Youth Activism in the Bay Area

Jessica K. Taft, University of California–Santa Cruz and Hava R. Gordon, University of Denver

The San Francisco Bay Area has long been an important site of progressive and radical social movement activity within the United States, including the founding of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, the American Indian occupation of Alcatraz, and the Center for Third World Organizing’s model for community-based organizing. Furthermore, the Bay Area’s social movement history has been shaped by the enduring strength and legacy of student activism in the area. The Berkeley Free Speech Movement is often described as the beginning of the wave of college student activism that spread throughout the United States in the 1960s. In fact, the first student strike for ethnic studies occurred in 1968 at San Francisco State University. Contemporary Bay Area youth activism is not only informed by this earlier history and broader context of social movement vitality, but it also emerges directly out of a set of struggles that began in the 1990s. Youth of color in 1990s California were facing increased police repression and violence as well as pervasive media images that portrayed them as a dangerous threat. At this time astonishing numbers of ballot initiatives were introduced that attempted to prevent undocumented immigrants from public services, outlaw affirmative action in the university system, end bilingual education, and increase the imprisonment and punishment of youth via major changes to the juvenile justice system. Many of today’s youth activist organizations emerged during the fights against...
The Importance of Statistics within the Discipline

The following is a version of a letter I recently sent to an Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at a research university on why sociology departments should and often do teach the required statistics course.

The Sociology Department at your university has invited me to comment on the reasons why sociology departments at both the undergraduate and graduate levels across the country almost always teach MA majors, as well as MA and PhD candidates, the required statistics courses for their degrees. I offer my observations about this as Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association (ASA), having conferred with colleagues including the three other PhD sociologists at ASA who have examined this issue from their various perspectives as Directors of Academic and Professional Affairs, Minority Affairs, and Research on the Discipline and Profession.

Sociologists teach statistics, not some special variant of statistics, but statistics. Sociologists are trained in statistics and many have extremely rigorous mathematical training. (The National Science Foundation [NSF] views statistics as a part of Mathematics, not as an independent discipline, a view with which I know many statisticians disagree but that is important to understanding how the field is taught.) Sociologists, particularly those with rigorous mathematics backgrounds, also develop statistical methods.

In the Beginning

While in the early post-WWII period, sociologists tended to borrow statistical methods (largely from the biomedical sciences), sociologists have since moved on to develop a number of statistical approaches that are now the cornerstone of the biomedical sciences and many other scientific disciplines, including, for example, multi-level modeling and network analysis. Sociologists, however, tend to teach statistics contextually; they do not teach a different statistics but a different context for statistics. Frequently statistics taught in a statistics department is heavily mathematical and abstract, with limited application and hypothesis testing; but even when application and hypothesis testing do occur, they often involve non-social science examples or social science examples that are not meaningfully contextualized within a body of social science research.

This may or may not be the case at your university. But it is the case in many Research One universities and outstanding private colleges and universities, and it is a major reason why sociology departments across the country have tended to teach statistics courses for disciplinary degrees. (I am fairly sure this is also the case with other social science disciplines and for similar reasons.) It is not a matter of good or bad statistical methods; it is about intellectual and pedagogical context. Sociology as a scientific discipline teaches us that context is extremely consequential in all aspects of social life and certainly in teaching and learning. In fact, one of our journals is Teaching Sociology, which is the major research journal on teaching and learning in sociology. I myself was taught doctoral-level statistics in the Columbia Sociology Department by the sociologist Paul Lazarsfeld, a founder of modern applied statistics.

Obtaining Professional Jobs

Undergraduate sociology statistics classes, in contrast to most statistics classes taught in statistics or mathematics departments, are often heavily based in applied examples, social science data sets, and hypothesis testing. NSF-funded research on the BA and Beyond—a national panel study of sociology majors after graduation conducted by the ASA Department of Research—has shown that mastery of (and even reasonable familiarity with) applied statistics is highly predictive of students obtaining more professional jobs related to their major after graduation. It appears that learning core statistics in the context of sociological theory, sociological methods, and substantive research findings about the social world is what makes students sufficiently confident of their mastery of these skills that they can present them to others as part of their marketable skillset.

It is empowering to students to fully grasp and to be able to explain the meaningfulness of statistics as they have understood them within an intellectual context—one that they have found stimulating and challenging. When taught statistics within their discipline, students feel comfortable that they can properly apply those statistical principles to problems they face in the workplace, read in the news media, or discuss at the dinner table. (Other data from that same NSF-funded research indicate that students select sociology as a major after their first introductory course in college because the concepts they learn—that are fundamental to our discipline—are experienced as exciting and illuminating, including the concept of sociology as a scientific discipline.)

Teaching Statistics

ASA has been deeply involved in bringing quantitative literacy to undergraduate sociology departments across the country for a number of years, first through a demonstration grant from the Ford Foundation that focused departments on developing curricular changes that explicitly included statistical techniques for data analysis into all sociology classes, not just statistics and methods courses. We also developed, implemented, and evaluated a prototype Advanced Placement course that was designed to be quantitative, and we tested it in four urban (including central city) high schools spread across the country. It was highly successful in both engaging students in disciplinary concepts and improving quantitative learning.

The reason I bring these ASA activities to your attention is that they are central to the issue of teaching statistics to undergraduates. As a discipline we have learned through innovations such as these that sociology as a discipline attracts students, including the subset of students who have anxieties about mathematics and “science.” Within the context of the subject matter they learn to understand and employ statistical concepts and tools as a means of stretching their understanding about content they find interesting and intellectually challenging. I would add that many of the PhD candidates who have been part of the ASA Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) for the last 40 years often reflect these findings when they share with us and their MFP cohort members their personal experiences of becoming professional sociologists. These MFPs are now part of the professoriate at Yale and Johns Hopkins, University of North Carolina and Duke, as well as community colleges and HBCUs across the country. They are now research scientists and policy-makers in foundations, research organizations, government and industry.

I recognize that there are many parameters to a university’s decision about curriculum. I only hope the above observations add to the context in which you and your colleagues will make the decision regarding the teaching of statistics to undergraduate sociology students. They are what our discipline as a science is learning about itself.
NSF Addressing Transparency and Accountability:

Below is a modified letter from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Acting Director Cora Marrett regarding a December 11, 2013, “Important Notice to the Community,” which announced NSF’s focus on transparency and accountability. The NSF is addressing two primary areas of the initiative: Improving public understanding of our funding decisions through our award Abstracts and Titles, and ensuring that the broad areas of supported research (or portfolios) are aligned to the national interest.

“We are acting to ensure that our award Abstracts and Titles clearly convey to the public justification for our actions. First, NSF abstracts are the public face of NSF investments and decision-making and they can be used to immediately address a specific area of interest from those outside of the NSF regarding what projects are supported and why. By providing clearer articulation of our actions we will benefit the scientific enterprise and better communicate the value and excitement of what we do. An NSF award abstract, with its title, is an NSF document that describes the project and justifies the expenditure of Federal funds. ... Thus, an NSF award abstract which is intended for a broad audience may differ from the Project Summary that is submitted as part of a technically reviewed proposal. Furthermore, the title of an NSF supported project must describe the purpose of the research in nontechnical terms to the fullest possible extent.”


Census Bureau Story Maps Illustrate Metro Area and County Population Change

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released interactive thematic maps on the nation’s population change. The Census Bureau’s two new story maps illustrate metro area and county population change. Built with Esri technology, these maps allow users to swipe between two different views of population data to better understand patterns and trends in the United States. “These ‘Story Maps’ provide insight on emerging trends in population change across the country,” said Jason Devine of the Census Bureau’s Population Division. The first map shows the difference a decade has made in population change patterns in metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. The second map shows the extent of population growth in each county between 2012 and 2013 and identifies the primary source of that population change (such as natural increase or net migration). For more information, visit http://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/maps/.

Impact of Behavioral Health Conditions and Treatment on Young Adults

Recently released data shows that older adolescents and young adults with emotional and behavioral health conditions are much more likely to have significant problems with school performance, employment, and housing stability, according to a report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). According to the findings, nearly 8 percent of older adolescents (ages 16 to 17) with co-occurring depression and a substance use disorder (SUD) do not have a stable place to live, moving three or more times in the past year. Among older adolescents with depression and SUD who are enrolled in school, 13.5 percent have academic difficulties, with a grade average of “D” or lower. These challenges make it difficult for older adolescents with mental and SUDs to successfully transition into adulthood. Young adults (ages 18-25) with co-occurring serious mental illness (SMI) and SUDs are less likely than those

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Advocating for Social Science Is a Team Sport

Wendy A. Naus, Consortium of Social Science Associations

I am a little more than halfway through my first year as Executive Director of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), having replaced Howard J. Silver, who retired at the end of 2013. As Howard stated in his Footnotes piece in January 2014 (www.asanet.org/footnotes/jan14/ossa_0114.html), COSSA has witnessed a number of “triumphs and difficulties” in its 33-year history. In fact, many of the same challenges that inspired the creation of COSSA in 1981 persist today, whether it is having to justify how or why federally funded social and behavioral science research is in our “national interest,” fending off attacks on individual grants simply because their titles lure additional scrutiny, or beating back attempts to pit fields of research against one another, especially in times of scarce resources. Unfortunately, there will always be policymakers in need of convincing when it comes to the value of social and behavioral science. The best thing we can do as a community is be prepared with the cogent arguments that we all know to be true.

Out of the crises of the recent past (e.g., the so-called Coburn amendment that targeted NSF’s political science program in FY 2013), has blossomed a diverse community willing to go to bat for social and behavioral science funding. Not only has COSSA heeded up its education and outreach efforts to elected officials in recent months, but, more notably, the broader scientific community has been active in defending social science. In recent months, national associations and societies representing broad fields of science, higher education associations, university presidents, corporate heads, and even the National Science Board have all spoken out publicly about the federal government’s necessary role in funding social and behavioral science research. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), to name a few, have been unwavering in their objection to bad policy proposals, such as the FIRST Act (H.R. 4186), which would decimate federal social science funding.

Making Our Voice Heard

Grassroots engagement has also exploded as a result of recent challenges. COSSA now has the capability to send alerts to members when their action is needed in reaching their elected officials. Nearly 4,000 communications have been sent to Capitol Hill in the first five months of 2014 stemming from COSSA action alerts, urging Members of Congress to support social and behavioral science funding in both appropriations and authorizing bills.

Don’t get me wrong—considerable challenges still lie ahead. Assuming social science programs across federal agencies make it through the fiscal year (FY) 2015 appropriations process unscathed, which is hardly a certainty, calendar year 2015 promises to bring a new set of potential hurdles. First, the new 114th Congress will be seated in January, bringing a throng of newly elected policy makers to Washington who we will need to educate about our science. Second, with the Senate within reach of a Republican-takeover next year, we are left with even more question marks when trying to anticipate our cast of characters in 2015, as is the case when any house of Congress flips. Further, an unfortunate certainty is the loss next year of key Congressional science champions,

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Election

From Page 1

Advocating

From Page 3

Science Policy

From Page 3

including Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ), Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), and Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV). Lastly, while sequestration was avoided for FY 2014 and 2015 thanks to the bipartisan budget agreement brokered in late 2013, it is scheduled to return in FY 2016, which will undoubtedly reignite the partisan battles over spending that have all but paralyzed Congress in recent years unless additional steps are taken. This is the backdrop for our advocacy in 2015, further solidifying the need for all community partners to join the conversation in support of social and behavioral science funding.

Looking to the Future

The challenge to our community as we look to the future will be balancing the need to stay proactive in our outreach and advocacy while playing defense as discrete attacks arise. We have to resist the urge to be lured in by negative rhetoric that is often spun about social science and instead shift the conversation and advocate for social and behavioral science on our terms.

Despite the recent challenges of late and any that may lie ahead, I am encouraged about the social science community’s collective efforts to promote the value of social and behavioral science in meeting challenges of national importance. We are grateful to ASA for its ongoing support as a COSSA Governing Member and look forward to engaging with you all as we chart a path forward for impactful social and behavioral science advocacy. You can stay informed of COSSA’s activities by subscribing to the COSSA Washington Update (www.cossa.org/communication/update.shtml), following us on Twitter (@COSSADC), and liking us on Facebook (SocialScienceAssociations).

The true value of COSSA is the opportunity for what may otherwise be dispersed disciplines to come together for a common cause to pursue shared goals. I’m thrilled to be part of the team.

Tanya Maria Golash-Boza,
University of California - Merced
Margaret Hunter, Mills College
Peter Kivisto, Augustana College
Grace Kao, University of Pennsylvania
Rashawn Ray, University of Maryland
Omar A Lizardo, University of Notre Dame
Lyn Spillman, University of Notre Dame
Wendy Cadge, Brandeis University
Victor Rios, University of Southern California - Santa Barbara

2014 ASA Dissertation Award Winners

The ASA Dissertation Award honors the best PhD dissertation from among those submitted by advisors and mentors in the discipline.

The winners of the 2014 award are:


Ya-Wen Lei (University of Michigan) “Uncovering the Roots of the Nationwide Counter-public Sphere in China”

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Thank You, Bobbie Spalter-Roth!

