New ASA President Neil J. Smelser: A Bridge-Builder Par Excellence

by Ruth A. Wallace
George Washington University

Anyone who knows Neil Smelser understands why writing his presidential profile must be a group effort. His multifaceted intellectual interests, extensive scholarly contributions, and administrative achievements cannot be captured by a single author. I am deeply grateful to Neil’s students and colleagues whose voices will emerge in this picture of our current ASA president. Neil is a bridge-builder, able to identify the means of access and communication between and among individuals, groups, and organizations.

Born in Yakima, Missouri in 1930, Neil and his family moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he graduated from public primary and secondary schools. In 1952, he received his B.A. in Social Relations at Harvard, and in 1954 as a Rhodes scholar, a second B.A. from Magdalen College at Oxford University in the School of Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Both degrees were multi-disciplinary and, in combination, gave a permanent interdisciplinary imprint on his work.

He returned to Harvard in 1954, and received his PhD in 1958. During his graduate years he coauthored Economy and Society (1956) with Talcott Parsons, and his doctoral dissertation was published as Social Change in the Industrial Revolution (1959). Though his work moved in directions different from Parsons’, their friendship endued until Parsons’ death in 1979.

The Berkeley Years
From Harvard, Neil moved directly to the University of California–Berkeley to commence a period of 36 years as a faculty member of that institution. One of his major works, Theory of Collective Behavior, was published in 1962, the year that he was advanced to the rank of full professor. That work was influenced by his teachers Gordon Allport and Talcott Parsons, but, while at Berkeley, he entered into conversations and an extensive exchange of letters with Herbert Blumer which focused mainly on points of theoretical difference but generated a deep mutual respect.

While always a theorist, Neil cannot be described as one who does “not get his feet wet in the waters of research.” His works are based on in-depth empirical—including historical—scholarship, and that scholarship typically ranges across disciplinary boundaries. Steve Warner, one of Neil’s early students at Berkeley, lists a number of lessons he learned from him:

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The Annual Meeting was anchored by three plenary and 23 thematic sessions reflecting the meeting’s theme of “Social Change: Opportunities and Constraints.” One of those sessions—a Town Meeting with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala—packed the New York Hilton and Towers Grand Ballroom. Shalala spoke to how social science fits in the policy-making process while defending the President’s recent approval of the welfare bill. (See story below.)

Receptions Held
The Meeting featured 463 sessions, an overflow hall of book exhibits, and a range of inviting receptions, including a festive Welcoming Party, the 23rd Annual Departmental Alumni Night, and an Honorary Reception to congratulate outgoing President Maureen Hallinan and the recipients of this year’s Association awards. ASA’s 37th

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Shalala Defends Welfare Bill

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The meeting was moderated by New

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The Executive Officer's Column

Training the Next Generation in Sociology

Across disciplines of science and the humanities, the past decade has brought with it challenges for "rethinking" graduate education and preparing future generations for careers in learned fields. Some of this rethinking, and the product of adverse circumstances, is federal funding for research and training has shrunk, colleges and universities have diminished resources and some worry about whether there is an overproduction of PhDs. Nevertheless, scholarly disciplines can seize the opportunity to work across fields and with academic institutions to shape the terms of debate and the solutions.

I am pleased to report that there are positive signs that sociology and the American Sociological Association are doing just that. For a number of years, ASA has worked with departments to foster constructive reflection and experimentation. The goal is to step back from "business as usual" and to ask how to structure our educational programs to advance sociological knowledge and learning. One clear sign of progress within our own "disciplinary house" is that the 1996 Annual Meeting marked the occasion of the Third Annual Conference of Department Chairs and the first time for convening the Directors of Graduate Study. And what a quantitative and qualitative success those were!

The Chair Conference was attended by 89 department chairs from a range of departments. They discussed how to conduct program reviews, how to evaluate faculty for promotion and tenure, how to have a strong department in periods of enrollment, and how to be a player in the information age. The chairs also reviewed the draft revisions of the ASA Code of Ethics, focusing on issues pertinent to their role as department administrators and leaders. Over a two-day span, chairs from diverse departments and institutions shared information, insights, and strategies.

In addition to the Chair Conference, this year ASA reached out to Directors of Graduate Study (DGS) to provide a forum for addressing issues of common importance and concern. William G. Hoyt, UCLA's Director of Graduate Studies and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Education, is owed a special thanks for orchestrating this meeting. Working with a three-year mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee is focusing on the challenges facing graduate education and identifying "best practices" in departments. One of the topics of interest to the Committee is the complex and diverse role of the DGS. By convening the DGS group, we hope to learn more about their role and to enhance their leadership in graduate education.

While the ASA has a 20-year history of enhancing undergraduate education (through teaching resources, reports, workshops, training programs), it is only within the last five years that the Association has given as much programmatic attention to graduate education. In 1992, under Joan Fiechter's leadership, an initial ASA Task Group on Graduate Education (TAGE) issued a report covering a range of issues relating to the well-being of departments. That same year, with the support and encouragement of ASA Council, the Executive Officer put in place steps to nurture and formalize ASA's relationship with graduate departments and to work more proactively and intentionally with all departments. This commitment is now prominently reflected in the operating activities and core goals of ASA's programs. As reflected in initiatives like our co-sponsoring a conference on "The Professional Apprenticeship: In the 21st Century," the Association is undertaking activities that foster excellence in research and training.

In considering training for our next generation, we at ASA emphasize the importance of focusing on the articulation between sociology programs at different levels (including pre-college). By design, the Chairs Conference brings together chairs in AA, MA, and PhD-granting institutions, large and small, public and private, to address points of connection and disconnection. This year, to draw explicit attention to the issue, we asked Teresa Sullivan, Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School at University of Texas-Austin and ASA Secretary, to talk at the joint luncheon for Department Chairs and Graduate Directors about the subject of "Pulling on the Same Sock: The Articulation of Sociology Programs."

"Pulling on the Same Sock: The Articulation of Sociology Programs." While each department has unique challenges and aspirations, the 18 departments in our group (12 undergraduate, six PhD) work together to assess different strategies of change. Within ASA, most involves collaboration between our Minority Affairs Program (directed by Havidan Rodriguez) and Academic and Professional Affairs Program (directed by Carla Flowers), specifically because this project is about building strong departments that are willing to reassess goals, "re-engineer" practices, and test new ways of educating, mentoring, and training.

Last June, the need to reassess how to change graduate education formed the basis of a National Convocation on Science and Engineering Doctoral Education convened by the National Academy of Sciences (and co-sponsored by ASA, among other groups). The title of the conference, "From Discussion to Action: Meeting the Needs of Future Generations of Graduate Scientists and Engineers," sought to identify strategies that might work. The meeting was useful because it provided a cross-disciplinary context for addressing such issues as the versatility of the PhD degree, students' research and teaching skills, effective mentoring, how to "credit" an MA degree, time to degree, and career placement. Coming away from this Convocation, Havidan, Carla, and I were encouraged about sociology. Many of the problems identified by participants have not hit our field as acutely, and, as importantly, many are those that we (both departments and ASA) are working to resolve. We hope that the 1996-97 academic year will be a period of further progress—Felice Levi
Federal AIDS Panel Prioritizes Research Issues

by Samuel R. Friedman, National Development and Research Institutes, Inc.

The Office of AIDS Research (OAR) has released a report on National Institutes of Health research priorities for HIV/AIDS. Most sociologists have focused on the impact of the panel on Social and Behavioral Research. There is also much to interest sociologists, however, in the report by the panel on Natural History, Epidemiology and (Biomedical) Prevention Research.

The executive summary's lead paragraph, for example, calls for "an emphasis on new areas that range from molecular epidemiology (including the transmission and natural history of infection with different viral subtypes) to social and ecological epidemiology (including the influence of ecological factors on social networks on HIV transmission) to definitive biomedical intervention trials."

The panel recommended an HIV Prevention Science Strategy for NIH and urged that "key components of this strategy include social and behavioral approaches as well as biomedical (including vaccines) approaches to prevention."

