RESULTS OF 2008 MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION ELECTIONS

Congratulations to our incoming section officers and council members! The Nominations Committee (Deborah Carr, Elaine Hernandez, Robin Simons, and Stefan Timmermans) extends its sincere thank you to all section members who agreed to run for office.

Chair-Elect: Bill Avison, University of Western Ontario

Secretary-Treasurer: Carol Boyer, Rutgers University

Council Member at Large: Sarah Burgard, University of Michigan

Nominations Committee Chair: Jeremy Freese, Northwestern University

Nominations Committee Members: Jennie Kronenfeld, Arizona State University; Kristen Springer, Rutgers University

Chair, Health Policy and Research Committee: Verna Keith, Florida State University

Membership Committee Chair: Heather Turner, University of New Hampshire

Nominations Committee, Student Member: Matt Gayman, Florida State University

Student Representative: Dawne Mouzon, Rutgers University
SECTION-SPONSORED & RELATED SESSIONS AT THE 2008 ASA MEETINGS IN BOSTON

Editor's note: The following information was taken directly from the ASA website; my apologies if I unknowingly reproduced their errors. Please check online for details about scheduling, last minute changes, and other helpful information regarding the conference program at: http://www.asanet.org/.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

8:30-10:10 Regular Session. Health Care and Care Delivery—Boston Marriott Copley Place

Session Organizer: Dharma E. Cortes (Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School)

Doctor-Patient Communication in the Age of Internet Technology, Gul Seckin (University of Maryland-Baltimore County), John G. Schumacher (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)

Embracing, Selectively Accepting, and Strategically Complying: The Spectrum of Bariatric Surgery Patients’ Negotiations with Medical Guidelines, Patricia Drew (University of California-Santa Barbara)

Socioeconomic Status and Health Care Behavior: How SES Impacts the Ways Parents of Children with Cancer Navigate Health Care Systems, Elizabeth Ann Gage (State University of New York-Buffalo)

Time for Compassion: Cultures of Care in Two Hospital Units, John William Kaiser (University of California-Berkeley)

10:30-12:10 Regular Session. Health and Well-Being—Boston Marriott Copley Place

Session Organizer & Presider: Ming Wen (University of Utah)

A Comparison of Family Effects on the Overweight Status of Adolescent Boys and Girls, Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld (Arizona State University), Mary Benin (Arizona State University)

Chewing the Fat: Understanding Discourses of Childhood Obesity in the U.S. Public School System, Angela M. Barian (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Physical Education Requirements and Obesity Risk Among Elementary School Children, Helen J. Lee (Public Policy Institute of California)

Race, Gender, Body Image, and Unhealthy Eating, Kim A. Logio (Saint Joseph’s University)

Discussant: Kathleen Anne Cagney (University of Chicago)

10:30-12:10 Regular Session. Medical Sociology: The Illness Experience and The Patient-Doctor Relationship—Boston Marriott Copley Place

Session Organizer: Elbert P. Almazan (Central Michigan University)

Presider: Ronica Nicole Rooks (University of Colorado Denver)

How are Patient Characteristics Relevant for Clinical Decisions in Diabetes? Results from a Cross-National Experiment, Karen Lathey (New England Research Institutes), Stephen M. Campbell (University of Manchester), Megan R. Renfrew (New England Research Institutes), Lisa D. Marceau, Martin Roland (University of Manchester), John McKinlay (New England Research Institutes)

Patient Trust and Professional Control, Scott Savage (University of Arizona)

The Interaction of Age and Gender in Illness Narratives, Clive Seale (Brunel University), Jonathan Charteris-Black (University of the West of England)

'The Missing Voice of Critical Illness’ Ten Years Later: In Sociology, Still Missing, David A. Rier (Bar Ilan University)

Discussant: Renee R. Anspach (University of Michigan)

4:30-6:10 Regular Session. Social Dimensions of AIDS—Boston Marriott Copley Place

Session Organizer & Presider: Victor Agadjanian (Arizona State University)

The Global Response to AIDS in Africa: the Dangerous Effects of Good Intentions, Nicholas Simon Morfit (University of California-Berkeley)

