Los Angeles: The City With Zeal for Innovations

By Harvey Mabie, University of California, Santa Barbara

Los Angeles is a city of innovation and offbeat, almost transgressive, sensibilities. It is a place of entertainment and cultural production, where the traditions of the past meet the avant-garde of the present. Its people are driven by a desire for novelty, taking risks and challenging the status quo. This spirit of innovation is evident in every aspect of life in Los Angeles, from its architecture to its food, fashion, and technology. The city is home to some of the world's most respected cultural institutions, but it is also known for its vibrant and diverse artistic scene. Whether it's the Hollywood film industry, the thriving music scene, or the cutting-edge technology sector, Los Angeles is a city that is always looking for the next big thing.
ASA—Moving Forward For Sociology

Larry Rhodes' micrograph, *A History of the American Sociological Association* (1988), provides perspective on the purposes and emphases of our national professional association over its 75 year history. During these years, the ASA Executive Office grew from being a secretariat (keeping records and sending out communications) to implementing a more elaborate set of activities. Since 1980, further transformations have occurred as new programs, assignments, and responsibilities have come to the Association and to the Executive Office. Like other scientific and professional societies of our type, we are now a complex organization with important opportunities to step back from the pieces and plan for our future.

Both the elected officials and Council—who set policy and monitor the performance of the professional staff—who have responsibility for implementation, work in tandem with an operating Executive Office that can do better to advance sociology as a discipline. As in most professional organizations, key to the public and private sectors, such an effort, however, must proceed mindful that the "rules of the game" are not uniform. We have tried to do better and be better, with limited resources and an almost telegraphic observation that every private and public institution of society needs to examine what it should look like in a function effectively in a changing world.

As I write this column in January 1994, I find myself reflecting on the last year and how we in the Executive Office and Association have contributed to one another's activities. Last year at this time, the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget (CEOB) and Council strongly supported the importance of three core goals for ASA:

- promoting staff in their work;
- advancing sociology as a science and profession; and
- promoting the contributions and use of sociology in society.

Our responsibility in the Executive Office is to set our priorities and shape our programs and activities around these aspirations. As we have defined our programs and worked with considerable planning and intentionality in light of ASA goals, through strategies in particular, we try to keep you, our members, informed about the substantive work we are doing as the Executive Office Programs. As far back as March 1993, I used the "Open Windows" column for an initial indication of the ASA Programs on the Discipline and Profession. This effort to keep you abreast of programmatic initiatives continues as a matter of course. In March 1993, I highlighted the work of our Program in Academic and Professional Affairs in April, I addressed the undergraduate initiative within the Minority Affairs Board; and in October and November, I focused on our Public Affairs efforts. Similarly, fantastic news and feature articles routinely report on program activities. At this time last year, the 1993 issue reported on ASA's Congressional briefing on women, family violence led by the Spivack Program on Applied Social Research and Social Policy, and regularly since, other articles report on Spivack Program activities on violence, AIDS, and immigration.

Each of these ongoing projects has sought to offer information, generate discussion, and stimulate interest in specific programs and their effectiveness. For the May 1993 issue, the calendar to the 1994, however, I thought it might be helpful under one "window" to outline the fall programs on behalf of the Executive Office. By briefly describing each of our core programs, I hope to convey what the Executive Office is doing and how our programmatic efforts are an integral part of a larger whole.

Before turning to our programs, I want to emphasize that these activities resonate with other responsibilities within the Executive Office. Effective delivery of the discipline, and the portfolio of ASA journals remain essential to serving sociologists in their work. Funding meetings to a sociologically advanced association is facilitating intellectual communications, and the teaching and practice of sociology.

We are working in particular with departments as the key organizational units whose sociology is taught and the next generation of faculty and practitioners are prepared. The ASA sponsors publications in various journals, and leads workshops for chairs and other important issues of the discipline. Just this year, we have met with chairs in states facing special challenges. Also, we are continuing to encourage education and training in higher education (above and below) to discuss more sociologists can be situated in a changing academic workplace. The new year marks the beginning of the Departmental Affairs Unit (January 1994). Footnotes), a new way of delivering services to departments and creating a vehicle for sociology departments to work with each other and ASA on national concerns.

