also don’t make issue with the argument that sociology (another discipline) are used as instruments for the promotion of state policy. It would have been exceedingly presumptuous of me to form any "conclu- sions" about humanism (or other) sociology in South Africa on the basis of my brief, limited visit. What I did say—and I should emphasize by this point—is that there are South African academics (even in a predominantly Afrikaans-language institution such as UNISA) who are exploring and promoting humanist alternatives to traditional sociological perspectives, and who are committed to truly progressive change in South African society. And it seems to me that such initiatives should be encouraged.

Dr. Pravetz’s characterization of the rather unique University of South Africa is occasionally accurate though I believe it doesn’t really reflect what I was hunting or was wholly controlled by the University. As I said in my essay, there is an account of my other experiences and observations for another time and place.

David O. Friedrichs, University of Western Ontario

Remarks

Open Forum, from page 6

publication after the standard peer review. I sent an advance copy of the article to the government unit of the Civil Service, requesting (naively) that their images of me should be as positive and probably better than the reality. This was a very bad take. A telephone call from the editor of the article that the image should just have come a letter from the chairman of the FEA threatening legal action if the article was published. The chairman has three objections to the article:

(1) That it was libelous. That I could answer; my account of the investigation was totally accurate and I had taken care that every word could be backed up by written documentation.

(2) That I had misrepresented the position taken by the chairman of the Internal Assessor. I then sent a copy of the article to the Assessor, and he accepted my account of events as a valid view and urged for publication.

(3) That I had "vested confidentiality" by revealing information from an investigation. In this the FEA Chairman was mounting the Fair Employment Legislation which contains a provision that an individual's religion could not be revealed (for the purposes of equality that are obvious in Northern Ireland). The chairman apparently chose to take a rather narrow view of legislation and tried to mean that any information associated could not be revealed. He also failed to mention the right to use this material and that FEA consultants had secured an agreement that we would have the right to publish.

The publishers (not the editorial board) at IF, who had the final say, decided that the article could not go forward under the threat of legal action. An elaborate game of "academic chicken" ensued in which the IF chairperson asserted that the article would appear but offered to withhold publication until the FEA had had time to compose a reply which would appear alongside. The FEA chairman, whose job one can assume was to block the article rather than legitimate it, was not fooled by the bluff, continued to threaten a lawsuit, and the article has not yet appeared.

This cautionary tale has relevance beyond the specific issue raised. Academic consultants should note that when the results of their work are perceived as threatening by individuals or parties that are directly involved, the results take on a "political" meaning and that the subject of such research may in fact mask "hidden agendas" of policy advocacy. There is always the danger that the twentieth century "expert" will meet with the same fate as the Greek seer of old ridings several millennia ago. A hypothesis biased evaluation of equality of opportunity taking place in a highly conflictive and politicized context can fall prey to external influences even when it is carried out to a very high standard. I am grasping and apparently strong safeguards.

This account also shows how hard an independent body charged with non-essential is a real responsibility, can squander that independence and lose sight of the political society at all costs. The policies of accommodations alleged since the founding of the FEA were confirmed during and following the conduct of their Civil Service investigation. The FEA has become an integral part of government to define exter- or criteria of equality of opportunity policies in Northern Ireland, particularly that emanating from the United States. My activities, by casting doubt on the credibility of these efforts, were a threat. I doubt that an article similar to that submitted to IF using the same level of information but praising the FEA would have had any difficulties.

Finally, though it should not really make any difference, I am an American citizen and cannot in any way be described as an Irish nationalist.

References


Robert L. Miller, The Queen’s University of Belfast

Asking the Right Questions

I worry a bit that Pierre van den Berghe is “still at a loss to explain” some of the more “archaic” aspects of American life. And I wonder if this inability is due to his own brand of dogmatism. Some of the “American sociology” he deprecates—most of which are, in fact, rooted in the European thought he so much admires—will offer some quite plausible explanations for the kinds of beliefs he finds so difficult to explain.

True, the United States does appear backward in many ways. Despite the enormous wealth of this nation, the results of the American educational system are disappointing compared to most other industrial societies. And, unlike most other industrial nations, and some industrializing ones, the United States still has no national health system, leaving millions without needed medical care. Further, while millions of members of young children are in the labor force, provisions for child care are inadequate and poorly coordinated. These lags are worries, even unexcusables, to us as members of society, as are those van den Berghe lists.

