The 1996 Annual Meeting, August 16-20

Look to NYC for the Truly Great Convention!

Democrats will be politicking in Chicago and Republicans in San Diego, but for the truly great convention this August, look to New York City as sociologists of all stripes converge in the Big Apple for ASA’s 91st Annual Meeting.

"Think of a Broadway Show that satisfies the sociological imagination, and you will get a sense of the excitement and significance of this meeting," said ASA Executive Officer Felice J. Levine. Well over 6,000 sociologists are expected for the five-day meeting that begins on Friday, August 16 and takes place in the heart of Manhattan at the New York Hilton and Towers and the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers.

Dynamic Plenaries

This year’s Annual Meeting features three major plenary sessions, reflecting this year’s theme of “Social Change: Opportunities and Constraints.” All are must see events.

Yudof and Affirmative Action—August 16

The opening plenary will take place on Friday, August 16, at 8:30 p.m. (the only nighttime plenary). Focusing on critical issues in affirmative action and higher education, the session promises to generate important discussion and debate. The keynote speaker is Mark G. Yudof, Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Texas, Austin. He will address "The Constitution and Racist Admissions Policies in Public University Admissions.

ASR Features Debate Over Divorce Data

Findings from a well-known study on the economic impact of divorce are incorrect and have distorted policy discussions about no-fault divorce, sociologist Richard R. Peterson contends in the June issue of the American Sociological Review.

In her widely quoted book, The Divorce Revolution (The Free Press, 1985), Lenore Weitzman, now at George Mason University, reported that women’s standard of living declined 73 percent one year after divorce while men’s standard of living improved by 42 percent. The percentages were based on a 1977-1978 Los Angeles sample.

But Peterson, a program officer at the Social Science Research Council in New York, said he has reanalyzed Weitzman’s data using the same methods and found a 27 percent decline in women’s standard of living and a 10 percent increase in men’s within the first year after divorce.

"Many exchanges in the ASR involve researchers who agree on many of the facts, but differ in interpretation," said ASR editor Paula England. "The exchange between Peterson and Weitzman is an instance of another process, equally common in all sciences: excellent researchers sometimes make mistakes that someone else corrects. That is how we see this case."

Although scientists have questioned the validity of Weitzman’s findings on this issue, The Divorce Revolution continues to attract national attention in academic, legal, and popular publications, where Weitzman’s figures have been described as "staggering" and "startling.

Some opponents of no-fault divorce have cited the book’s figures to show how the law impoverishes women, especially homemakers and working women who make less money than their husbands.

In her written reply to Peterson—also to be published in ASR—Weitzman acknowledges that "the gender gap is probably less than I reported." She said there was "probably an error in the weighting procedure" used in the calculation on post-divorce standards of living.

Weitzman said she could not go back to the project’s original data that were used in the book to replicate the analysis. The master files, she writes, were copied and reformatted to accommodate different computer systems.

Somewhere in the process of archiving the files a programming error occurred, causing the ID numbers of respondents to be mismatched. "The second file was stored at the Murray Center, an old ‘dirty data’ raw data file, is also unavalable for replication because it does not include the cleaning and variable construction which was done directly on the system file."

"However, she notes, ‘neither the scholarly nor the legal impact of The Divorce Revolution arose from any one table, but rather from my conclusion that the decline in women’s standards of living after divorce was (and still is) a major social problem. My book also focused on the direct effects of this decline on the innocent victims of divorce—the children."

In a final written comment, Peterson

ASR’s Levine Testifies for Social and Behavioral Research

ASA Executive Officer Felice J. Levine recently urged two House Appropriations subcommittees to make up for critical and behavioral science research a priority—even in periods of scarce resources.

On April 17, Levine testified before the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies and urged the subcommittee to increase its support for social science research within the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs (OJP). In particular, Levine urged expanded research support for OJP’s National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics. (See story on page 4.)

In May 10 testimony before the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies, Levine similarly urged the importance of increased investments in social and behavioral science research supported by the National Science Foundation. (See “Open Window” column on page 2.)

The hearings are part of the subcommittees’ deliberations to consider funding levels for fiscal year 1997, which begin in October. The subcommittees are expected to mark up legislation in June.

In both hearings, Levine said that she appreciated the difficulty of subcommittee members faced in allocating scarce dollars, but added "science is so important to be left on the periphery."
In This Issue . . .

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Ruth Rubenstein gives a nifty tour and explanation.

Teaching and Sociology
Whatever your interest, it’s at the Annual Meeting.

The Best and Brightest
Announcing the winners of the major ASA awards.

The Executive Officer’s Column

Advocating Support for NSF Social Science

A. As ASA members will recall, it was just one year ago that U.S. Rep Robert Walker (R-PA), Chair of the House Science Committee, questioned the importance of the social and behavioral sciences and signaled an interest in eliminating the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBEE) at the National Science Foundation (NSF). On April 26 of this year, this Committee passed the Omnibus Science Authorization Act of 1996, stipulating that NSF should reorganize from seven to six directorates and report on its plans by November 15, 1996. With opposition from Democrats, the majority report questioned putting a priority on SBEE sciences, although the Act leaves discretionary to NSF director Neal Lane to make restructuring decisions.

During this past year, leaders across the science community have expressed their support of the SBEE Directorate and the important sciences it funds. While the actions of Rep. Walker and the House Science Committee remain troubling; fortunately, there is also considerable support in Congress on both sides of the aisle for NSF serving to advance all fields of science.

On May 10, I had the opportunity to testify before the Appropriation’s Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies on 1997 NSF appropriations. In my statement, on behalf of the American Sociological Association, I sought to underscore the importance of social and behavioral science research and why these sciences are an integral part of the NSF mission. The following are some excerpts from this testimony. The full text is available on the ASA home page (http://www.asanet.org/).—Felice J. Levine

Mr. Chairman, . . . .

The ASA greatly appreciates the opportunity to testify on FY97 appropriations for the National Science Foundation . . . . The Foundation plays a critical role in advancing basic science across all fields, including the social and behavioral sciences.

Mr. Chairman, since you assumed chairmanship of this subcommittee, you have continued a tradition of providing NSF with a high degree of attention—not only in determining science priorities but also in determining how NSF conducts its overall operations. Since its inception in 1950, NSF has served science and society well in large part because Congress and the Executive branch have generally refused to politicize policies in relation to this agency. We in the social and behavioral science community applaud that approach and your consistent efforts to reinforce this commitment . . . .

Within the scientific community, recognition of the need for integrated knowledge across fields of science, and for multi-disciplinary partnerships between the social and behavioral sciences and other natural sciences, has been growing. In 1968, when Dr. Brunswik wrote 15 years ago on the need for a broad social and behavioral sciences, he was not alone. Many of those who were on the social and behavioral sciences task force that was formed then, under the leadership of Charles Thomas, who was then president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science wrote: “We are to make progress in addressing . . . national problems, it is essential that we maintain support for excellence in all the sciences—social, behavioral, and economic, as well as natural . . .”

What Dr. Brunswik wrote 15 years ago is no less true today. The social and behavioral sciences are an essential part of the scientific enterprise at NSF. While these sciences represent only a small percentage of the NSF budget, based on almost 40 years of support, the investment has yielded fundamental knowledge about human beings and human systems . . .

At the National Science Foundation, long-term support for basic research has incorporated three strategies: funding for projects by individual investigators, creation of large-scale studies over wide ranging locations and long periods of time, and data base or data resource efforts that anticipate a wide number of potential users . . . . Permit me to cite an example of each strategy and its relevance.

• Mr. Chairman, recently Alejandro Portes and Ruben Bumbacov surveyed approximately 5,200 eighth and ninth graders of Asian, Latin American, and Caribbean descent in San Diego and Miami. Through this individual-investigator project, these investigators learned that compared to first generation immigrants, their children in the second generation spent less time on homework, watched more television, and obtained less education. On a positive note, the survey found that most young immigrants learn English rapidly. More than 90 percent were found to speak English well or very well.