Mary Scheuer Senter, Central Michigan University

Bobbie Spalter-Roth is terrific at project management. While she will continue at the ASA Executive Office after June 30 as a Senior Research Fellow, finishing up several major ASA projects including the Bachelor’s and Beyond project, she will take on new challenges as an affiliate faculty member and Distinguished Research Fellow at George Mason University (GMU). She tells me that the plan—and a best-laid one at that—is to stop working 60-hour weeks! Faculty members at George Mason are “thrilled.” Amy Best, incoming chair of the GMU Department of Sociology and Anthropology, tells us that “Bobbie brings a lifetime of research experience that will enrich our master’s and PhD program in sociology, and her presence will only strengthen our Center for Social Science Research. She’s also a wonderful colleague to work with, making her move to us all the better.” James Witte, Director of the Center for Social Science Research [CSSR], echoes those sentiments. “Bobbie brings us a wealth of research experience and know-how that is already proving a boon to our research capabilities. Just as importantly, Bobbie has an infectious enthusiasm for the discipline, and particularly for applied research. Combined, this makes Bobbie a great research colleague, and just as importantly she is proving to be a great informal mentor for our junior faculty and graduate students as we seek to develop a research culture here at CSSR and in our relatively new PhD program in public and applied sociology.”

The rest of us in the sociology community should second Diane Pike’s heartfelt “thank you” to Bobbie. Diane, Professor of Sociology at Augsburg College, editor of ASAS TRAILS, and ASA Department Resources Group (DRG) member, tells us that, “whether reporting national trends in sociology that DRG reviewers find essential, findings of NSF-funded projects, or digging deep into questions of faculty career paths, Bobbie has contributed a body of research for which we should all be most appreciative.”

First Director of Research

Bobbie joined the ASA Executive Office staff almost 17 years ago as the creator and first Director of the ASA Department of Research on the Profession and Discipline. Sally Hillsman, ASA Executive Officer, notes that “under Bobbie’s leadership, ASA has become a model for other scientific associations that now realize how important it is for them to conduct research on their own disciplines. As a result, Bobbie has a growing cadre of fellow sociologists who are doing similar research in disciplinary associations in the natural and bio-medical sciences as well as in the social sciences.” Willie Pearson, Professor in the School of History, Technology and Society at the Georgia Institute of Technology, agrees, noting that “Bobbie’s evidence-based approach to the analysis of ASA programs and policies has been a model for other professional societies.” And Rachel Ivice, a key researcher at one of those societies as Associate Director of the Statistical Research Center at the American Institute of Physics, concurs. She states, “I never cease to be impressed by Bobbie’s energy and the sheer number of on-target research ideas and projects that she generates. That’s something that I aspire to.”

Have you taken a quick glance recently at the “Research on Sociology” tab at the top of the ASA homepage? Of course, you cannot really make it quick because Bobbie’s research activities for ASA have been extensive. In addition, “Current Projects” embrace a wide variety of topics including studies of the job market in sociology, an exploration of sociologists’ professional networks, research on the status of sociology majors before and after their baccalaureate graduation, information on what students can do with a master’s degree in sociology, data from a department chairs’ survey on what’s happening in sociology departments across the United States, and studies examining the career trajectories of sociology PhDs both in academic and non-academic positions. And then there are the more than 90 research briefs and articles authored by Bobbie and her staff in recent years, available free for download. And, if that does not satisfy your curiosity and you want more tables and figures, you can download trend data on the discipline and profession compiled by Bobbie’s department. Bobbie is proud of her staff of research assistants and associates and recognizes the contributions that they have made to the overall success of the research department over the years.

Throughout her career, Bobbie has focused on ways of assisting groups that have been underrepresented in the academy, in the STEM workforce, and in the larger society. Before coming to ASA, she worked as a research or project director for the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, the Women’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Women’s Research and Education Institute. She has been the ASA staff liaison to numerous task forces and research projects designed to document the challenges as well as the successes of underrepresented groups. Whatever the explicit focus of her inquiries, she looks first, for the implicit biases that might disadvantage some in their pursuit of skills, benefits, mentors, degrees, or jobs. Pearson notes, “I have been impressed with Bobbie’s collaboration with Jean Shin (Director of the ASA Minority Affairs Program) to involve former Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellows in the work of the Association.” He goes on to praise her for “taking a leadership role in working across social science disciplines to highlight the value of these disciplines in broadening the participation of underrepresented groups in STEM professions.”

Hillman, reflecting on Bobbie’s “remarkable career,” remembers how rare it was for sociologists of their generation to choose the world outside the academy as “the place for a rich and exciting professional career that could make a difference to society and to our discipline. Bobbie was doing high-quality public sociology before Michael Burawoy, the 2004 ASA President, encouraged the rest of us to get on board.”

Pike remembers Bobbie’s presentations at ASA and at the Midwest Sociological Society as “focused, straight-forward, and hard-working.” I have worked with Bobbie on the 2005 and 2012 Bachelor’s and Beyond project. I think of her as the consummate research-focused, practical sociologist who nonetheless maintains a keen eye for situating research in a larger theoretically informed, political context. She works and works until she gets it right and then steps back to tease out the policy implications.

Best Wishes

And she may remember that response rate that she was so worried about when the two of us met for dinner at an ASA Annual Meeting a couple of years ago. Well, typical for Bobbie’s work, she tried harder, and the response rate topped out at more than 60 percent! Best wishes, Bobbie, as you move beyond the Rockaways, Bloomington, K Street, and the District to help launch, not only new sociology majors and sociology PhDs, but new projects at GMU and new adventures of your own. If you wish to reach Bobbie, contact her at Spalter-Roth@asanet.org and rspalter@gmu.edu.

Do you have an announcement for Footnotes? Send it to footnotes@asanet.org.
Making a Life in Applied Sociology: Working at an Employee-Owned Research Corporation

Margaret Weigers Vitallo, ASA Academic and Professional Affairs

“I’ve learned that making a ‘living’ is not the same thing as ‘making a life.’”

—Maya Angelou

What are the contours of a satisfying career in sociology? Undergraduates tell us that they choose sociology both because it is fascinating and because they want to gain the knowledge and skills to help change the world for the better (Spalter-Roth and Van Voonen 2009). For many graduate students their passion for sociology and desire to change the world are channeled into dreams of becoming a professor in a tenure-track position. Less frequently does the image of a sociologist working in an applied setting come to mind. Are there unique satisfactions to be found in applied careers? Can a person maintain an identity as a sociologist outside of academia? What about one’s sense of idealism and passion to change the world for the better? Four staff members at Westat, in Rockville, MD, generously agreed to be interviewed about these topics, each offering insights on the satisfactions and challenges of careers in applied sociology.

Westat is a for-profit, employee-owned research company. In addition to the 2,000 employees that work at the Rockville headquarters, the company also employs researchers at five regional offices across the United States and eight international offices around the world. Westat clients include federal and state governments, foundations, non-profit organizations, and private industry. The interviewed Westat staff members are below:

Rula Zaru (BA, McDaniel College), a research assistant, was born in Palestine and moved to a rural county in the United States as a young girl. From her first courses as an undergraduate at McDaniel, Zaru found that studying sociology provided a vocabulary and set of theories to translate her feelings and experiences to others as well as herself. “Sociology helped me explain my life, and that’s why it was more than just, ‘Oh, that’s my major’; sociology became a way of life for me.”

Atushi Miyaoka (MA, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) is a senior statistical analyst. His lifelong interest in human behavior led him to study sociology as an undergraduate in Japan and then to come to the United States to study English and earn a master’s in sociology. His mentor at UNC introduced him to the world of applied sociology.

Jenna Scott (PhD, Syracuse University) is a senior research analyst. She intended to go into the professoriate, but after teaching in inner city Baltimore and doing an internship at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, DC, during graduate school, she decided on an applied career.

Robert Hill (PhD, Columbia University) retired in 2009 after a 30-year career that included 10 years at Westat as well as equally long tenures at the National Urban League and Morgan State’s Institute for Urban Research. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he was always interested in history, but was told that a career in engineering would be more lucrative. While an engineering major at City College in New York, he met a sociologist who was teaching the history of engineering and discovered that his quantitative aptitude and fascination with historical context could both be at home within sociology. During graduate school at Columbia University, he began his applied research career working closely with Robert Merton at the Bureau of Applied Social Research.

Working as a Team

Academics often strive to become the expert in a narrowly defined area, working alone or with a small number of close colleagues. In contrast, each of the four Westat employees discussed the pleasure of working with teams. Zaru said that the people she worked with were the source of her greatest satisfaction. Hill put it this way: “At Westat you are rewarded for your team work, not for individual accomplishments or showing up colleagues.” Scott echoed that view, saying that the collegial atmosphere and the opportunity to learn from her peers was deeply satisfying. In her first project at Westat she was impressed with how the team members collaborated to achieve the highest possible methodological rigor for their work. “After that, I was basically hooked,” she said.

Constant Learning

A theme that echoed across the interviews was the joy of being in an environment that encouraged constant learning and provided support for professional development, including funding for conferences. Atushi described research teams as centers of constant learning. “Almost all of my research projects are interdisciplinary, with people with different skill sets and different content areas. So we fight, we discuss, and we learn from each other!” Even in an entry-level position growth is encouraged. Zaru said that when she found herself interested in a particular topic her supervisor supported her in learning more and pursuing her interest.

Work that Makes a Difference

Another source of satisfaction for these four individuals came directly from the applied nature of their work. Scott said, “sometimes as graduate students, we’re stuck in our ivory towers, we’re writing about things no one else cares about… but after my experiences teaching in the inner city in Baltimore, the idea of being able to create change through research was something that was really important to me.”

Hill, looking back across his career, vividly recalled the excitement of presenting a briefing to the Kerner Commission, which was established by President Lyndon Johnson to explore the causes of the 1967 race riots in the United States. In an applied setting, “you see your research being used more,” he said. “It wasn’t [just] theoretical…”

Frustrations

Of course, no job is without its challenges. Competing for grants is difficult and comes with rigid deadlines, and Hill and Scott both mentioned how disappointing it can be when a grant on a fascinating topic goes to another organization. Working with clients means that project methodology does not always follow the researchers’ preferences. Opportunities for open-ended discussions of sociological theory are rare. While lack of interaction with students is a lament of some applied sociologists, Hill addressed this by regularly teaching graduate level courses on an adjunct basis (one course at a time, scheduled once a week in the evening). He also served as an outside committee member for more than two dozen dissertations. “In other words, I had my cake and ate it too, because I could work with the students and didn’t have to go to all those faculty meetings.”

Maintaining a connection to sociology

Can an applied researcher maintain a connection to a disciplinary home? Hill’s professional identity seemed to be more closely tied to the primary focus of many of his projects: “my work has focused on the strength of black families.” For Zaru, who has been a working professional for less than a year, the question was hard to answer. She responded, “I see myself as a learner. Right now I am in sponge mode, absorbing everything around me.”

Scott explained that if someone asked about her profession she might say that she’s a researcher, or a consultant, but “I always say that I am a sociologist.” Atushi’s response was an unequivocal — “I’m a sociologist.”

References:

Evolution Oakvand: Five Years Living in a Gentrified, Occupied, and Artified City

Cynthia Ganote, Saint Mary’s College of California, and Sheila Katz, University of Houston

Oakland, California, is a city that inspires deep emotion and strong reactions. Both of us are transplants to Oakland, but in the five years we have lived here, Oakland has become a beloved home that has earned our staunch loyalty. Its rich cultural history, diverse population, outstanding food and art scenes, beautiful cityscape, Bay views, and urban lake sanctuary makes Oakland our chosen home amongst Bay Area cities. Yet Oakland is full of contradictions: amazing wealth exists alongside entrenched poverty and beautiful art is created amidst decaying infrastructure. The city government is complex, inefficient, and often frustrating. Oakland is a city that inspires multiple narratives and many of us latch onto our favorite and run with it.

The most recent Oakland narrative is this: the storied vision of San Francisco as a place for artists, activists, and the widely discussed creative class is theOakland of today. As the super-gentrification occurring in San Francisco (see Stover, “Understanding Super-Gentrification in San Francisco,” April 2014, Footnotes) pushes out so many residents (long-time, low- and middle-income, and young residents without tech-industry incomes), people of all backgrounds are moving to Oakland in droves. Because of this trend, Oakland regularly appears in New York Times articles, being hailed as “Brooklyn by the Bay” one of the top five places to visit in the world, with new neighborhoods developing where abandoned buildings once existed, whose residents sport a notable “street style.”

But another narrative exists around Oakland, too: Isn’t that the city where you can walk out of your house and be shot at any random moment? As residents of Oakland, we are informed of this very thing by both residents of the Bay Area and other parts of the United States. People attempt to tell us about our own city, but they have clearly never visited Oakland. They never talk about its diversity of people, incredible neighborhoods, amazing food, or unpretentious attitude. Instead, they talk about their perceptions of horrible crime, how frightened they would be to enter such a city, and how they could not bring themselves to buy a condo or single-family home in Oakland, given the “being shot every time you walk out your door” problem. Tempted to respond with, “Oh, you shouldn’t go there, then,” most of the time we resist and instead explain why we are so in love with our city.

Rapid Change

Perhaps these divergent narratives come from the fact that Oakland is rapidly changing. Over the last five years, Oakland has evolved immensely through ongoing gentrification, the Occupy movement protests, numerous incidents of police brutality, development of community benefit districts, and persistent inequality. Oakland is often thought of in comparison to San Francisco, but Oakland has always had its own flavor, vibe, and community dynamics, which are far different from those of its more famous neighbor. Oakland is one of the most ethnically diverse major cities in the country, more ethnically and economically diverse than San Francisco.