As sociologists, however, using our sociological imaginations, shouldn’t we be asking appropriate sociological questions rather than despairing of our ability to understand? These questions might include: What is it about our society that precludes the development of good schools and adequate health and child care services? What kinds of values prevail that work against the rational thinking that van den Berghe—and the rest of us, perhaps—feels should conquer superstitions and outdated beliefs? What do people, ethnically, perceive as reality and how are those perceptions formed and reinforced? And so on.

Few sociologists would deny that biology affects human behavior in many ways or that human beings have evolved biologically over the millennia. But political/cultural explanations are far more powerful tools that are biological tools for answering the questions above and for addressing differences in thinking and beliefs of peoples of different nationalities. Or does van den Berghe think Belgians and Britons have evolved biologically differently from Americans?

Monica B. Morris

Response to Pravetz

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AIDS, Men, Gay, and Their (Invisible) Sociology

by Stephen O. Murray, El Instituto Obrero

As of July 1988, 70 percent of the cases identified with AIDS in the United States were gay men—10 percent of these also died immediately after the incubation period for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is eight years, as the best data indicate, more than half of the cases infected before the first cluster of cases was recognized in 1981 have yet to sicken.

More American gay men have already died of AIDS than the total number of American combat casualties in Vietnam. The waste of lives of young men from my generation who have fought in a futile, uncultured war in Southeast Asia crystallized opposition to U.S. government policy. As the recent furor over hawkish senator's draft avoidance shows, the polarization of this society about the Vietnam debacle continues.

In the seven years of AIDS and President Ronald Reagan, the U.S. government has been indifferent to the deaths of my generation. In my community at least twenty men have died of AIDS for events who did not die in combat in Vietnam. We have had to face the inexcusable deterrence and grisly deaths of our comrades, not ten thousand miles away, but all around us. In the process, those of us who are sociologists as well as gay men may have lost some of the analytical distance in the AIDS crisis. Perhaps this is why, when there were finally AIDS meetings in the 1980s annual meeting, there were no papers by an open gay male sociologist—and by any from the also heavily impacted black and Hispanic communities. Somehow it is more effective—yet to some—easy—to survey captive college students than to examine the experiences of those whose deaths were due to government conceptualizing, funding, and treatment of AIDS and of people with AIDS.

It is not pleasant to see people being written off as unsalvageable or not worth salvaging, as gay men have experienced in health education. It has been hard for us to accept that the American government may have it better to let gay young men die than to “sanction” mention of condoms or homosexuality in public school textbooks or in any other public material. Without ever having done a survey to the contrary, I am by now a “junkie” about the careers of gay men really is in this sex-obsessed, sex-hating society. Perhaps a sociologist with the appropriate analytical detachment can analyze and explain the historical and seemingly ongoing covent acceptance of heroes—being dead in body by dead in body groups and the greater willingness to show needles. Those days, the public transportation system where I live contains posters with illustrations of syringes being cleaned in bleach. This is a city where two percent of the cases are IV drug users. There has never been a picture of a needle—even in a picture—showing up in the municipal transportation system of San Francisco, a city with as much methamphetamine as is possible in the United States, and a city with a large and politically active gay population.

To many sociologists the human costs of this are appalling, but there is nothing new for sociological theory. AIDS is the contemporary explanation of differential morbidity and as something buffered by social support are already cliches in medical sociology. The dynamic of medical entrepreneurialism were outlined in the early 1960s; the social pathology of status incongruence and intolerance in the 1930s. Post-Kuhnian sociology of science has already demonstrated the absurd of micro-social politics on scientific research. The dispute over who discovered HIV was explained in part by Merwin’s 1927, ASA presiden-

tial address. And so on.