• Mr. Chairman, large-scale projects over long periods of time have also yielded fundamental advances in social scientific methods, data, and theory. [These] surveys not only contribute directly to scientific knowledge, but also stimulate advances in statistical methods . . . . The Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey, for example, which included 10,000 graduating seniors from 1957 for more than 35 years, provides model for national longitudinal surveys measuring the performance of schools and the transitions of youth from school to college or to the labor market.

• Lastly, Mr. Chairman, permit me to elaborate on one of the major data resource efforts supported by NSF. The General Social Survey (GSS) has been conducted under the auspices of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago since 1972. The GSS is undertaken for purposes of basic scientific research on the structure and development of American society as well as for up-to-date, important, high quality data (just released on Internet) . . . . The 1996 General Social Survey includes special modules . . . . For example, the market exchange module yields important new data and understandings on employment in family businesses, loans between private individuals, and decisions about economic issues . . . . Based on a full probability sample of adults living in U.S. households, such data are both rigorous and exceptionally useful.

Mr. Chairman, the American Sociological Association urges the Subcommittee to approve the FY97 request of $124 million for the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (SBEE)–a 4% percent increase over the FY96 estimated budget. The new budget will allow the SBEE directorate to advance in those areas where basic research is underway and to invest in important new initiatives. Major activities include . . . . the Human Capital Initiative . . . . the Learning and Intelligent Systems Initiative . . . . the National Consortium on Violence Research . . . . and the Digital Library Initiative . . . .

[Also] the SBEE directorate supports a number of activities designed to enhance the educational opportunities and training of social and behavioral scientists. These activities include site grants and supplemental funding for Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), postdoctoral awards, undergraduate and graduate students supported and trained under grants; and a very extensive program of support for doctoral dissertation research (e.g., in 1995, $1,743 million to support 205 students) . . . .

The Administration has requested $3,325 billion for fiscal year 1997. The American Sociological Association supports that request at a minimum. Yet, we also urge the Committee to consider additional support. As we approach the beginning of the 21st century, we face difficult decisions about the allocation of scarce dollars. In confronting these choices, science is too important to be left on the periphery.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman . . . .
Contact Your Senators Now!
Defeat H.R. 1271

Your immediate action is needed to defeat Senate passage of a bill that could seriously impede research effort involving minors.

On April 18, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved the Family Privacy Protection Act, H.R. 1271, by a 7 to 5 vote.

The measure, which passed the House last April as part of the Republican's "Contract With America," now goes to the full Senate. Because this measure can be brought up for consideration at any time, we need you to contact your Senators immediately.

H.R. 1271 requires prior written consent from a parent or guardian for any minor to participate in federally funded survey research, if the survey contains questions in seven categories. These categories include sexual behavior or attitudes, illegal and anti-social behavior, religious affiliations or beliefs, and mental or psychological problems. Currently, Institutional Review Boards may waive written consent provided an appropriate mechanism for protecting the children is substituted and after carefully weighing the nature and purpose of the research and the risk and anticipated benefits to the research subject.

By removing flexibility from the human subjects protection process, this bill will undermine one of society's most important tools in safeguarding the health of risk to children and youth from violence, substance abuse, and other risks.

ASA Executive Officer Felice J. Levine testified against the legislation at a Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on November 9th on behalf of a coalition comprised of over 20 professional organizations. These groups—which represent interests as diverse as social scientists to parent groups—are united in the belief that less reliable research on high risk youth behavior serves the interests of no one.

Key Talking Points

◆ Over the past 20 years, the federal government has approved and strengthened regulations governing parental consent for children who are research subjects. Current regulations, for example, rightly require that a parent or guardian be notified if their child is being asked to participate in federally funded research and that he or she be given the opportunity to refuse the child's participation.

◆ Before a study involving human subjects can be funded by any federal agency, it must pass review by an Institutional Review Board, IRBs, which include members of the local community, have the delegated authority to approve, disapprove, or request modification of studies based on the sufficiency of the study's provisions to obtain informed consent, protect privacy, and inform subjects about any risks and benefits. Written consent is the standard for any research with minors, but the IRB may grant a waiver under certain circumstances, or approve other procedures that may be more appropriate to the research or the study population.

◆ In place of this set of careful guidelines, H.R. 1271 substitutes a blanket requirement for written parental permission that fails to reflect certain realities. Several recent studies have documented that parents often fail to sign and return written consent forms, not because they object to their children's participation in research, but simply because they do not have the time or the take the time to do so.

◆ Requiring written permission from parents has been shown to result in insufficient sample sizes and overrepresentation of certain at-risk groups. Not only would critical groups be less likely to participate in research, study costs would soar as researchers attempt multiple follow-ups to improve samples.

◆ Informed public policy depends on reliable information. Research data on important issues affecting children, such as substance abuse, violence, and adolescent pregnancy will become more difficult to obtain. Without this research, it will be difficult for families, educators, and policy makers to make informed decisions concerning the safety and welfare of children and youth.

What You Can Do

Consider a letter to your Senators and call the legislative aides who handle the issue. Urge your colleagues, high level administrators, and personal acquaintances of the Senators to do so as well.

To contact your Senator, call (202) 224-3212 and ask to be connected to the office of your Senator. Ask to speak to the staff member who handles the issue.

Letters should be sent to the Senator, c/o the staff member, and mailed to: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Letters should include a return address and be written in your own words. If you can give personal examples of how H.R. 1271 would harm your research, do so.

Please send a copy of your correspondence to ASA's director of public affairs and communications, Ed Hatcher, at (202) 533-3410, Ext. 326, fax 202-785-0146 or by e-mail at hatch@asa.net.
Tom Juravich, who sang it as part of the convention's campaign activities. The new leadership wants to rebuild the labor movement focusing on organizing the underrepresented—especially women and members of minority groups. Many of the new leaders in the leaders say, will come from sociology.

"Recent sociology graduates are one of our two best sources of organizers," according to Richard Bensinger, the AFL-CIO's Director of Organizing. Because of the new leadership's emphasis on organizing, Bensinger said, "We have the money and we have the jobs. Our most pressing need is people. We want to recruit the bright young people we can find—many of them sociology majors—for the most exciting job you can imagine, organizing the unorganized."

The AFL-CIO's Organizing Institute, (O) is a program designed to recruit and train union organizers; many sociologists have taken this route to employment. Participants—college graduates, rank and file union members, and community activists—come for an intensive three-day training session, including basic education about organizing and individual and group focusing on role playing activities that simulate actual organizing campaigns. The second step of the program is a three-week (modestly paid) internship, where interns are trained in actual organizing campaigns. A three-month apprenticeship follows the internship; after that, the OI assists with placement.

The Organizing Institute has ambitious plans for the New York AFA convention this August. "We've been sending young organizers around the country to meet faculty and recruit students," said Bensinger. "This summer we're coming to the AFA Meetings, and we'll like to schedule a couple of hundred one-on-one interviews with faculty, so that sociology graduates who are now working as labor organizers can speak with faculty about their experiences. We need sociology faculty to help us identify their best students, and encourage them to work with the labor movement."

Faculty or students interested in meeting young organizers at the convention are encouraged to call Chris Woods, the Organizing Institute's National Recruitment Director, at 1-800-848-3021 (cwoods@0aiool.com). Although it is not certain which organizers will attend this summer's conference, three of the possibilities include:

- Becky Belsore, a recent sociology honors graduate from Smith College, now works as a labor organizer. After completing the Organizing Institute training, she has toured college campuses recruiting other students—especially students of color—attended the Organizing Institute; spent a year organizing in a Detroit auto parts plant; and is currently part of a multi-union national campaign to organize automobile workers in the South.
- Cedric De Leon, son of a cook and a clerical worker, was sent to Tule in hopes of future corporate success. Now a senior sociology major, he intends to become a labor organizer because "I couldn't reconcile my ambition to be a corporate executive with what I see has to beholder."
- Angela Hassan, another recent sociology B.A., is now a lead organizer, working exclusively for the U.S. Department of Labor, organizing poultry workers in the south. She emphasizes that "People have a hard time imagining a power struggle. They think of the heroism involved in a typical organizing campaign. When workers try to organize they are often harassed by their supervisors; sometimes skilled workers get reassigned to the most demeaning jobs available, for example cleaning bathrooms."

