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CHAIR’S LETTER: GEARING UP FOR ATLANTA

It was not too long ago we were in San Francisco. Next August we will be in Atlanta! A lot is already in place. The ASA Online Submission System opened December 1. The deadline for all submissions is January 13, 2010. Please see the ASA website for instructions on submissions to our section’s regular sessions and roundtables. Our sessions are as follows:

1. **Latinos/as in the South.** Session Organizer: William Velez; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee;
2. **Latinos/as, Health, and Place.** Session Organizer: Norma Fuentes-Mayorga; Fordham University;
3. **Latinos/as and Public Policy.** Session Organizer: Silvia Dominguez; Northeastern University; and,
4. **Section on Latino/a Sociology Roundtables (one hour).** Session Organizer: Zulema Valdez, Texas A&M University.

Many of you made excellent suggestions at our business meeting and in compiling your comments and suggestions the themes chosen for our sessions will allow us to highlight the ASA’s conference focus: “Toward a Sociology of Citizenship: Inclusion, Participation and Rights.” Given that we will be in Atlanta, the suggestion to have a session on Latinos/as in the South not only will highlight our conference location but will also link us to the fact that the U.S. south is a new growth area for Latinos and Latinas.

In July 2005, the Pew Hispanic Center published a report by Rakesh Kochhar, Roberto Suro and Sonya Tafoya titled “The New Latino South: The Context and Consequences of Rapid Population Growth” which focused on the trends and their implications. This demographic addition to our reality is changing the southern social landscape and at the same time posing challenges. Therefore, our section’s focus for 2010 on public policy, place, and health issues is timely and will fit nicely not only with the overall 2010 ASA conference theme but the place (pun intended) Atlanta where we will be gathered for the meeting.

In addition to the session organizers, the awards committee is also now in place. Soon you will be receiving information on who to contact for the various awards. As the pictures in this newsletter show, we are engaged in tremendous scholarship and have much to celebrate in each other’s achievements.
The 2009 Julian Samora Distinguished Career Award was awarded to Silvia Pedraza.

The 2009 Distinguished Contribution to Research, Best Book Award (co-winners) were: Jose Itzigsohn for *Encountering American Faultlines: Race, Class, and the Dominican Experience in Providence*; and, Edward Telles and Vilma Ortiz for *Generations of Exclusion: Mexican Americans, Assimilation and Race*. 
The 2009 Distinguished Contribution to Research, Best Article Award was awarded to C. Allison Newby and Julie A. Dowling for *Black and Hispanic: The Racial Identification of Afro-Cuban Immigrants in the Southwest* published in Sociological Perspectives, 2007

The 2009 Cristina Maria Riegos Student Paper Award was awarded to: Laura Lopez-Sanders for *Trapped at the Bottom: Racialized and Gendered Labor Queues in New Immigrant Destinations*
Congratulations to Mary Romero for receiving the 2009 Career Excellence in Scholarship and Service Award from the ASA Section on Race and Ethnicity Minorities.

Please do not be shy in nominating your colleagues or yourself for these awards!

I end my comments with a big thanks to Ed Telles for his leadership and service as chair of our section last year. Also thank Ed Murguia for his contribution to this newsletter (see next page). It should come as no surprise given his reflection piece that he has generously accepted to lead a group of colleagues to begin planning for the mentoring workshops we have planned for the ASA meetings to be held in Chicago in 2011. The workshops are supported with the Norma Williams Fund, which is meant to support the mentorship training for Latino grad students and junior professors. I encourage you to consider contributing to the fund. More to come as we move ahead in getting ready for August 2010!

Milagros Peña, Chair
ASA Latino/a Section
Letter to New Ph.D. on How to Make Tenure
by Edward Murguia, Texas A&M University

The following is a letter that I wrote to a newly minted Ph.D. with some advice as to how to maximize chances of making tenure. I hope that this advice will be of some use to those at the Assistant Professor rank as they work toward tenure and promotion.

I am very pleased that you have your tenure track position at a good university.