The panel also recommended that expertise in social and behavioral research should routinely be a part of research on biomedical interventions. For example, qualitative social research and sociobehavioral expertise should be utilized in trials evaluating the use of topical microbicides, studies of the impact of AIDS on children, and interventions for children at risk, improvements in access to needle/syringe-exchange programs, and recognition and treatment of HIV.

The recommendations of two subpanels, which are incorporated in the report, emphasize the importance of social processes and outcomes in HIV epidemiology and transmission. The subpanel on drug-injection related transmission recommended the evaluation of social networks and the social, drug, and economic factors that influence drug use; and the extent and incidence of HIV infection among drug users. The subpanel on sexual transmission, meanwhile, urged the identification of social, economic, and behavioral determinants, including sexual and social networks, that account for variations in the distribution of infection and disease.

The subpanel on research methodology recommended interdisciplinary methodological research on the statistical design and analysis of community randomized HIV prevention trials and on field studies and theoretical models of the role of social networks in HIV transmission. Research needs would include a multidisciplinary team to formulate prevention based models for studying social networks (and changes in networks); the development of efficient study designs and practical sampling methods; and an evaluation of alternative statistical analytic methods.

One of the strengths of the panel was its recognition of the importance of understanding and preventing opportunistic infections among persons who have been infected with HIV. Again, this included understanding the role of social factors such as homelessness in the spread of opportunistic infections.

Sociological concerns also entered into the report's discussion of the research programs of the NIH. For the National Institute of Drug Abuse (which may well fund the most AIDS research by sociologists), recommendations included coordinating a program of research on the social ecology of parental HIV transmission, and on policy factors that enable institution of drug injection. If implemented, the priorities set forth in this document may help the development of the kind of social understanding of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has long been needed for the development of prevention based models that will be implemented by NIH and its review committees. Yet, the report notes, sociologists are well positioned to participate in the design of these programs.

Sociologists with an interest in the HIV/AIDS epidemic, in the sociology of medicine, in social epidemiology, or in social network research may want to use this document and to make appropriate reference to its contents in their developing their own research proposals. It can be obtained through the OAR. Contact Lisa Warren, (301) 402-2512 or Shelly Cooper-Smith, (301) 402-3595; or the WorldWide Web [http://www.nih.gov/GoTo News and Topics] for a copy of the report.

Dr. Friedman was a member of the panel on Natural History, Epidemiology and (Biomedical) Prevention Research and was Chair of its panel on Parenteral/Injection Drug Use Transmissions. He was also the sociologist on the panel.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

-Time Running Out On Family Privacy Protection Act ... is now dead as of August. As Congress neared adjournment at press time, it seemed increasingly unlikely that the U.S. Senate would act on the Family Privacy Protection Act, thereby killing its chances of passage in the 104th Congress. In the face of strong opposition by ASA and other social science organizations, Senate supporters of the bill approved a substitute to make a last-ditch effort to bring the controversial bill to the House floor. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) has signaled that he will reintroduce the bill next year.

-Psychologist Likely for NSF Directorate Post ... University of Virginia psychologist Bennett Etra Bennett appears to be the odds on favorite to replace sociologist Cora Bagley Marrett as head of the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation. At press time, Benson was rumored to be in line for the position, according to administrators observers. Benson received his PhD in developmental psychology from the University of Denver and has received major research funding from the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development.

-OSTP Seeks Assistant Director for Social and Behavioral Sciences ... The White House Office of Science and Technology is seeking an Assistant Director for Social and Behavioral Sciences and Education. Ruby Takashii, who worked for 10 years as the executive director of the Carnegie Corporation's Council on Adolescent Development, has replaced Joyce Hurst in the position but is expected to leave OSTP by the end of the year. Prior to her work with the Carnegie Corporation, Takashii was director of the Behavioral Bonfire, Cognitive, and Psychological Sciences, and former executive director of the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences.

-NSF Gets A Boost ... In the final hours before adjournment, Congress approved an appropriation of $527 billion for the National Science Foundation for fiscal year 1997 - that's a 2 percent increase from last year. Of that amount, $2,453 billion will go to research and 479 million for education, up from $459 million for FY 1996. The conference appropriated $214 million for NSF's salaries and expenses, thereby defeating an effort by House Science Committee chairman Walker to reduce funding levels in that area. The National Science Foundation had opposed Walker's proposal as a back-end effort to reduce funding for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate. President Clinton is expected to approve the measure.

-House Opposes Census's Use of Statistical Sampling ... The House Government Reform and Oversight Committee approved a report on September 18 that opposes the use of statistical sampling in the 2000 Census. The report, Sampling and Statistical Adjustment in the Decennial Census: Fundamental Flaws, says the U.S. Census Bureau "should not use sampling methods to complete or adjust the actual enumeration." The report, which does not have the force of law, says that sampling will "Improve accuracy of data and states that it would cost the final count vulnerable to political manipulation. Earlier this year, the Senate approved non-binding report language that urges the Bureau to proceed with its plans to use sampling. Speaking at a September 26 meeting of the Census Advisory Committee, however, Bureau Director Marvin Fournsworth did not indicate that the absence of sampling would lead to approximately 9.5 million people being missed in the 2000 Census, and would increase its costs by $400 million. Stay tuned.

Anne Petersen Says Farewell to National Science Foundation

Within days of starting her new position at the W.K.
Kellogg Foundation, the deputy director of the National Science Foundation, Anne Petersen held a farewell social event on September 12 and reaffirmed her belief that the social and behavioral sciences are alive and well at NSF.

Petersen said she feels "very strongly" that these fields are important and that the agency's commitment to social and behavioral research will remain strong despite a restrictive budget environment.

Petersen has been the chief operating officer at NSF and the first woman to serve in that post in the Foundation's 46-year history. She was responsible for managing all science and engineering research and education programs at NSF -- a $3.2 billion agency with 1,300 employees.

During her two-year tenure, Petersen played a critical role in preventing the elimination of the Agency's Social, Behavioral and Economic Directorate after the directorate was targeted by Congressional budget-cutters.

At the briefing, Petersen cited the defense of the SBG directorate as one of the highlights of her tenure. "I was glad I was there when the SBG attacks occurred," Petersen said. "I think I was able to make a difference."

ASA Executive Officer Felicia J. Levine agreed and said "the social and behavioral sciences are minus a friend and powerful ally. Anne was there when we needed her the most." Petersen said she also took pride in her work to reform the SBG grant application process, to establish compliance with the Governmental Performance and Results Act, and to help create a "professional and collaborative team" throughout the agency.

As senior vice president for programs at Kellogg, Petersen will be responsible for providing overall leadership for programming, coordinating human and financial resources, and for planning and reviewing all program areas.

Prior to joining NSF, Petersen served as the vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis/St. Paul, where she oversaw the University's research policies and practices. At the University, she held the rank of professor of adolescent development and pediatrics.
Major ASA Award Recipients Honored in New York

T he 1996 recipients of the major ASA awards were honored in New York City during the Annual Meeting. The ceremony, presided by James McCarthy, Chair of the Awards Policy Committee, was attended by Annual Meeting participants, friends, family, and colleagues of the award recipients. The following descriptions are based on the introductions given by the various presenters and have been edited for space considerations.

Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award

Peter Blau, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; presented by John Logan, Career of Distinguished Scholarship Selection Committee Chairperson

Peter Blau wins this year's award for a Career of Distinguished Scholarship. This award is only the latest in an unusually distinguished career. His recognition and the impact of his scholarship extend well beyond sociology. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and he was recently elected to the American Philosophical Society. He served as the American Sociological Association's President in 1973-1974. The Association has honored Peter Blau with the Sorokin Award in 1986, the Distinguished Scholarship Award in 1980, and the Commonwealth Award for Distinguished Service in Sociology in 1983.

After completing his doctorate at Columbia University in 1952, Blau spent many years on the faculty of the University of Chicago. He returned to Columbia University in 1970, where he became Qunitel Professor of Sociology in 1977. He served at the same time as Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University at Albany during the early 1980's. Since 1968 he has been Robert Broughton Distinguished Research Professor at the University of North Carolina. In every institution he has been a dynamic intellectual force among his colleagues and students.