At one time, union organizing primarily involved straight-forward election campaigning, but because of extended legal maneuvering drives often reached no resolution. According to the new AFL-CIO leadership, new organizers should be prepared to use social movement tactics. "If employer delays make the law unworkable, we'll find other ways to organize," said Steve Lerner, one of the architects of the Justice for Janitors campaign, which used an approach to organizing that may become increasingly common. Justice for Janitors organizes people in their communities as well as their workplaces, and uses massive civil disobedience to pressure corporations to deal with the union. "The separation between union organizing and community organizing," reports Bessinger. "We need organizers who are researchers, and researchers who are organizers." To mount effective campaign, organizers often need to research a corporation, to discover its links to other companies and individuals, and to find possible pressure points. For example, an organizing campaign at a Los Angeles area shrimp processing factory wanted to avoid a strike, but needed to find ways to exert pressure. Organizers learned that the plant's owner also owned a restaurant, so workers went to the restaurant at a peak period and took a loooong time ordering and eating their (minimal) meals. Sociology majors report finding their coursework—on how society operates, the sources of social order, the nature of power—useful background for developing creative organizing tactics.

The AFL-CIO, meanwhile, is trying to recruit 1,000 students for three weeks paid organizing internships in a program modeled on the civil rights movement's Freedom Summer. Full-time organizers are typically recruited from graduating seniors, but others can participate in Union Summer, and the program is looking for faculty assistance. For more information contact Union Summer at 1-800-952-2550.

The revived union movement hopes to work not only with students, but also with faculty. A directory of sociologists available to consult or do research for unions has been distributed to key figures in the AFL-CIO and its member unions. For more information or to add your name, contact Ingred Smith (ingred@soc-la-u.

Levine Urges Funding for Research at Justice Department

A

A legislative officer Felice J.

Levine urged a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee on April 17 to increase funding for social and behavioral science research with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs. Levine testified on behalf of the Consor
tium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for the social and behavioral sciences supported by about 80 academic societies, professional associations, research institutes, and universities. A member of the COSSA Executive Committee. Testifying before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies, Levine said that COSSA supports the Administration's proposed fiscal year 1997 budget for OJP's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

"Social and behavioral science provides significant insights into the nature of crime, including its causes and prevention."

Levine said more research was needed to explain the high levels of violence in America society and recent fluctuations in the levels of violent crime. In 1994, she said, the murder rate was 14 percent above the 1985 level, even though there was a drop between 1993 and 1994.

"We need to know much more than we do about these patterns and their impact. Research, for example, on changing crime and law enforcement effort, shows that police officers can do more with less, but we need to show the social science weston that the change is systemic and not a fleeting event," Levine said.

Divorce, (from page 1)

said he was able to supplement the dunng money data and created a raw data set." This corrected raw data file reconstructs the lost 'cleaned' data file Weitzman refers to. "Weitzman's claim that errors resulting from mismatched ID numbers cannot be corrected, he adds, is "insane."" I examined the paper records to determine which ID number was correct and corrected errors that had been created by mismatching files."

Petersen insists it is "unlikely" that an incorrect application of the weights could have caused the discrepancy in their findings. "None of the problems or alternative explanations discussed in Weitzman's comment explains how the erroneous findings were arrived at."

Moreover, he writes, his results led to different conclusions about the impact of no-fault divorce legislation. "My reanalysis of Weitzman's data shows that the changes in rates of living after divorce in California were similar to those reported in other studies conducted both before and after the reform," he said. "This suggests that no-fault legislation did not increase the gender gap in economic outcomes. Rather, the gender gap remained as serious as it had been under the fault based system."

"This significantly different performance of the no-fault initiative, in an argument that specific features of the no-fault legislation resulted in larger declines in women's standard of living after divorce than had been prevalent under the fault-based system," he said. Petersen also counters Weitzman's argument that the 73 percent figure is only one statistic in a 500 page book. "These figures are featured prominently on the book jacket, as well as the introduction and the concluding chapter. Most reviews of her book cited the figures as a major finding, as did Weitzman herself in testimony at a Congressional hearing."

Weitzman and Petersen write that they strongly agree with each other that the decline in women's standard of living after divorce remains unacceptably high. Even if Petersen's lower figures are correct, Weitzman believes "that there is still a 40 percent difference between the two--and that outcome is unconscionable for the legal system that society committed to fairness, justice, and equality."
At the Annual Meeting: A City of High Fashion Awaits

by Ruth P. Rubinstein
SUNY-Fashion Institute of Technology

Fashion is a product in which art and commerce unite to create clothing that conveys a new spirit. As an international center for clothing, art, and design, New York exhibits fashion in a multiplicity of ideas and colors. New York's retail shops display styles and styles of clothing that reflect changes in taste. Fitz and Fitz was recently opened by the English designer Barbara Hulanicki. In the 1960s and early 1970s she invented the Biba look, which was a definitive part of English street fashion for young people. Her work is often inexpensive, simple, playful clothes.1 Today's Man is here too. It offers trendy clothes for men who like to appear neat, open to interaction. Filene's Basement, a branch of the Boston store with its own design and lower prices, is located in this area under Red and Bath.

Consumption has always suffered the morale of modern life. Religious and secular thinkers have condemned the consumption of clothing that creates a false sense of new images, goods, and services, in real life. Matters of dress and appearance are taken quite seriously by nearly everyone. Contemporary patterns of merchandising tell the story.

Department Stores Dwindle

A visit to New York in 1996 quickly reveals that many of the famous and established department stores no longer exist. Despite heavy advertising, past success, efficient public transportation, easy accessibility by walking, neither advertising nor fame guaranteed their future. The factors that once made them desirable have vanished. Department stores became important at the turn of the century when the city was dense enough and affluent enough to create a demand for a wide variety of types of clothing. The diverse needs of the growing urban population were met by the department stores and each developed around a particular social class or level of taste. Bonwit Teller, a Fifth Avenue institution with white-glove service that appealed to the carriage trade, Altman's, the most conservative of the city's major stores; and Alexander's, where middle-class shoppers bought discounted imitations of expensive originals. They are no longer with us.2 Abraham and Strauss, which once inhabited Brooklyn's busiest shopping district, moved to Manhattan and its atumn became a shopping mall for the specialty customer.3

Economic and political change made many of the department stores irrelevant. The changing climate required that retail stores create clothes around a particular merchandising focus, to identify a need, an attitude, or an mood.4 Too big and slow, the large stores couldn't respond. They offered merchandise no longer relevant to their customers. Bloomingdale's and Saks Fifth Avenue survived. They honed their fashion image by offering particular designer lines. They also used economies and the well-to-do. As a result, staid Madison Avenue now pululates with merchandising that is diverse, multicultural, and decidedly modern. Choice on the avenue ranges from the 'minimalist' Calvin Klein, the 'aristocratic cowboy' Ralph Lauren, the deceptively serious Giorgio Armani, the outrageously colorful and sexy Gianni Versace, to playful designs by Issey Miyake.