The Minority Affairs Program seeks to expand the diversity of the profession and enhance opportunities for persons of color throughout the discipline. Central elements of this program include the Predoctoral Minority Fellowship Program (now in its twentieth year of funding from primarily NIMH and the new initiative funded by the Ford Foundation on Minority Opportunities through School Transformation (MOST II). By virtue of this new support from Ford as well as four-years of prior funding (MOST), ASA has been able to focus its mentoring and outreach activities on these individuals as a complement to the NIMH predoctoral training program (in the sociology of minority health). These two activities are quite major initiatives whereby the Executive Office will provide a role (a) assisting in the next generation of well trained minority sociologists, who can be leaders in the field, and (b) understanding how systemic changes in the discipline address issues of mentoring and multinational in building facilities for the future. Other activities consistent with advancing diversity in the discipline (e.g., special sessions of faculty members from historically black colleges and universities) are also being pursued as part of our Minority Affairs effort.

The Research Program on the Discipline and Profession is essential to our work in advancing sociology as a science and profession. It seems like a natural for sociologists to have an institutional research operation to produce information and timely reports on the field. This Program aims to systematically collect and analyze original and secondary data about sociology, curricula, salaries, employment, and other professional issues. We are standardizing ASA data collection and creating data resources on the profession (including bringing non-campus relevant data collected by other institutions). This information will inform ASA programs and the future work of our committees and Council, as well as the work of departments and sociologists studying the profession.

Some of the highlights of the Research Program include the following. In late 1992, we conducted an examination of all departments of sociology about faculty and student composition, salaries, resources, curricula, and other issues. These data form the first Research Briefs on the profession. In fall 1993, we surveyed a success of ASA members about their career history, and their professional memberships and activities. These data will be analyzed over the next several years. A survey about sexual orientation and professional life will be included in the June 1994. Also, the 1994 Guide to Graduate Departments may look the theme as a reference book, but the process of gathering the information took an important turn. We used the opportunity of data collection to facilitate items from the 1993 chair survey and to create a data base about graduate departments. We will follow a similar pattern for undergraduate departments in the fall of 1994.

The Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy is the focus for promoting the contributions and use of sociology in society. The Program undertakes a number of initiatives to bring sociological concepts and research to bear on social policy issues. Initiatives include briefings, workshops, papers, press conferences, professional seminars, and other special events for policy-makers, public and private sector leaders at the federal, state, and local levels, and media people. Also, and as part of this effort, ASA sponsors a Congressional Fellows Program for a Congressional staff member (for a committee or directly for a member of the House or Senate). The Spivack Program has focused on linking sociological knowledge to social policy in several key areas. For example, the Program has sponsored a Congressional briefing on the work of family and public health, a press briefing on the White House's National Literacy Act, and a Congressional briefing on the social context of AIDS. This past summer ASA brought together experts on the social dimensions of

See Open Windows, page 3

Two More Section Award Nominations

Methodology Section

Nominations are sought for the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award, which recognizes contributions of sociologists to methodology of scientific research, including, but not limited to, methodology of theoretical research and measurement, and formalization of rules for interpreting theory and research.

The deadline for nominations is April 15, 1994. Send nominations, including the candidate's curriculum vitae and at least one supporting letter, to Clifford C. Clogg, Department of Sociology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, or FAX (814) 863-8432, e-mail: coccog@psu or clclogg@psu.edu. The Lazarsfeld Award Committee consists of Clifford C. Clogg, Chair; J. Scott Long, and Margaret M. Marin.

Sex and Gender Section

The Sex and Gender Section announces a new Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award. This new initiative provides an opportunity to recognize major contributions that substantially advance the sociological understanding of sex or gender in society. Nominations for Dr. Judith Harris are given by the Sex and Gender Section.

ASA Regional Reps Sought

Applications are now being accepted for Regional Representatives for the ASA Membership Committee's first year in its regional outreach, Regional representatives:

- work with the ASA Executive Office liaison in planning and carrying out ASA's membership outreach activities at the regional association level;
- attend the annual meeting of their regional sociological association for a two-year term;
- organize an ASA membership table at the regional meeting and plan other activities as appropriate.