The anger we feel at the bigotry of government sociologists, the provision of health care, and the total irresponsibility of health financing in this country are incompatible with a sociology which analyzes social construction, but no change of those who are socially constructing a phenomenon. It seems likely to most sociologists that FDA tests are set up with drugs that are potential to provide profits, so that drugs already in the public domain do not recur clinical trials. But the logic of talent is not new. It seems likely that the ultrafeminist malpractice suits in the lawyer-ridden cities, with its doctors from trying potential pullatives, but even if this were demonstrated as a motive with sociology’s specificity, resear- lize, questionnaire responses, what would this add to change theory? There were social scientists in the American sociological association camps for Japanese-American during World War II, as descriptions of quantification, which may come with the results. There are already studies of communities struck by natural and social disasters— when of the stigma against study- ing gay men in the 1970s, there are not even baseline data—even for normal practices—to quantify social changes. So the devastation of homophobia and AIDS in the 1980s is important, but not inter- esting to most sociologists. More of them find the abstractions of Parsons or Cooley new and fascinating, if one can get past the published literature in sociology.

There has been nothing on the meaning or consequences of AIDS on the work chan- ces, or social networks, the lives, or the death of those infected with AIDS. Some interesting work on the effects of category, the self-fulfilling epidemiological delimit- ation of AIDS, etc. has been done by sociologists in small proportion of work which has been published has not been published in sociology journals. The work done by gay male sociologists published in sociology journals has been rejected as too “arbitrarily” and “too critically” or lacking in hard data. To date, the journals of this purportedly liberal profession during the AIDS epidemic I have only seen two articles related to AIDS, neither of them with any date at all. Let alone data on gay men who remain the most impacted category. One specula- lates about the effects of AIDS expendi- tures, including loss of productive years of life, and proposes a think tank of quant- ified scientists. The other perspectives to criti- cally review the sociological literature without even mentioning the work by sociologists on AIDS which has been pub- lished. I am always those interested with HIV for insufficiently valuing health and those dying for not coping with the “subordinate” stress” of having AIDS.

To be objective, I am too weary of watching gay men be framed out of the public discourse about AIDS, too weary of watching health care and research entre- prises who are more opportunistic, what they are competent sweep into an area now receiving funding because, in the early 1980s, that only movement subsetted for pressing for increased expenditures for medical research for its political agenda. Clearly, the clamor we made in earlier years of the epidemic was useful in an era of declining support for research funding, but today, there is even some funding available for behavioral research, includ- ing the behavior of most interest to sociologists completing surveys in class- rooms. Gay men have been written off—already “explained” by univariate epidemiology, a smear of the office, and uninteresting to sociology. At the recent AIDS meeting I learned that gay-identified respondents are even excluded from surveys of college students. Like former President Reagan, when AIDS has finally got- ten around to mentioning AIDS, gay men remain ignored. Similarly, now that there is public funding available for the homosexual, less costly alternative to pro- longed hospitalization which gay organiza- tions pioneered (with strong support from lesbians), the money goes to enter- prise health care vendors already invested into the public health system. Now our usefulness is reduced to simply re-ading raw data—mostly cultures and speci- men for lab-testing.

I agree that I am too angry and revoluted to analyze these phenomena as instances of sociological laws—indeed the friend least of the Mathew effect, et al.—which are always the unpleasant consequences. I am too burned down—by the illnesses of the friends, the neglect of governments, and the rejection of our profession—to offer a positive program for AIDS research which will advance sociological theory. Indeed, by leaving the invisible sociology of AIDS, I will suggest that the medical sociology of the sick role and the triumphant high-tech healer is obsolete. At least within medical sociol- ogy, AIDS could provide an occasion to consider the general shift from successful treatment of acute, infectious diseases to the not very successful treatment of most infectious, chronic illnesses. I can escape the grim specifics of AIDS long enough to find this interesting, but almost coming back to the specters of the many men of my generation who have died in vain in the government-induced catastrophes of the Vietnam war and AIDS.

Contact Murray at el Instituto Obrero, 1269 De Haro, San Francisco, CA 94107-3229. Editor’s note: One of four for this special 1989 Annual Meeting issue on AIDS.

More AIDS Contributors

The following people have made contributions to the American Sociological Foundation, COSAC, Millfield Fellowship Program, Endowment Fund and other AIDS-related activities. The Association expresses its gratitu- e for their support.