The Life Course of Nevirapine: Traveling in an Emergency, Alton Phillips (New York University)

The Symbolic Struggle over HIV/AIDS: Circumscribing the Body Politic of Post-Apartheid South Africa, Claire Laurier Devos (University of Michigan)

The Route to Compliance: HIV Testing in Antenal Clinics in Rural Malawi, Nicole Angetti (University of Texas at Austin), Kim Yi Dione (University of California, Los Angeles), Lauren M. Gaydosh (University of Pennsylvania)

Discussant: Amy Kathleen Kaler (University of Alberta)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

12:30-2:10 Career Workshop. Careers in Medical Sociology (Co-Sponsored by the ASA Section on Medical Sociology)—Sheraton Boston

Session Organizer & Co-Leader: Carol A Caronna (Towson University)

Co-Leader: Deborah Glick (UCLA School of Public Health)

2:30-4:10 Section on Medical Sociology Council Meeting—Sheraton Boston

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

8:30-10:10 Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session. Emerging Forms of Evidence in Medicine and Population Health: Opportunities to Shed Light on the Contribution of Sociological Knowledge to Health—Sheraton Boston

Session Organizer: Allen M. Fremont (RAND Corporation)

Epidemiological “Ethics”: The Science of Health Disparities and Divergent Ways of Knowing, Janet K. Shin (University of California-San Francisco), Katherine Thomson (University of California-San Francisco)

Everything Old is New Again: Genetics, Professionalization, and

(Continued on page 3)
Public Health, Laura Senier (Brown University)
Hot or Not? Recognizing and Preparing for Climate-Induced Illnesses, Sabrina McCormick (University of Pennsylvania)
Multiplicities in Practice: Genes and Environments in Environmental Health Research, Sara N. Shostak (Brandeis University)

10:30-12:10 Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session.
From Illness Experience to Disease Outcome: Qualitative and Quantitative Contributions and Collaborations—Sheraton Boston
Session Organizer & Presider: Stefan Timmermans (University of California-Los Angeles)
Stress, Coping, and Resilience in Breast Cancer Treatment, Linda E. Francis (University of Akron), Kristin R. Baughman (NE OH University College of Medicine), Elizabeth E. Plati (Kent State University), Heidi Ewi-Cabonon (Summa Health System)
"I'm a walking eating disorder": Framing and Collective Identity in Eating Disorder Support Groups, Jessica Powers Koski (Northwestern University)
Mind the Gap: Gender Differences in Child Health, Valerie R. Leiter (Simmons College), Patricia P. Rieker (Boston University)
Toward a Sociology of Disease? Stefan Timmermans (University of California-Los Angeles), Steven Haas (Arizona State University)

2:30-4:10 Section on Medical Sociology Invited Session. What Medical Sociology Has to Contribute to Health Policy—Sheraton Boston
Session Organizer: Jill Quadagno (Florida State University)
Presider: Marc Dixon (Dartmouth College)
Using Data to Enable Stakeholders to Address Healthcare Disparities: Lessons from the National Health Plan Collaborative, Allen M. Fremont (RAND Corporation)
The Contributions of Medical Sociology to Health Services Research, Donald W. Light (University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey)
The Long Shadow of the Past: Risk Pooling and the Political Development of Health Care Reform in the States, Anthony S. Chen (University of California), Margaret Weir (University of California)
Can States Lead the Way to Universal Coverage? Benjamin Lennox-Kail, Marc Dixon (Dartmouth College), Jill Quadagno (Florida State University)

4:30-6:10 Section on Medical Sociology Invited Session. British Medical Sociology’s 40th Anniversary: Advances and Debates from Across the Pond—Sheraton Boston
Session Organizer & Presider: Patricia P. Rieker (Boston University)
Welfare, Wealth, or Health Care: What Impacts Individual Health across Advanced, Industrialized Nations? Sigrun Olafsdottir (Boston University), Jason Beckfield (Harvard University)
Would Single Payer Healthcare be the Panacea We Hope for in the US? Karen Lutfey (New England Research Institutes), Stephen M. Campbell (University of Manchester), Lisa D. Marceau, Martin Roland (University of Manchester), John McKinlay (New England Research Institutes)
Discussant: Jonathan Quetzal Tritter (University of Warwick)