Blau published his first article in 1953, a study of the "Orientation of College Students toward International Relations." More than 100 publications later, his most recent book, Structural Contexts of Opportunities, appeared two years ago. From his earliest works, he has shown a remarkable sociological intellect and the capacity for combining theory, conceptualization, and empirical research. He was a pioneer in the study of formal organizations. His research on social stratification helped to create an entire approach to the study of this key social process. His work on exchange theory remains a central focus of efforts to analyze the ways in which micro-level processes link to macrosystems. His continuing work on a formal theory of social structure is likewise strikingly original, deeply sociological, and penetrating in its insights.

So consistently powerful is Blau's writing that his more than dozen books can be placed into only two categories. Several are acknowledged already as classic works in sociology, including The Dynamics of Bureaucracy (1965), Exchange and Power in Social Life (1964), The American Occupational Structure (with Otis Dudley Duncan and Andria Tynan, 1967), and Inequality and Heterogeneity (1977). Others are, in the words of one nominator, "drawn up among the best of the literature of the discipline. He has helped to shape distinctive aspects of our evolving sociological understandings."

No active sociologist can escape the influence of Peter Blau, whether working in formal theory, the social psychology of power and control, the structure and process of formal organization, macro-comparative societal studies, or social stratification. His creativity has been rich and continuous, washing over and illuminating one after another topic and problem.

Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award

Murray Milner, Jr., University of Virginia; presented by William Alex Mcintosh, Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award Selection Committee Chairperson

Murray Milner, Jr. (right) receives the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from William Alex McIntosh.

Status And Sacrifices: A General Theory of Status Relations and an Analysis of Kuwaiti Culture (Oxford University Press, 1988) by Murray Milner, Jr. is the 1996 recipient of the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award. The award committee found that Status and Sacrifices succeeds as a major contribution to explanations of social inequality and does so through a cultural rather than a material approach. Earlier theories of social stratification have rested on the three legs of class, power, and status, but the status element was always the weakest in several senses. First, wealth and political power have generally been considered more valuable than status as resources in stratification systemic and second, because of the first reason, status has received less attention. Milner turns these approaches on their heads, demonstrating that in some societies status controls the accumulation of wealth and political power. He thus provides us with a novel alternative to standard approaches to social stratification. Milner also develops a highly plausible explanations of the rise and development of status dependent stratification systems which involves the conscious efforts by status elites to manipulate culture in order to prevent others from living claim to higher status. Status power depends upon adherence to sacred norms; those with less status power are unable to conform to those norms. Thus, status-based systems tend to exhibit a great deal less social mobility than those societies whose stratification systems rely more on either wealth or political power. He observes that, unlike either wealth or political power, is not easily alienated or exchanged.

In a framework that emphasizes constraint, lack of mobility, and static agency would appear irrelevant. But Milner argues that status systems grounded in conformity to norms provide a great deal of latitude to participants, particualy those at the top of the system.

Murray Milner developed his theory through the study of classical India. His theory, however, does not explain well that social system, but also provides us with the theoretical tools to examine status inequality in other societies. His approach gives us new worlds to explore once again.

Dissertation Award

Jeffrey Lee Manza, Pennsylvania State University; presented by Deborah T. Gold, Dissertation Award Selection Committee Chairperson

Jeffrey Lee Manza (right) receives the Dissertation Award from Deborah T. Gold.

The 1996 ASA Dissertation Award winner is Jeffrey Lee Manza. Manza earned his doctorate at the University of California at Berkeley, and his dissertation title is "Policy Experts and Political Change During the New Deal." The dissertation develops a comparative analysis of the political alignments of competing groups of political experts in three New Deal policy domains between 1933 and 1936: old age pensions, labor law reform, and health insurance. The Chair of Manza's dissertation committee is Jerome Karabel.

Manza is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Pennsylvania State University. Currently, he is teaching political sociology and social stratification and plans also to teach social theory. Manza plans to revise the dissertation, publish it as a book in the near future. The ASA Dissertation Committee was pleased to make this award to Jeffrey Lee Manza.

Jessie Bernard Award

Judith Lorber, Graduate Center, City University of New York, and Diane L. Wolf, University of California-Davis; presented by Michael Kimmel, Jessie Bernard Award Selection Committee Chairperson

Judith Lorber (right) receives the Jessie Bernard Award from Michael Kimmel.

Judith Lorber wins the Jessie Bernard Award for career achievement. Lorber has made unique and extraordinary contributions as a feminist sociologist. One can list items on her vita, but, a mere list of accomplishments cannot convey how much she has contributed to the theoretical enhancement of gender studies. Nor does it tell how fully she has exemplified the best in feminist sisterhood. It is the breadth of accomplishments which place her in the tradition of Jessie Bernard.

Among the range of Lorber's accomplishments perhaps none deserve special attention. First, as founding editor of Gender and Society, Lorber established in five years a standard of quality which immediately made this journal one of, if not the, best journals on gender studies in the world. Through tremendous effort she established a commitment to excellence which quickly made it required reading for all those working with topics related to the social construction of gender. Perhaps most remarkable among her achievements and central to this accomplishment, was her willingness to edit manuscripts line by line to assure high quality articles in this new, and relatively unknown journal. In these activities she was a model of mentoring for anyone wishing to craft an intellectual and feminist career.

Which leads us to the second of Lorber's accomplishments—that of mentor. We will never know how many young scholars in whom she saw a spark which needed fanning and for whom she took on that responsibility. In the beginning, especially when many submissions came from the inexperienced rather than the more polished sociologists, who were frequently advised by others to publish in more established journals, Lorber took marginal papers and brought out the best.

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in them. There are now many women and men, with secure and stable careers, who owe their first publication to her. Their numbers are unknown because this work remains a secret between her and the author. But, individuals sometimes tell us the story of how she understood and appreciated what they were trying to say, and helped them bring it out more clearly.

That kind of help was especially what Jessie Bernard herself would recognize as an outstanding example of mentorship.

In Power and Gender, Lorber has made a major contribution to the understanding of gender from a critical feminist perspective. Sociologists struggle to make the point that the aspects of social life that people take for granted are seldom as natural as they assume—what everyone knows to be true is often untrue. In this exemplary work, Lorber has given us a model for doing sociological analysis by making that argument about gender and sexuality in a clear and compelling fashion.

As Patricia Martin said in her letter of nomination, "Lorber leads the readers of Paradigms through a series of variations on the theme that gender is a social institution that is continually and actively produced and that life is not a natural state. Her complex theme requires her to proceed carefully by laying out a series of questions, well-conceived analyses of empirical evidence, and reasoned arguments to show that yes, here too, gender is socially constructed.

Lorber's theoretical and practical creation of a sense of impeding revelation when the reader is unsure where she is being led."

Diane Wolf (left) receives the Jessie Bernard Award from Michael Kimmel.

Diane Lauren Wolf wins the Jessie Bernard Award for Factory Daughters: Gender, Household Dynamics and Rural Industrialization in Java. Factory Daughters is a truly exciting work. With integration of data and relevance for developments in gender studies, world system analysis studies, and studies of industrialization in third world settings, the work reflects the widely ranging interests of Jessie Bernard's career. In this major contribution, Wolf shows how ethnographic work can expand our understanding of accepted theoretical assumptions. In a careful and purposefully complex argument grounded in the political interplay between traditional institutions of oppression and women's experiences of agency, Wolf integrates a broad range of theoretical traditions and methodological approaches. It is theoretically rich, with nuanced and subtle arguments, and it is empirically strong—based on years of field work in Java with an extensive collection of survey data. Factory Daughters is an exemplar of what feminist inspired social science research can offer.

Wolf starts with what we might call women's stories—the narratives of their lives and how they find meaning in their experiences. The stories come from women who went to factories and those who did not. Wolf sets the stories in the context of the cultural and economic political conditions of rapid industrialization in Java. She also integrated into her analyses stories of the parents of these young women and from the factory managers with whom they interact.

Wolf's findings are both interesting and important. These women were neither the simple factory women of our mythologies of traditional life, nor were they instant proletarians who disregarded tradition as soon as they stepped through the factory gates. For example, they found traditional discourses were useful for gaining autonomy inside the factory gates at the same time that "modern" discourses precipitated a new revolutionary world view. Women, in fact, were members of a new generation. Her complex theme requires her to proceed carefully by laying out a series of questions, well-conceived analyses of empirical evidence, and reasoned arguments to show that yes, here too, gender is socially constructed.