Oakland’s diversity is due in large part to the Second Great Migration, when African Americans moved from the Deep South to Oakland for plentiful war-industry jobs during World War II. This pattern, along with the migration of Mexican Americans from the Southwest, continued throughout the 20th century as migration and immigration to Oakland expanded. This history strongly shapes the culture that attracts residents to Oakland today. While Oakland is often externally defined by its crime rates, the last five years illustrate how crime is only one piece of the puzzle. Community organizing and protesting, new neighborhoods and businesses emerging to provide needed services, and artists creating the Art Murmur and First Friday events are other important, emergent pieces of the puzzle. Ongoing inequality and rampant gentrification are other critical pieces.

The Occupy Movement

Below, Cynthia presents a short narrative of her experience with the Occupy Oakland movement.

I counter outsiders’ fears of Oakland by waxing poetic about how my zip code (94610) is one of the top five most diverse zips in the United States. I discuss how Lake Merrit and its natural beauty takes my breath away every time I drive home from work, how my walking neighborhood contains restaurants with cuisines from so many cultures, how friendly my neighbors are, and how young and old, rich and poor people from all around the world live in Oakland. Walking around Oakland, you can see any number of “I hella heart Oakland!” and “Oaklandish” t-shirts; these and other visual reminders let you know that many Oakland residents hold a deep-seated loyalty to our city. (One of my proudest moments came recently when my hip San Francisco friend said, apropos of nothing: “Okay, I admit it! Oakland has become cooler than San Francisco.” This was a watershed moment.)

The Oakland narratives created by outsiders, compared to those of Oakland residents, were particularly striking during the Occupy Oakland protests. In the fall of 2011, as I watched mainstream media accounts of Occupy Oakland, I was disoriented by the notion of “leaderless” movements. Corporate-backed U.S. media outlets continuously reported on the “leaderless movement” with “no central message” and depicted crowds looking like a scary mob riot, throwing rocks, tagging storefronts, and breaking bank windows. “That’s not my experience!” I yelled back. When any of my students parroted those same messages in class, I could not yell (except in my head), and I had to develop more sophisticated ways to convey how disorienting the mainstream depictions were from my personal experiences with Occupy Oakland. “That’s not my experience!” became my common refrain.

My actual experience is more complicated. As a sociologist and a qualitative methodologist, I could convey a systematic ethnographic account of the Occupy movement, but I won’t do that here. In this space, I give you my standpoint on the Occupy Oakland movement. As a resident of Oakland, CA, I visited the Occupy Oakland camp many times, although I did not consider myself an Occupier. (I was not

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these propositions. Importantly, the 1990s were also an apex of activism around educational justice and calls for ethnic studies programs in area high schools and colleges.

The battle for ethnic studies across institutions of learning brought together junior high and high school students with college students who had access to ethnic studies and women’s studies courses. These college-aged and teen-aged youth partnerships were instrumental in transmitting critical knowledge about systems of oppression to younger students who had little access to these kinds of studies. For the younger students in particular, receiving this mentorship from college students was central to fostering a critical consciousness about social inequality and movement history, which these youth then carried into their future years of organizing.

Today’s Activists

Today, youth activism in the Bay Area is highly institutionalized. A multitude of community organizations either work entirely on “youth organizing” or include programs for youth within their broader work. Compared with much of the rest of the United States, Northern California has a particularly extensive network of organizations providing opportunities for youth involvement in activist projects for political and social change. There are many nonprofit youth activist organizations that are now well established, with their own institutionalized structures and curricula for political and activist education. Most of these organizations and programs are also explicitly youth-led and committed to the idea that young people can and should be the primary decisionmakers within these programs. In addition to the dozens of nonprofits that facilitate youth activism, there are countless more informal school- and neighborhood-based groups in which teenagers become engaged in activism.

Bay Area youth organizing focuses on a variety of issues and modes of activism: youth media and youth radio; countering the school-to-jail track; spoken-word poetry and the arts; educational, environmental, juvenile, and racial justice; immigrant rights organizing; groups addressing gender and sexuality; and many more. Research in sociology, education, political science, and human development suggests that youth activists develop important critical thinking and communication skills, increase their self-confidence and sense of efficacy, and maintain higher levels of civic and political engagement. In addition to impacting individual participants, youth activist organizations have achieved substantial political victories. For example, after 11 years of advocacy, agitation, and public pressure, Youth United for Community Action in East Palo Alto won the shut down of a toxic waste facility that had violated numerous health and safety regulations and damaged the community. San Francisco’s Center for Young Women’s Development has improved conditions for young mothers and LGBTQI youth in the juvenile justice system. And high school and college students played a vital role in the organizing that led to the passage of the California DREAM Act, which gives undocumented students access to financial aid for higher education.

An Organizational Structure

Despite these victories, youth activists in the Bay Area face specific challenges distinct from those faced by youth activists in the 1960s. Given the growing institutionalization of youth social justice work in formal nonprofit organizations, youth activists today find routes to political power and public policy that are shaped by the organizational logic of the 501(c)(3). Reliant on specific funding sources and often tied to neoliberal ideology, the nonprofit structure and youth-oriented foundations can sometimes work against the transformational promise of grassroots youth organizing. As Kwon (2011) points out, these nonprofits and their funding agencies often perpetuate the idea of youth organizing as the solution to the problems faced by “at-risk” youth, while they seek to empower these youth. In this way, youth themselves (rather than the state) bear the burden of fixing broader social, economic, and political problems. These countervailing forces are particularly acute in the Bay Area, where youth organizing is strongly anchored in the landmark social movements of the 1960s while standing against the backdrop of state retrenchment.

Those interested in learning more about these topics are invited to attend a session with local youth organizers, “Social Justice Youth-Style: Bay Area Youth Activists’ Perspectives on Race, Education, and Coalition Politics,” on Sunday, August 17 at 8:30 a.m.

Reference

Sociology at Kent State University) met over three decades ago as graduate students at Indiana University. In their first few years as graduate students, both showed an interest in the fundamental issue of self and identity—i.e., what determines who we are and how we and others see ourselves—that continues to guide much of their scholarship. This topic is central to social psychology but also transcends it and has broad applicability to sociological scholarship on gender, culture, social movements, medical sociology, education, and law and society, among others.

**Different Research Paths**

Despite Richard and Jan’s joint interest in the question of identity, each approaches it in different ways. Richard’s research explores the link between people’s identities and their position in the social structure, while Jan’s research emphasizes the internal dynamics that govern individuals’ claims of identity in social situations. Richard’s research relies mostly on surveys, while Jan’s research relies mostly on experiments. Richard’s research often takes on an applied direction and, in turn, covers diverse and “real-world topics” such as decision-making among minority or women science college students, body dysmorphic disorder, views about poverty, interethnic adoption, and the identity construction of people who do not fit societal norms (e.g., being childless, single, unemployed, or not religious). Jan’s research takes on a more theoretically driven approach and bridges identity theory to other theories in social psychology and to topics such as emotions and the moral self.

Jan and Richard have accumulated a record of accomplishment in scholarship and leadership that most of us can only aspire to. Although quantity of publications and grants is only a rough indicator of influence in the field, one cannot help but be impressed by the sheer volume of articles, chapters, and books written or edited by, and grants awarded to Jan and Richard. Jan’s CV lists more than 40 refereed articles, more than 20 book chapters, and 6 volumes. She also has the distinction of being one of the most published sociologists in SPQ, having authored 14 articles in the journal. Jan’s selection as co-editor means more room in SPQ for the rest of us! Richard also has been a regular presence in SPQ: his first SPQ article appeared in 1987 and most recent one will appear later this year. Reflecting his interest in showcasing the applicability of social psychological thought to and in branching out to other disciplines, his scholarship has been featured in communications, psychiatry, education, medical, and music journals. He also has been a principal investigator or co-principal investigator for over 60 grants.

Richard and Jan’s influence goes far beyond mere quantity of published and funded scholarship. For example, Richard’s SPQ article (coauthored with frequent collaborator Sheldon Stryker) “Identity Salience and Psychological Centrality: Equivalent, Overlapping, or Complementary Concepts” is a must-read piece for any serious student of social psychology, as is Jan’s SPQ review piece (coauthored with longtime collaborator Peter Burke) “Identity Theory and Social Identity Theory.”

**Esteemed Scholars**

Their contributions to sociological social psychology, sociology, and higher education have been acknowledged in many ways. Jan was elected as chair of three sections of the ASA, was selected as a fellow to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the ASA Emotions section, and was inducted into the Sociological Research Association. She also has served on the national board of the General Social Survey and the Executive Committee of the International Society for Research on Emotions. For some of us, though, her most important role to date has been as Sociology Program Director for the National Science Foundation, where she tirelessly advocated for theoretically grounded, empirically sophisticated, and innovative sociological research. Richard was elected as Vice President of the Pacific Sociological Association, was chosen for multiple positions in the ASA Social Psychology Section, and served with distinction as editor of Sociological Perspectives. He also chaired the University of California-San Marcos Sociology Department and will be entering his tenth year as chair at Kent State University. That anyone can be chair for that long and still be well-liked and admired by his colleagues is remarkable—and speaks to Richard’s fair-minded, resourceful, and, in the words of one of his colleagues, “visionary” leadership. It also speaks to his obvious grasp of social psychology!

**Deputy Editors**

Richard and Jan have assembled a terrific team of deputy editors whose backgrounds nicely complement the theoretical, substantive, and methodological strengths of the co-editors. They are Linda George (Duke University), a respected scholar in the areas of medical sociology, mental health, and aging and the life course; Donileen Loseke (University of South Florida), a preeminent practitioner of qualitative methods; and Will Kalkhoff (Kent State University), an active and creative sociologist who studies group processes and neurosociology. The selection of these deputy editors is in line with Richard and Jan’s commitment to further diversify SPQ and to encourage self-proclaimed non-social psychologists—even those who use social psychological theories and measures in their own scholarship without recognizing it—to read the journal and consider submitting their own work to the journal.

With Jan and Richard as editors and Linda, Donileen, and Will as deputy editors, SPQ is in good—no, inspired—hands. SPQ publishes theoretical and empirical papers on the link between the individual and society, including the study of the relations of individuals to one another, as well as to groups, collectivities and institutions. It also includes the study of intra-individual processes insofar as they substantially influence, or are influenced by, social structure and process. This journal is genuinely interdisciplinary and publishes work by both sociologists and psychologists. For more information, see www.asanet.org/journals/spq/social_psychology_quarterly.cfm.

**Seeking Donations: Digitizing Editorial Archives**

At its meeting in March, ASA Council voted to invite members desiring to preserve the 588 boxes of manuscripts and other editorial materials from 1990–2010 to send contributions toward digitization to the ASA Executive Office, to be received by June 15, 2015. Any donation must be made with the explicit understanding that ASA Council retains complete authority to decide when and how the Association can provide access to these digitized records for scholarly research. For background information and full details on how to donate to this initiative, see www.asanet.org/journals/DonationsDigitizingEditorRecords.cfm.
Sociologists Tackle Access to Health Care in a Rural Community

Brandn Green, Bucknell University; Kristal Jones, Penn State University; and Carl Milofsky, Bucknell University

On April 1, 2014, the White House tweeted with the hashtag #7MillionAndCounting, in reference to the surge of applications for health insurance through the federal and state-run Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplaces. A volunteer group of faculty and students in rural central Pennsylvania helped perhaps 150 of those 7 million individuals submit an application online and offered counsel to many more whose circumstances were more complex than a simple online application could handle. As sociologists at a liberal arts university, we are interested in research questions about inequality and exclusion in access to health care in the rural context. As educators, we have used the volunteer opportunity that the ACA has offered our students to support their engagement with the local region—from which they are otherwise often sequestered. And as private citizens, we have all experienced a range of emotional and intellectual challenges in trying to understand, explain, and work within the unwieldy health care and social service systems of which the ACA is a part. Along the way, we have gained a first-hand look at how expanding access to health insurance impacts access to health care in the broader context of rural communities.

Understanding Health in the Rural Context

Two years ago, a superintendent of a local school district asked us to help him with an evaluation of the health impacts of building a new track at the high school. His hope was that by creating a central, public space for exercise, activity in the community would increase and with it physical health and social well-being. We created an evaluation project that drew on a broad range of actors and interested individuals in a wide radius around the school itself, in order to fully understand the scope of health-related services, organizations, and activities that might contribute to community health and well-being. We received an ASA Community Action Research Initiative (www.asanet.org/funding/fundinggrants.cfm) grant to support our research along with several of our students, and over the course of a summer, we interviewed 30 key informants and the students completed an inventory of health associations to better understand the influences at work in our region.

One of the people we met was a woman named Bette, who runs a free health clinic in a small town in the region. When we asked Bette what the most important issues related to community and public health were in the region, she answered without hesitation, “a lack of infrastructure to implement the Affordable Care Act.” She told us that there were no federal resources being disbursed in our area (Pennsylvania received $2 million in federal funding for Navigator organizations, all of which are located in the urban center of southeastern or southwestern Pennsylvania), that the local political leaders had all opposed the ACA along party lines, and that social service and nonprofit agencies were not adequately organized to provide help to their clients who might benefit from the ACA and access to affordable insurance. She connected these issues to the broader context of a lack of health literacy in a region without a robust network of health care institutions, and she suggested that there was much work to be done in educating people about the ACA and then providing enrollment assistance.

Implementing ACA in Rural PA

After talking to Bette, we became interested in ACA implementation in our region as a research project, a teaching opportunity, and a personal interest of all involved. We reached out to a health advocacy organization, the Pennsylvania Health Access Network based in Philadelphia, and received training in educating the public about the framework and basic features of the ACA. Throughout early fall 2013, we gave public presentations in towns across the region. People asked us at the end of talks, how can I check this out? Our answer was, by calling a toll-free phone number or online. Access to the Internet and computers, as well as computer skills, are not, however, realistic for many rural residents and in many rural communities. This is where technologically savvy undergraduates with an interest in helping others, learning about public health, and getting to know the community in which their universities are located enter. In addition to technological challenges, many residents with whom we spoke were not personally familiar with health insurance, and wanted the chance to see the Marketplace options and talk about their choices with someone in person.