Arthur E. Gliner
Gerald P. Fitz
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Jon D. Stott
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Joel Smol</div>
Certification, from page 1

Certification will then be deferred for up to two years, pending the completion of all certification requirements, including documentation of the completion of the MA degree.

Applicants for ASI certification as an "Applied Social Research Specialist" wishing to take the examinations at the 1980 ASI Annual Meeting in San Francisco should register no later than July 1, 1989. Registration requests must include the applicant's complete name and mailing address, and appropriate documentation of the completion of the MA degree, (or completion of the required graduate credits, as described above). The registration request, with these materials included, should be sent to MA Certification Examination, American Sociological Association, 1722 15 Street NW, Washington DC 20036.

Upon verification of current ASI membership, a registration notice indicating the time and place of the 1980 examinations, and procedures for documenting the additional requirements for certification, will be sent to the applicant. Applicants who are not new ASI members may include an application for ASI membership and a check for their dues with their request for registration. Applicants must appear at the announced time and place during the San Francisco Annual Meeting to take the examination.

The basic MA certification examination, and the certification examination in advanced quantitative analysis, will be comprised of questions in a multiple choice format. The questions in the basic examination are drawn from topics in research design, data collection, and data analysis, and on the ethics of social research as described in the ASI Code of Ethics. The questions in the examination on advanced quantitative analysis concentrate on quantitative techniques typically taught in courses beyond an elementary course in statistics. The time allowed for each examination is two hours. The questions in both examinations were developed by the ASI MA Certification Examination Committee, with input from other sociologists in academic departments and in non-academic settings.

Special provisions have been made for waiver of any written examination for certification applicants who meet all other requirements for certification and who have five or more years of relevant professional experience, provided such experience (a) was at a post-master's level, (b) was acquired in an employment or research setting, and (c) pertained to research design, data collection, and/or analysis on issues of direct relevance to social science. The opportunity for such a waiver will expire on July 1, 1991. Applicants for certification who qualify for a waiver of examination may request instructions on how to document their certification qualifications by writing to "MA Certifications with Waivers of Examination" at the American Sociological Association (address shown above).

The next opportunity to take the MA level certification examinations will be at meetings of regional sociological associations in the spring of 1990. The intent is to provide an opportunity for certification examinations at such succeeding Annual Meeting of the ASI and at each succeeding meeting of the regional associations.

A Request from NSF

During the Appropriation Committee hearing on the budget of the National Science Foundation (NSF) this past spring, (then) Senator Proxmire raised questions about the utility and validity of a number of research awards in the social and behavioral sciences. All of these awards could be deleted of federal research grants, and they were. However, NSF arguments were strengthened when we could show that the research had led to significant public service accomplishments as well as scientific benefits. For example, we were able to show that one of the awards questioned by the Senator had proved to be very useful as a decision aid to the Iowa Department of Transportation in its reorganization of 135 highway maintenance stations. The state requested $30 million for the project, based on the plan developed from a location model supported by the NSF social science award.

I am writing to you and all current grantees of the Division of Social and Economic Science asking for information you might have about ways that your NSF grant or an earlier grant contributed to non-academic activities—government, community, or private sector. We are preparing a file with examples of the broad utility of National Science Foundation-supported social science research and would like to include it in as many specific instances as possible. Thank you in advance for your help in this project. Although this request requires time and effort on all our parts, it will, I believe, strengthen the strong position of Congress and thus strengthen social science research budgets.

Robert B. McMillan, Director, Division of Social and Ecological Science, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC 20550
Call for Papers, 7th Annual Conference of the American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-89), to be held March 20-22, 1989, at the University of California at Los Angeles, in Los Angeles, California. The conference is organized by the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) and the Los Angeles Computer Society (LACS). The deadline for submission of papers is January 15, 1989. Further information can be obtained from: The AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, c/o AAAI, 1101 King Street, Suite 600, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3350. Tel: (703) 548-1111.

March 1989 Footnotes

When You're Ready for CATI...

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Mass Media, continued
Howard G. Schneiderman, Lafayette
College, was cited by the Atlantic Con-
tinental in a December 9 article about modern public relations. Mr. Schneider
was also interviewed by the Austrian news-magazine, Der Stierland, about his relationship to the social class origins to presidential perfor-
mances.