Lorber's theoretical and practical creation of a sense of impeding revelation when the reader is unsure where she is being led.

Edgar Epps (right) receives the Dubois-Johnson-Frazier Award from Henry A. Walker.

his first teaching appointment at Tennes- see State University in 1958 and earned a doctorate in sociology from Washington State University in 1959. After completing the doctorate, Epps held faculty appointments at Florida A & M, Michigan, and Tuskegee Institute. He was chief of the Division of Social Sciences at Tuskegee from 1967 through 1970. Epps has also held visiting appointments at Harvard, Carleton College, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 1970, Epps was appointed Marshall Field IV Professor of Urban Education at the University of Chi- cago.

Epps has an enviable record of research and writing. He has written or co-edited six books including Black Students in White Schools (1972), Black Consciousness, Identity and Achievement (with Patricia Curtis, 1975), and Restructuring the Schools: Problems and Prospects (with John J. Lanou, 1992). Several of his more than fifty published articles, book chapters or reports have been reprinted.

Epps' research is sharply focused on the relationship between race and class, and educational attainment. His early research and writing established themes that suffuse his mature scholarship and shape his current research agenda.

About forty years ago, in his first published work (with Montague), Epps studied the effects of race and social class on the attitudes that young men hold about social mobility. Not surprisingly, his most recent article (Sociological Forum, 1995) surveys current trends in the relationship between race, class, and educational opportunity.

In the mid 1960's--while still in the early stages of his career--Epps was involved in laboratory studies (with A. Katz and others) that investigated factors that affect racial difference in achievement. Many of the articles from that research program were concerned with race differences in performances on standardized tests. They continue to serve as a foundation for contemporary research on the topic.

In that same period, Epps (with Gurin) studied the characteristics and motivations of black students in predominantly black colleges in the deep south. Five years ago, Epps, Allen and Haufler (College in Black and White, 1993) edited a volume that focused on black students in predominantly white and typically black universi- ties. His work-in-progress includes study of factors that affect minority access to higher education.

Finally, it is important to note that Epps has been a voice of reason during storms of controversy. When Jensen and Shockley attempted to connect minority underachievement to genetic factors, he warned us of the danger of using intelligence tests to infer racial differences in intellectual ability.

One cannot but Epps' contributions to the legacy of DuBois, Johnson, and Frazier without mentioning his service beyond the community of sociologists. It is also important to highlight some of his involvement in the civic and community life of black Americans and of the nation.

Epps has spent one quarter of his teaching career on the faculties of historically black institutions. Epps has served as a consultant to the Danforth Foundation, the Lily Endowment, the Florida Institute of Education Minority Achievement Project, the Illinois Department of Educa- tion, and the Chicago Board of Education. He served on the technical review panel of the National Evaluation of Project Follow Through (1970-1973). He has been a mem- ber of the Board of Human Resources for the National Research Council, and the National Academy of Sciences (1971-1973). And as recently as last year, was called as an expert witness in a higher education desegregation case (Knight vs. Alabama). Epps has also served on the Board of Directors of the Southern Educa- tion Foundation (1976-1988) and has been a member of the Chicago Board of Educa- tion (1974-1980).

Edgar G. Epps has devoted most of his adult life to describing, understanding, and working to improve the educational attainments of black and minority stu- dents. His life and work exemplify the tra- dition we honor today.

Distinguished Career Award

Award for the Practice of Sociology

Albert E. Gollin, Columbia University, presented by Ross Koppel, Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology Committee Chairperson.

Albert Gollin (right) receives the Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology from Ross Koppel.

Albert E. Gollin is the recipient of the Distinguished Career Award for the Prac- tice of Sociology, because of the value, meaning, range, and purpose of his sociological work. His work is thoughtful and useful to sociology in at least five major areas: (1) public opinion and mass communication; (2) newspaper research; (3) applied social science; (4) social problems and social policy; and (5) International

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development. These categories, impressive enough, only skim the reality of his contributions—contributions that appear to far be too many for any one individual's lifetime.

For a start, Gollin compiled or helped to create entire fields of study. His publications on polls and the news media were instrumental in defining it as an area of research. He earned an international reputation for his studies of newspaper readership trends and dynamics, including the development of newspaper reading habits and other media uses by children and adolescents. He helped create the way the study of readers categorizes editorial content and assimilate it to their personal interests.

Some of his other significant applied research dealt with the Peace Corps, protest movements, international education, and the brain drain, indicators of the quality of urban life, youthful drug abuse, and the press and social policy. As the list suggests, his work is not only useful, it is useful for good purposes. Alvin's vitality was deeply involved in strategic research for the civil rights movement. He organized and directed research on the 1963 March on Washington and on the 1968 People's Campaign. He worked on the District of Columbia school desegregation, he worked on presidential elections, on children's reading and media use, on drug abuse, on addressing legal restrictions to research on privacy, and on ethics in research.

This has serious contributed to the methodology of social research. Gollin devised area ratio sampling procedures; conducted sociometric demonstrations, developed a sociometric questioning sequence to analyze patterns of knowledge exchange and change; referred, organized and directed a metropolitan-area omnibus survey facility, and developed methods of studying readers' cognitive categorizations of newspaper editorials. His accomplishments are wide-ranging and numerous.

He has been doing sociology for almost half a century; he has almost two decades of experience with the Newspaper Association of America, where he was a Vice President and Director of Research and Marketing Services. He also was a Study Director at the Bureau of Social Science Research in Washington and at Columbia University's Bureau of Applied Social Research. Currently, he maintains several positions: Senior Resident Fellow at the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center, Columbia University; University Seminar Associate at Columbia University's Seminar on Communications and Society; President of Gollin Research in New York City; and, he is a participant on the Master of Arts Advisory Board of the Department of Sociology at Queens College.

We honor Alvin E. Gollin because of his practice of sociology and also because of his selfless work to promote sociological practice within our discipline and within society. In addition to his remarkable work as a practitioner, he has been a major force in the recognition of sociological practice. He has written and lectured about sociological practice in numerous professional forums, and has actively worked to enhance the role of practice within the ASA and within sister societies.

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**ASA Awards**

_Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award_

Vaneeta-marie D’Andrea, Roehampton Institute; presented by Rosanna Hertz, Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award Selection Committee Chairperson

Vaneeta-marie D’Andrea (right) receives the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award from Rosanna Hertz.

D’Andrea began her career as a high school teacher and still retains an interest in high school sociology. She currently serves on the ASA Committee on Sociology in Elementary and Secondary Schools. She taught for many years at Essex County Community College, which is where she began her involvement in ASA’s Projects on Teaching. She brought considerable insight from the community college setting to the projects and was critical in outreach to those colleagues.

After completing her doctorate, she taught at Guilford College, a four-year liberal arts college, and was active in several international programs. At Roehampton Institute in London, she has established a first-rate program of teaching skills for new staff. One colleague wrote: “As an active propagandist for high quality teaching and innovation in teaching, she has raised the standards of teaching at Roehampton almost single-handedly.” D’Andrea is a “master teacher” whose contribution to teaching has reached beyond her own institution to have a regional and national impact.

D’Andrea has devoted her career to the scholarship of teaching and the practice of faculty development. With experience as a faculty member at several types of institutions, her work as a faculty development specialist in Great Britain, her service on the editorial board of Teaching Sociology and as a consultant, workshop leader, and program reviewer, she has distinguished herself as an outstanding leader whose teaching strategies represent a vision of future models that all of us should strive to achieve.

In sum, Vaneeta-marie D’Andrea’s career demonstrates a serious commitment to work on faculty development and teaching effectiveness, with both written materials and outreach that has enriched our discipline.

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Juan Somavia

**Addresses Peace and War Reception**

Somavia speaks at the Annual Meeting.

