History of Sociology in Las Vegas

Message from the Chair

Gary Alan Fine, Northwestern University

This is my final report as the Chair of the History of Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association. I hope that most of you will be able to attend some of our sessions at the Las Vegas meeting. Despite the change in time and venue, we were able to organize a set of provocative and important sessions, even though some of our more exciting plans had to be postponed for a future year.

For the 2011 meetings we were permitted to organize three sessions. One of these is our own session on the legacy of Karl Mannheim. A second one-hour open paper session was permitted because we decided not to hold a section council meeting. The final session is a special thematic session, approved by the ASA Program Committee on “Engaging War: Sociologists Confront National Conflict.”

Our business meeting will be held on Saturday, August 20, at 11:30 until 12:10. I hope that many of you will attend. Finally we are sponsoring a joint reception on Saturday evening at 6:30 with the Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section. The location will be announced in the program.

I am also pleased to announce our election results. As of this meeting, Richard Swedberg of Cornell University will be Chair-Elect, Erik Scheiderhan of the University of Toronto will be the section’s Secretary/Treasurer; Jeffrey Olick of the University of Virginia and Marcel Fournier of the Université de Montréal will serve on the section’s Council, and Michael Bare of the University of Chicago was elected as the Student Representative on the Council. I appreciate all of the candidates who stood for these close elections, and I am confident that many of these colleagues will have the opportunity to serve the section in the future. I thank Neil Gross, Neil McLaughlin, Vera Zolberg, and Craig Calhoun (ex officio) for serving on the nominations committee.

Perhaps the most important proposal this year resulted in the decision of the section’s Council to ask Michael Hill and Mary Jo Deegan to prepare a history of the section. Ironically, given our shared interest in disciplinary history, no organized records of the section are available. I am grateful to the Hill/Deegan team for their willingness to take on this task, which is scheduled to be completed during this year.

At the present moment the greatest challenge facing the section is to ensure that the section continues to have over 200 members by September 30. As of July 31, we stood at 190. While we will gain some members during ASA, we will need to make sure that we reach that magic 200 number and then to keep it when ASA dues substantially increase for 2013 membership. If you know of

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Sessions

History of sociology in Las Vegas

Section Meetings

Business/Council Meeting (including awards presentation)
Saturday, August 20
11:30 am to 12:10 pm
Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Reception
Saturday, August 20
Jointly hosted with Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT)
6:30 pm to 8:10 pm
Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Saturday, August 20

Ideology and Utopia at 75: A Classic-in-Translation and its Chicago Roots
8:30 am to 10:10 am
Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Discussant: Harvey S. Goldman (University of California-San Diego)
Organizer & Presider: Charles Camic (Northwestern University)
Peter Baehr (Lingnan University), “The Problem of ‘Unmasking’ in Ideology and Utopia”
Robert Antonio (University of Kansas), “Ideology and Utopia: Then and Now”

Open Topic on the History of Sociology
10:30 am to 11:30 pm
Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Presider: Gary Alan Fine (Northwestern University)
Organizer: Lawrence T. Nichols (West Virginia University)
Alexandra Maryanski (University of California-Riverside), “Emile Durkheim and Robertson Smith: And The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life”

A mystery story involves a cast of characters, and a reconstruction of events to uncover just what happened, who did what, why and how. In Durkheim’s case history, there is a long-standing mystery over why he became so obsessively interested in religion and the decisive event that opened his eyes to the all important role that religion played in social life. Durkheim never disclosed the details of this remarkable something, but he did leave beyond one compelling piece of evidence---the public disclosure in 1907 of a “revelation” he had in 1895 that, he said forced him to rethink all his earlier research so it would be in harmony with his new insights. And, in Durkheim’s eyes, the scholar most responsible for this sea change in his thinking was William Robertson Smith? Did Robertson Smith play the pivotal role in Durkheim’s fundamental shift to religion? And, if so, what did Durkheim find in Smith’s work on religion that had such profound consequences?