Greg Sparks, University of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, was cited in the January 13 issue of Canadian Journalism Re-
tournal about his study of the distri-
buting of mortgages between blacks and whites and the nation’s housing crisis.

Hannah Wartenberg, University of Min-
a, appeared in an ABC Evening News “Eye Witness Extra” segment, entitled “Focus on Family,” on November 22 and 23.

Olive Williamson, University of Rens-
tauch, was among her paper’s “Freedom Pioneers in a Southern Community:” Afro-American Physicians in Lincoln-
burg from 1890 to 1950,” aired on the New-
ly Educational Television February 6.

Awards
Jean Altmann, University of Notre Dame, is the 1989 recipient of the Woman in Science Award. She is a leading researcher in the field of ethology and the study of primate behavior.

Jenevieve McCloud, University of Cal-
ifornia, has been named a Fellow of the Institute of Existing Knowledge for her work in the field of artificial intelligence.

Dorothy M. Barnard, University of Cal-
ifornia, has received the prestigious Ford Foundation Award for her contributions to the field of environmental science.

New Books

Nancy Adler, McGill University and Dalhousie University, has published a book on the psychology of social interaction.

Artie Rector, Techniques for Dealing with VIctim Families (Chilton, 1987).


New Publications
The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry announces the availability of “Guidelines for the Clinical Evaluation of Children and Adolescent Social Behavior.” Copies are available for $5.00

Summer Programs
The Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research, The Univer-
sity of Michigan, will hold its 42nd annual survey Institute on June 23-27, 1980, in Detroit. The theme for the Institute is “Survey Research Techniques: A Symposium for the 1980’s.” For more information, contact Dr. R. D. E. W. P. or Dr. R. D. E. W. P.

Contact
The American Museum of Natural History, 120th Street and Central Park West, New York, New York 10024. For further information, contact Dr. D. E. W. P. or Dr. R. D. E. W. P.

Other Organizations
Washington State Sociological Association held its 11th annual meeting in Seattle on October 6, 1980. The theme was “Social Change in the 1980’s.” The meeting included a paper competition and a poster session. For more information, contact Dr. D. E. W. P. or Dr. R. D. E. W. P.

Obituaries
Jess M. Carroll (1918-1988)
I report with sadness that Jess M. Carroll died in San Francisco on March 28, 1988. Carroll was a sociologist and social critic who made significant contributions to the fields of sociology, social theory, and political science.

For Further Information

Who Should Attend
Researchers with a knowledge of basic statistical inference and substantial experience with multiple regression who want to apply EHA. No previous knowledge of EHA is assumed.

For More Information
Contact: Dr. James M. Carroll, 3601 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2629. Fee of $700 covers all course materials but does not include lodging or meals.
Obituaries, continued

for one of her classes Tuesday, December 13, 1988, at Miami University, Ox-
ford. She had probably been identified in the accident on the 79th floor in a fire
in the College of Architecture, which was on the 50th floor.

Ozzi was recently elected presi-
dent-elect of the Association for Hum-
ane Science. She was developing plans for its 15th annual convention to be
held in Cincinnati in October, 1989, in which she planned to include a train-
ning value all she did to help create it ever since she had helped plan the con-
vention in 1979 in Oxford. When the group forming the AHS received a re-
minder from Charles C. Fiske in 1966, she attended the First Gathering at
Miami University, she received her B.A. in 1935. She then had a

1962-1964, Davis did research un-
der the National Institute of Mental Health grant to the Ohio State Psychi-
tric Institute. While she was a consultant to the Family and Children's Agen-
cy in Los Angeles in 1964-1966, she started her work toward the PhD in
child psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles. She joined the
Miami Medical Center in 1962 and served as the Department Chairman for
her work for the PhD at Ohio State in 1971. As a result of her studies of the prevention
of hospitalization in schizophrenia, she co-authored with Simon Danzis and
Bernard M. Greenhouse the Community (Ohio State University Press,
1971).

Davis wrote a number of scholarly articles on the impact of the physical
environment on social conditions, and she was publishing information for a
book on their results. Her professional activities included serving as an assistant
professor in the Wright State University School of Med-
iscit, Dayton, Ohio. She had also performed many functions for the North Central
Sociological Association as well as for the Association for Humanistic Sociology.