Ambassador Juan Somavia, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed Peace and War Section members at their reception at the Annual Meeting. Somavia is a member and former President of the United Nations Security Council and Professor of International Economic Affairs at Catholic University of Chile. He focused on the need to redefine our conception of security, distinguishing between security of states and security of the people. It is possible, he contended, "to have a very secure state full of insecure people." The ambassador contended that institutions such as the United Nations are organized around state-centered conflicts whereas today the most significant threats to security are internal conflicts with international consequences as in Burundi, Montenegro, Cambodia, and elsewhere. Traditional diplomatic instruments that worked over the past 4,000 years are no longer applicable. Refocusing, we need to know more about interpersonal and especially community conflict resolution. Somavia encouraged sociologists to engage in research that will help in the process of redefining the concept of security and how to achieve it, such as the role of people's organizations in conflict-solving and on the process of community-level conflict resolution.
Snapshots from the ASA Annual Meeting

ASA President-Elect Hil QuandAGO listens as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala responds to her question at the Town Meeting.

Sociologist Michael Moul of the University of California-Berkeley makes a point at a press conference on race and income inequality.

Consortium of Social Science Associations Executive Director Howard Silver talks with Joyce Justis of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy prior to a session on federal research policy.

Secretary Shalala meets with ASA Executive Officer Felice J. Levine and ASA Minority Fellowship Program students.

Perusing recently published works at one of the Annual Meeting’s 100 exhibit booths.

Sharing a laugh at one of the Annual Meeting’s many successful receptions.
RU-486: Where Science and Ideology Cross Lines

by Harold R. Preiser
University of Maryland

On the opening day of the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, July 19, 1996, when the world's athletes and their fans—were in high gear to set new records, an Olympic event of another sort was taking place: the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was holding public hearings on the non-surgical abortion pill RU-486, often referred to as the "French abortion pill." These open hearings ended with a positive vote by the FDA Advisory Committee on Reproductive Health Drugs that RU-486 is a safe and effective alternative to surgical abortion for American women. Rarely does the FDA not abide by the recommendations of its external advisory committees in determining approval. As a feminist and sociologist, I regard this outcome as an "olympic achievement," recalling another open hearing on abortion I attended over 20 years ago in New York City and the great distance traveled since—despite many hurdles. The hearing back in 1976 was about the legal status of abortion in the State of New York. I hope its reply of relatively restrictive abortion laws would be better. (It is likely that last month's hearing was about whether a woman seeking a legal abortion should have the choice of a surgical procedure or a 'pill' (actually a series of two drugs that induce miscarriage: the first, mifepristone and the second, misoprostol, taken 36-48 hours later). Science was interestingly intertwined with ideology at both events, but to different ways, as was the case of public deliberation. The 1969/1970 New York hearings occurred during the early years of modern feminism with minimal public participation. Flo Kennedy, a lawyer and feminist activist, organized a group to protest the fact that no women were being selected and only one woman—a ran—was on the panel. A major problem in organizing this protest was that Kennedy would find few women willing to participate. I was one of about 15 women in total. We picketed outside the site of the hearings (the Department of Health), went inside, and staged a walk-out at Kennedy's direction after we were given the job. girls, oh down and be quiet' and Kennedy replied 'I'm 53 years old don't call me a girl'. Two of us "girls" were employed by The Population Council, and when our supervisor learned of our intention to demonstrate at these hearings (on our own time as individuals), he made it very clear that the Council should not be linked in any way to abortion activities. Fortunately for us, although the walk-out generated considerable media attention, we were never asked our professional affiliation. The FDA hearings on RU-486 are an interesting contrast. The Population Council was not a mere distillation itself from abortion, in fact, it was the sponsor of the new drug application, with six representatives making formal presentations. This sponsorship by a non-profit organization is unusual. The pharmaceutical company that produces RU-486 in France, Roussel-Uclaf, was not willing to do so in the U.S., in fear of boycotts and bad publicity relations, but instead licensed the drug to The Population Council for its use in the U.S. If approved, the FDA, the Council would find a firm to manufacture the product, and would obtain its own distributor. The ideological agenda underlying the Council's decision to support RU-486 is reflected in what one of its representatives said at the hearing: "Unlike in the United States this is drug now and there's no reason to wait."

Public Interest High

Public interest in participating in these hearings was high, and far more people wanted to attend than could be accommodated. Because of space limitations, the FDA limited public attendance to about 200 and allowed all those who had indicated to speak by the posted deadline to do so at the Open Public Session in the afternoon. A total of 313 people thus had about four minutes each. The speakers, both male and female, mostly represented organizations, and spoke for or against RU-486, or those who spoke as private citizens. Given the violence experienced in different parts of the country from the radical right against abortion providers, the FDA was extremely cautious about security. It held the hearings in an isolated government warehouse in Galveston, Md. They first checked the vehicle at the site for anyone who attempted to infiltrate public observers to the site from a nearby hotel, and put all bags and briefcases through metal detectors. There were some protesters standing with signs near the police barricade that cleared official cars and buses. At this time but this time the protesters were the "right- to-lifers," not the feminists. The hearings were generated by the FDA as being strictly about "the science"—whether RU-486 was safe and effective—but, as a sociologist might anticipate, this was impossible to achieve. Not only was The Population Council's reference to women wanting this opt out on a scientific issue, but most of the comments at the open public session were not about the drug's safety and effectiveness. Rather, those opposed to RU-486 were stating that women who use it would be killing babies; those in favor of RU-486 contended that it would give women more autonomy and control, greater privacy, and greater access to abortion. Just as the U.S. decision to legalize abortion ( Roe v. Wade) rested in part on the medical experience of legal abortion in Eastern Europe (which demonstrated that, under legal conditions, it was safer than childbirth), the assessment of the safety and usefulness of RU-486 relied heavily on the French and other international experience. A preliminary analysis of the clinical trials in the U.S. (not yet completed) was also presented, and some of those opposed to approval urged waiting for the completion of these trials. They argued that foreign data could not be extrapolated to U.S. women, since the latter are not as homogeneous a population. As a sociologist, I found it particularly interesting how little discussion there was about the methodological approach to obtaining the data and data quality issues, especially since, following usual FDA procedures, it is the sponsors who provide the data. The FDA does not do its own clinical trials.)

The Advisory Committee's questions and remarks were largely about clarity and elaborate on the results that were presented. An important exception was the expressed concern that, since clinical trials are heavily supervised, we do not know how well the 2 drug regimen will work when practiced more generally under less controlled circumstances. (Both these concerns are based on the willingness to maximize safety and effectiveness.) It was countered that this problem exists with all clinical trials and can be avoided. A seemingly advantageous aspect of RU-486—that it can be used earlier than a surgical abortion (as soon as pregnancy is diagnosed)—was only briefly mentioned.

The Advisory Committee was diverse and well represented by women: four of the eight voting members were minorities, and six of the eight were females. One of the female members was a consumer representative. Although committee members who had taken prior positions about the near-unanimity of RU-486 were deemed ineligible to vote, a Catholic woman on the committee who was opposed to abortion was allowed to vote; she alone abstained on the issue of the safety of the method (saying it was not safe for the "baby"), while the other seven voted that it was safe for use in the U.S. There was an additional abstention on the issue of whether the benefits outweigh the risks, taking into account both safety and effectiveness, because of another member's concern about not knowing what would happen when RU-486 was practiced in a less controlled context.

The FDA will reach its decision regarding RU-486 by the end of September, and it is expected to be positive. Although RU-486 is not risk-free—or pain-free—and many women may prefer a surgical abortion to an induced miscarriage, I believe that its availability to American women is of great sociological significance primarily because of the greater privacy it offers. The fears of the opposition—that it will be more difficult to restrict the practice of abortion—are justified. One wonders how long it will be before the next major hearings concerning abortion will occur and how this will make the RU-486 debate seem primitive. One also wonders about the interface between ideology and science will unfold in the future. For those who wish to obtain a copy of the transcript of the open session, it is available from the FDA; fax (301) 443-1726 for more details.

Editor's Note: On September 18th, the FDA declared RU-486 "approvable," determining that it is a safe and effective method. A final decision awaits more information on the labeling and distribution.

Spivack Program Looks at Key Policy Issues

In the summer of 1996, the American Sociological Association's (ASA) Spivack Program sponsored a workshop on "Sociological Insights to Promote Safe Schools" for Washington, D.C., metropolitan area school administrators and youth workers. The event, June 11, 1996, was attended by twenty-five school and community leaders who work directly or indirectly on projects to reduce school violence.