Initially, we thought that perhaps we could support social service agencies in the region in their implementation plans. However, in a state that has neither expanded Medicaid nor put any resources toward ACA education or enrollment, there simply was not a mandate for any government agency to help. Our interest in creating place-based educational experiences for students and our personal desire to help implement the ACA led us to create the Central Susquehanna Affordable Care Act Project. Four faculty coordinators, one project coordinator, and Bette, the manager of the local free clinic, as well as 25 students from a range of disciplines went through the federal training to become Certified Application Counselors, and have provided enrollment assistance at local libraries, churches, and the free clinic since November. We advertised our project in the local newspaper and on the radio, and we consistently received calls from individuals looking for help as well as from local social service agencies and state representatives’ offices.

Lessons Learned

Providing enrollment assistance has generated research questions related to rural livelihoods and access to health care in the context of the ACA. Eligibility for a tax credit to supplement the cost of insurance, for example, is based on income level, with those falling below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Line channeled out of the Marketplace and into the Medicaid system. However, Medicaid expansion was ruled by the Supreme Court to be a state-level decision, and Pennsylvania to date has declined the offer of funding for expansion. This creates what is referred to as the Medicaid gap, which is especially pronounced in rural areas where people have family and social networks that allow them to get by on very low incomes. Helping our students understand these and many other complex aspects of health and social service policies has broadened their grasp of how politics, policy, and place-specific characteristics can create particular types of inequalities. Some of them participated in a rally in the capital in mid-April to express their support for Medicaid expansion. As educators, we are proud of our students for translating learning into actions, and are excited for the ongoing contributions that the ACA project can make to our community in a variety of ways—from providing education and enrollment assistance to increasing political awareness and engagement.

Brandn Green has a PhD in rural sociology and is Director of the Place Studies Program at Bucknell University. Kristal Jones has a PhD in rural sociology and is the coordinator of the Central Susquehanna Affordable Care Act Project. Carl Milofsky is a Professor in the Sociology Department at Bucknell University.
Russian Academia: Building an Information Society and Global Ties

Olga V. Mayorova, Higher School of Economics (Perm)

About two years ago, I left my wonderful job at the ASA and moved to Russia to become an Associate Professor at the Higher School of Economics (HSE). The school is based in Moscow, with three other campuses including one in Perm—the city where I was born. Even though the Perm campus did not have a sociology program I knew immediately where I wanted a teaching position and where I could make the most contribution. Since the move, my life has been an amazing adventure and a challenge at the same time. I had to relearn Russian in some ways, teach research methods and statistics to students majoring in management, jump through bureaucratic hoops in the process of licensing a sociology program in Perm, co-edit a working paper series for Russian sociologists writing in English. In addition, I head the Social Sciences and Humanities Department, consult and mentor junior faculty on their research projects, and participate in the university’s domestic and international recruitment efforts. All while keeping up with my ongoing research projects and becoming involved in new ones in partnership with leading Russian and Western scholars.

Having only completed industrialization in the 20th century, Russia is currently making an exceptional effort to build a post-industrial economy based on knowledge production. The key to such economy is the system of education, which is now undergoing dramatic restructuring. My university is at the front of educational reforms, and I am proud to be a part of this process and to have the opportunity to contribute my knowledge, experience, and efforts to it. There are many other scholars who have joined HSE in recent years and I will let them tell in their own words what research, teaching, and life in general are like in Russia.

Sarah B. Spencer, Assistant Professor, HSE (Moscow)

While earning my doctoral degree the University of Chicago, I conducted my dissertation research in Russia. I have also worked at other universities in Russia, so when the opportunity to teach at HSE opened up, I was excited at the prospect of returning to the country. HSE draws on strong Russian traditions of teaching and research, introducing innovations in both areas. While supporting their strong local and national reputation, HSE is expanding its international reputation through increased academic mobility and increased publications in English-language journals. Academic mobility includes student exchange programs, a new international sociology MA program, placing alumni into graduate programs in the United States and Europe, and finally, hiring an increasing number of sociology PhDs from the United States and Europe.

Scholarly research is of central significance at HSE, and many faculty members are affiliated with a research center (or “laboratory”) where they attend workshops and collaborate with others with similar research interests. Publishing in English-language journals is emphasized more strongly than at many other Russian universities, but local HSE faculty continue to publish in Russian-language journals and monographs. HSE welcomes collaboration between local and international faculty, which can lead to top-quality English-language publications.

HSE is known for its specialization in economic sociology, but other areas of sociology are also well developed. Undergraduate and masters’ students receive excellent training in research methods. Unlike in the United States, all sociology undergraduate students write senior theses with some original research. Most undergraduate and masters’ students pay no tuition, which means they can focus more on their studies. Students here are hardworking and take their studies seriously, but also find time to make friends and have fun. From a strong domestic university, HSE is becoming an increasingly international place to study, teach, and conduct research.

Eduard Ponarin, Professor, HSE (St. Petersburg)

At HSE, I lead the Laboratory for Comparative Social Research (LCSR), which was established at HSE in November 2010 when Professor Ronald Inglehart and I were awarded a “Mega-grant” by the government of the Russian Federation. The purpose of the government’s “Mega-grant” program is to attract leading Western scientists to Russian universities. LCSR aims to develop rigorous quantitative and comparative research in Russian social science. The joint effort of international and Russian scholars within the Laboratory is bringing comparative sociology in HSE to the forefront of international research. The focus of research is on comparative studies of social change—the analysis of cross-sectional and longitudinal data.

LCSR is based in the Moscow and St. Petersburg campuses. It employs about 30 people, including Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel. Additionally, LCSR has developed a network of about 50 associated scholars, mostly from post-socialist countries and Europe, who meet three times a year to discuss their projects with the purpose of publishing in international peer-reviewed journals. LCSR has a stake in bringing up a new generation of Russian scholars. Our junior colleagues have published in top journals such as the Journal of Conflict Management and Resolution and World Politics and some of them have entered graduate programs of Columbia, Princeton, and Michigan.

Benjamin Lind, Assistant Professor, HSE (Moscow)

Moscow offers an incredible living laboratory ripe for social research. In terms of basic demographics, it counts approximately 12 million inhabitants within the federal city limits. The diverse ethnic composition of the city includes not only Russians, but also Tatars, Ukrainians, along with the many immigrant groups from the Caucasus region and Central Asian states. The political climate in Moscow has been incredibly dynamic, especially given Russia’s heightened role in international relations in addition to notoriously contentious domestic legislation. This political climate emerges from a state founded 22 years ago and one that in many ways carries the institutional legacy of perhaps the greatest social experiment of the 20th century. Scholars interested in immigration, urban sociology, political sociology, and historical institutionalism would certainly find the setting stimulating.

Beyond research, the city’s dynamism can be felt in everyday life. Each day the city’s metro system carries millions of passengers.
Introducing MFP Cohort 41

ASA and the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) are pleased to introduce the seven new Fellows who comprise MFP Cohort 41. The MFP Advisory Panel met this spring in Washington, DC, to review the large and highly competitive pool of applications. MFP Cohort 41 consists of talented PhD candidates with strong and diverse sociological research interests. The new Fellows will officially begin their participation on August 1, 2014.

The Fellows will attend the 2014 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, where they will take part in a day-long orientation, including a brief history of ASA and a series of research and professional development-themed presentations by sociologists (with several former Fellows). The new Fellows will also participate in a number of required sessions, events, and workshops, including a breakfast meeting with the members of MFP Cohort 40. They will have the opportunity to network with sociologists who share similar interests. MFP Cohort 41 will be introduced individually and as a group during the MFP Benefit Reception on Sunday, August 17.

MFP is celebrating its 40th anniversary year in 2014. Since 2010, MFP has been generously supported in full by Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS), the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS), the Southwestern Sociological Association (SSA), and ASA Council, with more recent support coming from the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) and the Southern Sociological Society (SSS). Support for MFP has also come from significant gifts made by individual ASA members and organizations through the MFP Leadership Campaign in which SWS and the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) participated as donor organizations.

Shani Adia Evans (Council/Leadership Campaign MFP)
Undergraduate Institution: Amherst College
Graduate Institution: University of Pennsylvania
Shani Adia Evans is a doctoral candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. She completed a BA in Anthropology at Amherst College and an MEd in Education Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to beginning doctoral study, Shani worked at Research for Action, a non-profit educational research firm, where her projects focused on high school reform and community organizing for education. Shani’s research and teaching interests include education, inequality, race, and qualitative methods. Her work considers the relationship between the organization of schooling and the reproduction of inequality. In her dissertation, which uses qualitative methods to examine college preparation and choice among first-generation college students, she considers how students’ relationships with teachers, and other aspects of their high school experience, may shape their postsecondary trajectories. Shani’s other research focuses on school choice processes in urban communities, including conducting an ethnographic study of the admissions process at an academically selective public school. She is also collaborating on two papers about school choice processes among urban middle-class parents. Shani’s work is supported by the National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship.

Ryan Gabriel (MSS/ABS MFP)
Undergraduate Institution: Utah State University
Graduate Institution: University of Washington
Ryan Gabriel is a doctoral student at the University of Washington. He earned his BA in sociology at Utah State University. While at Utah State, Ryan was in the Sociology Honors Program and President of Alpha Kappa Delta. Ryan has multiple research interests including investigating research that shows an enduring impact of lynching between 1882 and 1930 in the southern United States and contemporary white-on-black homicide. While previous research links this violence to lynching, the mechanisms responsible for the relationship remain obscure. Ryan’s goal is to define and estimate intervening institutional- and population-based mechanisms that contribute to a collective memory of racial domination. In addition, he is a co-founder of the Seattle Urban Research Group (SURG). This group integrates undergraduates, graduate students, and professors in investigating sociological issues within Seattle’s vibrant culture. SURG is currently using quantitative spatial analysis, visual sociology, along with demographic and historical methodology to create an in-depth descriptive study of the stratification associated with racial residential segregation at the block level within select integrated tracts in Seattle. Lastly, for his dissertation, Ryan is researching the residential mobility and attainment of mixed-race couples in the United States.

Jackelyn Hwang (AKD MFP)
Undergraduate Institution: Stanford University
Graduate Institution: Harvard University
Jackelyn Hwang is a PhD candidate in sociology and social policy at Harvard University and a doctoral fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. She received a BAS with honors in sociology and mathematics from Stanford University, where she conducted research on the social construction of neighborhoods during gentrification. After graduating from Stanford, she was a project manager for a community-based charter school in West Philadelphia. These experiences inspired her research interest in how racial and ethnic inequality both impacts and is impacted by gentrification and the recent housing crisis. Drawing on innovative forms of data to measure neighborhood characteristics, her dissertation examines the role of immigration in the evolution of gentrification in U.S. cities. In particular, this work sheds light on how race-based residential selection processes and racial and ethnic compositional changes intersect to reproduce neighborhood inequality. Her other projects examine how segregation is associated with sub-prime lending and the foreclosure recovery. Her research is supported by the National Science Foundation, the Harvard Graduate Society, the Joint Center for Housing Studies, the Taubman Center for State and Local Government, and the Institute for Quantitative Social Science.

Yvonne Y. Kwan (Council/Leadership Campaign MFP)
Undergraduate Institution: University of California–San Diego
Graduate Institutions: University of California–Los Angeles and University of California–Santa Cruz
Yvonne Y. Kwan is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of California–Santa Cruz. Yvonne’s teaching and research interests include race, Asian Americans, language, identity, trauma, and methodology. Her dissertation addresses Cambodian Americans...
and the transgenerational transmission of trauma, the phenomenon in which unspeakable traumas are passed (un)consciously from one generation to the next. She finds that while feelings, particularly ones associated with pain and suffering, are sensitive experiences that are embedded in individual bodies, the origin and meaning of such feelings do not solely come from a single body, but instead from the collective. To better understand such processes, she has pursued ethnographic research at a non-profit Cambodian school in San Jose for the last two years and has conducted interviews with and distributed surveys to 1.5 and second generation Cambodian Americans. Contrary to purely regressive notions of trauma, she believes that trauma may be embedded in individual bodies, associated with pain and suffering, that while feelings, particularly ones passed (un)consciously from one generation to the next. She finds that inequality between countries is structured by countries’ relative position to one another, and their cultural, social, and historical connections rather than their relative positions within a world-system. In a 2014 Poetics article she shows how cultural wealth is constructed through internal claims of countries and external validation of the international community. Second, using the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines, she examines what she calls “global borderlands” – semi-autonomous, geographic locations based on international exchange – to explore how unequal relationships between countries are understood and played out in face-to-face interactions. Finally, she studies the impact of spatial organization on variable forms of inequality, combining structural explanations with cultural accounts of inequality at macro- and micro-levels of analysis.

Sasha Maria Rodriguez (SWS MFP #1)
Undergraduate Institution: University of Florida
Graduate Institution: Stony Brook University

Sasha Maria Rodriguez is a Caribbean-American lesbian activist and PhD candidate in sociology at Stony Brook University. She received a BA in sociology from the University of Florida, with minors in Spanish and women’s studies. Her research centers on legislative sexual repression as well as activist responses in the United States and Uganda. Her dissertation employs theories of nationalism, homo-nationalism, and anti-imperialism and draws on parliamentary records, bi-national interviewing, and engaged ethnography of LGBTI organizations, protests, and events. Using these data, her research focuses on fostering transnational connections that are against racist and economic violence and, ultimately, for the betterment of sexual and gender minorities of color. Sasha Maria’s other research ventures include a forthcoming, co-authored book project with Darwin Fishman on the political socialization processes of youth of color in New York City. The Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship and the Faculty-Staff Dissertation Award of Stony Brook University have funded her research.

