American Sociological Association
SECTION ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF POPULATION

Newsletter
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Hello Population Section Members –

I am happy to be serving as Chair of our section this year. As you can tell from the flow of emails, we have been busy getting sessions organized for ASA and selecting committees for next year. I was impressed by the commitment and service minded nature of our members. When I sent a call out for volunteers, I was surprised by the number of members who offered to help out and with the section. Everyone I asked generously agreed to serve on committees. If you were not selected, no worries there will be plenty to do next year.

We are working hard to improve communication with our members. I want to thank Nan Johnson for putting together this newsletter. You will continue to receive emails with member announcements and job postings. I will continue to make clear in the subject line when job postings are being mailed out. We are also working on updating the web page so stay tuned for developments.

Thanks for our outgoing chair, Larry Wu, and council members, Richard Alba and Lynne Casper. We are also grateful for the service provided by Andrew London for organizing the roundtables at ASA and to Michel Guillot, Kelly Musick, Megan Sweeney for organizing sessions. We are also thankful for the hard work of our committee selecting graduate student papers Kelly Raley (chair), Elizabeth Frankenberg and Jeffrey Morenoff.

We are excited about the three 2009 awards sponsored by our section. Please be sure to participate by nominating papers and books. Also, encourage your students to apply for the student award. We appreciate the members who will be serving on the award committees: Suzanne Bianchi, Lynne Casper, Christine Himes, Craig St. John, Elizabeth Frankenberg, Jeffrey Morenoff, Elizabeth Fussell, Lori Hunter, Michael Hout, Dennis Hogan, Jeralynn Cossman, and Liana Sayer.

A hardworking committee will be the nominations committee. This committee consists of John Iceland (chair), Irma Elo, Patricia Bell, and Sarah Burgard. They will be seeking a new president, secretary/treasurer, two council members, and a graduate student representative for the council. Please consider nominating your colleagues or volunteering for these positions.

We are excited about the Population Section sessions for the 2009 Annual Meeting in San Francisco (August 8-11). Remember the deadline for submitting papers is January 14, 2009. Thanks to the Council for your topical suggestions and to Paul Amato, Carolyn Liebler, Frank Furstenberg and Amanda Baumele for agreeing to organize sessions.

I would like to close with a warm welcome to Robert A. Hummer our incoming president and our new Council members Sara R. Curran and Elizabeth Frankenberg.

~ Wendy Manning
The winner of the 2008 Best Graduate Student Paper Award is Mr. Donhoon Lee, who recently graduated from the Ph.D. program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is now at Princeton University on a postdoctoral fellowship. The title of his winning paper is: “The Early Socioeconomic Effects of Teenage Childbearing: A Propensity Score Matching Approach.” The abstract is immediately below. For a full copy of this manuscript, please contact Dr. Lee at the following email address: dohoonl@princeton.edu.

Here’s the abstract of Dr. Lee’s winning paper:

Despite a 30-year debate about the socioeconomic effects of teenage childbearing, finding its “true” effect still has been elusive. This concern stems from (1) theoretical considerations of early motherhood as a harmful event and/or its higher likelihood among disadvantaged young women and (2) methodological challenges against selection bias. Alternative models have been developed but tend to rely on strong assumptions and unrepresentative samples. This paper extends this literature by taking a counterfactual approach using propensity score matching, conducting a sensitivity analysis employing Rosenbaum bounds to address selection bias on unobserved covariates, and using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. The results show that: teen mothers’ pre-existing disadvantages play a nontrivial role and that teen motherhood has significantly negative effects on early socioeconomic outcomes with the exception of public-assistance receipt. The sensitivity analysis suggests that selection bias due to unobserved covariates would have to be very powerful to nullify these findings. Theoretical, methodological, and policy implications are discussed.

Below, Dr. Kelly Raley congratulates Dr. Lee at join Population - Family reception.
**Announcement of New Section Officers**

The election of three new section officers began in August, 2008, with a closing date of September 12, 2008. Congratulations to Bob Hummer of the University of Texas at Austin for becoming the Chair-Elect of our Section and to Sara Curran of the University of Washington and Elizabeth Frankenberg of Duke University for being elected to Council.

