Newsletter of the
Peace, War & Social Conflict
Section of the American Sociological Association
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Robin M. Williams, Jr. Award for Distinguished Contributions to Scholarship, Teaching, and Service
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Article Award Committee
Chair: Alair MacLean (Chair, alair@vancouver.wsu.edu), Sarah
Sobieraj, and Stephen Poulson
Message from the Chair

Our section continues to be one of the most relevant in the field of sociology today. We regularly see peaceful revolutions across the world. In addition to last-year’s events in places like Tunisia and Egypt, we have seen protest here in the U.S. with the “Occupy Wall Street” movement. While the intentions of these protestors may be limited to reform, they share the desire for large-scale social change and the method of achieving those ends: peaceful resistance. Participation in the Occupy Wall Street movement has spread to other parts of the country, including the campus from which I am writing this letter!

As the chair of this section, it is my honor to ensure that we put on a good program for the 2012 American Sociological Association meetings. It will be held in Denver, Colorado with the theme, “Real Utopias”. We certainly have a lot to say about this topic! To this end, our sessions reflect the desire to develop utopias in our fields, building peace and developing a military strategy in a peaceful world. As I write, the U.S. military is preparing to pull out of Iraq. How will U.S. military policy change as we move away from this war? What effects will the change in military policy have for soldiers, their families, and veterans? Steve Carlton-Ford (University of Cincinnati) will be organizing a session called “Military and Veterans Adjustments to Post-9/11 Wars” and we are soliciting papers to help answer these questions. In addition, Joyce Apsel (New York University) is organizing a session called, “Building Peace: Locally and Globally”. This session looks at a range of approaches to promoting peace within cultures and societies from the politics of peace building to education, repair and recovery, and violence prevention. Additional opportunities to present work on these or other themes can be found at our round table sessions being organized by Ryan Kelty (Washington College).

The section council was hard at work after the 2011 meetings preparing for the next set of meetings. First, I want to thank the membership committee for helping us achieve the goal of three sessions again this year. We have been very successful in keeping up membership since the inception of the membership committee many years ago. A special thanks to Stephen Scanlan (Ohio University) and Dan Burland (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) for their help in developing strategies for maintaining current membership and recruiting new members. Good job!

Let us take some time in the next couple of months to consider ways that we can support our section. First, we are soliciting to fill two council member positions. These roles are important for making decisions in the section, choosing titles and descriptions for the next year’s meetings, and dealing with other issues as they come along. Every year we also choose an incoming chair; this person shadows the current chair as s/he guides the section. This year, we also have an opening for the secretary/treasurer, the one who controls the “purse-strings” of the section. This position is for three years and s/he works with the chair to ensure that we can pay for awards and reception costs and keeps a record of council meetings.

You should also consider submitting a paper to one of our regular sessions or the round table session discussed earlier in my message. I can honestly say that our sessions provide plenty of academic discussion on very diverse topics! In addition to our sessions, we know that there will be other related sessions under the rubric of utopias. I will include the titles of those sessions when the ASA processes all of them in the next few months.

Finally, I encourage all of us to help build on our section’s “esprit des corps” at the 2012 meetings. To that end, I am working with a colleague in our section on a special event at our 2012 section reception. I will not let the “cat out of the bag” yet but it promises to be very interesting and fun! In addition, we are
hoping to get special section-related tours in and around Denver. Given everything going on in the world, the next year certainly looks promising for the Peace, War, and Social Conflict section!

- Dave Rohall, Chair

Section Award Information

The purpose of the Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict is to foster the development and application of sociological theories and methods for the understanding and study of dynamics of collective conflict and its prevention, conduct, and resolution. Included is the study of military institutions and conflict between collectivities such as countries, ethnic groups, political movements, and religious groups. One of the ways that we encourage this type of research is to recognize both students and regular members for their work in the field. All nominations for the following awards are due by March 1, 2012.

Student Paper Award

The Elise Boulding Student Paper Award is designed to recognize outstanding work among students in the field. It is named in honor of Elise Boulding, in recognition of her contributions to the study of peace and her role as a founding member of the Section. This year, we awarded one to a graduate student and another to an undergraduate student. The recipient of the graduate student paper competition was Matthew Eddy (University of Oregon) for his work entitled, "Freedom Summer Abroad: Biographical Pathways and Cosmopolitanism Among Human Rights Workers" (available at: http://www.emeraldinsight.com/books.htm?issn=0163786x&volume=31&chapterid=1901661&show=abstract). Honorable Mention was given to Robert Braun’s and Michael Genkin’s (Cornell University) piece, "Diffusing Human Bombs: The Role of Cultural Resonance in the Spread of Political Tactics" (available at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract

_id=1745186). The Undergraduate Award went to Katherine A. Miller (Yale University) for her work, "A Network Evaluation of Cadet Attitudes toward the Repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'."

If you know a student who would like to be considered for the 2012 Elise Boulding Student Paper Award, send the manuscript to Karin DeAngelis (United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs) at karin.deangelis@usafa.edu.

Outstanding Published Article and Book Awards

Dr. Sarah Sobieraj (Tufts University) received the 2011 article award for the piece, “Reporting Conventions: Journalists, Activists, and the Thorny Struggle for Political Visibility”. It appeared in the November 2010 issue of Social Problems (Vol. 57, Issue 4).

Please contact Alair Maclean at alair@vancouver.wsu.edu if you wish to nominate someone for this award.

The Outstanding Book Award went to coauthors Dr. Steven Carlton Ford (University of Cincinnati) and Dr. Morten G. Ender (United States Military Academy, West Point) for their edited book The Routledge Handbook of War and Society: Iraq and Afghanistan.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, contact Stephen Scanlan (Ohio University) at scanlans@ohio.edu.