Firuzeh Shokooh Valle (SWS MFP #2)
Undergraduate Institution: University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Graduate Institution: Northeastern University

Firuzeh Shokooh Valle is a doctoral candidate in sociology at Northeastern University. She earned a BA in Latin American studies at the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras and a master’s in journalism at Northeastern University. As a reporter at one of the main newspapers in Puerto Rico, she covered social movements, violence against women and gender politics, racism, poverty, and migration. She earned numerous national awards for her journalistic investigative work. She has also done volunteer work with grassroots women’s organizations helping them design social media strategies. These experiences sparked Firuzeh’s interest in the intersection of gender, technology, and society as she witnessed the emergence of the Internet and social media as important spaces and instruments for social movement activism. Her dissertation project analyzes how transnational feminist networks, women’s nongovernmental organizations, and grassroots groups in Latin America and the Caribbean negotiate and translate discourses and practices on gender and technology. She has collaborated on publications in the journal Social Movement Studies and has a chapter on the digital strategies of the feminist movement in Puerto Rico in the forthcoming publication Citizen Journalism: Global Perspectives. Volume Two.

Send Us Your News
Were you recently promoted? Have a book published? Or were you quoted in the news? Did you win an award? Or maybe you know about a funding opportunity or want to promote your meeting to other sociologists? Send your announcements to Footnotes at footnotes@asanet.org.
Three Sociologists Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

In May, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) announced the election of three sociologists—Peter Bearman, Kathryn Edin, and Kathleen Mullan Harris—among this year’s 84 new members. These newly elected NAS members were recognized for their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Members in the Academy, considered one of the highest honors in American science, help write reports on key scientific issues to help inform policymakers’ decisions.

Peter Bearman is the Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theories and Empircs (INCITE), the Cole Professor of Social Science at Columbia University, and Co-Director of the Health & Society Scholars Program, the Mellon Interdisciplinary Training Program, and OHMA at Columbia University. A specialist in network analysis, he co-designed the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. He is the author of Doorin (University of Chicago Press, 2005) and is an editor of the Handbook of Analytical Sociology (Oxford University Press, 2009) and edits (with Peter Hedstrom) a series on analytical sociology at the Princeton University Press (PASS). Bearman is currently investigating the social determinants of the autism epidemic. In addition, he is working on the dynamics of lynching in the Deep South, violence in Northern Ireland, the analysis of event and relational sequences, and qualitative research design.

Kathryn Edin is a Distinguished Bloomberg Professor in the Department of Sociology, Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health, Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. She is one of the nation’s leading poverty researchers, deploying ethnographic observations, in-depth interviews, and mixed method approaches to work within the domains of welfare and low-wage work, family life, and neighborhood contexts. She has taken on key mysteries about the urban poor that have not been fully answered by quantitative work. Edin has authored or co-authored six books and some 50 journal articles. Her 2005 book, Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood before Marriage, co-authored with Maria Kefalas, sought to answer the question why were so many low-income women having children without marrying. The book has become a classic in the field.

Kathleen Mullan Harris is the James Haar Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on inter-relationships among family, poverty, and social policy. Harris is Director and Principal Investigator of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), a longitudinal study of more than 20,000 teens who are followed into young adulthood. With Add Health data, Harris is studying health disparities, the accuralation of immigrant youth, and the family formation behavior of young adults, including non-marital childbearing, cohabitation and marriage. Under Harris’ leadership, the next wave of Add Health is expanding its biological data collection to bridge biological and social sciences in the study of developmental and health trajectories from adolescence into young adulthood. Harris was elected president of the Population Association of America 2008-09.

The 2014 NAS election was held during the annual meeting of the Academy. NAS is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. The Academy acts as an official adviser to the federal government, upon request, in any matter of science or technology. Additional information about the institution and a full directory of NAS members can be found at www.nasonline.org.

Oakland

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hardcore enough, nor there enough, and I never slept outside, but I was in solidarity with the Occupy movement.) Someone asked me, “When you look at Occupy Oakland through the eyes of women, what do you see?” My response comes from an American, Southern-white, progressive, academic, indie-culture loving, feminist perspective.

In contrast with the “scary mob riot” image presented in the media, at the citywide Oakland General Strike, which was called for by Occupy Oakland in fall 2011, I experienced a spirit of love, companionship, and solidarity. I saw “Grandmothers for Peace,” with older women pushing toddlers in strollers, “Kindergarten Teachers for the 99%” holding signs and marching around the city, as well as “Veterans for Peace” and “Jews for Justice” signs. Some signs represented the need for universal healthcare, or for quality public schools for all children, or a demand to end the war in Afghanistan. Others were there to represent their union’s solidarity with Occupy. Still others were there representing a communist organization, or a socialist organization, or the Green party, or Doctors without Borders, or Planned Parenthood—just about any Bay Area organization with a vision of a world where all people have access to the resources they need to live a life of dignity was represented. I saw many other college professors, along with journalists, activists, artists, nurses, teachers, community organizers (including former members of the Black Panther Party), students, hip-hop artists, nonprofit workers, and performers.

Seeing grandparents, kindergarten teachers, children, performers, and community organizers all together, representing and envisioning a world without violence and with quality resources for all, was beautiful. In collaboration, we created for that moment the type of society we wanted to be part of, laughing, talking, singing, dancing, hugging, crying, and chanting with each other as we walked the streets of downtown Oakland. People in office buildings looked down and made heart and thumbs up gestures and clapping as we passed. As refrains of “Who are the 99? We are the 99!” and “Tell me what you want, what you really want: Justice!” rang through the city streets, I felt a camaraderie with these thousands of people I had never met before and might not meet again. It was magical. The central message, really, was love and solidarity in community. The spirit, the vision, the sense of community, and the embodiment of a different world, a peaceful world we could create together left a mark on my psyche. This beauty is at the heart of my Oakland narrative, and no dominant narrative can pry it from me.

Oakland at the Meeting

On the “Evolving Oakland Walking Tour” at the 2014 Annual Meeting, we will explore the gentrified and artifried narratives in Oakland surrounding the formation of community benefit and business improvement districts. Finally, in the “Evolving Oakland” regional session, we will explore
Women’s Mortality across U.S. States. One reason the pattern is poorly understood is the lack of appropriate data. This proposal seeks funds to explain the strong FAD tradition and maintain current funding levels. Therefore, we are asking ASA members to provide the donations needed to allow us to continue to fund six or seven proposals per cycle (December 15 and June 15). Individuals can contribute online (by logging into the ASA website and clicking on “contribute”), by phone at (202) 383-9005, or by sending contributions to FAD, c/o Business Office, American Sociological Association, 1430 K Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005.

Below is a list of the latest FAD Principal Investigators (PIs) and a brief description of their projects from the December 13 round of the project.

Jennifer Karas Montez, Case Western Reserve University, $5950 for Explaining Inequalities in Women’s Mortality across U.S. States.

Women’s mortality increased in over 40 percent of U.S. counties between 1992 and 2006, with a strong geographic pattern. It is unknown whether the pattern reflects differences between geographic areas in the composition of their populations (e.g., women’s education levels) or structural characteristics of the areas (e.g., sociopolitical orientation). One reason the pattern is poorly understood is a lack of appropriate data. This proposal seeks funds to explain the geographic pattern at the state level by analyzing the restricted-use National Health Interview Survey Linked Mortality File. The researcher hypothesizes that behaviors linked to premature death, such as smoking, are a function of a state’s structural characteristics. She predicts that regional variation and educational attainment will explain a large portion of the variance in mortality rates. This proposal targets a relatively new area of interdisciplinary research on health disparities in which sociologists are becoming more central.

Zulema Valdez, University of California-Merced, and Nancy Plankey Videla, Texas A&M University, $5570 for The Effects of Legal Status on the Social and Economic Incorporation of Mexican-Origin Mixed Status Families in the Southwest.

The proposal’s authors suggest that unauthorized Mexican immigrants face barriers in the United States based on their legal status, which affects their social and economic integration. Yet, the investigators claim that few researchers have examined “unauthorized status” as a central determinant of Mexican incorporation in the United States; fewer researchers address how unauthorized status affects the incorporation trajectories of families and households, especially “mixed status” households. This study highlights the role of family and household structure on trajectories of integration, including the uneven incorporation experiences of family members within the same household. This is stage two of a two-stage project, where stage one was a Mobile Consular Survey of Mexican immigrants at two points in time. The researchers will conduct focus groups to extend their survey work on the household strategies that respondents employ to overcome the stigma of an unauthorized status.

Michaela Soyer and Gary Zajac, both at the Justice Center for Research, Pennsylvania State University, $7000 for Fatal Choices? Investigating the Emergence of Negative Turning Points in the Lives of Young Male Offenders.

The project uses a life course approach to focus on the social processes surrounding the development of negative turning points in the life of 25 juvenile offenders who were sentenced as adults. The authors will investigate how negative turning points manifest, using a research design consisting of three parts: 1) life-course interviews with male inmates who were adjudicated as adults for crimes they committed when underage, 2) interviews with at least three members of the original respondents’ social network outside of prison, and 3) a content analysis of the case summary files containing offending history, work history, and socio-economic background. The interviews will solicit information about periods in the offenders’ lives, including family status, activities, schooling, confrontations with the law, what they might have done differently, and what might have helped them to move to a different path. The primary purpose of the project is to connect juvenile justice policy with theoretical advances in life course research and to move juvenile justice policy away from its reliance on actuarial methods.

Sean Kelly, University of Pittsburgh, $7000 for Enhancing the Sociology Pipeline: A Capacity-Building Workshop for Secondary Social Studies Teachers.

Degree growth in sociology has failed to keep pace with rising enrollment trends in higher education. Few students come to college knowing much about sociology, and students tend to come to the major late in their college careers. This proposal seeks to promote sociology concepts and skills across the high school social studies curriculum, better prepare high school students for college, and positively impact the number of students who consider sociology as a viable field for their advanced study (college majors and minors). To accomplish this, the project co-PIs will conduct a workshop for 25 social studies teachers in one school district in Pennsylvania. The authors seek to expose project participants to various ASA-endorsed sociology teaching materials and ideas, to facilitate their sustained use of these materials long after completion of the workshop, and to encourage their contributions of additional materials and lesson ideas to the existing repository. This project may serve as a model for other such workshops to promote sociology early in the educational pipeline.

Amanda K. Damarin, Georgia Perimeter College, $7000 for Employer Use of Internet-Based Labor Market Intermediaries: Consequences for Inequality.

Labor market intermediaries affect employment inequality because of the unevenness with which they connect workers with jobs and through their impact on perceptions of job candidates. Conventional wisdom suggests the anonymity of the Internet minimizes discrimination, but the researchers question this assumption. For example, access to and use of Internet sources is unequally structured such that younger and higher income people have greater access. They suggest decisions about hiring strategies vary along several dimensions including required skill-level, type of position, and ascribed identities. New Internet-based intermediaries, including job posting sites, social networking services, and search engines, have been described as both levelers and ascribed identities. New Internet-based intermediaries, including job posting sites, social networking services, and search engines, have been described as both levelers and ascribed identities. New Internet-based intermediaries, including job posting sites, social networking services, and search engines, have been described as both levelers and ascribed identities. New Internet-based intermediaries, including job posting sites, social networking services, and search engines, have been described as both levelers and ascribed identities. New Internet-based intermediaries, including job posting sites, social networking services, and search engines, have been described as both levelers and ascribed identities.
The AAPSS Elects Three Sociologists among its 2014 Fellows

The American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS) inducts a handful of Fellows each year in recognition of their contributions to the improvement of society through research and influence over public policy. Since the founding of its Fellows program in 2000, AAPSS has inducted 93 distinguished scholars and public servants, a large portion of them sociologists, as Fellows. The 2014 sociologist Fellows of the Academy are:

Greg Duncan, whose research explores early intervention programs for children and how children’s behaviors and skills at a young age impact their longer-term well-being. He is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Education at the University of California, Irvine, and an adjunct faculty member at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University.

Kathryn Edin, a sociologist whose work has focused on social welfare, urban poverty, nonmarital childbearing and family life. She is a Professor in the Department of Sociology at the Johns Hopkins Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Heidi Hartmann, an economist who is founder and President of the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, a research organization in Washington, DC. Her work addresses the effects of public policy on women’s lives and on their participation and engagement in the labor force.

“We’re very pleased that each of these extraordinarily accomplished individuals will join the Academy this year,” said Douglas Massey, Princeton University and President of the AAPSS. “Each has made essential contributions to our understanding of how American society functions and whether our public policies act in the common good. They are distinguished public servants and scholars, and we are privileged to have them among us.” Duncan, Edin, and Hartmann officially joined the Academy on May 8, 2014, in a ceremony in Washington, DC.

Labeling Theory in Retrospect

This editorial reflects on an error in the first edition of my book on mental illness (1966; 1984; 1999) in one of the nine propositions. The first eight were supported by data gathered in my Wisconsin study. In the 1966 version, however, the ninth was unsupported.

Among residual rule-breakers, labeling is the single most important cause of careers of residual deviance. (pp. 92-93)

Although the book attracted favorable attention, the 9th proposition was attacked. The error was corrected in the second and third editions, but apparently too late to change the impression given initially. As a result, those researchers whose studies upheld labeling effects referred to “modified labeling theory.” (e.g., Link, et al, 1989; Davis et al. 2012) Perhaps that would have been unnecessary had they referenced the 1984 or 1999 editions.