Daniel Robert Huebner (University of Chicago), “In Reference To G. H. Mead: Tracing the Development of a Foundational Social Theorist”

George Herbert Mead, although a philosopher himself, is primarily referred to in contemporary scholarship by sociologists. This has not always been the case, rather it is the result of a transformation in the predominant understandings of his work in the first half of the twentieth century. Utilizing a uniquely constructed dataset, which includes informal references as well as formal citations, this paper traces the shifts in the legacy of G. H. Mead in American academic disciplines. I build on scholarship in the sociology of knowledge and the history of sociology in demonstrating that the dominant understanding of Mead is the result of identifiable social practices of interpretation and reference. In particular, this analysis highlights the importance of social institutions and personal relationships in determining patterns of knowledge transfer.

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Peter Beilharz (La Trobe University), “Jean Craig and the Factory Girls: Jean Martin’s Industrial Sociology, 1947-50”

Jean Martin (née Craig) is known to us primarily for her work on multiculturalism and The Migrant Presence (1978). Her prehistory contains some interesting surprises. Craig was a pioneer industrial sociologist, conducting careful research work in a Sydney lingerie factory in 1950. This, as her earlier rural work, was brokered by her mentor and teacher A P Elkin. It dovetails with her theoretical interests in the work of Durkheim, Mayo and Warner on industrial solidarity and her own curiosity, via her work with Shils, on primary groups.

Business/Council Meeting (including awards presentation)
11:30 am to 12:10 pm
Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Roundtable: History of Ideas and Trends
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Sponsored by Science, Knowledge and Technology
Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Presider: Hector Vera (New School for Social Research)
Athena Engman (University of Toronto), “The Importance of Metaphor for the Commodification of Scientific Objects: ‘Codes,’ ‘Information,’ and Genetic Property Rights”
Stephanie Lee Mudge (University of California-Davis), “Whither the Counter-Movement? Hayek, Polanyi, and the Politics of No Alternative”

Thomas J. Burns (University of Oklahoma) & Tom W Boyd (University of Oklahoma), “Science and Its Discontents: An Ecological Look at the Scientific Enterprise”

History of Sociology/Social Thought
4:30 pm - 6:10 pm
Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Organizer: Neil G. McLaughlin (McMaster University)
Daniel Robert Huebner (University of Chicago), “Dental Hypnotism, or the Story of George Herbert Mead’s First Article”

A newly discovered article concerned addressing the topic of hypnotic suggestion as a dental anesthetic, given as a talk by George Herbert Mead to a state dental association, is utilized to pose new research questions concerning Mead’s intellectual development and the state of the dental profession in late nineteenth century United States. This paper finds that debates about hypnotism and other experimental anesthetic techniques were central to battles over the professionalization of dentistry brought about by challenges from popular faith cures. Mead’s particular interstitial position and unique early intellectual concerns as a physiological psychologist help explain the seeming eccentricities of what is now his earliest known journal article. The unique intersection between debates in dentistry and Mead’s philosophy rapidly diverged as professionalization dynamics closed discussion on experimental anesthetics and Mead’s self-development led him away from the position taken in his 1894 talk on hypnotism.

Christian Fleck (University of Graz), “Paul F. Lazarsfeld’s Empirical Theory of Action”

Paul Felix Lazarsfeld was born in Vienna in 1901 and died in New York in 1976, where he had lived since 1933. He is one of the best-known social scientists having emigrated during the Nazi regime. Indeed, his success in the USA was such that he was often taken for an American, not so much by other Americans, it is true, but by those who, after 1945, deplored what was supposed to be the progressive Americanization of European social sciences. PFL is best-known as an outstanding methodologist of the last century but seldom recognized as a theoretician. The present paper presents his lifelong attempt to develop what he coined an empirical theory of action. From his earliest publications, written in German in the 1920s and early 1930s, until the peak of his career as a professor at

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Columbia University he spent time to develop a general frame of analyzing decision making processes, thus combing European style psychology of thought with empirical social research.

Paul D. McLean (State University of New Jersey-Rutgers), “Proportionality and Optimality in the Social Thought of Adam Smith”

A long debate has sought to reconcile the putatively disparate accounts of the foundations of the social order adumbrated by Adam Smith in his two main works, The Wealth of Nations and the Theory of Moral Sentiments. Building on the recent consensus that they share much in common, this article demonstrates first that the principle of sympathy and the principle of self-interested action in the market operate in similar ways. Moreover, it shows that the notion of proportion is a defining feature of how Smith talks about the social order; and a constructed notion of optimality guides his vision of how the social order and the economic order ought to operate. Seeing the social foundations of market behavior in Smith, and interpreting his notion of the ‘optimal’ as a moral construct, should help us develop a more sociological understanding of his work, and a more balanced understanding of the way individual action ‘leads to’ social outcomes.