Women clothing producers have also taken this route. Liz Claiborne was the first to open her own boutique; Nicole Miller followed, and Tahari too. They claim that having their own stores allows them greater control. They are better able to oversee what they produce and sell.5

In New York City, matters of dress and appearance are taken seriously by almost everyone. (Photo by John Senzer)

Sears Blatt Ltd. is relatively new. The company manufactures a line of good quality clothing in a novel style. They are well-designed, comfortable, and informal. Five additional boutiques were opened on Madison Avenue in addition to the original two. All are doing very well. Each met its target on the first week. They stock goods from other manufacturers but they are in the same spirit as those produced by Mt. Blatt. The success encouraged him to open in-store shops in Bloomingdale's and at Lord and Taylor. His wholesale volume in 1993 was $25 million, up 10-12% from 1992.

There is more to style than meets the eye. The prestige boutiques on Madison Avenue were joined by national retailers such as Crate and Barrel, Eddie Bauer, The Limited, and Barney's.6 They all use the latest technology to maintain their focus. Barney's New York, for example, installed an O/S-2-based point-of-sale system which tracks layaway and special orders, and enhances management through features such as standard register function. The system standardizes the operations of various Barney's outlets, helping to maintain its focus.

In the 1980s, Soho was the home of European and Japanese avant-garde fashion. Affected by the 1990 recession, the ideas, the images, the goods and services they offered were restricted. Lack of demand led to the closing of many shops. Popular aesthetic and folk attitude replaced them. Some specialty stores offer garments made of African cloth woven in a variety of traditional patterns, in addition to the well-known Kente cloth. Other specialty stores offer leather jackets and pants imported from Brazil. Some prolifer colorful, hand-embroidered shirts, belts, skirts and knapsacks, all from Ecuador.

Design Smart Furniture

A variety of "design smart" furniture stores also made their home in Soho. Some stock is expensive, what is called "high-end merchandise." Others, however, specialize in inexpensive objects.

Some Lotus of known are: Alan Moss, Sammy's End, and 41 Wooster. Along Broadway, between Houston and Canal street, galleries, cafes, restaurants, and shops have infused more than six block neighborhood with new life. Artists and deer young art have clustered together on the southern edge of SoHo, around Grand and Green Streets and other are planning to move there.

The East Village, center of punk culture, where one's particular subjective experience was displayed, has calmed down as the ideas, colors, and styles of this counterculture became familiar and ceased to attract. The shock and boredom was replaced by the displaced young moved on. Members of the counterculture, clothing stores, clubs, and galleries for the most part, were replaced by hip thrift stores that offer "cool" clothing. They make it possible for individuals to create their own particular style. The East Village is now a tourist attraction.

Religious iconography and body piercing are the new expressions popular among today's youth. This summer you can go to Alphabet City either to buy a "Jesus Loves Me" T-shirt or to have your nippies pierced.

New York City, the nation's capital of fashion, has changed dramatically since the 1980s when the least ASA meeting was here. One thing hasn't changed. In New York city 41 Wooster it is that you want you can probably find music-videos, bright-color photographs, and late night five music inform passers-by of exciting new styles. The city is now a place that is more encouraging of diversity, and personal expression. Retail stores cater individu-als to acquire or affirm a desired identity.

References

Sociology and Education at ASA's Annual Meeting

ASA's Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP) is sponsoring four special events to assist colleagues in academic settings build stronger programs and courses, and enhance the education of their students. The Annual Meeting venue is a capstone for ongoing efforts of the Program, including written resources, special meetings, outreach to community college colleagues, and involvement in higher education more generally.

Third Annual Chair Conference
Chairs are the on-campus leaders of the discipline, the person who represents sociology to the institution. The significance of the chair role internal to the department and in the external community led the ASA to begin an annual chair conference. On Thursday, August 15, the day before the Annual Meeting officially begins, the Third Annual Chair Conference will bring together department chairs to share information and perspectives on important issues facing sociology departments. On Friday, panel sessions will focus on: Preparing Your Department for a Program Review; Evaluating Faculty Work for Promotion and Tenure; and Effective Chair Leadership in Times of Retrenchment.

The second day of the Conference (the first full day of the 1996 Annual Meeting) begins with a discussion of National Issues and Trends in Higher Education Affecting Sociology Departments. The ASA's Research Program on the Discipline and Profession will share data on faculty Salaries and Working Conditions in Sociology. Each panel includes time for questions, discussion, and commentary from the assembled chairpersons on the implications of the information for their department.

The chair conference includes breakout sessions for chairs from different types of institutions. Katherine O'Donnell, Hartwick College and Arnold Silverman, Nassau Community College will convene the AA and BA-granting institutions. The MA-granting institutions group will be lead by Judith Lasker, Lehigh University and Dwayne Smith, University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Barry Glassner, University of Southern California and Felice J. Levine, ASA, will facilitate the discussion of the PhD granting departments. These discussion groups are electric with ideas, advice, challenges, and strategies which chairs share with colleagues in similar institutional contexts.

Another activity will take up a topic about which many departments have expressed concern: the articulation between sociology programs at the AA, BA, MA, and PhD levels. What is or should be the alignment between these degree transitions and what are the implications for departments in order to enhance the student pipeline in sociology? The featured speaker is Teresa A. Sullivan, Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School at University of Texas-Austin and ASA Secretary.

Directors of Graduate Study Convened
Intersecting with the Chair Conference, ASA is convening a meeting of Directors of Graduate Study as well. This role is also critical within graduate departments and for undergraduate students who are applying for admission.

The Directors of Graduate Study will attend workshops and discussion groups on Friday, August 16. The morning will feature two teaching workshops which synthesize past initiatives of the ASA Committee on Graduate Education. The workshop on Preparing Graduate Students to Teach will share approaches departments use to prepare future faculty for their teaching roles. The second workshop focuses on Models of Placement for Graduate Students and will showcase programs departments have intentionally developed and implemented to help place their graduates.

As part of this special program, the Directors of Graduate Study (DGS) will also join the chair conference for the luncheon discussion on program articulation. Following lunch, they will meet as a group to discuss the role of the DGS, issues and activities that should be pursued, and how different departments manage their graduate programs.

Focus on Introductory Sociology
What course is more important in your discipline than the introductory course? And what course is more challenging to teach? New or seasoned faculty members will benefit from the events on Monday, August 19 Focusing on Introductory Sociology.

The day begins with a panel on "How Sociology is Portrayed in Introductory Textbooks: Views from Authors and "Publishers. " The second session focuses on "Innovative Ideas for Teaching Introductory Sociology." Poster sessions, roundtables, and other means will be used to share what works in the introductory sociology classroom.

This special focus on introductory sociology includes an emphasis on the effective use of technology. The sessions include "Computer Applications and Pedagogy," coordinated by Josephina Card, Sociometrics, includes demonstrations of software in use in and relevant to the introductory course.

In the afternoon, the popular teaching workshop on "Teaching Introductory Sociology for the First Time" features strategies for making the first teaching experience something other than a trial by fire. Veteran introductory sociology faculty Brent Bruntin, Iowa State University and Jerry Lewis, Kent State University, will lead the workshop. More and more introductory sociology courses include hands-on "doing sociology." To reflect this new emphasis, another session will organize a set of presentations on research projects, community projects, critical thinking and skill building exercises pertinent to the introductory student.

Throughout the meeting, the ASA Exhibits feature book and software displays very relevant to this focus on introductory sociology.

Focus on Graduate Education
The ASA's Committee on Graduate Education has been working to identify "best practices" in our graduate departments and disseminate those exemplars to others. Sunday, August 18 is the Focus on Graduate Education, where a series of sessions, workshops, and receptions bring together the community to talk about graduate education. Directors of Graduate Study and chairs, and graduate faculty generally will learn a great deal from those sharing special events on graduate work. Also, advisors to undergraduates and students considering graduate work in sociology should benefit from these events.

Three teaching workshops, all scheduled on Sunday, August 18, will showcase the reports of the Committee on Graduate Education. The workshops topics include: "The National Socialization of Graduate Students: "Effective Strategies for Preparing and Using Teaching Assistants" and "Effective MA Programs in Sociology."