Recently, I thought of a reason for my error. My experience with mental health systems had been, for the most part, observations on wards of mental hospitals (Stockton State and Camarillo State, CA; Mendota State, WI; Schenley Hospital near London; and a mental hospital in Rome). Since I talked to patients and witnessed their interactions, I quickly realized that most of them were free of symptoms and had been for years. The great majority of the patients were not symptomatic, that is to say, “mentally ill.” In these cases, their label was the ONLY cause of their continuing imprisonment, as implied in the original ninth proposition.

When I wrote the book in the early sixties, I was remembering and referring to the abuses the patients suffered (for examples, see Scheff 2012).

It is now obvious that my subsequent correction was either not seen or just ignored. I should have known that when a mistake has been made, it should be corrected quickly, loudly, and widely. A better direction, perhaps, is to ignore the errors in order to move ahead with further research on labeling. Another direction would be to put all nine propositions to test in new settings instead of worrying about the past.

Thomas Scheff, University of California–Santa Barbara

In 1966, when Being Mentally Ill was published, Thomas Scheff was the first person to apply the insights of labeling theory to the case of mental illness. The debate over the impact of underlying neurological characteristics of the mentally ill, relative to the impact of social labeling, continues today.

References


*Thanks to Bengt Starrin and Bernie Berk for their help.
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Call for Papers

Publications

Environmental Sociology is a new journal dedicated to applying and advancing the sociological imagination in relation to a wide variety of environmental challenges, controversies and issues, at every level from the global to local, from world culture to diverse local perspectives. New papers submissions are now invited. Contact: Stewart Lockie at stewart.lockie@jcu.edu.au. For more information, visit www.tandfonline.com/rens.

Conferences


The International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI), September 3-4, 2014. Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, MD. Theme: "A Mentoring Workshop for Recent PhDs. and PhD. Students in Child Well-being." The International Society for Child Indicators will hold mentoring workshop for PhD students. This PhD workshop offers the opportunity for doctoral students to discuss their PhD projects with international experts in the fields of qualitative and quantitative research about children's well-being. Deadline: August 15, 2014. Contact: Robert George at rgoerge@chapinhall.org.

National Social Science Association's (NSSA) meeting, March 29-31, 2015, Las Vegas, NV. Theme: "Sociology and/or Economics of Memory: New and Classical Conceptualizations of Memory, Personal or Commodity, Public or Private?" Submission papers are invited for the international panel of the meeting. Deadline: July 25, 2014. Contact: aleksandra.kanjucmrceval@fdv.uni-lj.si; nbandelj@uci.edu. For more information, visit www.sociologo-drustvo.si/annual-meeting-of-the-slovenian-sociological-association-2014-722977.

The Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) 75th Annual Meeting, March 24-28, 2015, Pittsburgh, PA. Theme: "Continuity and Change." Submission papers for session papers and posters are invited. An association that focuses on problem definition and resolution. Deadline: October 5, 2014. Contact: (405) 843-5113; info@sfaa.net. For more information, visit www.sfaa.net.

Southern Labor Studies Association Conference (SLSA), March 5-8, 2015, College Park, MD. The Southern Labor Studies Association invites people interested in the experiences of working people in the early American or U.S. South to propose sessions for our next conference. The SLSA defines labor and working class studies broadly. Deadline: September 1, 2014. Contact: Eric Arnesen at arnesengwu@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.southernlaborstudies.org.

Pan-American Interdisciplinary Conference (PIC), March 13-16, 2015, Buenos Aires, Theme: Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary: Challenges in the XXI Century? PIC invites scholars from all around the globe to present their scientific attainments. This is a joint summit event organized by: European Scientific Institute (ESI), University of Flores, Argentina and the University of The Azores, Portugal. Along with the quality scientific schedule, great a social program for the participants will be provided. Deadline: January 25, 2015. Contact: picconference.net. For more information, visit www.picconference.net.

Pacific Sociological Association’s (PSA) Annual Meeting, April 1-4, 2015, Long Beach, CA. "People, Place, and Power." Session/Theme: "Sociology and/or Economics of Memory: New and Classical Conceptualizations of Memory, Personal or Commodity, Public or Private?" Deadline: October 15, 2014. Contact: Noel Packard at packard@prodigy.net.


Slovene Sociological Association Annual Meeting, October 24-26, 2014, Bohinj, Slovenia. Theme: "Economy and Society." Submission papers are invited for the international panel of the meeting. Deadline: July 25, 2014. Contact: aleksandra.kanjucmrceval@fdv.uni-lj.si; nbandelj@uci.edu. For more information, visit www.sociologo-drustvo.si/annual-meeting-of-the-slovenian-sociological-association-2014-722977.

The Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) 75th Annual Meeting, March 24-28, 2015, Pittsburgh, PA. Theme: "Continuity and Change." Submission papers for session papers and posters are invited. An association that focuses on problem definition and resolution. Deadline: October 5, 2014. Contact: (405) 843-5113; info@sfaa.net. For more information, visit www.sfaa.net.

Sociological Initiatives Foundation invites concept proposals for projects that link an explicit research design to concrete social action strategies around social participation, community organizing, crime and law, education, health, housing, immigration, labor organizing, and language/literacy. Projects should also have clear social change goals. The grant amount is from $10,000 to $20,000. Deadline: August 15, 2014. Contact: Prentice Zinn at pzninn@gmafoundation.com. For more information, visit www.sifoundation.org/2014/04/foundation-announces-call-for-concept-applications-for-2013/.

Fellowships

The Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has an immediate opening for a postdoctoral fellowship in the demography of aging and the life course. Recent PhDs in sociology are invited to apply for this fellowship. Send curriculum vitae, a short description of a research project to be conducted at the Center, three letters of recommendation, and copies of publications. Contact: Alberto Palloni, at palloni@ssw.wisc.edu. For more information, visit www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdha/docs/Post-Doc-PositionCD-HA10-1-2014.pdf.

Competitions

The Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy is accepting applications for grants for research in the social sciences. Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals no later than December 15, 2014, in order to permit the Foundation to confirm that the proposal is consistent with the required format. Awards for 2014 will be announced in June 2015. Deadline: January 31, 2015. For more information, visit www.horowitz-foundation.org.

The Nineteenth Century Studies Association (NCSA) is pleased to announce the 2015 Emerging Scholars Award. The award of $3,000 to one scholar represents the promise and long-term future of interdisciplinary scholarship in 19th-century studies. This award will be given to an outstanding article or essay published within five years of the author’s doctorate. Deadline: September 30, 2014. Contact: Paul Croce at pcroce@stetson.edu. For more information, visit www.ncsaweb.net/Home/tabid/104/Default.aspx.

The Nineteenth Century Studies Association (NCSA) is pleased to announce the 2015 Article Prize, which recognizes excellence in scholarly studies focusing on any aspect of the long 19th century (French Revolution to World War I). Deadline: September 30, 2014. Contact: Jen Hill at jmhill@unr.edu. For more information, visit www.ncsaweb.net/Home/tabid/104/Default.aspx.

The Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) invites paper submissions for the annual Peter Kong-ming New Student Research Competition. Students at all levels are eligible. The papers should be based on original research in the area of health or human services. Deadline: December 31, 2014. For more information, visit www.sfaa.net. For more information, visit www.sfaa.net.

In the News

Howard E. Aldrich, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, was interviewed April 21 on “The State of Things,” on NPR’s affiliate station, WUNC radio, about his American Sociological Review study, “Who’s the Boss? Explaining Gender Inequality in Entrepreneurial Teams,” which he co-authored with Tiantian Yang, Duke University.

Karl Alexander, John Hopkins University, and the findings from his study, “The Long Shadow: Family Background, Disadvantaged Urban Youth and the Transition to Adulthood,” were the focus of a June 3 Mother Jones
announcements

Peter Brandon, University at Albany-SUNY, and Michael Corey, University of Chicago, were mentioned in a June 7 Venture Beat article on the Facebook-sponsored, academics-only conference they are organizing in advance of the ASA Annual Meeting.

Craig Calhoun, London School of Economics, was quoted in a June 1 New York Times “Sinhosphere” article, “The Rise and fall of the Goddess of Democracy.”


Robert Crutchfield, University of Washington, was interviewed May 19 on KUOW about research in his new book, Get a Job: Labor Markets, Economic Opportunity, And Crime.

Sarah Damaske, Penn State University, and Arlie Russell Hochschild, University of California-Berkeley, were quoted in a May 22 NPR “All Things Considered” story and an NPR.org article about how for many people work is more relaxing than home.

Peter Dreier, Occidental College, wrote a May 9 New York Times op-ed, “What Housing Recovery?”, and co-authored an April 1 Los Angeles Times column, “A Local Approach to Bigger Paychecks.” His article, “We Are Long Overdue for a Paul Robeson Revival,” appeared May 7 in the Los Angeles Review of Books and he interviewed journalist Bill Moyers for the March 2014 cover story in The Progressive magazine. Dreier also wrote April 27 and May 1 Huffington Post articles about the Donald Sterling/L.A. Clippers controversy and was interviewed April 29 on NPR’s “All Things Considered” about the Sterling controversy. In addition, he wrote April 9 and April 11 Huffington Post articles titled, “General Motors: Another Slip on the Wrist for a Crime in the Suites” and “Why is Public Television Against Public Schools?”, respectively. He also wrote the May 7 Pasadena Weekly cover story about sharing his love for 1960s LP albums with his teenage daughter. In May 2014, the Haas Institute at UC-Berkeley released a report, Underwater America – How the So-Called Housing Recovery is Bypassing Many Communities, co-authored with Gregory Squires, George Washington University, and three others. The report was covered by media outlets including the San Jose Mercury, Orlando Sentinel, St. Louis Post Dispatch, San Bernardino Sun, Hartford Courant, Detroit Metro Times, Reuters, and others. Dreier was interviewed May 20 on KCRW’s “To the Point” about the report.

Amy Dunkel Grgaia, Stony Brook University, was quoted in a May 5 Atlantic Cities article, “The Grey Area in Pink Transportation.”

Rick Eckstein, Villanova University, was quoted in a May 20 NPR.org article, “North Carolina Union Seeks to Enlist College Athletes.”

Morten Ender, United States Military Academy at West Point, was quoted in a May 29 Cicero Magazine article, “Millennials and the Military.” The article features research from his 2014 book, The Millennial Generation and National Defense, which he co-authored with David Rohall, Missouri State University.

Morten Ender and Irving Smith, both of the United States Military Academy at West Point, were quoted in an October 2013 Pittsburgh Tribune-Review article about how military service members and their families communicate via social media and how the military trains and regulates communication technology practices during deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kai Erikson, Yale University, and his book Everything In Its Path were referenced in a June 1 New York Times op-ed, “Our Flinching State of Mind.”

Amitai Etzioni, George Washington University, appeared on the May 6 episode of “White House Chronicle,” where he discussed the U.S. economy and, predicting employment prospects.

Mariah Evans and Jonathan Kelley, both University of Nevada-Reno, and their research were covered in a May 27 Pacific Standard article, “Books in the Home Are Strongly Linked to Academic Achievement.”

Christy Glass, Utah State University, was interviewed as part of a May 19 NPR “All Things Considered” story about Jill Abramson’s firing and whether the ‘glass cliff’ was to blame.

Alice Goffman, University of Wisconsin-Madison, was the subject of a May 6 Philadelphia Inquirer article, titled “So- ciologist Chronicles Tenuous Lives of Fugitives” and a New York Times article, “Financial Hazards of the Fugitive Life.” Her book, On the Run, was reviewed in the June 26 New York Times.

Alexes Harris, University of Washington, was quoted in a May 19 NPR “All Things Considered” story and an NPR.org article on the rise of court fees and their effect on the poor who pay the price.

Kevan Harris, Princeton University, was quoted in a March 5 NPR “Morning Edition” story and an NPR.org article about how Iranian women are making a push for greater opportunities. He was also quoted in a March 14 “Morning Edition” story and an NPR.org article about how “Waiting For Godot” strikes a chord in Tehran. Additionally, he was quoted in an April 12 “Weekend Edition Saturday” story and an NPR.org article about who is winning Iran’s culture wars.

Leta Hong Finch, Tsinghua University, was interviewed April 18 on NPR’s “Morning Edition” about her new book, Leftover Women.

Matthew W. Hughey, University of Connecticut, was quoted in an April 29 BuzzFeed article, “University of Alabama’s Sororities Still Resist Integrating” and a January 24 USA Today article, “Some Students See Little Diversity in Sorority Rush.”


Carole Joffe, University of California-San Francisco/Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, was quoted in a May 8 Philadelphia Inquirer article about a young woman who posted a video of her abortion procedure. She was also quoted in a May 31 MSNBC report on the fifth anniversary of Dr. George Tiller.

Arne L. Kalleberg, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, appeared on the BBC Radio program “In the Balance” on May 17 and 18 as part of a panel discussion on the minimum wage and the impact of automation on jobs. He was also featured on a June 1 Australian radio broadcast, “Rever Vision,” about finding jobs in the global economy, and was quoted in both a June 6 Los Angeles Times article about the quality of jobs created since the Great Reces- sion and a June 9 NBCNews.com article about the idea of “minimalism” not being applicable to the poor.

Erin Kelly, University of Minnesota, was quoted in a May 9 Washington Post article about her recent American Sociological Review study on flexible...
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work programs. The study, co-authored by Phyllis Moen and Wen Fan, both at University of Minnesota, was also covered by The Wall Street Journal on May 9.