6:30-8:10 Section on Medical Sociology Reception—Sheraton Boston

MONDAY, AUGUST 4
8:30-10:10 Section on Medical Sociology Refereed Roundtable Sessions—Sheraton Boston
Session Organizer: Brian Karl Finch (San Diego State University)
Table 01. Defining Health and Health Care
Caring for and about the Work We Do: Reflections on the Dialectics of Alienation and an Ethic of Care, Robin G. Lazerles (Borough of Manhattan Community)
Policy, Disadvantage, and the Value of the “Mentally Ill” Label, Kerry Michael Dobransky (Northwestern University)
Reiki: Illustrating Social Boundaries, Jennifer Jean Esala (University of New Hampshire)
The Birth of SIDS: The Socio-Medical Construction of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Susan W. Hinz (Case Western Reserve University), Robin Shura Patterson (Case Western Reserve University)
Table Presider: Susan W. Hinz (Case Western Reserve University)

Table 02. Gender & Health
Engendering and Gendering Illness: Men, Women, and Fibromyalgia, Annmarie S. van Altena (Loyola University Chicago)
Gender, Stress, and Self-Rated Health in the 2004-2006 Midlife Development in the U.S. Survey (MIDUS2), Michelle R. Walker (University of Colorado at Boulder)
Illness Narratives of Early Retired Finnish Women Suffering from Chronic Back Pain, Anniika Lintea Lilrank (University of Helsinki)
Table Presider: Anniika Lintea Lilrank (University of Helsinki)

Table 03. Global Health
Correlates of Self-Rated Health Status in the Context of Sri Lanka, Vani S Kulkarni (Harvard University), Veena Kulkarni (University of Maryland-College Park)
Self-Care Questions in Japanese OB/GYN Practices, Michie Kawashima (Saitama University)
Thai and American Doctors on Medical Ethics, 2004-2006: Religion, Regulation, and Ethics Across Borders, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
The Effect of Latrine Sanitation on Maternal and Infant Mortality in Ethiopia, Beza Enkenyelsh Ayalew (Denison University)
Table Presider: Beza Enkenyelsh Ayalew (Denison University)

Table 04. Health Behavior
Exploring Healthcare-Seeking Behavior in Vietnam, Dzung Thi Kieu Vu (Vietnam National University)
Health, Positive Health Behaviors, and Neighborhood Disorder: An Exploration of Perceptions of Specific Disorder Cues and

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(Continued from page 3)

their Changes Over Time, Danielle Marie Wallace (University of Chicago)
Race-Ethnicity, Gender, and Health Behavior Engagement between Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood, Adrienne Frech (The Ohio State University)
Stigma's Long-Term Impact: The Effects of Behaviors on Sanctions and their Impact on Well-being in Young Adulthood, Nathaniel Cole (University of Maryland, College Park)
Table Presider: Nathaniel Cole (University of Maryland, College Park)

Table 05. Health Care
Adding Fuel to the Fire: Where is Culture in the Structure-Agency Debate on Health Care? Rachel Elaine Bryant (Case Western Reserve University)
Canadian Family Physicians and Complementary/Alternative Medicine: The Effects of Work Setting, Education, and Provincial Policy, Kristine A. Hirshkorn (McMaster University), Robert Andersen (University of Toronto), Ivy Lynn Bourgeault (McMaster University)
Temporal Aspects of Remission: The Experiences of Patients Diagnosed with Lymphoma, Hilary Thomas (University of Hertfordshire), Julie Evans (University of Oxford), Sue Ziebland (University of Oxford)
The Effects of Physician's Attitude on Patient's Satisfaction with Medical Care, Joongbaeck Kim (University of Tennessee-Knoxville)
Table Presider: Joongbaeck Kim (University of Tennessee-Knoxville)