An important new feature of the Annual Meeting this year is a major poster session featuring graduate programs in sociology. Graduate departments will post the handouts and representatives to acquaint students and their advisors with their programs. The poster session will allow for browsing and questions, and follow-up appointments.

The evening of August 18 provides opportunity for informal exchange with two receptions. From 6:30-8:00 p.m., the ASA Student Reception will give undergraduate and graduate students a chance to meet one another. Undergraduate and graduate advisors as well as department chairs are also encouraged to attend. At 9:30, the Department Alumni Night kicks off. From start to finish, the cultural, the informal, and the social sides of focusing on graduate education should be a must on the Annual Meeting calendar.

ASA's Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP) is working with departments to enhance the teaching of sociology from the first course through graduate education. Building strong departments with well thought curricula requires effective leadership from chairs, directors of graduate study, as well as faculty. These events at the Annual Meeting reflect the importance of developing and supporting departmental leaders. For more information, contact APAP at APAP@asausenet.org or (202) 833-3140 x318.
New York, from page 1

and Private Univ.-enti"es." The two respondents are Marta Tenda, chair of the University of Chicago's Department of Sociology, and Juno C. Jo, assistant director for Social and Behavioral Science in the Office of the White House Science Advisor.

President Hallinan Brings Fresh Perspective to CT

Count out on a packed ballroom for the second plenary—the occasion of the ASA Presidential Address and Awards Ceremony—which will take place on Saturday, August 17, at 4:30 p.m. Just look back over the past two years since President Maureen Hallinan was elected to see how important the theme of "social change" is to social policy. The winners of the 1996 ASA awards will also receive a well-deserved moment of appreciation from meeting participants (see story on this page).

Secretary Shalala Holds Town Meeting—August 18

Not to be outdone, the third plenary is a capstone event. The Honorable Donna Shalala, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the featured speaker at a Town Meeting plenary on Sunday, August 18, at 12:30 p.m. Building on social science knowledge and implications for policy, the Town Meeting will focus on current debates regarding welfare reform, health, and social well-being. After a brief talk by Secretary Shalala, a "meet the sociologists" panel (Robert M. Hauser, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Sara McLanahan, Princeton University; and Melvin L. Oliver, The Ford Foundation) will ask questions and "open microphones" will draw meeting participants into probing conversation and exchange. The Town Meeting will be moderated by Sam Roberts, urban affairs columnist for The New York Times.

Taking Stock of the Contract

For sociologists with an eye to public policy, the 1996 Annual Meeting provides countless opportunities. In the 1994 mid-term elections, House Republicans proposed their own theme of "social change"—largely through their well-known "Contract With America." In a special series of five invited sessions, scholars will provide a sociological perspective on the Contract and its potential legacy in the areas of immigration, welfare, education, and health. Team leaders for these sessions are Frank Bean, University of Texas, Austin; Steve Dowd-Rohn, Children's Village; (children); Gary Sandefur, University of Wisconsin, Madison (welfare); Peter Cookson, Columbia University Teachers College (education); and Ron Angel, University of Texas, Austin (health). At each session, panelists will examine the empirical assumptions underlying relevant Contract legislation and whether or not it aligns with what we know about social behavior.

The Program Committee, meanwhile, has also planned two "Great Debates" with leading scholars exchanging pros and cons of "The Privatization of Prison" and "De-segregating Southern Higher Education."

Spotlight on New York

New York City, says ASA President Hallinan, "will provide an appropriate forum for our collective reflection on social change." The city provides a dramatic example of change in demographic composition, health care delivery, education, and technology, as well as in the economic structure and the political and social culture of a metropolis, she adds. "We are fortunate to have this opportunity to share with, learn from and play in this wonderful city."

The Town Meeting provides a visual, local exploration of the Big Apple with 10 special sessions, twelve tours of special sites and neighborhoods, and a special book display—all designed to discover new viewpoints and interesting aspects of the City.

"New York Culture Beyond 'High' and 'Low';" "The Changing New York Metropolis: Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity;" and "The New York International" are but a sample of the special sessions. As for the tours (all led by local sociologists), one can explore an ancient African cemetery, walk the old and new ethnic neighborhoods of the Lower East Side; and visit one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of Indian cultural materials in the world. And that's just for starters.

Fifth Annual Research Support Forum

The Fifth Annual Research Support Forum is an important opportunity for new and more experienced researchers (including graduate students) to learn about research support and federal science policy. The Forum begins on Saturday, August 17 through mid-day, Sunday, August 18. The Forum will start with two substantive sessions on research and research support. The first is a professional workshop—"Opportunities for Federal Funding and the Development of Competitive Research Proposals"—and includes representatives of key federal agencies offering practical advice on the research funding process. The second begins with high-ranking science policy leaders to consider "Science as a Science Priority." Wendy Baldwin, Deputy Director for Extramural Research at the National Institute of Health; Joyce Justus, Assistant Director for Social and Behavioral Science, Office of the White House Science Advisor; and Barbara B. Torrey, Executive Director, Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Research Council will address the contemporary environment for the social and behavioral sciences and strategies for moving ahead.

The Research Forum also features two important poster sessions. At "Opportunities for Research Support," Annual Meeting participants can talk one-on-one with more than 20 public and private funding officials about funding priorities, application procedures, and specific issues of concern. The other poster session, "Data Resources," is an exhibit of approximately two dozen data sets available for secondary analysis. This session allows individual discussion with principal investigators, researchers, and managers of these large-scale data sets.

Everything You Want to Know About the Internet

On a related front—and by popular demand—the Meeting will offer a wide assortment of Internet-related sessions to help the novice and veteran Internet user locate and utilize resources pertinent to sociological work, as well as some helpful tips on Home Page creation and management. Several paper sessions will provide research on the impact of electronic communication and access.

The Internet is not the only way to discover cutting-edge developments in research, teaching, practice, and theory. A useful guide, of course, are the Meeting's many professional workshops, didactic seminars, and teaching workshops.

Sociologists, Books, and Exhibits

Sociologists with important and recent book titles to their name will square off with their critics at eleven book panel sessions. Robert Corelli, Demir Kuza, Jerry Arendell, Seymour Martin Lipset, Melvin Oliver, and Stephen Steinberg are only a few of the authors participating in these important sessions.

For that matter, look to the Annual Meeting to provide the largest exhibit of sociology publishers. Visits to the exhibits offer opportunities for Annual Meeting participants to speak to publishers about their work, see important new releases, update their textbook lists, and discover specialized programs and (DAN), where ASA expects almost 100 exhibitors, with Cafe ASA readily available as a place to rest and meet.

Schmooze, Socialize, and Have Fun

Miss the 9:15 Annual Meeting and miss the chance to network, make new friends, and socialize with your colleagues. Receptions and parties help to make it happen. All meeting attendees can join the fun at the Welcoming Party, a celebration of the opening day's opening on Friday, August 16, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Newcomers and repeat participants meet at this kick-off event. This year a special orientation is being held for first timers just prior to the Welcoming Party at 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. New members and first time attendees at the Annual Meeting are urged to attend and to meet ASA officers, members of the Membership Committee, and staff for informal talk.

There is also the Honorary Reception immediately following the Presidential Address and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, August 17. Encompass your appreciation, congratulations, and best wishes to President Hallinan and to the major ASA award recipients this festive occasion.

A "happening" not to be by-passed is the 23nd Annual Department Alumni Night, where sociologists from around the world meet to reminisce about graduate school days, create new coalitions, and catch up on the latest news. DAN kicks off at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 18, and is worth staying up for! Students are encouraged to come to DAN, but also to be sure to attend at 6:30 p.m. on the 18th the Student Reception—a wonderful gathering of undergraduate and graduate students. ASA officers, staff, and a host of department chairs and graduate advisors will also be on hand.