Erin Kelly, University of Minnesota, and Stephen Sweet, Ithaca College, were quoted in a May 20 New York Times article, “For Workers, Less Flexible Companies.”

Carolyn Liebler, University of Minnesota, Manuel Pastor, University of Southern California, and Sonya Rastogi, U.S. Census Bureau, were quoted in a June 9 NPR.org article, “What is Your Race? For Millions of Americans, A Shifting Answer.”

Michael Lindsay, Gordon College, spoke about his new book, View from the Top, May 29 on C-SPAN’s “BOOKTV.” His research was highlighted in a May 13 Boston Business Journal article “What Does It Take to be a Top CEO in America? More Than You Might Think.” He was also quoted in a May 10 New York Times article, “Leadership Is Often the Family Business at Evangelical Christian College.” Additionally, he wrote a March 11 Harvard Business Review blog article, “Loose Ties Are Abundant, but Risky, at the Top.”

Brian McKenzie, U.S. Census Bureau, was quoted in a May 15 NPR “Morning Edition” story and an NPR.org article about how across the United States, bicycle commuting is picking up speed.

Tressie McMillan Cottom, Emory University, wrote a May 30 post, “No, College Isn’t the Answer. Reparations Are,” on The Washington Post’s “Post Everything” blog.

Christine H. Morton, Stanford University, was quoted in a May 7 New York Times article on solutions to the social problem of oversize of Cesarean section in the U.S.

Philip M. Pendergast, University of Colorado-Boulder, was quoted in a May 29 Slate article about his recent Journal of Health and Social Behavior study, “Obesity (Sometimes) Matters: The Importance of Context in the Relationship between Obesity and Life Satisfaction.” The study, co-authored with Tim Wadsworth, University of Colorado-Boulder, was covered by a number of other media outlets including the Daily Mail and PsychCentral.com on May 30.

Sara Raley, McDaniel College, was interviewed June 4 on WNPR about transgender issues.

Barbara Risman, University of Illinois-Chicago, was interviewed April 9 on Wisconsin Public Radio and was quoted in a May 30 Pacific Standard article, “Stay-At-Home Parenting on the Rise Because Mothers Can’t Find Work.”

Kim Scipes, Purdue University North Central, did a series of interviews nationwide regarding the U.S. efforts to utilize social media to undermine sovereign governments, such as that of Cuba. She was interviewed April 7 on “Flashpoints” with Dennis Bernstein, SyndicatedNews.Net, and Southern California Public Radio. April 9 on WPRF in Washington, DC; April 11 on WORT in Madison, WI, and KPFA in Berkeley, CA; April 12 on KPOO in San Francisco, CA; April 14 on KPFT in Houston, TX; April 21 on WUSB in Stony Brook, NY; and April 28 on KYYL in Brownsville/Corpus Christi, TX.

David R. Segal, University of Maryland, was interviewed for a June 7 Pittsburgh Tribune-Review article regarding the effect of military participation in air shows on military recruiting and maintaining contact between the armed forces and civilian communities.

Jennifer Patrice Sims, University of Wisconsin-Madison, was interviewed June 2 on Wisconsin Public Radio’s “Central Time” about her research on mixed race identity and mixed race people’s experience with the question “what are you?”

John D. Skrentny, University of California-San Diego, wrote a May 7 New York Times op-ed, “Only Minorities Need Apply.”


Steven Stack, Wayne State University, was quoted in a May 1 USA Today article, “Newspaper Coverage Linked with Youth Suicide Clusters.”

Peter Uhlenberg, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, was mentioned in a May 30 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article, “Judge Says He Will Struggle with Abortion Privileges Ruling.”

Stephen Vaisey, Duke University, was interviewed May 28 on WUNC about his “Measuring Morality,” project.

Will C. van den Hoonaard, University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, was quoted in a June 20 National Geographic Magazine article in connection with his new book, Map Worlds: A History of Women in Cartography.

Diane Vaughan, Columbia University, and her 1986 study of the Challenger explosion, was featured in a May 12 Washington Post article, “If You Can Fake Spontaneity You Have it Made: Five Key Questions About the Grassroots Industry.”

Barry Wellman, University of Toronto, and his research were cited in a June 2 Pacific Standard article, “Don’t Fear the Network: The Internet Is Changing the Way We Communicate for the Better.”

Robby Willer, Stanford University, and his research were featured in an April 18 Atlantic article, “How to Tap Latent Conservative Support for Climate Change Policy,” a May 7 The Week article, “Why Evangelicals and Environmentalists Should Join Forces,” and a May 14 New York Magazine article “How to Win Your Next Political Argument.”

Jane Zaviska, University of Arizona, was quoted in a June 1 Providence Journal article “Froma Harrop: The Housing Bust and the American Psyche.”

Awards

Hillary Angelo, New York University, received a 2013-2014 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Sarah Brayne, Princeton University, received a grant from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy for research in social sciences.

Kate Brown, Vanderbilt University, received a grant from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy for research in social sciences.

Claudia N. Chafuan, University of California-San Francisco, won a Fullbright Award as the Research Chair in North American Integration.

Carolyn Ellis, University of South Florida, has been named Distinguished University Professor, which recognizes senior faculty members who have distinguished themselves among their peers both within and outside USF.

David G. Embrick, Loyola University-Chicago, Kashey Henricks, American Bar Foundation, were recipients of the 2014 Sociological Association Distinguished Paper Award for their publication “Discursive Colorlines at Work: How Epithets and Stereotypes are Racially Unequal” in Symbolic Interaction.


Jack A. Goldstone, George Mason University, won the 2014 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, a Fellowship for 2014-2015 for residence at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He also received the Myron Weiner Award for lifetime scholarly achievement in political demography at the 2014 meetings of the International Studies Association in Toronto.

Alessandra L. Gonzalez, Princeton University, received a James Madison Fellowship at Princeton University this past year.


Matthew W. Hughey, University of Connecticut, received the 2014 Distinguished Early Career Award from the ASA Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities.

Malgorzata Kurjanska, University of California-Berkeley, received a 2013-2014 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Rhonda F. Levine, Colgate University, received the 2014 Sidney J. and Florence Felten French Prize for Inspirational Teaching from Colgate University.

Gary T. Marx, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received the inaugural Surveillance Studies Network Outstanding Achievement Award at a presentation in Barcelona.
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Kevin M. Moseby, University of California-San Francisco, was named a 2014 ACLS Public Fellow and will take a two-year assignment in the Children and Youth Policy, US Department of Health and Human Services.

Amy Myrick, Northwestern University, received a 2013-2014 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Chinyere Osuji, Rutgers University-Camden, was awarded a Rutgers Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Carolyn C. Perrucci, Purdue University, received a 2013-2014 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Amy Myrick, Northwestern University, received a 2013-2014 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

David Wachs, New York University, received a grant from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy for research in social sciences.

Barry Wellman, University of Toronto, is one of the recipients of the 2014 Canadian Digital Media Pioneer Awards (CDMP Awards).

Transitions

Kathryn Goldman Schuyler, was promoted to Professor in the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University, where she teaches in the doctoral program in organizational studies.

Michael J. Lon, Aquinas College, is moving from Florida State College-Jacksonville to become the Director of the Community Leadership Program and Associate Professor of Sociology at Aquinas College.

Alondra Nelson, Columbia University, was named Dean of Social Sciences; a newly created position within the College of Arts and Sciences at the New York Ivy League Institution.

Stephen Plank, is now Director of Research and Evaluation at Corporation for National & Community Service.

Bryan Roberts, University of Texas-Austin, has been a mainstay of the university’s Latin American studies program for nearly three decades is retiring in December 2014.

Marybeth C. Stalp, University of Northern Iowa, was promoted to Full Professor at the University of Northern Iowa.

People

Eric Stewart, Florida State University, was elected Vice-President of the American Society of Criminology.

Claire Renzetti, University of Kentucky, was elected Executive Officer of the American Society of Criminology.

New Books


Ronald J. Angel and Jacqueline L. Angel, both of University of Texas-Austin, Latinos in an Aging World: Social, Psychological and Economic Perspectives (Routledge, 2014).


Liberty Walther Barnes, University of Cambridge, Conceiving Masculinity: Male Infertility, Medicine, and Identity (Temple University Press, 2014).

David Bartram, University of Leicester, and Maritza V. Poros, City College of New York-CUNY, Pierre Montforte, University of Leicester, Key Concepts in Migration (Sage, 2014).

Ann V. Bell, University of Delaware, Misconception: Social Class and Infertility in America (Rutgers University Press, 2014).

Alessandro Bonanno, Sam Houston State University and Josefa Salete Barbosa Cavalcanti, Federal University of Pernambuco-Brazil, Labor Relations in Globalized Food (Emerald, 2014).


Peter Dreier, Occidental College, John Mollenkopf, CUNY-Graduate Center, and Todd Swanson, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Place Matters: Metropolitics for the 21st Century, 3rd edition (University of Kansas Press, 2014).


Rosemary Gartner, University of Toronto, and Billjours, University of California-Davis, Eds., The Oxford Handbook of Gender, Sex, and Crime (Oxford University Press, 2014).


Kevin Fox Gotham, Tulane University, and Miriam Greenberg, University of California-Santa Cruz, Crisis Cities: Disaster and Redevelopment in New York and New Orleans (Oxford University Press, 2014).


Marco Hauptmeier, Cardiff University, and Matt Vidal, King’s College London, Eds., Comparative Political Economy of Work (Palgrave, 2014).


Michael Lindsay, Gordon College, View from the Top: An Inside Look at How People in Power See and Shape the World (Wiley, May 2014).


Masamichi Sasaki, Chuo University, Jack A. Goldstone, George Mason University, Eckart Zimmermann, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and Zeppelin University, and Stephen Sanderson, University of California-Riverside, Concise Encyclopedia of Comparative Sociology (Brill, 2014).


DIVISION OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CRIMINOLOGY/SOCIOLGY

The Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Bloomfield College invites applications for a tenure- track position at the rank of assistant professor of Sociology for the spring 2015 academic year. We are interested in a candidate whose substantive area of interest is criminology/social justice. The successful candidate will have a course load of 3/3 over two semesters and will teach a selection of courses that includes research methods. Applicants with an interest in Global Studies are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants should have an earned Ph.D., but we will consider those who are ABD.

Applicants must electronically submit (PDF format preferred) a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and three letters of recommendation with contact information to sociology_search@bloomfield.edu

(Electronic submissions only, no phone calls please). Official graduate transcripts will be required of applicants accepted for an interview. Search will remain open until filled.

For more information, please visit www.bloomfield.edu/about-us/careers-bloomfield/faculty
announcements


Dirk vom Lehn, King’s College London, Robert Dingwall, Nottingham Trent University, Harold Garfinkel: The Creation and Development of Ethnomethodology (Left Coast Press, 2014).

Darin Weinberg, University of Cambridge, Contemporary Social Construction: Key Themes (Temple University Press, 2014).

Other Organizations

Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is moving its editorial office of Social Problems to the University of Illinois-Chicago on June 1, 2014. All new submissions and all revised will be the responsibility of Dr. Pamela Ann Quiroz and Dr. Nilda Flores-Gonzalez and their editorial team. Submit manuscripts to: mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ucpress-sp.

Contact

Kyle Irwin, Baylor University, experienced a brain hemorrhage on March 29. He has had two brain surgeries to repair damage and is now in a neuro-habilitation facility. Colleagues of Kyle at Baylor have set up a crowdfunding site to raise money for his family for expenses related to this injury. Kyle is a loving husband and doting father of two young girls, ages 2 and 4, and is the primary breadwinner of the family. Please consider contributing to support a fellow sociologist. Professionally, Kyle’s interests are in social psychology, specifically cooperation and prosocial behavior in groups. Contact: Martha Sherman at martha_sherman@baylor.edu. For more information, please visit www.youcaring.com/kylesfund2014.

New Publications

Italian Sociological Review announces the launch of its new issue. ISR has worked in collaboration with the Centre for Social Research (CRiS) based at the University of Verona since April 2011. For more information, visit www.italiansociologicalreview.org.

Deaths

Gary S. Becker, University of Chicago, economist who won a Nobel Prize for applying economic methods to shed light on sociological topics such as crime, education, and marriage, died on May 3 at the age of 83.

Donald J. Bogue, NORC and the University of Chicago, a widely regarded demographer, died of natural causes at the age of 96 on April 21, 2014, in the home of his daughter Gretchen Maguire in Dyer, IN.

Mary Cay Sengstock, Wayne State University, died on May 8, 2014, at the age of 78 after a nineteen year battle with cancer.

Obituaries

William Averette Anderson
1937–2013

William Averette Anderson’s passing on December 29, 2013, was the result of a bicycle accident while on vacation in Kauai, Hawaii.

Dr. William Averette Anderson—or Bill, to those who to knew him—had a career spanning over five decades, in which he significantly impacted the direction and growth of multiple scientific disciplines and enriched the scholarship of thousands of researchers throughout the world.

After completing his master’s degree in sociology at Kent State, Bill began his doctoral studies at The Ohio State University in 1962 in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. After his first year, however, several professors already had identified him as “top tier.” Three of these, Russ Dynes, Henry Quarranelli, and Gene Haas, received large-scale funding that established by the Disaster Research Center (DRC) in September 1963 and hired Bill. They began a journey that none could have envisioned.