Table 06. Health Care Disparities
Ethnic Composition of Provider Practices and Disparities in Treatment of Depression and Anxiety, 1995-2005, Isabel T. Lagomasino (USC), Susan E. Stockdale (University of California-Los Angeles), Jeanné Miranda (UCLA Semel Institute Health Services Research Center)
Medicare Managed Care and Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities, Noah J. Webster (Case Western Reserve University)
Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Physician Visits: The Consequences of Age and Chronic Conditions, Ronica Nicole Roos (University of Colorado Denver)
Racial Ideology and Cultural Competence in Health Care, Jennifer Malat (University of Cincinnati)
Table Presider: Jennifer Malat (University of Cincinnati)

Table 07. Health Care Policy
Caring Labor, Intersectionality, and Worker Satisfaction: An Analysis of the National Nursing Assistant Study (NNAS), Carter Raskovski (California State University Fullerton), Kim Price
DTC Prescription Drug Advertising in a Global Context, Joshua Murray (State University of New York-Stony Brook)
New Health Geographies of Complementary, Alternative, and Traditional Medicines in Primary Health Care, Daniel Benjamin Hollenberg (McMaster University & University of Toronto), Ivy Lynn Bourgeault (McMaster University)
Pharmaceuticalizing Childhood: Ritalin Usage in France and the United States, Manuel Vallee (University of California-Berkeley)
Table Presider: Manuel Vallee (University of California-Berkeley)

Table 08. Health Perceptions
Alternative Health and the New Health Consciousness, Matthew L. Scheinov (Duquesne University)
Patients as Experts of their Own: A German Case Study of Body Techniques in Infertility Treatment, Charlotte Ulrich (Ruhr-University Bochum)
Table Presider: Charlotte Ulrich (Ruhr-University Bochum)

Table 09. Health Policy Analysis
A Comparative Analysis of Health Care Needs Of Housed- and Housing-Distressed High School Students, Yvonne M. Vissing (Salem State College)
Aberrant Access to Care in the Oregon Health Plan, Pooya Shawn-Darias Naderi (University of Kansas)
The Relationship Between News Coverage of Tobacco and Four ‘Quit-Relevant’ Behaviors, Katherine Clegg Smith (Johns Hopkins University), Catherine Siebel (University of Illinois-Chicago)
Specialty Care Utilization: The Importance of Examining Sequential Movements within the US Health Care System, Choon Lee (Arizona State University), Stephanie Ayers (Arizona State University), Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld (Arizona State University), Jemima Primpong (University of Pennsylvania), Patrick A. Rivers (Southern Illinois University), Sam Kim (Arizona State University)
Table Presider: Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld (Arizona State University)

Table 10. Health Workforce
Characteristics of African-American Male Caregivers in a Study of Oral Health in Detroit, Susan Reisine (University of Connecticut), Kristine J. Ajrouch (Eastern Michigan University), Sungho Lim (University of Michigan), Woosung Sohn (University of Michigan), Amid Ismail (University of Michigan)
The Significance of Workplace for Constructing Professional Roles and Relationships: An Analysis from Sport Medicine, Nancy Theberge (University of Waterloo)
Table Presider: Suzanne Coshow (Press Ganey Associates, Inc.)

Table 11. HIV and AIDS
Identities in Formation: A Study of AIDS Awareness and Beliefs among Women in Andhra Pradesh India, Tanni Chaudhuri (University of Miami), Tannis Henry Braddock (University of Miami)
(Continued from page 4)

Illinois University)
Table Presider: Robin D. Moremen (Northern Illinois University)

Table 12. Mental Health
Does Weight Change Lead to Higher Levels of Depression for Obese Individuals? Krista Marie Clark Cline (University of Missouri-Columbia), Michelle Rene Rainey (Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis), Rachel Smolenovac (Purdue University)
Insomnia and Mental Health as Gendered Co-Morbidities: Do Differences in Mental Health by Race and Gender Explain Differences in Insomnia? Lauren Elizabeth Hale (State University of New York-Stony Brook), D. Phuong Do (University of Michigan), Brian Karl Finch (San Diego State University), Ricardo Basurto (RAND), Melonic Heron (Centers for Disease Control), Tamara Dubowitz (RAND), Nicole Larie (RAND), Jose Escarce (UCLA), Teresa Seeman (UCLA), Chloe E. Bird (RAND)
Table Presider: Megan E. Gister (University of Michigan)