Important Information

All of the usual services provided by ASA at the Annual Meeting will be available and are being planned with polish and precision by our Annual Meeting Service, Paper Sales, Accessibility Resources and Services, and Child Care are all regular features of the meeting and back this year.

Two important notes:

(1) Meeting attendees need to make their hotel reservations directly with the hotels. For the New York Hilton and Towers, call 212-596-7000 or 800-624-8667; for the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, call 212-591-1000 or 800-223-6500.

(2) The Town Meeting Plenary with HHS Secretary Donna Shalala on August 18 is one of the workshops. Reservations are required for admission. There is no charge for attending and participating in this event, but reservations need to be made in advance. Those wishing to order a box lunch will need to pre-pay the lunch in advance of reserving a seat. See the Preliminary Program.

Preliminary Programs were mailed to all ASA members and Annual Meeting program participants in May. For general information about the meeting, call 202-855-3410, ext. 305 or e-mail: meetings@asadnet.org. Also, look for program highlights and additional information on ASA's home page http://www.asa.net.

Mark your professional and personal calendars for a very special meeting. Capture and light the lights with ASA this August!

ASA Announces Major Award Winners

W ith pride and celebration, ASA will recognize some of sociology's best and brightest at the Annual Meeting's 1996 Awards Ceremony on Saturday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m. ASA Vice President Myra Marx Ferree, University of Connecticut, will preside over this important ceremony.

The Awards Ceremony will immediately precede President Hallinan's Presidential Address. All registrants are invited to the Honorary Reception immediately following the Address to congratulate President Hallinan and the award recipients.

We announce the winners here so that friends, family, and colleagues can make plans to attend.

Most importantly, ASA extends our heartfelt congratulations to the following honorees:

1996 Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award—Peter M. Blau, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

1996 Jessie Bernard Career Award—Jill L. Wolf, University of New York-Brooklyn College and Graduate Center
Farkas brings energy, enthusiasm, commitment to Rose Series

When George Farkas assumed the editorship of the Rose Monograph Series in 1996, he started the series in a new direction. The ASA Publication Committee and ASA Council recently decided to reorient the series to experiment with a new concept. The plan is for the series to publish lively, short books on the state of the knowledge in important areas. Many will involve controversial topics or policy matters. Broad discussion is envisioned, among sociologists and beyond the discipline. George Farkas has been named the editor to launch this new Rose series. His unique career has been ideal preparation for taking the series in this new direction. He has long worked at the boundaries that the new Rose series is aimed at crossing: those between disciplines, between academia and policy makers, and between theory and practice.

Farkas received his BA in Mathematics from Columbia (1967) and his doctorate in Sociology from Cornell (1973). From 1972-1978 he served on the Yale Faculty. As an Assistant Professor at Yale, he held joint appointments in Sociology and the Institution for Social and Policy Studies, participating in seminars with economists and political scientists. He later worked at AB Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts, evaluating the Youth Employment Program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In 1982, Farkas became a colleague at the University of Texas-Dallas, where he is Professor of Sociology and Political Economy in the interdisciplinary School of Social Sciences and Graduate Program in Political Economy. He teamed up to write on labor markets and households, criticizing economics as well as integrating insights from sociology and economics. His forthcoming authored book, Households, Employment, and Gender: A Social, Economic, and Demographic View (NY: Aldine, 1995). He also co-edited Industries, Firms, and Jobs: Economic and Sociological Perspectives (NY: Plenum, 1988; expanded edition published by Aldine in 1994). Our joint papers included a 1988 ASR piece on occupational sex segregation and wages.

More recently, Farkas has been working in the sociology of education. He is a founding member of the Center for Education and Social Policy at the University of Texas-Dallas. He has been studying determinants of students' academic performance in the Dallas Independent School District. He created a tutoring program for grade school students in 1991, called Reading One-On-One, which has now cumulatively served over 4,000 low-income students, provided over 225,000 hours of one-on-one instruction, and has been adopted by four other school districts. He has been conducting evaluations of the tutoring program. He has also been conducting research showing that cognitive skills affect labor market earnings, even net of educational credentials.

He has written a book, Human Capital or Cultural Capital? (NY: Aldine, 1996) is the culmination of a decade of work on these topics. You may wonder, given the book's title, which he says is important. Having read the manuscript, I take an answer to be "both, but each needs some revision." (Read the book.)

George has long had an interest in research and statistical methods, and a commitment to rigorous empirical research. He has taught methods sequences at Yale and at the University of Texas-Dallas. I have been with him at professional meetings when former students come up to him and attribute a good share to their success in teaching methods. I use him as a resource on such questions because of his ability to explain complicated technical matters in a user-friendly way. The diversity of Farkas' academic work is matched by the diverse journals in which his work has appeared, including ASR, AJLS, Social Forces, Journal of Human Resources, American Educational Research Journal, Econometrica, Journal of Labor Economics, Evaluation and Program Planning, Demography, Journal of Marriage and the Family, Sociological Methods and Research, among others. He is one of only a few people who have published in both Econometrica and ASR. In addition to books on important social problems or policy issues, the revamped Rose series is also intended to tackle theoretical or other broad intellectual debates. I predict that George will handle this side of the job with aplomb as well. Indeed, he plans to soon begin teaching one of the theory courses for PhD students at UT-Dallas. As his good friend knows, he frequents book stores, browsing wildly and buying wildly eclectic items to read. One week it will be the history of slavery, a psychologist writing on love, maybe some Cuffman, a book on culture by an anthropologist, then something on macroeconomic debates. He once joked to me that he always hates to stop browsing because he cannot shake the idea that the meaning of life may be found in the next book he picks up.

Farkas brings plenty of editorial experience to the job. He has served on the editorial boards of ASR, Sociological Forum, and Evaluation Review. With Kevin Lang and me, he co-edited a book series for Aldine de Gruyter called "Sociology and Economics: Controversy and Integration." He also brings what I think characterizes him most: high levels of energy, enthusiasm, and a commitment to excellence.
New Editors, from page 8

up to the admission: "The editor of such a series will need to be proactive yet care- ful, capturing writers who are bold but not foolhardy, controversial but not extreme, synthetic but not superficial" (Footnotes). In contrast, a good and sensitive editor, working closely with scholars, will be necessary to achieve the liveliness tem- pered by scholarly caution that the series will strive for.

Finally, the series will succeed only if its products are widely purchased and dis- cussed. The formal discussion above, and the editor's ability to sign up high quality contributions, will be crucial to success. Yet, this must be accomplished without favoritism or the restriction of authorship to a networked social group. I plan to deal with these issues by utilizing entrepreneu rial energy and enthusiasm and a wide-ranging and eclectic editorial board to reach out and to my own strong and weak ties within the profession. If we expect to publish four to five volumes per year, the need to commission a large number of projects to initially fill the pipe- line should permit initiation of approxi mately ten projects during an extended start-up period. If these projects and their authors are sufficiently eclectic, while promising high quality and high interest, the series will have a strong foundation upon which to build. Then, as these vol- umes appear, the readers, and especially the visi- bility of the series to its audience, and the interest of potential authors, should increase.

Firebaugh: The Right Choice to Lead ASR
by Barrett A. Lee
Pennsylvania State University

Glenn Firebaugh, Professor of Sociol- ogy at Penn State and incoming editor of the American Sociological Review, does not think that he knows it all. This may sound like faint praise when compared to the adulation customarily heaped on editors-elect of ASA-sponsored journals. But the observation contains a strong dose of reas uring familiarity for those of us con- cerned about the narrow way in which the discipline can be defined by gatekeepers' decisions. Glenn's own research has ranged widely enough to convince him that "human behavior is a complex prod- uct of culture, biology, and situation-spe- cific stimuli, and we have barely scratched the surface in the study of that complex- ity." He sees ASR as an appropriate vehicle for addressing such sociological knowledge through publication of innovative, high- quality theory and research. Put more bluntly, if a few editors-elect do not know it all, good new ideas should always be wel- comed.