Ozzi in the future. Neither the number
of persons nor the size of the room
made a difference, if Ozzi was pres-
tent she literally dominated what
tever virtual exchanges were taking
place. True, she always had an advan-
tage over others present, for it was
hard for anyone to compete with his
benevolent voice. But she was not really
that, her was not that he was able to en-
ter into the exchange of ideas, free
his dreams to hear
n the hallways as

were needed. Barcini
n, she explained
n his undaunted presence wherever he
set foot.

Ozzi Simmons was a man who
knew a great deal and did many
things, but he always wanted to learn more
and never was fully satisfied with what
he accomplished. After receiving a BA
from Northwestern and a World War II
experience in the U.S. Air Force, he
underwent graduate work in the Department of
Social Relations at Harvard, from which he
received a PhD in 1952. He learned from everyone there, regardless of
his disciplinary identifications, conceptual
outfits, and methodological
n ommen activities, and

studies. He was that throughout his
life he passed as an anthropologist
as well as a sociologist.

His first position was in Peru, where
he became the Smithsonian Institution's coun-
country director in 1949. He left in 1952 with a dissertation in hand, Barcini-

ian Spanish, an unstudied ability to relate
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Official Reports and Proceedings

Committee Reports

Committee on ASA/AAAS Relations
The Committee on ASA/AAAS Relations needs to take its place among the sciences at every opportunity. Our connection with the American Association for the Advancement of Science is one chance to do this. ASA can make its interface with other institutions and interests. The Association for the Advancement of Science is one chance to do this. ASA can make its interface with other institutions and interests. The Association for the Advancement of Science is one chance to do this. ASA can make its interface with other institutions and interests.

Dudley L. Poston, Jr., Chair

Committee on Certification in Medical Sociology
The Committee on Certification in Medical Sociology met once during 1988, at the Annual Meeting. Several communications also took place during the year regarding certification. Four persons have been certificated by the Committee since the August 1987 meeting. They are: Tsoyung Kong—December 1987; Brenda Foor—March 1988; Martha Estes—March 1988 (provisional); Mary C. Conley—August 1988. Our life was considered but is pending meeting writing samples.

At the ASA meeting, the Committee discussed the low interest in certification amongst members, as well as the low visibility given this program by ASA since it was implemented. Questions were raised about the need for certification and what it may add to legitimacy in medical settings. No applicants have indicated that certification is necessary for the job; and where certification fits into the profession and other certification structures. The major concern of the Committee is the need for major evaluation of the certification process. We recommend that evaluators outline the ASA Certification Committee's role within the profession.

What has been certified, what kinds of work settings, etc., what has been the committee process for these, what is the position that it serves, the renewal process (without continuing education, annual meeting attendance, or other requirements for recertification is meaningless). These other ideas or issues should be part of a complete evaluation: to determine what we have learned from the certification experience so far and what the future of certification should be.

James L. Perissinotto, Chair

Committee on Certification in Social Policy and Evaluation Research

During calendar year 1988, no applications for certification were submitted to the Committee and no new action was taken.

James E. White, Chair

Committee on Certification in Social Psychology

During 1988, the Committee acted on two applications for full certification. Both were granted only provisional certification, pending fulfillment of the requirements of two years of supervised work. Four incomplete applications are pending eventually review.

Professor Ronald Keeler of the University of Michigan has been designated by the Section on Social Psychology as an appointee to the Committee. Professor Keeler's application for certification is pending.

All but one (Chairperson) of the Committee agreed in the request of Council for expanded membership of this section. Two certification expirations at the end of 1988, and are pending renewal. Seven certification expirations are due to expire at the end of 1989.

John D. DiPiero, Chair

DeBlaire-Johnson-Frazier Award Committee

The DeBlaire-Johnson-Frazier Award Committee met on Tuesday, August 25, 1988, during the Annual Meeting. Committee members in attendance were: Lawrence Bobo, James Czechowski, Cheryl Gilbert, Carole Hack, Judith Hofer and Ronald Tyle- ike. The agenda included review of minutes from the previous meeting, review of guidelines for the award, recommendations for soliciting nominees for the DIO award, and the Awards Ceremony for the 1984 recipient, Dexter Y. Wilmott.