Table 13. Sexuality & Health
Health and Sexual Status in an Urban Gay Enclave: An Application of the Stress Process Model, Adam Isaiah Green (University of Toronto)
Health Lifestyle Behaviors among Southern Lesbians: The Roles of Social Support and Community Integration, Erika Laine Austin (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Jay Irwin (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
The Influence of the ABC HIV Prevention Strategy on the Social Normative Sexual Behavior of University Students in Uganda, Dorothy J. Kalanzi (Texas Women’s University), Ami Moore (University of North Texas), Sikora Okuru (Makerere University), James L. Williams
Table Presider: Dorothy J. Kalanzi (Texas Women’s University)

Table 14. Social Determinants of Health
Social Contact, Social Support, Social Integration, and All-Cause Mortality: A Meta-Analysis, David John Roelfs (Stony Brook University), Eran Shor (Stony Brook University)
Rural-Urban Differences in the Shape of the Socioeconomic Gradient in Health in China, Ke Liang (University of Pennsylvania)
Social Support, Quality of Support, and Depression, Jinwoo Lee (University of Texas at Austin)
Table Presider: Jinwoo Lee (University of Texas at Austin)

Table 15. Social Epidemiology
Differentiating Work-Related From Generalized Psychological Distress and Negative Affective Wellbeing, Bill Magee (University of Toronto)
Project-Induced Migration, Secondary Stressors, and Health: A Panel Analysis of Migrants of the Three Gorges Dam Project, China, Yue Cao (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Sean-Shong Huang (University of Alabama-Birmingham), Juan Xi (University of Alabama-Birmingham)
Socio-Economic Status and Occupational Differences in the Experience of Mortality, Jonathan H. Westover (University of Utah)
Table Presider: Jonathan H. Westover (University of Utah)

10:30-12:10 Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session.
Work, Care, and Health: How are Changes in Employment Policy, Technology, and the Workplace Affecting Health and Well-Being—Sheraton Boston
Session Organizer: Pamela Braboy Jackson (Indiana University)
Negative Behaviour in the British Workplace, Ralph Ferre (Cardiff University, UK), Duncan Lewis (Glamorgan University, UK), Amanda Robinson (Cardiff University, UK), Trevor Jones (Cardiff University, UK)
Workplace Violence in Community Care Group Homes: Management and Union Responses, Reuben Roth (Laurentian University)
Constraints on Care Work: Managed Care, Emotional Labor, and Psychological Burnout, Teresa L. Scheid (University of North Carolina-Charlotte)
Relationships Between Timing and Duration of Work Hours and Multiple Measures of Health, Sibyl Kleiner (Indiana University), Ilkka P. Pavaolo (Indiana University)
When Should I Work?: Work Sequencing, Financial Well-Being, and Mental Health, Pamela Braboy Jackson (Indiana University), Tiffani N. Saunders (Indiana University-Bloomington), Ryotaro Uemura (Indiana University)

12:30-1:30 Section on Medical Sociology Award Ceremony—Sheraton Boston

1:30-2:10 Section on Medical Sociology Business Meeting—Sheraton Boston

2:30-4:10 Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session.
Advances in Understanding the Contribution of Neighborhoods to Health and Health Disparities—Sheraton Boston
Session Organizer: Stephanie A. Robert (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Presider: Kathleen Anne Cagney (University of Chicago)
An Examination of Processes Linking Perceived Neighborhood Disorder and Obesity, Terrence D. Hill (University of Miami), Amy M. Burdette (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
Come Take a Walk with Me: The “Go-Along” Interview as a Novel Method for Studying the Implications of Place for Health and Well-being, Richard M. Carpiano (University of British Columbia)
Neighbourhood Interactions and Suicide in Stockholm: A Multilevel Study, Ka-yan Liu (Columbia University)
The Neighborhood Effect of Poverty on Adolescent Suicidal Behavior, Jon Gunnar Bernburg (University of Iceland), Thorolfur Thorlindsson (University of Iceland), Inga Dora Sigfusdottir (Reykjavik University)

Visit the ASA Medical Sociology Website at http://dept.kent.edu/sociology/asamedsoc/
Career & Employment

By Sara Shostak

With the annual meeting of the ASA before us, many of our colleagues are considering the job market. Of course, the most important advice you'll get in this process is from your mentors. However, below is a sample of resources that may be helpful to sociologists seeking, interviewing, and negotiating for new positions.

