Message from the Chair

Dear Family Section Members:

Thanks to all of you for your participation in the exciting Family Section sessions and roundtables at the San Francisco meetings. The San Francisco meetings will be a tough act to follow, but thanks to your suggestions, we have a very promising lineup for 2010. We have five regular sessions in addition to the roundtables scheduled for the meetings in Atlanta, GA, August 14-17. Family Day is the first day of the meetings. By tradition, one of our sessions is co-sponsored by the Sociology of Population Section. The joint session comes from our allocation this year, and next year Population will “owe” us a session.

Our regular sessions will be: “Class and Race-Ethnic Variation in Family Life” (Andrew London), “Couple Relationships in Comparative Perspective” (Elizabeth Thomson), “Families and Health” (joint with Sociology of Population, Margot Jackson), “Families and the Economic Recession” (Judith Levine), and “Families in Later Life (J. Jill Suitor). This year we are fortunate to have co-organizers for the roundtables: Jessica Halliday Hardie and Christine Percheski.

The topics reflect the Section’s broad interests and the diverse methods we use to study families. Thanks to these organizers for helping us showcase family sociology at the upcoming meetings. The organizers need you to do your part too. Please consider submitting papers for these sessions. ASA will post the full Call for Papers soon. Submissions can begin Dec. 1, and the deadline for submitting is Jan. 13, 2010.

As I work through the ASA list of tasks for Section Chairs, I am mindful of how many of these tasks require members to invest in public goods. In other words, many of the Chair’s duties are to ask other members to do work! The ongoing Section officers have contributed their time and skills in many ways. I am grateful to these officers who recently completed their terms: Dan Lichter (Chair), Laura Ann Sanchez (Secretary-Treasurer), Council members Sanjiv Gupta and Liana Sayer, and Student Representative Dawn Norris. We are fortunate that Sanjiv has agreed to stay on as Webmaster. I also thank Jay Wills who just stepped down after three years as our Listserv Administrator. I am delighted that Mary Noonan agreed to stay on as Newsletter Editor or else I would not be writing this column! I know the other members of the Section join me in thanking these colleagues for their generous investment in the section.

And on the topic of the Listserv, I used it recently to let you know that Jacinta Bronte-Tinkew resigned from her position as Secretary-Treasurer as a condition of her new job as a Scientific Review Officer at NIH. We wish Jacinta well at NIH. The Council and I feel extremely fortunate that Chris Knoester accepted appointment to the office of Secretary-Treasurer. We are now back to our full complement of officers.

Congratulations to our new officers: Jay Teachman (Chair-elect), Lisa Pearce and Mignon Moore (Council), and Caroline Sten Hartnett (Student Representative). I look forward to working with all of them.

The election cycle continues even though we are just now congratulating our new officers. Molly Martin (mmartin@pop.psu.edu) is chairing this year’s Nominations Committee. Please send her nominations for the positions: Chair-Elect, Council Member, and Student Representative. Other Section Members are contributing by serving on our three awards committees: Distinguished Scholar Award, William J. Goode Book Award, and the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. The Call for Nominations for these awards is included in this issue of the newsletter. Please consider sending nominations. The details and deadlines are included in the Call.

I realize that much of my column has been about thanking people, but since I have become Section Chair I have spent much of my time asking people to do things for the Section and having them say yes. It is an honor to serve a Section where so many members are willing to devote themselves to working for the collectivity.

Best wishes,

Judith Seltzer
Chair, Family Section
UCLA, seltzer@soc.ucla.edu
2009 William J. Goode Book Award Winner:

**Pamela Stone**, Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York

**Book:** Opting Out? Why Women Really Quit Careers and Head Home (University of California Press, 2007)

Award Committee: Paula England (chair), Duane Alwin, Marjorie DeVault, Gayle Kaufman, Hiromi Ono, and Liana Sayer

Noting a phenomenon that might seem to recall a previous era, *The New York Times Magazine* recently portrayed women who leave their careers in order to become full-time mothers as "opting out."

But, are high-achieving professional women really choosing to abandon their careers in order to return home?

This provocative study is the first to tackle this issue from the perspective of the women themselves. Based on a series of candid, in-depth interviews with women who returned home after working as doctors, lawyers, bankers, scientists, and other professions, Pamela Stone explores the role that their husbands, children, and coworkers play in their decision; how women's efforts to construct new lives and new identities unfold once they are home; and where their aspirations and plans for the future lie. What we learn—contrary to many media perceptions—is that these high-flying women are not opting out but are instead being pushed out of the workplace. Drawing on their experiences, Stone outlines concrete ideas for redesigning workplaces to make it easier for women—and men—to attain their goal of living rewarding lives that combine both families and careers.