For the benefit of its new members, the Committee offered some time in reviewing established criteria, current living conditions and institutions for award. Aside from several minor editorial changes, no significant revisions or inclusions to the criteria established for the award are recommended. Since visibility for the award, as evidenced by the small number of nominations, is still a problem, the Committee discussed ways of increasing the pool of nominees, including outreach to the Association of Black Sociologists and the Social and Ethnic Minorities Section of ASA, and publication of the call for nominations in The American Sociologist. The Committee is also hopeful that the 1988 Awards ceremony, featuring all 1988 award recipients, will inspire more nominations.

In terms of plans for the new year, all members of the Committee agree that the recipient of the 1989 award must be selected one year in advance, in compliance with recent ASA rules. The call for nominations has already appeared in the December issue of Focus, and will appear in subsequent issues. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 1989. In an effort to increase the number of nominations and supporting materials will be circulated among members of the Committee, who in turn will evaluate and rank the candidates according to established criteria. The Committee's final selection of the 1990 recipient of the award will be made at the 1989 Annual Meeting of ASA in San Francisco.

Ronald L. Tylei, Chair

Committee on Freedom of Research and Teaching (COFRAT)

COFRAT met all day Thursday, August 25, during the American Sociological Association Annual Meetings at Atlanta. All members of the Committee attended.

The Committee welcomed its new members, Carol A. Brown, Richard J. Gelles, Paul T. Murray, and Joana Huber.

We began the meeting, with a discussion of the Committee's general strategy and direction. Stephen Balf, the ASA Liaison to COFRAT, provided an informal overview of the Committee's past, including relevant documents. He circulated an outline of COFRAT positions that was presented to the Committee by Bertina Huber, then ASA Liaison to COFRAT at the August 1986 Meeting. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to these procedures.

During its meeting, COFRAT discussed the various complaints from complainants of ASA members; COFRAT had discussed three complaints at its 1987 meeting. Subcommittee meetings worked to add additional information during the period between the 1987 and 1988 meetings. In one of the cases, the Provost of the University involved was to respond to the sub-committee's request for information by writing to the Provost of the University involved. COFRAT is currently considering the Provost's action and is endeavoring to contact the Provost of the University involved. COFRAT has taken a resolution asking ASA Council to reconvene to consider the Provost's response to the complaint alleging obscenity. COFRAT requested that ASA Council respond to the complaint by giving the Provost of the University involved an opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint. The Provost of the University involved has responded, but has not provided a written response to the complaint. COFRAT is requesting that ASA Council respond to the complaint by giving the Provost of the University involved an opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint. The Provost of the University involved has responded, but has not provided a written response to the complaint. COFRAT is requesting that ASA Council respond to the complaint by giving the Provost of the University involved an opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint. The Provost of the University involved has responded, but has not provided a written response to the complaint. COFRAT is requesting that ASA Council respond to the complaint by giving the Provost of the University involved an opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint. The Provost of the University involved has responded, but has not provided a written response to the complaint. COFRAT is requesting that ASA Council respond to the complaint by giving the Provost of the University involved an opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint. The Provost of the University involved has responded, but has not provided a written response to the complaint. COFRAT is requesting that ASA Council respond to the complaint by giving the Provost of the University involved an opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint. The Provost of the University involved has responded, but has not provided a written response to the complaint.
Reports, continued

Committee identified four additional areas for involvement over the coming year (and beyond):
1. Develop a three-year plan for greater representation and inclusion of sociologists working in business.
2. Continue work on curricular development for applied programs at the Bachelor's level.
3. Review and provide input into the proposal for changing ASA Annual Meeting format.
4. Develop a proposal for a scholar-practitioner exchange program.

Committee on the Status of Homosexuals in Sociology

Below you will find the 1989 Annual Report of the Committee on the Status of Homosexuals in Sociology. The Committee commends the ASA Council and Executive Office for publishing the affirmative action/ nondiscrimination clause in the Employment Bulletin and for including "sexual orientation" in the statement. The Committee also wishes to commend Council's attention to the fact that it will support (most certainly in conjunction with other groups) an effort to bring forward a "domestic partners" insurance resolution at the 1990 Annual Meeting. (see final note below).