ASA's research brief on sociology faculty salaries, 2007-2008:
http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/ASA%20Salaries%20Brief%202007-08.pdf

ASA's salary trend data:

AAUP's data on faculty salaries (includes nine years of average faculty salaries at more than 1,300 institutions.):
http://chronicle.com/stats/aaup/

The Chronicle also offers a cost of living calculator:
http://chronicle.salary.com/

ASA provides overviews of issues of race, gender, and careers in Sociology:
http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/Minorities_Career_Pipeline.pdf

And a brief on the timing of reproduction and sociological careers:

For those of you (re)constructing your CVs:

For virtual companionship in your search, there are searchable advice columns at the Chronicle:

You may also share your experiences at the sociology rumor mill:
http://wikihost.org/wikis/academe/wiki/sociology

And compare notes and share information at the sociology job market wiki:
http://socrumormill2007.blogspot.com/

[NOTE: The above two sites are from last year's market, but should help you find 2008-2009 sites when they launch:

May you soon be negotiating a job offer! Here are negotiation tips from the Chronicle:

And Joseph Dumit of UC Davis:
http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/files/lqKqim/Job%20Negotiations%20Dummit.doc

Books that have been recommended to me re: negotiating include the following:


http://books.google.com/books?id=sjH3emOkClMC&dq=getting+to+yes&pg=PP1&ots=3j3H8Gu95&sig=QRWlY-E5UXatTPu5YJIDHDS3q&hl=en&prev=http://www.google.com/search%3Fq%3Dgetting%2Bto%2Byes%26ie%3DUTF-8%26oe%3DUTF-8%26sourceid%3DIE%7%26rlz%3D1I7SUNA%26sa=X%26oi=print%26ct=title%26cad=one-book-with-thumbnail

Best wishes!
Student News & Views

Makings of a Future Sociologist?

In the middle of working on this piece, my train of thought was interrupted — by the birth of my son, Walter. (Of course I had to mention this, right?) One of my fellow graduate students sent around his picture along with pictures of several notable sociologists, to each of which Walter bore a striking resemblance. (Think receding hairline, pudgy cheeks.) The subject of the message was “The Makings of a Future Sociologist?” As I contemplated this new beginning, I give thought to what makings were present in me as a future sociologist.

A driving interest of mine, before I even really knew what to call it, was the role that the social plays in the choices and actions of individuals. Individualist explanations have always seemed odd to me. Recently, for example, my home city has decided to employ gunshot-detecting microphones in certain neighborhoods — an attempt to “crack down” on those citizens who are shooting at other citizens. I recognize the appeal, but am continually disheartened that absent from the discussion (such as it is) is any consideration of the social factors that give rise to the perceived need for these microphones.

The microphones are based on the theory of the individual bad person; a theory, by the way, that must assume that no matter how bad things get, no matter how hopeless, we each must continue to conduct ourselves completely within the confines of civility and law. Of course, I am not excusing the act of shooting someone, but I am asking that we discuss the idea that, just maybe, the ways in which we all live our lives and the decisions we make that shape our communities, cities, and societies, might have something to do with rates of violence. These are factors that will be picked up by voice-detecting microphones, not gunshot-detecting ones. Moreover, the discussion and exploration of these factors takes work and sometimes-difficult introspection, neither of which would grab many headlines.

In my previous column, I wrote “It strikes a discordant tone for one to suggest that somehow, just by living our everyday lives the best we know how, we are contributing to patterns of health and illness that can be extremely difficult for an individual to overcome. Solutions to health problems are found in doctors’ offices and hospitals, not the sociologist’s office.” Replace health and illness and doctors and hospitals with any number of social ills and their associated offices and the same sentence can apply to just about anything.