The purpose of the workshop was to brief the DC leadership dealing with schools and school systems on how to think and deal with violence. The panel of sociologists participating in the workshop included Richard J. Herrnstein, of Harvard University, and John J. P. Lye, of the Annenberg School for Communication. The panelists also introduced new research to the audience. The panelists' remarks and the panel's research findings are made available for all interested students and researchers in this area.

The session drew heavily on the ASA monograph Social Consequences of Violence by Levine and Rosenblatt, as well as the new book, Implementing Education Reform edited by Berman et al. These sources, and the panelists' remarks, highlighted empirical generalizations from a number of research projects. The panelists' opening statements were directed to the primary concern of the workshop—educators' role in reducing violence—and to the paradigmatic shift that has occurred in research on the topic of school violence. The panelists' remarks and the panel's research findings are made available for all interested students and researchers in this area.
Minority Fellowship Program Invites 1996-97 Applications

The American Sociological Association's (ASA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) announces its competition for predoctoral fellowship training program for 1996-97. The MFP is primarily intended for minority students who are applying or who have been accepted into doctoral programs in sociology and who have substantial academic and research interests and commitment to the sociology of mental health. Research on the social dimensions of mental health includes attention to prevention and to causes, consequences, adaptations, and interventions. The MFP is funded by a research training grant to the ASA from the Division of Epidemiology and Services Research Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

In addition to the NIMH-supported fellowships, a few fellowships are funded by ASA members' contributions and contributions from sister and regional sociological associations. One or two fellowships will be awarded to minority students whose research interests are outside the sociology of mental health (General Sociology fellowships). For these fellowships, applicants must meet specific criteria. Applications for minority students entering a doctoral program in sociology for the first time or for those who are in the early stages of their graduate programs.

ASA Fellows are selected on the basis of the commitment to research in mental health and mental illness (for NIMH applicants), academic achievement, scholarship, writing ability, research potential, financial need, and racial/ethnic minority background, etc. (Blacks/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/American, Native American, American Indian, Pacifis, etc.; those of Puerto Rican, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander origin, etc.). Fellowship positions must be applied for or enrolled full-time in an FBI granting department that has strong mental health programs and/or faculty who are currently engaged in research focused on mental health issues.

Fellows must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence and have in their possession an Alien Registration Card. An annual stipend of $10,000 is provided. Further, arrangements for the payment of tuition will be made with participants' departments. Applicants must submit their complete application package to the MFP by December 31, 1996. For further information, write to Minority Fellowship Program, Office of International and Minority Affairs, ASA, 1740 New York Avenue, Suite, 730, Washington, DC 2000. (202) 333-3410, x 302.

NSF Funding Deadlines Near

Important deadlines approach for the support of research (January 25) by the Sociology Program at the National Science Foundation. The Sociology Program supports research on problems of human social organization, demographic, and political behavior. The program encourages theoretically focused empirical investigations aimed at improving the explanation of fundamental social processes. For example, the program seeks research on organizations and organizational behavior, population dynamics, social movements, and social groups, labor force participation, stratification and mobility, family, social networks, socialization, gender roles, and the sociology of science and technology. The Sociology Program also awards dissertation improvement grants in order to support the highest quality doctoral dissertation research in sociology and related disciplines. Grants are for the direct costs of doing the research, including support of fieldwork from the student's home campus and for more flexible acquisition and analysis of data that would otherwise be impossible. Applications are made to the student's advisor and the dissertation advisor. For further information, e-mail William Sims Shortridge (wssims@nsf.gov) or Patricia E. White (pwhite@nsf.gov), or call the NSF Sociology Program at (703) 215-1756.

The base budget of the Sociology Program has not been affected by the cutbacks that have reduced or eliminated some other federal programs. A rough categorization for Fiscal Year 1997, which concluded September 30, reveals that $1,451,210 of the program's allocation was invested in 12 "international" awards. These efforts chiefly concern social change and relate to the continuing initiative on Human Dimensions of Global Change and the proposed initiative on Democratizing and Market Transition. The Sociology Program's support is also critical for the NSF Division of Integrative Biology and the study of biodiversity. The program has provided continuing support for two major survey projects, the General Social Survey ($2,000,000 plus $200,000 from the NSF division that houses the program) and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics ($260,000). Both of these collect data of great value for the Human Capital Initiative, which provided eight other research awards totaling $35,902. Six awards were made in experimental or theoretical social science, psychology, taking $497,135 in program funds. For "unsolicited" awards took $525,845.

In the near future, the program will phase-in decentralized awards lists on the World Wide Web, but NSF already provides a search engine for its awards database (http://www.nsf.gov/woe/award/ award.html). To see sociology awards, enter "sociology 1331" into the query, along with other words if you wish to narrow your search. Currently 880 documents have the word "sociology" and the program element code 1331 in them.
Suggestions Solicited for 1998 Annual Meeting Program

The 1998 Program Committee announces the meeting theme and cordially invites ASA members to submit suggestions for topics and organizers for thematic and special sessions and for the organizers of the Annual Meeting to be held in San Francisco, California, on August 21-25. Suggestions for book payments, debates, vignettes, and workshops consistent with the theme are requested as well.

Proposal Format

Session proposals should provide the following information: working title for the session, brief description of the substantive focus, rationale for inclusion of the session on the 1998 program, designation (Regular Session) or by invitation only (Solicited Session), date, time, length of session (no more than 45 minutes), name of proposer, and list of potential participants. At least one person must be an invited or abstracted session. Proposals must be typed or printed and should not be more than two pages in length.

Proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than February 1, 1997. A long lead in planning time is needed in order to publish the names of organizers and regular session topics in the fall of 1997 to allow members time to prepare their papers.

Proposals postmarked or faxed before November 15 will be considered during the December meeting of the Program Committee; those postmarked or faxed between November 15 and February 1 will be reviewed at the February meeting. Consideration of late proposals (any suggestion postmarked or faxed after February 1, 1997) is at the sole discretion of the Program Committee Chair.

Program suggestions may be sent to Jill S. Quadagno, 1998 ASA Program Committee Chair, Pepper Institute on Aging & Public Policy, Florida State University, 645 Tellhary, Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA; e-mail: jquadago@pep.fsu.edu; fax (904) 644-8245.

1998 Annual Meeting Theme:

Inequality and Social Policy: A Challenge for Sociology

The past quarter century has witnessed rising inequality in the distribution of income and wealth and declining job stability for many groups of workers. Sociologists have been at the forefront of research on the causes of these trends, the role of social policy in mitigating or alleviating them, and the unintended consequences of policy outcomes. Sociology's presence in policy analysis, once a subject of controversy, is now an established fact. Sociological research has revealed how the scarcity of jobs in inner-city neighborhoods undermines public policies designed to encourage the poor to work, how constrained opportunity early in life affects the distribution of health, income, and wealth in later life, and how the process of measuring inequality influences the public agenda. Much progress has been made.

Much work remains to be done. One challenge for sociology in the words of C. Wright Mills, is to reveal how "personal troubles of middle-class are linked to "public issues of social structure." Another challenge is to help the lay public, policymakers, and public officials recognize the relevance of sociological research for public policy. The final challenge is to contribute once more an old question: What is a good society and how can sociology help create it?

1998 Program Committee

Jill S. Quadagno, President-Elect and Committee Chair, Florida State University
Robert Anthony, University of Maryland
Andrea Charlin, Johns Hopkins University
Troy Duster, University of California, Berkeley
Maresa Greenspan, University of Nebraska, Omaha
Donald J. Hernandez, National Research Council Institute of Medicine
Corina Marrett, Vice President-Select, National Science Foundation
James S. Short, Jr., Washington State University
Teresa Sullivan, Secretary, University of Texas, Austin
Ruth A. Wallace, George Washington University

Smelser, from page 1

*A theorist can do empirical research. Make that should.*

"Despite what one hears, teaching and research are not necessarily the same. This is particularly true in sociology where the two are so closely related, and partly because human energy is not a constant sum.*

"The division between macrosociology and microsociology is at best a convenience for scholars. It does not mirror social reality."