Up to $200 will be reimbursed annually to help defray expenses associated with regional activities.

ASA is seeking two representatives to each of the regional associations, starting with the Spring 1994 meetings. For more information, contact Janet Manchoto Wilson, Executive Office Liaison to the Membership Committee, (202) 833-3410, x317. Deadline for application is March 15, 1994.
Does an Editorial Assignment Affect the Number of Articles Appearing in the Editor’s Primary Research Specialization?

An Analysis of General Interest Sociology Journals

by Richard A. Wright, University of Senora

When it was first announced several years ago that a strongly opposed and highly partisan advocate of a particular research specialization had been chosen as the editor-designate of a major sociology journal, I remember thinking that the new editor soon would be flooded with articles reflecting this editor’s primary research interest. I thought that this was likely to occur for two reasons: the new editor would be expected by his colleagues and most scholars in sociology in this specialty would be expected to submit to him papers in his research specialty, and also most scholars conducting research in this specialty would choose to submit their papers to him rather than to other specialists. The editors are the ultimate gatekeepers of knowledge for academic journals; their decisions and reputations influence the types of articles that appear in a discipline. Consequently, editors occupy positions where their theoretical perspectives and research interests easily could influence the contents of journals.

In the past, the case in general interest sociology journals—e.g., American Journal of Sociology (AJS), American Sociological Review (ASR), Social Forces, and Sociological Perspectives—was intended to represent a broad cross-section of thinking in the discipline. The editors of these journals were not chosen by the journals, but then editors who held significant theoretical perspectives and research interests that differed from many others in the discipline. The general interest editors, however, enjoy sufficient discretion and influence so that their preferences and professional reputations could affect what appeared in their journals.

To examine this possibility, I studied the effect of editorial assignments on the proportions of articles in sociology journals or research notes appearing in editors’ primary research specializations in the three leading general interest sociology journals—AJS, ASR, and SFR. For these journals, I chose to study the editors’ primary research interests rather than the editors themselves. The editors’ primary research interests were defined as the areas of research specialization of the three editors in each journal who were editors of the journals in each of the three leading general interest sociology journals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editor</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Term (Dec. 1991)</th>
<th>Primary Research Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. Arnold Anderson</td>
<td>AJS</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>Sociology of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles A. Bedwell</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>Sociology of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William J. Sabatier</td>
<td>AJS</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>Social Stratification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William L. Parish</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>Comparative Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl E. Schmid</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James L. Short, Jr.</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>Criminology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon M. Stryker</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>Social Organizations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: The Editors of American Journal of Sociology (AJS), American Sociological Review (ASR), and Social Forces (SFR), 1991-1993

The editors of these journals were chosen by the journals and their selection was based on the editors’ primary research interests. The editors’ primary research interests were defined as the areas of research specialization of the three editors in each journal who were editors of the journals in each of the three leading general interest sociology journals:

- Sociology of Education
- Sociology of Education
- Social Stratification
- Urban Sociology
- Comparative Sociology
- Quantitative Methods
- Criminology
- Social Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Social Organizations
- Sociological Theory

In general, these data indicate that the number of articles appearing in the editors’ primary research specializations in these journals was usually 50 percent or more of the total number of articles in each journal. This is consistent with the findings of previous studies of the relationship between the editors’ research interests and the contents of these journals.

Open Window

From page 2

Table 2: The Number and Percentage of Articles/Research Notes (A/R/N) Appearing in Editors’ Primary Research Specializations, Before and During Their Editorial Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editor</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Term (Dec. 1991)</th>
<th>Total A/R/N Published</th>
<th>A/R/N in Editors’ Research Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. Arnold Anderson</td>
<td>AJS</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>215/14.4%</td>
<td>175/14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles A. Bedwell</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>785/19.5%</td>
<td>475/19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William J. Sabatier</td>
<td>AJS</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>585/19.5%</td>
<td>355/19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward O. Laumann</td>
<td>AJS</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>485/19.5%</td>
<td>305/19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William L. Parish</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>485/19.5%</td>
<td>305/19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl E. Schmid</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>585/19.5%</td>
<td>355/19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>585/19.5%</td>
<td>355/19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. J. Simon</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>585/19.5%</td>
<td>355/19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard L. Simpson</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>585/19.5%</td>
<td>355/19.5%</td>
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<td>Sheldon M. Stryker</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
<td>585/19.5%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everett K. Wilson</td>
<td>ASR</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
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<td>355/19.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


Funding, continued

Deadline for applications is March 1, 1994, for the application to be
considered for a William Z. Rorer, AISB Grant, School of Advanced In-
ternational Studies, American University, 4400 Massillon Road, Wash-
ington, DC 20044-1351.