2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Winner:

**Daniel Schneider**, Princeton University

**Paper:** Wealth and The Marriage Divide

Award Committee: Daniel Lichter (chair), Jennifer Glick, Stefanie Mollborn, and Christopher Wildeman

Marriage patterns have changed dramatically in the United States since the 1960s as exemplified by increasingly older ages at first marriage and the emergence of large disparities in marriage entry by race and class. Daniel Schneider, a graduate student at Princeton University, identifies a novel explanation for these two puzzles in his paper “Wealth and The Marriage Divide.” Drawing on theory from historical demography and current qualitative sociological research, he develops the idea that wealth plays an important role in the marriage formation process. Schneider uses event history models with three sources of longitudinal data to find evidence that asset ownership has become an increasingly important predictor of first marriage across recent cohorts, that differential asset ownership helps to explain gaps in marriage by race and education, and that though wealth is a positive predictor of marriage for men and women, it is valued differently by gender. Schneider concludes that wealth is primarily valued in marriage for its symbolic rather than its signaling or use value.
Congratulations 2009 Family Section Award Winners

2009 Distinguished Career Award Winner:
Harriet B. Presser, University of Maryland-College Park
Award Committee: Philip Cohen (chair), Michelle Budig, Karin Brewster, Bill Marsiglio, and Michael Rosenfeld

By Philip Cohen

Harriet Presser is one of the preeminent researchers in the area of sociology now known as Gender, Work and Family. But it was in fact her work that helped to define that area, to shape that research agenda from the 1970s to the present day. As David Maume wrote in Contemporary Sociology, she “examined the poor fit between work and family obligations long before the idea of work-family conflict entered academic and public discourse.”

Harriet received a Masters degree from UNC Chapel Hill, and a Ph.D. from Berkeley. Her first faculty appointment was in Public Health at Columbia, and her early work concerned fertility and family planning, birth control and sterilization, which was the subject of her dissertation on Puerto Rico. A review of her many published articles shows a path from teen motherhood and pregnancy to work and family, focusing on welfare, work and family formation. She also studied child care challenges for working women and families.

In 1983 she had the rare distinction among sociologists of publishing an article in the journal Science – on the issue of shift work among dual-earner couples. The high rates of shift work among spouses with children had gone largely unnoticed as women’s labor force participation increased. The nurses, waitresses, sales workers and telephone operators of the 1970s and 80s were on the leading edge of the nascent 24-hour economy that would reshape modern family life.

At the end of the article in Science she sketched out a research agenda that read in part, “what are the motivations for shift work among couples with children? what is the quality of child care in shift work households? what are the quality and stability of marriages among shift work couples compared with others?

In fact, each of these questions has become the subject of important research as we attempt to come to terms with the simultaneous effects of the growing service economy, dual earner couple employment, cultural trends in parenting and, always, struggles for gender equality at work and at home.

In the subsequent years Harriet built a career for herself at the University of Maryland, serving as the founding director of its Center on Population, Gender, and Social Inequality in 1988, now the Maryland Population Research Center. Last year, an award was established in her name by the PAA, to honor scholars with distinguished careers in research on gender and demographic issues.

This is a small sampling of her many research activities, leaving aside her countless contributions to the universities, professional associations, advisory boards, study panels and journals that make possible so much of our work. And the students whom she has advised along the way. In recognition of these contributions and achievements, we are delighted to name Harriet the winner of the 2009 Distinguished Career Award.
## Family Sessions at the 2010 ASA Meeting in Atlanta

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![Image of a crowded area in Atlanta]
Call for Nominations for 2010 Section Awards

Attention all Section Members! Please consider submitting nominations for our three annual section awards. Award winners will be honored at the 2010 ASA meeting in Atlanta.

**Distinguished Career Award.** This award is designed to recognize the collective career or major service contribution of a sociologist’s work in the field of sociology of the family. The award recognizes the entire body of the person's work, not just one publication. Major service to the field is defined as those developments that have made a substantial impact on research on the family. The deadline is **March 1, 2010**, and requires only that you send a paragraph description justifying the nomination. The person's CV is helpful but not necessary. Please send nominations to Michelle Budig (email: budig@soc.umass.edu).

**William J. Goode Book Award.** This award is for a book published on the family in 2008 or 2009. To nominate a book, write a letter briefly stating why the book should be considered. Self nominations are appropriate. Textbooks and edited volumes are not eligible. The deadline is **January 15, 2010**. Please send nominations to Daniel Lichter (email: dtl28@cornell.edu).

**Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award.** Graduate students are invited to submit a paper to be considered for the best graduate student paper on the family. The paper may be completed work or work-in-progress, but should not be a proposal for future work. The paper should be article length, and can be based on a Master's or Doctoral thesis, course paper, or a paper submitted to a journal or conference. Co-authored papers are acceptable if all authors are students, but the prize must be shared. Send the paper by **March 31, 2010** via email to Judith Seltzer (email: seltzer@soc.ucla.edu).