The hardest thing right now is to keep your writing and research going. I found it very hard my first year out, but I kept a card table with my stuff out all of the time at my apartment where I would always see it and I would work on it as much as I could. (I could not work at my office at school because I shared an office with two other professors. In addition, we were using typewriters not computers! Ancient history!) Best would be if, no matter what, you spent at least 1 or 2 hours on writing every day, and more if possible. Try to do this at a regular time and place so that it becomes a habit. That way, the work does not grow cold in your mind and it is surprising how much can be accomplished with a little regular work. It would be a mistake not to work on your book and your articles daily starting now. Collaborate with some more senior professors on your articles and have them be a second author on your manuscript in return for their editing skills and their knowledge as to how to get things published. Later on, depending on how things go, you can publish either by yourself or with others. Until you make tenure though, try to be first author on as many manuscripts as possible now that you are out of graduate school. The rule of thumb on the listing of authors is that whoever does the most work on the manuscript is listed as first author, second most work, second, etc.

Second, and this can be hard as well, do not get involved in committee work, and certainly do not chair a committee until you make tenure. Along these lines, be pleasant with the entire faculty, and stay only minimally involved in discussions at faculty meetings, particularly in your first year. There is so much behind what professors are saying when they speak at faculty meetings that you won't understand what really is going on for a couple of years. If they press you on being on committees, tell them that you are so involved with your research and your teaching that it is not possible for you to do much committee work at this time. Absolutely refuse to be on a committee that is involved in hiring someone higher than you, such as an assistant dean or being on a dean's advisory committee deciding who receives tenure. The reason for this is that all of those more senior people who do not get what they want will not be happy with you and they might remember this when it comes time for you to be considered for tenure.

Third, set up your classes quickly and prepare your lectures so that you can use them for several years. One way to do this is to obtain copies of multiple texts from publishers such as introduction to criminology or whatever you are teaching. Read through them, and then take notes from the chapters that you like best. Do NOT ask for new preparations for new classes until you make tenure. In fact, if you can negotiate teaching two or more sections of the same class, this would be good because it minimizes your preparation of classes. Be careful here though because if you do teach two or more sections, the tendency is to give your energy to the first time you present a given lecture and then not to be as energetic the second or third time you teach it. Also, since I am most productive in the morning, I try to teach my classes in the afternoon. This may not be the same for you, but try to arrange to teach classes when you usually are less productive in writing.

Fourth, be efficient with your students. When you are with them, really be with them and try to help them. However, guard your time (your most precious commodity) and have them see you during office hours (usually about 3 hours a week). To be more informal, you might want to see some on Saturday afternoon at a coffee shop--this is what one of our most distinguished professors does with his graduate students. Also, really believe in your students and send your best to us here at A&M in race relations, etc. or to the highest ranked grad program possible. (Rankings are usually based on the resources that universities provide for professors and their graduate programs.) Finally, TT classes are better than MWF classes because there is less starting and stopping, so if you can, choose TT classes over MWF classes.

I hope that some of the advice helps. Also, have fun out there and take some time out for you and your family for sightseeing and having fun.
Recent Publications


**In the News**


**Alfonso Morales**

He was invited to Berlin Technical University to deliver a keynote lecture on street vendors and public markets. He was also invited to lecture on the same topic at the Lincoln Land Institute in Cambridge MA.

**Notices**

**Thomas D. [tom] Hall**

On leave July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2011
email for correct snailmail address

Book Review editor, Journal of World-Systems Research:
http://jwsr.ucr.edu/index.php

**Helen B. Marrow** is completing a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in Health Policy at the Universities of California at Berkeley and San Francisco in 2008-10 and has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Tufts University to begin in September 2010.

**Erynn Masi de Casanova** has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Cincinnati, beginning Fall 2009.
Cumbre 2010: Fourth Latino/Latin American Summit of the Great Plains

Human Mobility, the Promise of Development and Political Engagement

An invitation to academics, policy-makers, businesses and civil society

May 13-15, 2010
Embassy Suites Hotel, Downtown/Old Market
Omaha, Nebraska

A conference free to the community and dedicated to resetting the agenda from the bottom up and from the interior out!

Designated as one of the meetings in preparation for the IV Global Forum on Migration and Development which will take place in Mexico, and the IV World Social Forum on Migration that will take place in October 2010 in Ecuador.

Cumbre 2010 is being co-convened by OLLAS and the International Network on Migration and Development (INMD), a co-organizer of the international forums. Cumbre 2010 is also cosponsored with a number of local organizations.

Cumbre 2010 provides a forum for diverse, international and local publics to engage in critical dialogues that speak to this year’s theme and increase our collective capacity to inform policy and effect change. Our focus is on Latino, migrant and Latin American populations and communities within this hemisphere and across the globe. We welcome comparative analyses with, and experiences from, other migrant, ethnic and racial groups within and outside the United States.