This year marks the 50-year anniversary of the Alaskan earthquake. It became a focal point of study by Bill and several other DRC staff. This event also afforded Bill opportunity to interview officials in Crescent City, CA, who were impacted by the tsunami the quake triggered. Bill also had the opportunity to interview in Tasmania following the 1965 bushfire outbreak and after an earthquake in El Salvador. These events, and others, helped Bill conceptualize basic patterns of organizational change, functions of disaster subcultures, and gaps in disaster policy. These early analyses have withstood the test of time, and, equally important, they birthed his long career.

As civil unrest in numerous American cities became more frequent, so did DRC staff interviews in various locations. Bill believed that such events needed to be put into context so he and Russ Dynes explored the larger life cycle of disaster through trips in 1969, 1970, and 1971 to Curacao, a Dutch territory of the Netherlands Antilles. They published a masterpiece documenting the origins and growth of social movements. This reflected an expanded vision wherein the notion of disaster, including riots, were placed into broader cultural and historical contexts.

In his oral history interview, an honor bestowed on him by the EERI, Bill stated, “The DRC and other researchers had to debunk a number of myths and counteract earlier social science perspectives that characterized
social movements and other forms of non-institutionalized behavior as inherently negative or dangerous. Where would we be today if the civil rights movement had not developed in this country?"

In 1969, Bill accepted an Associate Professorship at Arizona State University (ASU). While there, he teamed with three others to publish Sociology and Social Issues. His analyses of collective behavior ranging from social movements to counter groups, and yes, disasters, reveal another of his contributions to the profession. But Bill wanted to do more—much more.

In 1974, Bill, his wife Norma, and daughter Candice, left for Washington, DC, where Bill accepted a post with the American Sociological Association as the first full-time director of the Minority Fellowship Program. Today, this program celebrates 40 years of funding students of color pursuing graduate degrees—nearly 500 to date. After his one-year leave of absence from ASU, the family relocated to Arizona where Bill had now been promoted to Full Professor. But a unique opportunity to impact research and nurture scholars throughout the world came the next year and they returned to Washington. Bill started at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 1976, but he did not follow the typical pattern of quick departure—usually a year or two. Bill moved around within the NSF for over 20 years! During this time he also held concurrent assignments with other agencies, including the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President. Through these posts, his impact on disaster and hazards research surpassed that of any other single individual.

Bill participated in the founding of numerous groups that collectively and individually have provided the resources for scholars across a wide spectrum of disciplines. Mention of only a few illustrate the incredible contributions of this man: National Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (NCEER), National Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES); and Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI). These, of course, are just the tip of the iceberg of nurturing research and student support at the DRC (now at the University of Delaware), the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center at the University of Colorado, the Hazards Reduction and Recovery Center at Temple University, and numerous other institutions.

In 1999, Bill was seconded, to use to the World Bank’s Disaster Management Facility, and two years later Bill joined the National Academies of Science (NAS) as the Associate Executive Director in the Division of Earth and Life Sciences and Director of the Disaster Roundtable. Prior to his retirement in October 2008, he stimulated greater awareness of the risk that disasters and hazards reflect for both our nation and those in developing countries.

In recognition of his superior professional contributions, the Learning from Earthquakes (LFE) program within EERI, awarded Bill and his NSF colleague Chi Liu, the inaugural “Special Recognition Awards” in 2007. In 2010, at the annual meeting of the International Sociological Association, the International Research Committee on Disasters presented him the Charles E. Fritz Lifetime Achievement Award.

At the time of his untimely death, Bill was continuing his contributions after retirement through service on numerous advisory boards whereby his colleagues across the country could seek his advice. In this way, Bill had planned on continuing his contributions as an academic change agent. For you see, when you dealt with Bill, it was always about his passion. So Bill, know that we miss you, we are so grateful to have known you, and that your inspiration will motivate all of us to carry the vision forward.

Bill is survived by his wife of 45 years, Norma Doneghy Anderson, and their daughter Candice Anderson and her husband Dorian Butts. In understanding Bill’s passion to increase the number of persons of color and women in the hazard and disaster mitigation field, his wife Norma has established the William Averette Anderson Fund for Hazard and Disaster Mitigation Education and Research, fondly called the Bill Anderson Fund (billandersonfund.org/).

You can read more about Bill Anderson, and you can learn more about the Bill Anderson Fund and the American Sociological Association’s Diversity and Inclusion Initiative by visiting asanet.org/announcements.

Rod was born on November 12, 1945, in Sanford, FL, in the then-Jim Crow South. His undergraduate years were spent at Howard University in Washington, DC, during its tumultuous/movement years, 1963–67. This was the period in which students demanded that Howard abandon its pursuit of imitating the “white ivies” and become a Black university.

After completing his bachelor’s, Rod was accepted into the clinical psychology PhD program at the University of Kansas-Lawrence. During this time, he played a key role in the founding of the University’s Black Studies program. By 1972 he was ABD, and committed to the Black liberation struggle. He left the doctoral program to devote himself to organizing and other efforts. While engaging in this movement activity, he was employed by several agencies in northeast Kansas and Kansas City, MO, area serving Black communities.

Rod relocated to San Francisco where he continued organizing and served as a research associate for the Institute for the Study of Labor and Economic Crisis for several years and a briefly with Oxfam America. It was with these agencies and the movement organizations that Rod demonstrated his commitment to a transformational justice. Rod’s life was grounded in love, community, and a profound belief in humanity. These values were also reflected when he moved to New York, where he served as the director of the prison education program for New York City Technical College’s Division of Continuing Education and as a coordinator for State University of New York Educational Opportunity Center.

As an activist, Rod was a member of some of the nation’s most progressive movement organizations—the Congress of African People, the Student Organization for Black Unity and the Youth Organization for Black Unity, the African Liberation Support Committee, and the Black Radical Congress—all Black nationalist and/or Marxist in their orientations. Rod’s participation and leadership in these organizations showed his commitment and dedication to producing fundamental change when it comes to combating race and class oppression.

His research and writings prior to academia included a 1984 volume The Black Vote: Politics and Power in Four American Cities. This work was developed within the context of a debate between a number of progressive organizations, activists, and intellectuals about the efficacy of Black electoral organizing as a means of social change. During this period, he also wrote a number of articles in which he attempted to understand the situation of the African American working class within the evolving structures of the capitalist world-economy, the changing political culture of the United States, and the restructuring of the division of labor. These works include his article “Racism and the Rise of the Racial Formation” published with a number of other scholars in Contemporary Marxism. In 1984 he further developed the analysis of race and class and social movements within a world-system in the article, “Racism and Changes in the International Division of Labor,” in Crime and Social Justice.

While attempting to deepen the theoretical analysis of the African American experience, he wrote a number of journalistic articles focusing on the general attack on labor, the impact of Reaganomics on Black people, and strategies for resisting the devasta-
announcements

At annual sociology meetings, Rod’s role was critical when it came to bringing race and class issues to the forefront. He served as editor of The Griot, the newsletter for the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS). In 2008, he was a major player in organizing an important conference on “Race and Labor.” Since the early 1990s, he has been central in organizing sessions on the critical issues of race and class.

Rod’s passing leaves a major void among radical scholars. His intelligence, thoughtfulness, compassion, integrity, commitment to human rights, and a genuine respect for others. Students and friends alike often mentioned his nurturing character, his warmth, his smile, and his genuine laugh.

Rod leaves behind his soulmate and collaborating partner for over 30 years, Melanie E L Bush and their cherished daughter Sarafina F. Bush; beloved son and daughter Malik L. Bush and Thembu N. Bush Tillman (Betty Ann Penda Kane); adored granddaughter Tajalia, and four treasured grandsons Angelo, Orlando, Jedidiah, and Wisdom. He is also survived by his goddaughter Isabella and her parents; friends Arcee “Pete” James and Renzie Taylor, mother-in-law “Rozzie”, son-in-law Jamal Tillman, and a multitude of cousins, friends, and family. He was preceded in death by his beloved daughter Sojourner Truth Bush (Cynthia Arnetta Holliday).

On August 18, 2014, the Critical Sociology Conference will devote two sessions to the Life and Work of Rod Bush at the San Francisco Marriott.

Robert G. Newby, Central Michigan University

Mary Cay Sengstock
1936-2014

Mary Cay Sengstock, Professor of Sociology at Wayne State University, died on May 8, 2014, at the age of 78, after a 19-year battle with cancer. Mary Cay was an active member of the Wayne State sociology faculty since 1966. She earned her AM at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and her PhD at Washington University-St. Louis. She was an applied sociologist, certified social worker, and clinical sociologist. Mary Cay is well known for her research on Chaldean Americans, multiculturalism, diversity, and elder abuse/neglect identification and intervention. At the time of her death, she was planning her next research project, which focused on political violence and elder abuse, but she applied her knowledge and made a difference in the university community as well as the community at large.

Contributions to “The Mary Cay Sengstock Diversity Scholarship” can be made by mailing a check payable to Wayne State University: Wayne State University Fund Office, 5475 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202. The memo line should reflect #060589 Sengstock Sociology.

Janet Hankin and Heather Dilaway, Wayne State University

Austin T. Turk
1934-2014

Professor Austin Turk passed away unexpectedly on February 1, 2014, suddenly ending a sociological career that spanned more than five decades. After receiving his PhD in sociology from the University of Wisconsin in 1962, Turk spent 12 years at Indiana University-Bloomington before moving to the University of Toronto in 1974 and then to the University of California, Riverside in 1988.

Nationally and internationally, Turk was acknowledged as one of the leading conflict theorists. His book Criminality and Legal Order, published in 1969, is considered a classic in the study of criminality, deviance, and the sociology of law. He coined the definition of criminality as “that deviant status assigned by legal authorities,” a definition that continues to challenge and inform discussions of crime arising from power differentials. His much cited work, Political Criminality: The Defiance and Defense of Authority (1982), promoted scientific investigation of political criminality and policing as an alternative to more partisan treatments. Most recently, Austin's research focused on political violence and terrorism, including an article “Sociology of Terrorism” in the Annual Review of Sociology (2004), and the recently published book Examining Political Violence: Studies of Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Internal War (2013), with David Lowe and Dilip K. Das.

In addition to producing a long stream of path-breaking publications, Turk contributed many services to the profession throughout his career. He was Past President of the American Society of Criminology and of the North Central Sociological Association, and a former Trustee of the Law and Society Association (LSA). He served on the Sociology of Law Committee of the LSA, the Section on Crime, Law and Deviance of the American Sociological Association. He also served on the Ad Hoc Committee on the Criminal Justice Reform Act, the Awards Committee, and the Committee on Committees of the ASA.

Turk also maintained an active international presence throughout his career. He was a Visiting Research Sociologist at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, a Visiting Professor at the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa, a Scholar-Diplomat for Africa in the U.S. State Department, and an invited lecturer at a number of universities in Japan and China. Turk was also active in the International Sociological Association, serving for a decade on the Board of the Research Committee for the Sociology of Deviance and Control.

Since joining the sociology faculty at the University of California-Riverside in 1988, Turk's contributions include years of service as Chair of the Department of Sociology and as Interim Director of the Robert Pesley Institute for Crime and Justice Studies. He served on numerous committee memberships and consultancies, and regular teaching of popular undergraduate classes and graduate seminars on deviance, criminology, juvenile delinquency, political criminality, and the sociology of law.

Turk worked as a policeman in Gainesville, GA, in the 1950s. This experience informed Turk's later research on policing in such contexts as South Africa, and also qualified him to be deputized by local police when this could help him gain access to research sites. In Riverside, it helped Turk obtain the security clearances he needed to conduct research on policing of local gangs.

Turk's lifetime of distinguished research, service, and teaching earned him many honors. These include election as a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology in 1978, earning the Paul Tappan Award given by the Western Society of Criminology in 1989, and receiving the President's Award of the Western Society of Criminology in 1999.

Turk is survived by his spouse, Dr. Ruth-Ellen Grimes, who shared with him a lifelong interest in sociology and criminology. Turk was laid to rest in Vermont on May 17, in a private service and burial. Many former students and colleagues paid tribute to Turk at a symposium at UC-Riverside on June 5. Turk's legacy will also be the subject of a two-part thematic panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in November 2014.

At UC-Riverside, we remember Austin Turk not only as a scholar of note, but also as an exceptional human being, a generous friend and a caring mentor, a bon vivant, and a gracious host. He will be sorely missed.

Raymond Russell, University of California, Riverside
Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline

Application Deadline: December 15 & June 15

The ASA invites submissions for the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) awards. FAD is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation with matching monies from ASA. The goal of this award is to nurture the development of scientific knowledge by funding small, groundbreaking research initiatives that will advance the discipline. FAD awards provide scholars with “seed money” for innovative research that provides opportunities for substantive and methodological breakthroughs, broadens the dissemination of scientific knowledge, and provides leverage for acquisition of additional research funds.

Proposals are reviewed for scientific merit and the importance of the proposed research project or a conference for sociology as a discipline. Specific evaluation criteria include:

- Innovativeness and promise of the research idea;
- Originality and significance of research goals;
- The potential of the study as a building block in the development of future research;
- Appropriateness and significance of the research hypothesis;
- Feasibility and adequacy of project design; and
- Plans for dissemination of results; and

Principal Investigators (PI) and co-PI(s) must have a PhD or equivalent. Awards shall not exceed $7,000. Awardees must agree to meet the reporting requirements of the award and must be ASA members when they receive the award. Proposals must be submitted online at www.asanet.org/funding/fad.cfm.

Contact: For more information, see the “Funding” page at www.asanet.org. For questions, contact The ASA Research and Development Department at research@asanet.org or call (202) 383-9005. For examples, see this issue of Footnotes.

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