Jennifer Platt (University of Sussex), “Where Is the Boundary Between Sociology and Non-Sociology for Historical Work?”

To address the issue of where the historian of sociology should draw the boundaries of the field, examples are presented which throw light on the ways in which the distinction between what is and is not ‘sociology’ can be threatened by what happens in practice. The examples used are a British Sociological Association study group of strikingly interdisciplinary character, the amateur works used by Hodson in his sample of workplace ethnographies, and Young and Willmott’s Family and Kinship in East London. Ways in which each cuts across conventional academic boundaries, and requires attention to the role of non-sociology, are shown. It is concluded that there are no clearcut boundaries within which historical work can be confined, although how far it is desirable to go will depend on the character of the case studied and the questions about it which the historical work is addressing.
Sessions

Continued

Sunday, August 21

Conflict over Disciplinary Boundaries: Interdisciplinarity, Sociology and Its Neighbors
2:30 pm - 4:10 pm
Caesars Palace Las Vegas

- **Organizer & Presider:** Jerry A. Jacobs (University of Pennsylvania)
- **Discussant:** Thomas F. Gieryn (Indiana University)
- **Mitchell L. Stevens (Stanford University) & Cynthia Miller-Idriss (New York University), “Sociology and the Ambivalent Internationalism of U.S. Social Science”**
- **Kyoko Sato (Harvard University), Michele Lamont (Harvard University), & Veronica Boix Mansilla (Harvard University), “The Genesis and Development of Socio-Emotional Cognitive (SEC) Platforms: An Application to Interdisciplinary Networks of the MacArthur Foundation, the Santa Fe Institute and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research”**

This session will explore recent trends and try to discern future trajectories in the relationship between academic disciplines, with special focus on the relationship between sociology and its neighboring fields in the social sciences (anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology), related applied and professional fields (social work, education, medicine, law), and related interdisciplinary areas of inquiry (social science history, gender and ethnic studies, area studies, bioethics, and public policy).

Monday, August 22

Engaging War: Sociologists Confront National Conflict
10:30 am to 12:10 pm
Caesars Palace Las Vegas

- **Organizer:** Gary Alan Fine (Northwestern University)
- **Presider:** Ann M. Hironaka (University of California-Irvine)
- **Discussants:** Sinisa Malesevic (National University of Ireland, Galway) & Andreas Wimmer (University of California-Los Angeles)
- **Gregoire Mallard (McGill University), “The Gift Revisited: Marcel Mauss on War, Debt, and the Politics of Reparations”**
- **Daniel Chirot (University of Washington), “Why Sociology is Unable to Explain War: Examples from World War I to Iraq”**
Recent Publications

Articles, chapters and books on the history of sociology. Please send citations to Jeff Pooley (pooley@muhlenberg.edu).


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Recent Publications


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Tipton, Steven M. “Civil Religion in the Making.” *Sociologica* 11, no. 3 (2010).


Zimmerman, Julie N. ”Mediated Knowledge: Re-examining Six Classic Community Studies from a Woman’s Point of View.” *Rural Sociology* 76, no. 2 (2011): 141-166.


**Calls & Conferences**

Please send calls & conference announcements to Jeff Pooley (pooley@muhlenberg.edu).