Presenters range from academics, students, workers, elected officials, business representatives and policy makers to Latino, faith-based and migrant civic organizations.

The format includes plenaries, town hall conversations and regular sessions presided by academic and non-academic panelists. It also features, for the first time, a panel with voices from the younger generation of college students and the children of immigrants, and workshops for migrant leaders, workers and Latino and Latin American organizations. The latter will also serve as preparation for the global forums. Partial funding for the workshop comes from the Ford Foundation.

Special invitees to Cumbre 2010 include members of the Obama administration, state and university representatives, the faith community, Latin American governments, scholars and civil society organizations from across the region, Latin America and Europe.

Additional activities include photo and writing contests for Nebraska youth, a special musical presentation that brings together artists from Mexico and Omaha and informational booths from academic and civil society organizations.
Instructions for submissions and general conference topics

We invite everyone to submit proposals for either academic papers or presentations from civil society organizations under any of the thematic areas listed below, and in connection to the overall theme of the conference. Please be sure to read “The social, cultural and political contexts informing our conference theme” that is part of this invitation and which can also be found at www.unomaha.edu/ollas.

The deadline for both types of proposals is December 10, 2009. Please submit your proposal via email in word format to unocumbre2010@mail.unomaha.edu. Proposals must be between 250 and 750 words in length and indicate thematic area of preference as well as author(s) or presenter(s)’ names, institutional affiliation or name of organization and contact information. You must also include a short biographical sketch for each author or presenter (250 words maximum). Final papers must be received by April 10th of 2010.

Out of town presenters will receive up to three nights of free lodging upon acceptance of their papers or presentations. Presentations from civil society organizations, or other non-academic sectors, should be submitted in a power point format or as a brief narrative (two to three pages). We will be glad to provide guidance along the way. The registration fee for conference presenters is $45 unless they fall under one of our exempt categories.

General thematic areas

I. Development promises, economic crises and the new dimensions of human mobility

- “Holding them accountable:” Latin American, the U.S. and global development promises, migration, and equal rights.
- The promise of development 100 years later: From The Mexican Revolution to NAFTA’s aftermath (Session organized as part of the 100th year anniversary of the Mexican Revolution)
- The cities of migration and Latino community formation: challenges and opportunities.
- Labor migration, precarious employment and social exclusion
- Skilled migration: brain gain, brain drain and brain waste
- New destinations, sending communities and emerging visions for local development from the “bottom up” and from the interior out.
- Women, trafficking, labor markets and the gendered industries of migration.
- Global warming/climate change/natural resources and human mobility.
II. Political participation from above and from below: States, corporations, multilateral organizations and civil society

- Immigration policies, enforcement and detention at home and around the world.
- Migrant and Latino civil society and faith communities at work: Changing models and visions of leadership.
- Business strategies, labor importation and new forms of corporate political and civic engagement.
- Beyond the nation state: Emerging international forums and alternative discourses on migration, development, human rights and regional integration.
- The new and not so new “scholarship of engagement:” The U.S.’ Service Learning and Latin America’s participatory approaches compared.
- Latino political development: Measuring the growth of political numbers, integration and representation.

III. Development’s aftermath and its new promises

- Health care: disparities, promises of universal coverage and community models.
- Families, children, the elderly and youth: Risks, mental health, violence, forced separation and networks of care.
- Education’s promise of equality: Latinos, Latin Americans and populations on the move.
- Language, discrimination and other barriers to social mobility and immigrant integration.
- The erosion of human, cultural, labor, citizenship and migrant rights
- Violence and armed conflict and their association with failed development promises and socio-political exclusion.
- The power of conventional and new social media: criminalization discourses, technological development, or the dumbing down of the discussion on Latinos, migrants and political participation.
- The new promises of development: remittances, hometown associations, binational co-development and alternative models from above and below.

IV. Culture, identity, religion and migration

- Civic engagement and the critique of development through film, art and literature
Voices of the new generation: College students and young Latinos and non-Latinos critique the promises of development and the failures and promises of public policies from their generation’s perspective.

The faith community: theological, ethical and moral dimensions of development, human rights and migration policies.

Race, Racialization and ethnicity in the era of human mobility, social polarization and diversity.

The changing meanings of social, cultural and political citizenship in transnational perspective.

V. Limits and new developments of analytical and methodological approaches to the study of human mobility, development and civic engagement

- The limits of the U.S. Census, international data and conventional methodologies in the era of human mobility and informalization.