Our society of so-called “rugged individualism” perhaps more easily accepts explanations for human behavior from other social and behavioral sciences because we can always exclude ourselves from those explanations. “People” may act a certain way, but “I” don’t. The problem with the sociological explanation is that a good one really never excludes anybody. It’s a difficult thing to be told that you’re part of the problem. On the other hand, a truly good social response never excludes anyone, either. To sound trite, we can all be part of the solution.

What brought me to sociology was a desire to see things changed for the better, especially concerning health and illness. Obviously I have my own views as to what “better” is. We all do. But my role for sociology is not in defining a singular, universal better. My role for sociology is to provide the knowledge and context necessary to have meaningful, informed discussions — the kind that lead to neighborhood renewal, rather than to gunshot microphones. I am not calling for us all to be activists, but we have to go further than simply publishing a finding and hoping that it catches the attention of someone who can do something about it. It seems to me that the practical usefulness of sociological research lies in thoughtful, contextual interpretation; being willing to tell policy makers, politicians, and the public when we think they’re wrong and when we think they’re right and back it up with evidence. It might be opinion and it might make some of us more political than we would otherwise be, but at least it would be informed opinion and informed politics, neither of which is ever a bad thing. I hope to raise Walter to expect no less.

FORTHCOMING BOOK SERIES

Social Disparities in Health and Health Care

Series Editors: Ronald Angel, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin; William Avison, Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario. Publisher: Springer.

Social Disparities in Health and Health Care series will publish books, both edited and authored, by leading researchers in the discipline. These books will consider issues at the forefront of research in medical sociology and the sociology of mental health in this burgeoning area of research. The objective of this series will be to highlight the leading research in these areas and to identify emerging issues for future sociological research on health and health care. The primary audience for this series will be sociologists with research interests in health, mental health, or health care. Books in this series will be valued resources that address contemporary issues and problems in health from a sociological perspective. They will make important contributions to theory and research in medical sociology and the sociology of mental health. Some potential ideas for volumes in this series include: identifying social sources of disparities in health and health care, understanding the causal processes that link disadvantage to health disparities, examining health disparities across the life course, understanding how variations in health perceptions and health behaviors influence health disparities, and investigations of methodological issues that arise in comparative research involving groups that differ greatly in culture, education, and income, as well as demographic and disease profiles. It is recommended that you contact the series editors with your ideas first before submitting a proposal: William Avison (wavison@uwo.ca); Ronald Angel (rangel@mail.la.utexas.edu).

Visit the ASA Medical Sociology Website at http://dept.kent.edu/sociology/asamedsoc/
BOOK RAFFLE SOLICITATION!

The time has come, once again, to consider donating a book to the ASA Medical Sociology Section’s Annual Book Raffle. You may contribute your own (people often have extra copies of books they have written) or extra copies of other people's books that you may have received. **PLEASE, CURRENT TITLES ONLY AND NO TEXTBOOKS.**

Remember, these donations are going to a worthy cause—to provide support for the Leo G. Reeder and Roberta G. Simmons Awards. Please send your donated copies to: Sarah Burgard, Raffle Chair, University of Michigan, Department of Sociology, 3001 LSA Building, 500 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1382. If you have any questions about potential donations, please contact me at burgards@umich.edu. Please send books by **July 25, 2008** so that I can transport them to the ASA meeting. Thank you for your generous support.

~Sarah Burgard

THANKS TO CURRENT STUDENT EDITOR AND CALL FOR NEW STUDENT EDITOR

We want to thank William A. Anderson for his thoughtful “Student News and Views” columns this past year, and wish him the very best in his future career.

We are now soliciting applications from graduate students who might want to hold this position for 2008-2009. This is a wonderful opportunity for a graduate student to become visible to members of the section and to contribute her or his ideas in the form of four columns in the *Medical Sociology Newsletter*. If you are interested in the position, please send an email to Robin Moremen, Editor, at rmoremen@niu.edu. Please address the following questions in your email:

1. Why are you interested in this position?
2. What are some of your ideas for the "Student News and Views" column?
3. How might these ideas increase student interest in the Medical Sociology section?