The openness of Glenn's editorial pol- icy will surprise some who regard him primarily as a quantitative methodolo- gist. In fact, he is difficult to pigeonhole professionally. The Firebaugh oeuvre exhibits remarkable substantive breadth, with prominent roles in both demography as the gender gap in voting, village-level fertility differences in India, the impact of foreign

investement on developing countries, and trends in child mortality and in racial and environmental attitudes. What moti- vates much of his work is a desire to understand social change however it manifes- t itself. Toward that end, he has used data of virtually every stripe (historical, areal, social, etc) and has employed multiple analytic strategies. Perhaps his most valuable contribution in recent years has been to redefine sociology for decom- posing change into its intra-individual and cohort succession components.

Describing Glenn at a personal level poses an even greater challenge than does the task of locating him in the disciplinary landscape. One's first impression is of a modest, sensible Midwesterner, but there is more depth to Glenn than meets the eye. His roots are in Ohio, where his paternal grandparents lost their farm during the Depression, and in West Virginia. Born in Charleston in 1948, he moved with his family to a farm in the Wooster, Ohio area when he was in elementary school. Glenn's passion for clear thinking, nur- tured by his parents, served him well as a member of his high school debate team, which advanced to the state finals. He also distinguished himself as a middle infielder on the baseball squad. (His attachment to the sport persists today; he is among the oldest players in our county softball league.)

Glenn took an initial step along his career path while a student at Grace Col- lege in Indiana. After sampling the various social sciences, he decided that sociology was for him, both more encompassing and less restrictive than its counterparts. Dur- ing the academic year, he kept busy with campus affairs and served a term as student body president. During the summers, he was paid for college by traveling through- out the South as a door-to-door book sales- man. Graduating summa cum laude from Grace in 1970, he accepted an NIMH- funded quantitative methods fellowship to attend Indiana University in 1972. Phil- lips Catington was an important influence on Glenn's intellectual growth in the soci- ology program at IU. However, Judy Rae- nemann, who married prior to starting gradua- te school—has proved the more enduring influence. Twenty-five years later, she con- tinues to keep Glenn in line as both friendly critic and ethical anchor.

By the time I joined Glenn at Vanderbilt University in 1986, he had completed his Ph.D. (1976), and he and Judy were already busy raising four teaching (now a jun- ior at Wharton College), Joel (a freelance writer at Case Western Reserve University), and Rosie (a high school sophomore). He had also published two sole-authored articles in ASR, on inferences from aggregate data (1978) and cross-national determi- nants of urbanization (1979), and a lengthy comment on a previous ASR piece (1980). In light of what has unfolded since those early appearances in the journal, it is tempting to assert that Glenn has been preparing for the editor- ship his entire career. He still publishes regularly in ASR and in other top jour- nals, has served on the ASR editorial board, and for the past two years has been a deputy editor to Paula Englund. Such formal credentials are nice, of course, but the real story is how one acquires them. In Glenn's case, they have been earned through his efforts on behalf of the collective good as well as through pursuit of his own research interests. Journals and funding agencies fre- quently call upon him, recognizing that he is a shrewd judge of the quality of scholarship. (They also recognize his self-admitted "compulsion to revise every manuscript I see." ) Colleagues at Vanderbilt and more recently at Penn State, where he moved in 2002, seek him out as a collaborator and consultant because of his ability to formulate prob- lems in a provocative fashion and to develop novel means of addressing them. Among students, he is much in demand as a mentor, although he has a well-deserved reputation for high stan- dards. One former PhD student laments that "Glenn never hesitated to suggest that I really needed to rework my analysis for my dissertation despite the fact that it had taken me two months to do it the first time." But the same student also notes that "the end result was a better product" and that criticism was always delivered in a gracious and encouraging manner.

This example is representative, most people who come into contact with Glenn, whether professionally or person- ally, feel that they benefit from the expe- rience. In its wisdom, the ASA has selected an editor who has a powerful mind and who also happens to be an individual of compassion, integrity, and reason (rare descent into Hoosier bas- ketball lunacy notwithstanding). Who to anticipate during Glenn's tenure? That he will treat contributors to ASR with respect. That he will push them to pro- duce their very best work. That his con- mitment to the well-being of the discipline will ensure a fair evaluation for all styles of sociology. And that he will never pretend to know it all. In short, we can be confident that ASR will prosper under his leadership.

Nothing But the Best is Good Enough for ASR
by Glenn Firebaugh

(Note: This is an abridged version of the statement provided to the ASA Committee on Publications in November 1995.)

The ASR should publish the very best that sociology has to offer: the very best theory, the very best qualitative research, the very best quantitative research. "Very best" refers to more than technical virtu- osity. Papers in the ASR should demon- strate exceptional merit in conceptualization and exposition, and should address an important problem of general interest in sociology.

The ASR as Standard-Bearer

Like it or not, the decisions of the ASR editor have ripple effects, to some extent setting the agenda for sociology. I am excited by that challenge. If sociology in the 21st century is to be the vibrant enterprise that we all believe it can be, the ASR must serve to pull the field for- ward by the publication of significant contributions to knowledge. The nature of the best demands that human behavior is a complex product of culture, biology, and situation-specific stimuli, and we have barely scratched the surface in our study of that complexity. Our theories, data, and methods often are quite blunt for the tasks at hand, and the ASR must push the envelope in those areas as well. Among the trends I will encourage are: the use of multiple methods and multi- ple datasets in a single analysis; the use of multilevel data and methods; the use of biologically-based, along with more stan- dard survey data; the analysis of policy- relevant "natural experiments"; and the use of robust methods and diagnostic tests.

Special Challenges for an ASA Editor

ASA sponsorship carries with it obliga- tions that pose special challenges to an editor. The ASR must be sensitive to the competing demands of ASA members everywhere, not just those in large research universities—while simulta- neously meeting the needs of regional editors and of those with small institutions. The challenge is for the ASR to be an elite journal without being elitist in the way it treats people.

In contemplating the challenge of being elite without being elitist, I thought of the respondent who wrote, in response to a survey about what the ASA could do for her/him, "publish my papers in ASR." (Cited in Footnotes.) Obviously publication in ASR cannot be promised as a benefit of ASA membership. But as an ASA editor, I am going to try to do my best to ensure that those who sub- mit papers to the ASR will receive timely, courteous reviews; that papers will be judged on their own merits rather than on the reputations of the authors; and that the ASR will be a big test that is open to sociology of all stripes and meth- odologies.

The chief complaints I have heard about ASR over the years are that it pub- lishes too much quantitative research and not enough theory, and that it pub- lishes too much esoteric that is des- perate only to narrow specialists. The "theory versus methods" complaint is shorthand for saying that the reach and power of power ideas takes a back seat to the adequacy of the evidence adduced. To state it in the most negative light, there is a tendency to publish powerful tests of trivial ideas. This complaint spans edi- tors, suggesting that the problem is not solved by the good will of edi- tors.

To the extent that the reach and power of ideas are sacrificed at the altar of evi- dence adequacy in the ASR and other
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Melvin Oliver Tapped As Vice President at Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation has named sociologist Melvin L. Oliver, University of California-Los Angeles, to be vice president for work in the areas of poverty, community economic developments, and reproductive health.

"We are thrilled to have Melvin Oliver leading a major portion of the Foundation's program activity," said Ford Foundation President Susan V. Berresford. "He brings a rare combination of outstanding research skills, teaching and community interests. We are certain he will add to the development of new approaches and give us a fresh perspective to the Foundation's work."

While at UCLA, Oliver has directed work at the Center for the Study of Urban Poverty, served as faculty associate for the Center for Afro-American Studies, and received numerous campus teaching awards. Oliver first joined the department in 1978 after receiving his MA and PhD in sociology from Washington University in St. Louis. In 1994, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named Oliver the 1994 California Professor of the Year.