- Theoretical and analytical developments in the study of human mobility, development and political participation.

**Cumbre 2010** takes place at the very moment when we will be assessing the full impact of the global economic crisis on migrant, Latino and Latin American communities. Looming large will be a political landscape where policy-makers still lack a comprehensive vision for sustainable human development across the globe, for this hemisphere, and for the Great Plains. The contradictory and, at times, undemocratic, free-market policies that have paraded as ‘development’ have wreaked havoc with many of our communities and displaced millions of people from their land. While this may conjure up images of the “South,” these policies were largely gestated in, or with the consent of, the “North.” The impact is felt as much in European cities as it is in places such as Omaha, Nebraska.

While goods, capital and services are free to move with ease, thanks to a development model that encourages deregulation, human mobility is subject to increasingly harsh rules and increasingly treated as a crime committed by willing offenders. In the United States, one Department of Homeland Security program, the so-called “287g,” deputizes local police forces to act as immigration agents. Italy’s new immigration law sets up citizen patrols and makes it a crime to aid unauthorized workers. France is requiring certain national groups to obtain not one, but two different types of visas, to enter the country. The Dominican Republic introduced a constitutional reform proposal which excludes native-born descendants of unauthorized Haitian parents and grandparents from the right to be in the country and claim citizenship. While the European Union issues a “Return Directive” and the U.S. seeks to speed up deportations, the central questions of why people migrate and what rights all workers and families should enjoy, regardless of where they reside, continue to be pushed to the sidelines of policy discussions and enforcement actions.

Much of human mobility today is neither the result of choice, nor conditioned by ‘natural’ advantages or disadvantages that may lie on either side of the origin-destination divide. People, especially the most
disadvantaged, are increasingly forced to either move or cling to precarious jobs or impoverished communities as the promise of development fades. Nebraska farmers, Latin American rural dwellers, California farmworkers, unemployed factory workers, children and a growing number of middle class professionals are increasingly on the move. Thousands die every year at the reinforced gates of their intended destinations. Few ponder whether these mothers, children and job-seekers deserve to be criminalized and punished for their journeys in search of nothing more than a place to work and a life with dignity for their families.

Public discussions about the 200 million people living outside their country of origin and the millions more migrating within their own countries, seldom go deep enough to consider the failure of development as the root cause of these different phenomena. Nor do they afford us meaningful arenas to critically engage with diverse and multiple publics in a collective search for more just societal models. If the current economic crisis has abated by May 2010, we will likely be asked to believe that all is well. If this is so, we would again have lost the opportunity to engage in a critical conversation about how this promise of development rests on policies and practices that generate brutal inequality, environmental destruction, forced migration, human and labor rights violations and discontent. Moreover, any discussion about the moral and ethical implications of unjust public policies will likely be viewed as external to policy-making, which, too often, is informed by short-term political considerations.

As the first decade of the century comes to an end, the promise of development, born during the early post-colonial era, has lost credibility at home and abroad. In some quarters, steps are being taken toward alternative visions, but these are still too timid. New and old hierarchies of social citizenship are reconfigured and certain ethnic, racial and income groups are disproportionately excluded from health care, education and and internationally-guaranteed rights. Large numbers of working poor are subject to state and non-state violence, racism and xenophobia. The psychological and socio-cultural impacts of these phenomena on children, women, men, families and entire nations are understudied and under-addressed. International organizations speak of a transformed vision still to be realized. As 2010 is upon us, narratives of hope and inclusion are crashing against shrill voices of hate and a dangerous fortress mentality that is increasingly taking hold in nations and local communities at home and abroad.

This raises a final question as to which kinds of civic engagement, social action and political participation are required for the better of these tendencies to prevail. At least two important developments are of interest. The first is the growing presence and visibility of civil society organizations dedicated to positive social change. These range from human rights organizations to migrant, transnational and Latino organizations across the world, in Latin America and in the region. The second is a growing number of global forums bringing together governments, academics, and civil society. These bodies are advancing novel agendas for development and migration rooted in principles of equality and the defense of human, labor and civil rights. Latin America is emerging as a new leader in this area. Seldom are we given the opportunity to learn about these important and alternative policy-making bodies or how local communities and organizations can partake of, and inform, their initiatives. It is our hope that Cumbre 2010 widens the space for grassroots and other participants to actively engage with some of these international forum organizers as well as national policy-makers to begin the work of resetting policy agendas from the interior out—not just from the centers of power inward.