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**Announcement of New Committee Memberships**

The new members of the Book Award Committee are: Suzanne Bianchi, chair (one year), Lynne Casper (one year), Christine Himes (two years), and Craig St. John (two years).

The new members of the Nominations Committee are: John Iceland, chair (one year), Irma Elo (one year), Patricia Bell (two years), and Sarah Burgard (two years).

The continuing members of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee are Elizabeth Frankenberg, chair (one year) and, Jeffrey Morenoff (one year), and the new members are Elizabeth Fussell (2 years), and Lori Hunter (2 years).

The continuing members of the Committee for the Award for Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship in Population are Michael Hout, chair (one year) and Dennis Hogan (one year), and the new members are Jeralynn Cossman (2 years), and Liana Sayer (2 years).

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**ASA 2009 Proposed Sessions**

**Round Table:**
Organizer: Amanda Baumle

**Invited Session** (Co-Sponsored with Family Section):
Marriage in the Millennium: Papers Honoring Steve Nock's Scholarship
Organizer: Paul Amato

**Open Sessions:**
Using Complex Race Data in Population Studies
Organizer: Carolyn Liebler

The Demography of Young Adulthood
Organizer: Frank Furstenberg
**2009 Otis Dudley Duncan Award**

**Call for Nominations**

The Section on Sociology of Population announces a call for nominations for the 2009 Otis Dudley Duncan Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Social Demography. The Award will be presented to the author(s) of a recent book that has made significant contributions to social demography. Books published in the last three calendar years (2005-2008) will be considered. The Duncan committee for the 2009 award consists of Suzanne Bianchi (Chair), Lynne Casper, Christine Himes, and Craig St. John.

Please send nominations by email to the Committee Chair, with copies to the other Committee members. Send copies of nominated books to all four Committee members. Nominations and books should be sent by February 15, 2009.

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**Award for Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship in Population**

**Call for Nominations**

The Sociology of Population Section seeks nominations for an award recognizing an outstanding published article in demography or population studies by a sociologist. The nomination deadline is April 10, 2009.

To be eligible, articles must have a 2007, 2008 or 2009 publication date. Self-nominations are accepted. Accompany nominations with a short letter explaining the significance of the work and its contribution to the sociology of population.

Send nominating letters-mail and an electronic copy of the article by email to:  
Michael Hout, University of California, Department of Sociology, 410 Barrows Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-1980; e-mail: mihout@berkeley.edu.
Sociology of Population Section Student Paper Award

Call for Nominations

The Sociology of Population Section announces the call for papers for the Student Paper Award in social demography. The deadline for submission is May 1, 2009. This award consists of a certificate and support for travel expenses to attend the 2009 ASA meeting in Boston. The following are criteria for submission:

1. The unpublished or published paper can be sole-authored or have multiple student authors. While there is no page limit, papers should be concise and focused. This is not a dissertation award competition. No faculty co-authors are allowed.

2. All authors must be currently enrolled in graduate school or have completed their Ph.D. degrees on or after May 1, 2007.

3. The paper must use a sociological perspective to address an issue of relevance to contemporary demography, broadly defined. Purely technical papers are not eligible.

4. The paper need not be on the ASA program.

5. Membership in the Population Section of the ASA is not a requirement for this award.

6. The cover page of the paper should include a title and an abstract, but should have no other identifying information, such as name, university affiliation, address, or acknowledgements. A single copy of a cover paper containing the author’s name, affiliation, address, and other identifying information should be included. The paper should be submitted on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper either via email or by surface mail postmarked by the deadline date.

Send your paper and the name and telephone number of the registrar of your degree-granting university to:

Chair of the Student Paper Award Committee, Elizabeth Frankenberg
Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy
Duke University
Box 90239, Durham NC 27708-0239
Email e.frankenberg@duke.edu
Minutes of 2008 Council Meeting

August 2, 2008, Sheraton Boston Hotel

Council Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Wu at 12:35 PM.