Oliver has been an active member of the American Sociological Association for many years, serving on the Committee on Freedom of Research and Training in 1987, organizing a session on "Social Networks" at the 1989 Annual Meeting, and participating in two special sessions at the 1994 Annual Meeting at Los Angeles. In this year's annual meetings, Oliver will preside over the "Constructing Race" session, and will participate in a special "Authors Meet Critics" session, responding to assessments of Black Wealth/White Wealth, which he recently co-authored with Joel Shaparo.

Marta Tienda Elected Trustee to Carnegie Corporation

Sociologist Marta Tienda, University of Chicago, has been elected trustee to the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The four-year appointment begins January 1, 1997. "We are most fortunate to have Dr. Tienda join the corporation's board," said Corporation President David A. Hamburg. "She is an exceptional leader in her field and will bring fresh perspectives to the foundation's policies and programs." Carnegie Corporation of New York is a philanthropic foundation created by Andrew Carnegie in 1911 to "promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding among the people of the United States."

Tienda, who is the Ralph Lewis Professor and chair of the sociology department at the University of Chicago, previously taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a member of the Binational Study on Migration for the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, the Child Health and Human Development Council of the National Institute of Health, and the advisory board of the National Academy on Aging. She serves as a trustee of the Russell Sage and Kaiser Family foundations.

She is the immediate past-chair of the National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee for the Social Behavioral and Educational Directorate. Tienda has written numerous books, monographs, and articles on migration, employment, and poverty among Latinos.

Section on Sexualities Proposed

by Gilbert Zicklin, Montclair State University, and Steven Seidman, SUNY-Albany

In the last decade or so, the study of sexuality has emerged as a vibrant interdisciplinary field of social analysis. For many years, sexuality was approached as an individual, biological, or physiological phenomenon. Today, the idea of sexuality as social fact and as construction is the point of departure for much of the most exciting scholarship in the area.

The recent prominence of the social study of sexuality and the evident increase of sociologists working in the area provide the crucial justification for creating an ASA Section on Sexualities. Currently, there is no section that captures anything approaching the range of new work in the area of sexuality. The Sex and Gender Section emphasizes the sociology of gender, treating "sex" primarily as a gender status, not as "sexuality." The study of sexuality should not be an appendage of gender scholarship; it merits a location of its own, a venue where scholarly work can be presented and new avenues of research discussed. One way to advance the study of sexuality is to support the establishment of an ASA Section on Sexualities.

The group proposing the establishment of a section on sexualities, under the leadership of co-organizers Steven Seidman and Gilbert Zicklin, will meet on August 18 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. during the ASA Annual Meeting in New York. A formal statement of intent and petition with at least 20 signatures will be presented to the Committee on Sections and Council. Seidman, currently at SUNY-Albany, may be reached by e-mail at seidman@socsci.sfasu.edu, and Zicklin, currently at Montclair State University in New Jersey, may be reached by e-mail at zicklin@montclai.edu or on phone (201) 655-4168.
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Center for Survey Research, Virginia Tech

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Call for Computer Demos for 1996 Annual Meeting

Background and Rationale

The uses of computers for teaching and research in sociology have burgeoned in recent years as revolutionary changes in microcomputer hardware and software have made available to students of most schools, classrooms, research laboratories, and even homes. It is difficult to fully appreciate a computer resource from a traditional "paper resource", even with the browsing of standard libraries and variations. As an author of this session of "Computer Demos for the 1996 Annual Meeting", I believe that the interested audience will find the following description of this session of interest.

Description of Innovative Session

In response to this need, the Program Committee of the American Sociological Association has approved two sessions for ASA's forthcoming 1996 Annual Meeting. Both sessions will consist of refereed demos of computer applications of interest to sociologists.

1. The first session will focus on "Computer Applications for the Teaching of Intercultural Sociology". This session will be held on Monday, August 19, from 12:30 to 1:30.

2. The second session will be held either immediately before or after the first session. This session will be entitled "Computer Applications for Sociological "Data, Documentation, and Analysis." Both text-based as well as survey- or numbers-based data and analysis will be included in the submissions.

A one hour and 45 minute time slot will be allocated to each session. For each session, up to eight simultaneous demo presentations, each spanning 15 minutes, may be solicited. Each presenter will be expected to bring his/her own computer, monitor, video-handouts, etc. (as much as can fit on a 3 ft by 8 ft table). The table, two chairs, and an electrical outlet will be provided by ASA. No computer hardware or software currently resident at ASA cannot be used.

In this session of "Computer Demos for the 1996 Annual Meeting", it is expected that the session will be informative and that much of the time will be devoted to answering questions from spectators and showing aspects of the program of interest to the particular spectator group at hand.

Information About Proposal Submission

Submit an application of no more than three single-spaced pages describing the computer software being demonstrated, its current capabilities, and its contribution to sociological teaching and/or research to: Dr. J.J. Card, Sociometrics Corporation, 170 State Street, Suite 247, Albany, CA 94704-3262; fax (515) 949-3289; e-mail d333@foray.stanford.edu

Criteria for acceptance will be the usefulness and interest of the computer resource/software for sociological teaching (session 1) and research (session 2). Deadline for submission is June 25, 1996.
Teaching Materials Sought
For New ASA Products

The following ASA products are under development or revision during 1996 and early 1997. If you have pertinent teaching materials, please contact the appropriate editors. They are interested in course syllabi, class exercises and assignments, examinations and evaluation instruments, computer software and film reviews, and essays on pedagogical challenges and opportunities involved in teaching those courses.

Please do not write requesting these products. As materials are completed, they will be announced in Footnotes and distributed through the Teaching Resources Center.

• The Small College Experience, Eric Godfrey, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Ripon College, P.O. Box 248, Ripon, WI 54971.

• Learning Group Exercises in Political Sociology, Ted Saxon, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753.

• Syllabi and Instructional Materials for Appalachian Studies, Chris Baker, Department of Social Sciences, 304 COBE, West Virginia Institute of Technology, Montgomery, WV 25136-2436.

• Syllabi Set for Courses in Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Kelly Moore, Department of Sociology, Barnard College, Columbia University, 309 Broadway, New York, NY 10027-6598.

• Syllabi and Instructional Materials for the Sociology of Law, Shannon Griffths, Department of Sociology & Social Work, Hood College, Rosenstock Hall, Frederick, MD 21701.

• Teaching the Sociology of Peace and War, John MacDougall, 15 Old Lowell Road, Westford, MA 01886.

• Teaching Race and Ethnic Relations, Donald Cunninque, Department of Sociology, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881.

• The Sociology of Sexuality and Homosexuality: Syllabi and Teaching Materials, Paula Rust, Department of Sociology, Hamilton College, 198 College Hill Road, Clinton, NY 13323.

• Syllabi and Instructional Materials for Social Statistics, Louis R. Gaydosh (William Paterson College of New Jersey), 18 Leigh Drive, Florham Park, NJ 07932.

• Teaching Resources for the Sociology of Work and Occupations, Carol Auster, Department of Sociology, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003.

American Sociological Association
1722 N Street NW
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Assistant Editor: Carla R. Howey
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Article submissions are limited to 1,500 words and must have journalistic value (i.e., timeliness, significant impact, general interest) rather than be research-oriented or scholarly in nature. Submissions will be reviewed by the editorial board for possible publication. “Open Forum” contributions are limited to 800 words. “Observations,” 200 words; “Letters to the Editor,” 400 words; “Department” announcements, 200 words. Accepted material will appear in the space available. ASA reserves the right to edit for style and length all material published. The deadline for all material is the first of the month preceding publication (e.g., April 1 for May issue).

Send communications on material, subscriptions, and advertising to: American Sociological Association, 1722 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 332-4234; fax: (202) 332-4234; or email:footnotes@asa.unc.edu.

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