The Committee concluded several pieces of old business this year. Thanks to the provost of his university a member, Stephen O. Murray, we completed a project begun by the former CSSH Task Force on Homosexuality to create a list of possible university journals to see if they publish on lesbians and gay men by receiving their offices. Editors of most major sociology journals will receive these lists this winter.

The Committee affirmed its earlier decision to systematically review texts published in the U.S. used for introductory, family, deviance and social problems courses. (Berry Adam, a former CSSH member, has completed this task for those books solicited through an article in Notices sometime in the spring. CSSH is working with the ASA Executive Office to improve the academic lives of lesbians and gay men. To this end, one, all of these efforts may be put into practice in the next 2 years: 1) inclusion of a discussion of homosexuality in ASA Workshops for Chairs of Departments; 2) workshop at the meetings on professional development for lesbians and gay sociologists; 3) an article in Footnotes for ASA membership on the trials and troubles of being lesbian or gay in academic life.

In cooperation with Sociologists' AIDS Network, the CSSH has urged a number of ASA section organizers or chairs to include a session on AIDS within their scheduled program in 1990 and to pay special attention to lesbians and gay men when discussing AIDS. In response to this request, recent sessions have offered a session at the 1989 meetings focused on AIDS. CSSH will make a similar request to William Wilson, the 1990 Program Chair, alerting him and the 1990 Program Committee to our concern that AIDS continue to be addressed in subsequent programs and that Washington, D.C. is another "perfect" location for such an effort.

The Chair of the Sociologists' Lesbians and Gay Caucus, Gil Zickie, proposed to CSSH that the Committee urge ASA to get in record to support of domestic partners' insurance policies. This might include health insurance offered to those employed by ASA as well as to ASA members. Gil and others are researching the issues for a resolution to be presented at the 1989 Annual Meeting.

Bart Scoville, Chair

Classified Ads

Volume I: Social Structures and Human Lives

Co-edited by Beth B. Hess, County College of Morris, and Bettina J. Huber of the ASA
... a culmination of the joint efforts of numerous leading sociological scholars, who were inspired by the thematic focus of the 1986 ASA Annual Meeting on the link between social structures and the lives of people moving through those structures. Chapters by:

Beth B. Hess
Matilda White Riley
John W. Meyer
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Laurel L. Connell
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Elizabeth Colenick Capper
Peter Messineo
Bettina J. Huber

Volume II: Sociological Lives

... unique autobiographical explorations of the interplay between social structure and the lives of eight outstanding sociologists:

Alice S. Rossi
Lewis A. Coser
Rosabeth Moss Kanter
William Julius Wilson
Bernice L. Neugarten
Hubert M. Blalock


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Volume I: $45.00 (cloth), $19.95 (paper)
Volume II: $29.95 (cloth), $14.95 (paper)

Twenty percent discount to ASA members. All royalties go to the ASA.

Writing Skills Workshop

Space is still available for the workshop on "How to improve your Writing and Your Chances of Getting Published in the Popular Press." The workshop will be held April 15, 1989, in New York City at the Salisbury Hotel. Workshop fee is $45 to ASA members, $70 to non-members. Application deadline is March 30, 1989. Contact Steve Bull at the ASA Executive Office for additional information.

SAGE Publications

Insurance Programs

Two new offerings include long-term care and professional liability insurance. Long-term care aids people faced with serious illness and nursing home or home care expenses. Self-employed professionals and faculty not covered by their place of employment might consider personal liability insurance. Other recent additions to the insurance offerings include Major Medical and Medicare supplements. The Major Medical Program assistants self-employed and underemployed sociologists who do not have access to employer insurance plans. The Medicare Supplement plan may prove advantageous to members over 65. ASA Term Life Insurance, In Hospital Disability Income Insurance, and Catastrophic Major Medical insurance can be obtained. The discounted rates are one benefit of ASA membership. For more information about any of these plans, contact: Albert H. Wohlgemuth and Company, ASA Group Insurance Plans, 1500 Higgins Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068; (800) 203-2105.

Membership in ASA benefits you!