Between 1962 and 1972 Smelser produced three key books: The Sociology of Economic Life, Sociological Explanation, and Sociological Theory (with Steve Warner). He edited or co-authored six additional books and published over twenty-five articles or essays in the same period, during which he also served as editor of the American Sociological Review. Given his accomplishments, it is no wonder that he was promoted to the rank of University Professor of Sociology in 1972, an honor awarded to only a handful of faculty throughout the University of California system.

From 1972 until his retirement from Berkeley in 1994, Smelser continued the same pace of scholarly productivity. Of the twenty books and seventy-five articles and essays published during that time, the most significant were Comparative Methods in the Social Sciences (1976) and Social Paradigms and Social Change (1991). A new book is on the way, Problems in Sociology, based on his 1995 Georg Simmel lectures at Humboldt University in Berlin, and he has not retired; he is now the Director of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford.

While Neil's contributions to sociology are legion, his work in psychoanalysis is also impressive. Robert Wolferstein writes, "It is likely that he was the first candidate to be accepted for psychoanalytic training, and the first to graduate from the special research training in psychoanalysis at the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute. In the several decades since he has done both clinical psychoanalytic therapy as well as supervision of individuals in the psychoanalytically-oriented clinical psychology doctoral program at UC Berkeley." Nancy Chodorow adds: "He worked as a therapist for several years at the UCSF Student Health Center. Neil also brought his psychoanalytic knowledge to his work on undergraduate education and his frequent involvement in public issues." During Neil's long tenure at Berkeley he chaired some fifty-five doctoral dissertations in sociology and was the outside member on dozens of others in the departments of history, psychology, political science, business administration, education, and social welfare. Claude Fischer describes his departmental contributions: "Neil was an amazing departmental citizen as teacher, committee worker, and administrator. Even when he became a University Professor with virtually no fixed teaching obligations, he not only volunteered to teach for us, he also agreed to teach demanding courses, such as the required into theory course for grad students, and to generally serve the department when requested. We all were a awe and grateful of his service above and beyond the call."

Whitney Pope writes, "Even among the group of sociologists who perhaps gave Berkeley the strongest department of sociology in the world in the 1960s, Neil stood out as a teacher and mentor. With a quick and incisive mind, he had a great range of knowledge. This made him an outstanding teacher both inside and outside the classroom."

Jennie Hochschild adds, "When I was a graduate student at Berkeley. Neil carried more graduate students than any other professor here. He was legendary for writing the long, helpful comments on papers but he would get back to students miraculously, almost by return mail. He asked to be supportive, build on people's strengths, and be catholic in his range of appreciation of styles of sociology."

Christine Washburn writes, "Neil's was this uncanny ability to organize muddled thinking. Confronted with a sociological question he will immediately sketch out three or four possible ways to 'disenlighten' the problem, relating each approach to some fundamental concern of sociologists. With Neil there is never 'one right way' to approach a problem."

Martin Trow remembers Neil's varied administrative services to the university: Assistant to the Chancellor for Student Affairs, Political Science in the heady days of JFK, Assistant Chancellor for Educational Development (1966-69), Director of the University's Education Abroad Program in the United Kingdom and Ireland (1977-79), Associate Director of the Institute of International Studies in the 70's and 80's, and twice Chair of the Sociology Department. Now stressed Neil's service to the Academic Senate in the 80's, when he chaired both the Berkeley Division and the UC Systemwide Senate, representing the UC faculty to the Board of Regents in the latter role.

Of Neil as chair of the department, Fischer writes, "Typically he handled internal matters judiciously, seeking and finding compromise and consensus, and handled external relations with great diplomatic aplomb. I always felt that we could more than trust Neil to maximize the department's interests with the administration in his own honored fashion. When I was chair, I often relied on his advice and his intervention." I Herman Blau documents the impact Smelser had on the development of Cakas College at the University of California-Santa Cruz in the 1970s. He not only offered to co-teach (with Her- man) a course on Afro-American sociological advances in the twentibeth century, but also served as mentor and advisor to the social science faculty. Blake writes, "Neil Smelser used his considerable wisdom, insight and reputation to give notice, strength and legitimacy to a fledging academic operation."

Neil's accomplishments as a "good citizen" were recognized by the city of Berkeley when the Mayor appeared at Neil's retirement party on May 6, 1994, and on that occasion proclaimed the day "Neil Smelser Day" in Berkeley. Neil's wife, Sharon, an outstanding photographer. He is the father of four children, Eric and Tina from an earlier marriage, and Joseph and Sarah with Sharon.

There is no more apt way to conclude the profile on this intellectual giant and quintessential builder of bridges than to quote Steve Warner's final Smelser "testament."

"You can never repay your debts to your mentors. You can only acknowledge them with gratitude and try to pass on what you have gained to others."
Nora Jacobson Selected as ASA Congressional Fellow

Nora Jacobson will serve as the 1997 ASA Congressional Fellow. She recently received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, where her dissertation addressed "The Socially Constructed Breast: An Examination of the History of Silicone Breast Implants." She has considerable experience as a consultant to a variety of research organizations, and in writing and public speaking on social and health issues, and as a science writer. Later this fall, Jacobson will finalize her placement in a Congressional office, where she will serve as a staff person from January-June 1997. Drawing on her dissertation research, her interests center on women's health issues and on the role that government plays in regulating drugs and medical devices. Future issues of Footnotes will carry stories about Jacobson's placement and her insights on sociology and public policy.

As a Congressional Fellows serve under the auspices of the Sydney S. Spirovan Program on Applied Social Research and the Salt Publics, with that Program's Advisory Committee reviewing applications. The American Sociological Foundation provides a grant to ASA for the stipend. The next round of fellowship applications is due March 1, 1997, with a start date in summer or fall 1997.

sections also contributed to the high energy of the meeting by hosting receptions, roundtable discussions, planned sessions, and book panels. But for all of the festivities, the Annual Meeting will be remembered for sessions that added to sociological understanding and expanded knowledge on a broad range of substantive issues.

Presidential Address

In her Presidential Address, Hallinan spoke on "The Sociological Study of Social Silences," and noted that sociologists change the way they conceptualize and study change. "Contemporary theories of social change typically assert that social change is a continuous process" and that "change is linear and predictable, but too often our models do not fit societal events or they describe only certain periods in the life of a social system while falling to accurately account for a system's more disruptive behavior.

Hallinan said that the opportunity exists for a major breakthrough in the understanding of social change if sociologists "will have the courage to reject even our best efforts when new information and events "point us in new and unexplored directions." Hallinan's address will be published in the February issue of American Sociological Review.

In another plenary session, Mark G. Yudof, executive vice president and provost at the University of Texas-Austin, spoke on "Myra F. Traylor," a recent U.S. Supreme Court case that has dramatically curtailed university minority enrollment policies. Yudof said he believes that the case will ultimately be set aside by the Supreme Court. "I am a pragmatist," Yudof said. "and I generally believe that the nation has a vital and a compelling interest in fully integrating, higher education, a higher pathway to enrolling the professionals, corporate board rooms, government agencies, political organizations, and so on.

In a special science policy session, top policy leaders provided an overview of how internal agency changes and a new political landscape in Washington D.C. could affect priorities and the opportu

September/October 1996 Footnotes

FAD Grant Winners Announced

FAD Grant Winners Announced

Based on review of proposals last winter, the American Sociological Association has announced the awards made under the Fund for the Advance- ment of the Discipline (FAD). Supported by the ASA and the National Science Foundation, these awards provide scholars with venture capital for innovative research to challenge the discipline and create new networks for scientific collaboration.

Selected proposals illustrate the essential role of FAD in the production of important scientific work. Award winners include:

- William W. Falk (University of Maryland, $2,300) for "Those Who Stayed: African Americans in the Rural South,"
- Susan J. Ferguson (Grinnell College, $3,250) for "Old Christmas Cake" or Independent Women? Never Married Chinese American and Japanese American Women,"
- Roger Friedland and John W. Mohr (University of California-Santa Bar-

York Times reporter Jacques Steinberg and included questions from panelists Melvin Oliver of the Ford Foundation, Sara McLanahan of Princeton University, and Robert Hauser of the University of Wisconsin Madison. In her opening remarks, Shalala noted that she is herself a social scientist with an academic career that includes service at Harvard College and the University of Wisconsin Madison. She emphasized that her department and other federal agencies rely heavily on social and behavioral science research and observed the importance of timely studies. Shalala later indicated she strongly opposes the Family PRIVacy Protection Act—a measure that would severely hinder the ability of federally funded researchers to conduct surveys on the nation's youth. Shalala added that she would urge the President to veto the measure if it is passed by the U.S. Senate.