**Transatlantic Conference on Academia & the Public Sphere**, Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), Berlin, Germany, September 16-17, 2011, http://publicsphere.ssrc.org/initiative-academia-public-sphere

**2012 Cheiron Book Prize** (http://people.stu.ca/~cheiron/bookprize). Beginning in 2004, Cheiron: The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences has awarded the Cheiron Book Prize biennially for an outstanding monograph in the history of the social/behavioral/human sciences. Eligible works for the 2012 Cheiron Book Prize include original book-length historical studies, written in English and published during the period 1 January 2009 through 31 December 2011. Topical areas can include, but are not limited to, histories of psychology, psychiatry, anthropology, sociology, and social statistics. Works that are primarily in the histories of medicine or education are not eligible, unless they are strongly tied to the history of the social/behavioral/human sciences. Edited collections, anthologies, or textbooks are not eligible. Submissions will be judged on the basis of their scholarly character, depth of research, and the importance of their contribution to the field. Submissions can be made by publishers or authors. Two copies of each entry must be received by the committee chair by 30 September, 2011. Final page proofs may be used for books to be published after 30 September and before 1 January 2012. If a final page proof is submitted, a bound copy of the entry must be received no later than 15 January 2012. No late submissions will be accepted. The author of the winning book will receive

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$500 plus up to $300 in travel expenses to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting of Cheiron, where the prize will be awarded. Announcements of the award will also be widely circulated. Two copies of each entry, clearly labeled “2012 Cheiron Book Prize,” must be mailed directly to: Kenneth Feigenbaum (Committee Chair), 8041 Ellingson Drive, Chevy Chase MD 20815, kenfeigenbaum@gmail.com, Phone: (301) 587-0875

Forum for the History of Human Sciences,

Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)


Section Mission Statement

The purpose of the Section on the History of Sociology is to provide a forum for sociologists and other scholars interested in the study of the historically specific processes shaping the development of sociology as a profession, an academic discipline, an organization, a community, and an intellectual endeavor. The Section serves its members as a structure 1) to disseminate information of professional interest, 2) to assist in the exchange of ideas and the search for research collaborators, 3) to obtain information about the location of archival materials, 4) to support efforts to expand such research resources and to preserve documents important to the history of sociology, and 5) to ensure that the scholarship of this group can be shared with the profession through programming at both regional and national meetings.

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Broschart and Anthony Blasi as Council members, and Kristin Haltinner as Student Representative on the Council. I wish George Ritzer the very best as he takes over the leadership of the section.
The Section

Awards
Section prizes, 2011

Congratulations to this year’s winners! Thanks to all those who served on the three award selection subcommittees, with special thanks to George Ritzer for coordinating the award process.

Lifetime Achievement Award
Charles Camic, Northwestern University

Graduate Student Paper Award
Bijan Warner, University of Chicago, “Dialogical History and the History of a Dialogue”

Election Results
Section elections for 2011-2012

Congratulations to those elected, and thanks to all those who showed their commitment to the Section by their preparedness to stand.

Chair-Elect
Richard Swedberg, Cornell University

Secretary/Treasurer
Erik Schneiderhan, University of Toronto

Council Members
Jeff Olick, University of Virginia
Marcel Fournier, Université de Montreal

Student Representative
Michael Bare, University of Chicago
Section Officers 2010-2011

**Chair**
Gary Alan Fine, Northwestern University

**Chair Elect**
George Ritzer, University of Maryland

**Past Chair**
Craig Calhoun, SSRC

**Secretary-Treasurer**
Jeff Pooley (acting), Muhlenberg College

**Council**
Kevin B. Anderson, UC Santa Barbara
Matteo Bortolini, Università di Padova
Kay Richards Broschart, Hollins University

**Student Representatives**
Kristin Haltinner, University of Minnesota
Marcus Hunter, Northwestern University

**Section Committees 2010-2011**

**Graduate Student Prize Selection Committee**
Kristin Haltinner, Minnesota (Chair)
Tyler Crabb, Maryland
Marcus Hunter, Northwestern
Terri LeMoyne, Tennessee, Chattanooga
Anne Rawls, Bentley U

**Distinguished Scholarly Publication Selection Committee**
Kay Richards Broschart, Hollins (Chair)
Stephen Kalberg, Boston U
Suzanne Vromen, Bard

**Lifetime Achievement Selection Committee**
George Ritzer, Maryland (Chair)
Robert J. Antonio, Kansas
Peter Beilharz, La Trobe U
Valerie Haines, U of Calgary
Stephen Turner, U of South Florida

**Nominations Committee**
Neil Gross, U of British Columbia (Chair)
Neil McLaughlin, McMaster
Vera Zolberg, New School