Renewing or joining the Family Section is easy!

Just complete the ASA membership form online at http://www.asanet.org or return the form via regular mail. Check the box next to the “Family Section” on the form. Section Dues are just $12 per year ($5.00 for student members).
Job Opportunities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is seeking an Associate Service Fellow to work with the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) Team. NCHS is the Nation's principal health statistics agency. One of the eight centers and institutes that comprise CDC, NCHS's mission is to compile accurate, relevant, and timely statistical information to guide actions and policies that improve the health of the Nation. Applications will be accepted through December 10, 2009. Interested applicants should submit their curriculum vitae, official transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate credits, and three reference letters to: Stephanie Ventura, Chief, Reproductive Statistics Branch, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 7418, Hyattsville, MD 20782. Inquiries or questions regarding this fellowship can be directed to Mrs. Ventura at sventura@cdc.gov.

The Department of Policy Analysis and Management in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University is seeking an Assistant, Associate or Full Professor in Demography or Population Studies. The position will involve 50% research and 50% teaching in demography or population studies. Screening of applications begins November 1, 2009 and continues until the position is filled. Send vita, samples of written work, and three letters of recommendation to: Richard V. Burkhauser and Daniel T. Lichter, Co-Chairs, Demography Search Committee, Mailbox 32, Department of Policy Analysis & Management, 119 MVR Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4401.

The Department of Policy Analysis and Management in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University is seeking an Assistant, Associate or Full Professor in Child and Family Policy. The position will involve 50% research and 50% teaching in child and family policy. Application deadline is November 10, 2009 or until position is filled. Those with any questions should contact Rachel Dunifon, Search Committee Chair, at red26@cornell.edu. For consideration, please send resume, samples of research, and three letters of recommendation to: Rosemary Avery, Department Chair, Mailbox 33, Department of Policy Analysis & Management, 119 MVR Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4401.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University invites nominations and applications for the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology. The assistant professor of sociology will be expected to teach introduction to sociology, introduction to social services, and social welfare policy and services. In addition, the successful candidate is expected to be an active member of the department and university community by serving on committees, advising students, and engaging in research. Screening of applications began October 5, 2009. A complete application consists of a letter addressing the qualifications cited above; a curriculum vitae; and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of at least three professional references. Applications and nominations should be sent to: Dr. Nancy Malcom, Search Chair, Search #56659, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Georgia Southern University, P. O. Box 8051, Statesboro GA 30460-8051.

(Note: Members are also advised to look for job opportunities in the ASA Job Bank: http://jobbank.asanet.org/jobbank/index.cfm).
Miscellaneous News

Conferences


**Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference.** Theme: Economic Crisis and New Social Realities. Date: March 18-21, 2010. Location: Boston, MA. For more information, go to: http://essnet.org/AnnualMeeting_Call.aspx


Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards

**2010 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship.** This scholarship was created to honor Beth Hess’s career and significant sociological scholarship on sex and gender, aging, and social inequality. The $3,500 scholarship will be awarded to a sociology doctoral student who began her or his career at a community college. For further information contact Denise Copelton at: dcopelto@brockport.edu. The application deadline is March 31, 2010.

**ASA’s Sociology of Emotions Section’s Recent Contribution Award.** Nominations are being sought for the most outstanding book published in the last three years that advances the sociology of emotions empirically, theoretically, or methodologically. Send nominations to Jennifer Lois (email: jennifer.lois@wwu.edu) by February 1, 2010.

To learn more about the ASA Family Section, visit our homepage at: http://www2.asanet.org/sectionfamily/
Book Corner: New Books by Family Section Members*

By Stella R. Quah
For more on this book, go to: http://www.routledgeasianstudies.com/books/Families-in-Asia-isbn9780415455701

This book discusses families in ten countries, four in East Asia (Japan, China, Hong Kong, and South Korea) and six in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) focusing on the most important aspects of family life today. These aspects are: the relevance of marriage and parenthood in family formation, ageing and the transmission of values, gender issues, divorce and conflict resolution, and pressures that socio-economic development imposes on families. Stella Quah discusses these themes from three perspectives: historical, conceptual and comparative. Using a comparative perspective she brings together data and studies from ten nations in East and Southeast Asia to identify main trends in the region. As far as permitted by available data, the policy implications of findings are highlighted and discussed. This book is relevant for social scientists, policymakers, family researchers, university students, and readers interested in the impact of socio-economic development in Asia.

(*Note: This section includes book announcements. Member-written discussions of new books may appear in future newsletters.*)