But was it the welfare bill that was most on everyone's minds—including Shalala herself. In an animated and compelling defense that elicited both cheers and jeers from the audience, Shalala said that the President's Employment-based welfare bill, which includes time limits for those receiving benefits, will move people from welfare to work in a manner contrary to the Administration desire to protect society's most vulnerable.

The bill was flawed, especially its immigration and nutrition provisions—but said the President will seek improvements to the bill if he is elected to a second term. She emphasized the need to look at the bill in the broader context of state waivers. Shalala said President Clinton had vetoed earlier proposals that were draconian in scope and added that he had played a key role in improving the final bill as it had wound its way through Congress.

As a result of the Administration's efforts, she said, the bill allows Medicaid and food stamp program to stay in tact, provides $4 billion more in child care, and provides for a 20 percent hardship exemption which gives the states the flexibility of exempting a large group of people who cannot meet either the work requirements or the time requirements for one reason or another. She noted that the President has supported a more generous increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit and that he had recently signed a bill to boost the maximum wage.

Not everyone in the audience seemed satisfied. One sociologist expressed his opposition by stages an impromptu filibuster at one of the floor microphones before being hooted by members of the audience.

And perhaps the most dramatic moment in the session came when Shalala was asked why she did not resign in protest given her own well known reservations about the bill and its potential negative consequences on women unable to find work. Shalala drew a strong ovation when she responded that she had not yet accomplished all she had set out to do and that she could accomplish much more by remaining in government than by returning prematurely to academia.
Teams, meetings, and activities


February 16-17, 2010. An event launching the Alliances is being held in San Diego. A program is available in the papers and a brochure. For more information, contact: Tel: 1-888-328-7587. www.alliances.org


February 16, 2010. A meeting was held in New York City. The meeting focuses on "The Management of Critical Infants". For further information, contact: Tamim Shafi, Department of Management and Organizational Behavior, School of Business, University of Maryland, College Park. 410-805-9700. Fax: 410-805-9700. Email: tamim.shafi@umaryland.edu or New Media Press at (202) 349-1500. www.newmedialife.org

July 4-7, 2010. A conference on "The World Congress of Sociology of the International Institute of Sociology, Congress on "The Historical and Political Strategies of the Community". Contact: www.iias.org


May 11-12, 2010. The European Congress in Rehabilitation of the European Federation for Orthopaedic Rehabilitation. Contact: www.efor.org

Funding

American Council of Learned Societies Social Science Research Council Interna-
Comprehensive Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 (617) 353-5223, fax (617) 353-8031, e-mail mhpj@bu.edu

The Rockefeller Foundation Social Science Research Fellowship Program in Agriculture for 1997. Up to eight highly qualified candidates from 48 participating countries whose doctoral degrees will be selected for two-year appointments as scholars in developing countries. Through writings, courses, and, or prior experience, applicants must demonstrate interdisciplinary adaptability and interest in the agricultural aspects of international development work. Candidates should have received their PhD before January 1, 1992, or should expect to do so before September 1997. The deadline for entries is December 31, 1996. For persons applying from within South Asia, the deadline is January 25, 1997. Contact Fellowship Office, Rockefeller Foundation, 435 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018, (212) 869-8305, fax (212) 766-4316.

The Rockefeller Foundation African Diaspora Internship Awards Program invites students from sub-Saharan Africa to apply to the Rockefeller Foundation for internship research support. The program enables 70 students to participate in research or social science training in U.S. and Canadian universities to return to their home countries with the skills needed for effective development work. Awards are made to students who demonstrate potential for public policy or social change. Candidates must have completed at least one year of postgraduate education and be citizens of a sub-Saharan African country. The award is $2,000. Deadline for submission is March 1, 1997. For further information and application requirements, contact: African Diaspora Internship Program, Rockefeller Foundation, 435 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2072, (212) 869-8300, fax (212) 766-4316.

The S.K.S. Sensory Research Fellowship Program provides dissertation and postdoctoral research support for social and behavioral science research on sensory, food appreciation, and sensory-related activities. The application deadline is December 15, 1996. The award is $5,000. Deadline for submission is December 15, 1996. For further information and application requirements, contact Shirley M. Pippins, Sensory Research Institute, 2401 East 18th Street, Austin, Texas 78705, (512) 482-3925, fax (512) 482-3926.

The Woodrow Wilson-Johns Hopkins Dissertation Grant in Women’s Health Research support for the understanding of women’s health and its significance for public policy or practice. Candidates must have completed all pre-doctoral work, including approval of the dissertation proposal by their doctoral advisory committee, and be expected to complete their dissertations by June 1998. Winners will receive grants of $2,000 to be used for expenses related to the dissertation. The award is $2,000. Deadline for submission is March 1, 1997. For further information and application requirements, contact: Women’s Health Research, Center for Health Policy and Women’s Health, Hopkins University, 670 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2107, (410) 955-2196, fax (410) 955-2195.

The International Union of Crystallography is seeking 15 to 20 new members for the Society. The Union is interested in obtaining new members from all parts of the world to ensure a truly international character. Members from under-represented areas are particularly welcome. applications are welcome at any time. For further information contact: Dr. P. G. Taylor, Union Headquarters, 170 West Dean Street, London E1 7HH, England, (071) 702 2181, fax (071) 702 2182, e-mail cryst@uiucr.ac.uk.

The Oral History Association invites applications for three awards for 1997. For further information contact: John D. McCarthy, Avalon Historical Books, P.O. Box 192, Gardiner, ME 04345, (207) 752-3470, fax (207) 752-7354.

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Obituaries, continued

Jain, and French, and could read Spanish and Russian. Maybe his involvement in and contributions to the study of sociology in the People's Republic of China was his most significant contribution to his international work.

In 1946, Soon after distinguished Pittsburgh colleague C.K. Yang, the Chinese American Sociologist, moved to China in 1946 to help build a Sociology Department at the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, he visited the United Nations, and urged that the Chinese should be represented in this international structure.

William S. Robinson (1913-1996)

William S. Robinson died at home on June 9, 1996, from prostate cancer. The Robinsons have been living in Los Angeles for the past few years, with a short stint in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. His wife, who died in 1990, left him two daughters, Carol, who lives in California, and Tina, who lives in New York. They have three grandchildren.

Bill was a sociologist at Columbia University, studying at Stanford University in 1961 and Harvard University in 1964. He was a member of the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the American Sociological Review (ASR). He was also a member of the editorial board of the American Journal of Sociology (AJS) and the Sociological Quarterly (SQ).

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Corrections

The July/August "Meetings" column released in July 1996 included an incorrect date for the 1996 Clash Between the "Old" and "New" World Societies. The correct date is August 20, 1996. The correction has been made.

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Nominations Sought for Three ASA Journals

The ASA Committee on Publications invites nominations, including self-nominations, for the next editor of three ASA journals: Contemporary Sociology, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, and Sociological Methodology. The editor-designates will take over responsibility for the editorial offices in mid-1997 and will be responsible for issues beginning in 1998. The editor of Contemporary Sociology will serve a three-year term, the editors of the Journal of Health and Social Behavior and Sociological Methodology, in accordance with new ASA policy, will be appointed for four-year terms.

The Committee plans on making its editorial selections in December 1996. Nominations should include:

- a current vita;
- a brief sketch of the intellectual support in the candidate's department, university, or other easily accessible institutions that could be called on in meeting editorial responsibilities;
- a brief statement of the candidate's scope of the journal to which s/he is applying, its past accomplishments, its problems, and, in particular, its future possibilities.

Although ASA journals have traditionally had single editors, the Committee welcomes proposals for joint or collective editorships.

All materials should be sent as soon as possible, but no later than November 15, to: Karen Gray Edwards, Director of Publications, ASA, 1722 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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2000–August 12-16
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Footnotes

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