10 present: 9 Council Members (Richard Alba, Karin Brewster, Lynne Casper, Irma Elo, Nan Johnson, Wendy Manning, Kelly Raley, Pamela Smock, Larry Wu) and 1 Council candidate (Robert Hummer)

Larry Wu announced that the Nominations Committee, consisting of Larry Wu, Wendy Manning, and Nan Johnson, met at the PAA conference in New Orleans in April, 2008, and established a slate of nominees (with acceptances) of standing committees. Two standing committees and their members are:

1. Graduate Student Paper Award: Kelly Raley (Chair, 1 year term); Jeff Morenoff (2-year-term), and Elizabeth Frankenberg (2-year term).

2. Paper Award: Michael Hout (Chair); Sonalde Desai; Dennis Hogan.

There were very few submissions for the Best Paper Award, and this Committee chose not to make an award in 2008.

There will be no Book Award this year.

There will be an election in Fall 2008 for a new Chair-Elect to replace Wendy Manning, who will take over as Chair in Fall 2008, and for two new members of Council to replace Lynne Casper and Richard Alba, whose terms are ending. Candidates for Chair-Elect are Robert Hummer and Nancy Landale. Candidates for Council are Sara Curran, Elizabeth Frankenberg, Michael Spittel, and Zhenchao Qian.

Kelly Raley, Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Committee, reported it had received 21 submissions. The Committee concurred that the winning paper, authored by Dr. Dohoon Lee, is of very high quality (see related story below).

Discussion arose about how long following the completion of the Ph.D. degree would someone remain eligible for the Graduate Student Paper Award. Larry Wu put forward the motion that: “The Graduate Student Paper Award will have a two-year window of opportunity.” The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Discussion arose about how long following its publication date would a book be eligible for the Book Award. It was moved that: “A book will be eligible for the Book Award for three years following publication.” The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Secretary-Treasurer Nan Johnson reported on the financial status and membership of this Section. As of now, the Section had about $8,600 dollars in its treasury as of May 24, 2008. We are sharing costs of hosting a joint reception with the Section on the Sociology of the Family. Our share will be $1300, and so we will have $7300 left after this event. We are planning on 150 people at the joint reception, held on August 3, 2008.

Nan Johnson reported that the membership of our Section stands at 430 people, which are about 100 people fewer than the Section on Aging and the Life Course (SALC). If we want to gain one additional paper session at this conference, we will need to increase our membership to 600.
Following a short break after the Council Meeting, Chairman Larry Wu convened the Business Meeting at the Sheraton Boston Hotel on August 2, 2008. Fourteen section members were present.

Larry Wu announced that, given the present size of our membership, the Section has three sessions at the annual meetings. We have been using these slots as two sessions for papers and one session for a roundtable discussion. Discussion followed about whether we want to keep the three slots defined as they are now.

Andrew London recommended that we keep the roundtable. Graduate students try to get their papers on it. It is important to have a senior demographer to chair the table so that the graduate student at least gets that interaction. At the roundtable held in Boston, there were three presenters and one presider who did not show up. London did not formally book himself as a presider so that he would be free to cover “emergency tables.” Some tables break up in a hurry, while some stay to the end. There is no limit to the number of tables we can schedule! London got 25 manuscripts the day before his slate was due at the ASA Executive Office.

Larry Wu: There were two “regular” sessions that were really demographic in their topic (one on Mortality and one on Fertility), but they were not formally credited to our Section.

Wendy Manning: Is there any “burning” issue to which to allocate a session at the 2009 meetings?

Pam Smock: I think a joint session is proposed with family to recognize Steve Nock’s work on the institution of marriage.

Larry Wu: We could have a panel discussion on Census issues, since it will be the last ASA conference before the 2010 Census.

Lynne Caspar: We may get that as an extra (general) session.

Larry Wu: We could have a session focused on longitudinal surveys that have reached “benchmarks.”

The discussion shifted to the problem that the Business Meeting had approval several years ago the addition of a graduate student to our Section Council but that this has never been acted upon. Consensus arose that this year, we’ll have two graduate students run for a two-year position on our Council; and one will be elected. Then next year, we will have two more graduate students run for Council; and one will be elected. That way, we will have end up with two graduate students on Council, one new and one rotating off. The Nominations Committee will handle the recruitment of graduate students to run for Council.

Meeting adjourned.