The Asahi Shimbun Foundation invites applications for the 1994 Asahi Shimbun
Grant. Established in 1988 to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the Asahi Shimbun, one of Japan's leading newspapers, and
transformed in May, 1992, to the foundation of the Asahi Shimbun Foundations, the Foundation sponsors scholarships, research projects, and other initiatives that foster a better understanding of Japan and the world. Applications are considered in three categories: individual scholars, graduate students, and cultural exchanges.

The Chinese Friends of Health and Medicine are accepting applica-
tions for post-doctoral fellowships in the field of child health. The program is designed to promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise between China and the United States. The fellowship is open to candidates who have completed their Ph.D. or equivalent. The fellowship is for a period of 1 year. All applications must be submitted by February 15, 1994.

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The 1994-95 Fulbright Scholar Awards for U.S. Faculty and Professionals are being offered for the 1994-95 academic year. The program is offered by the U.S. State Department and is open to citizens of all countries. The program is designed to promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise between China and the United States. The fellowship is open to candidates who have completed their Ph.D. or equivalent. The fellowship is for a period of 1 year. All applications must be submitted by February 15, 1994.
Mass Media, continued

caused discriminatory crack down. The
press coverage was emphasized by Clough.
Candace Riemer, University of Illinois at
Chicago, was featured in December in the
Chicago Daily Herald, the Chicago Tim-
es, and on Radio Station WHBM con-
necting news. Her research on the "battle
between jocks and housing in the Chicago
metropolitan region" is published in The

James M. O'Keefe, Drew University, had
her comments on murder in public places
aired December 14, on radio news pro-
grams throughout the nation as part of the
Associated Press national news broadca-
ts. On December 30, USA Today quoted
her on the topic of the murder-hating
number of murders in mid-south American
cities. In an article titled "Boundaries Report 2" in 2 Cities. Herbert C. Kelman, Harvard University, was
featured in an article in The Nation's
Globe, September 30, 1993, about his vital
role in resolving the conflict between Israel
and the PLO.

Jack Levin, Northeastern University, was
mentioned on the 2004 panel "Organized
Crime.

Stoutmire Lynn, Florida Atlantic Univer-
sity, spoke on the Supreme Court and the
Legal Constitution of Racism in Breach-
tech in December for the ADR full-serv-
tice. She was also interviewed on the local
radio program about his talk and about

Lawrence Gavett, University of Illinois-
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Richard Sobel, Princeton University, was
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Narcotics for over 30 years of employment.

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ney of a neighborhood's stability," appear
In The Times, December 25. The Business Jour-
nal, November 17; The New York Times, De-
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"SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT" broadcast entitled "A Policy of Purgatory," which examined the
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Company. His work is currently served as a
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Donna Barnes, University of Wyoming,
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Nancy J. Kees, University of Wisconsin,-
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ASA Advantages
ASA Career Materials

The ASA has a wide variety of career materials available, including these newly revised titles:

Majoring in Sociology: A Guide for Students. A three-fold brochure designed for high school and undergraduate students. Defines sociology and gives information on how to apply to college and pursue a sociology degree. Highlights employment possibilities with an undergraduate degree in sociology and lists ASA career resources.

Embarking Upon a Career with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology. This 54-page booklet will help your students make those connections between a degree in sociology and a career path. Includes sections on employment search strategies, assessing skills, researching career paths, preparing a resume, applying for positions, and conducting successful job interviews.

The Sociology Major as Preparation for Careers in Business and Organizations. A three-fold brochure that provides information on options available to sociology majors who are interested in pursuing careers in business or industry. Send for a complete catalog listing those and other new and revised career materials by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope: ASA Career Resources, 7122 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20014.

Membership in ASA benefits you!