Distinguished Career Award

Finally, the Robin Williams Award for Distinguished Contributions to Scholarship, Teaching, and Service was named in honor of Robin Williams to recognize his contributions to the study of social conflict, conflict resolution, and war and his role as a founding member of the Sections. This award honors a section member who has had an outstanding scholarly career in the study of peace, war, genocide, military institutions, or social conflict, has made important contributions to
teaching the sociology of peace, war, and social conflict, and/or has given outstanding service to the ASA Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict.

The 2011 recipient of this award was Dr. Gordon Fellman (Brandeis University). You may contact David Rohall (de-rohall@wiu.edu) if you would like to nominate someone for this award.

**Articles**

**Reflections on the Las Vegas ASA Meetings: A Pictorial Essay**

Traditionally, the post-meeting section newsletter includes a review of events from those meetings. This essay will maintain this tradition. However, the switch from the Chicago meeting site to Las Vegas surprised a number of us. For many of us who were able to make it out to Las Vegas, it was a first. In the spirit of French sociologist Jean Baudrillard’s book, *America*, I offer some reflections on the conference.

*Welcome to Vegas!*

![Las Vegas sign]

So many people take pictures at the entrance to Las Vegas that they have special parking near the sign!

For sociologists, the ironies of Las Vegas are endless. On the one hand, it is a town of moral freedom; one can purchase almost any desire and most of it is legal. Even illegal activity was somewhat acceptable. One could walk down the strip and see individuals consuming both alcohol and harder drugs. Of course, sex was all over the place with vendors available to help you find satisfaction. At the same time, it was clear that women and minorities were being exploited, like many other places in the United States. Most of us can remember the images of immigrant men and women handing out flyers to various clubs that offered a plethora of x-rated activities. It is with these and other ironies that sociologist Baudrillard analyzed the American landscape as a cultural desert, juxtaposing Salt Lake City to Las Vegas amidst a physical and cultural desert: “funereal Puritanism raised to the nth power. It is the capitalist, transsexual pride of a people of mutants that gives the city (Salt Lake City), equal and opposite to that of Las Vegas, that great whore on the other side of the desert” (Baudrillard 1988, p. 2).

![People on the strip]

People from all backgrounds come to sell sex on the strip.
Baudrillard also viewed the U.S. as a place of dreams and Las Vegas gives many people the hope that they may “make it big” in the casinos. Of course, very few people achieve this dream. Yet, in one of my conversations with homeless men on the strip, I asked “Shannon” if he had any advice for my students back home. His only thought: “just tell ‘em to hold on tight to their dreams”. Maybe Baudrillard was correct, all Americans dream of a better life.

In contrast to the sights and sounds of the strip was this Buddhist Temple. A spiritual refuge? Maybe one of our colleagues from Nevada can help with the history of this temple placed in the middle of the strip!

A homeless man tells students to “hold on tight to their dreams”

Despite the poverty, the Vegas strip includes several upscale shopping areas in close proximity of each other

A spiritual oasis on the Vegas strip? A respite for weary shoppers!

The Meetings

Against the backdrop of sin and gambling, we held the ASA conference at Caesar’s Palace. The meetings themselves proceeded very smoothly inside the hotel complex. The rooms were kept very cool despite the hot, desert-like temperatures outside. Some of you may recall how difficult it was to make your way to the different sessions; the meeting rooms were not very well laid-out.

Our sessions were held on Sunday, August 21, 2011. We started the morning with a council meeting, just prior to the 8:30 a.m. round table session. Traditionally, our section has its business meeting just after the round-table session.
Greg Maney (Hofstra University), past chair, addresses the business meeting on the morning of August 21, 2011.

David Segal (University of Maryland) accepts the book award for section members Morten Ender (United States Military Academy, West Point) and Steve Carlton-Ford (University of Cincinnati).

Dr. Wilbur Scott (Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs) organized the first regular session with the title, “Envisioning a Post-War Military”. Four papers were presented at the session ranging from Interracial relations in the military to an analysis of attitudes toward the military (by Marta Elliott and Dara Elizabeth Naphan).

Dr. Sarah Sobieraj (Tufts University), 2011 recipient of the Outstanding Published Article Award.

Dr. Wilbur Scott (Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs) presides over the session, “Envisioning a Post-War Military”.
Our second regular session was entitled, “Women and Peacebuilding”. Here, the papers were even more diverse. In one of them, author Jeneve Brooks (Fordham University) played recordings of anti-war music as part of her presentation! We also learned about the “Machsom Watch” in Israel as well as the women’s peace movement in Turkey.

I believe that most of us who were able to attend the 2011 ASA Meetings will never forget the experience. While the sessions went smoothly, they occurred in a unique place at a unique time. Next year, we will return to a more traditional meeting site, Denver, Colorado. While Denver may not be as showy as Las Vegas, its access to people in the peace movement dove-tails nicely with the work that we do in our section. Let’s try to create some new memories next year!

Reference


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Emotions Rule The World

By Thomas Scheff

Things Are in the Saddle

Emerson’s idea (1842) that the attention of people in modern societies is dominated by things seems to have come true. We focus on the surface level, ignoring what goes on underneath. One recent example is the spree killing in Tucson, Arizona, which seems to have been the product of unexpressed emotion.

…Loughner’s recent years have been marked by stinging rejection — from his country’s military, his community college, his girlfriends and, perhaps, his father…[NYT, Jan. 16.

Why did Jared Loughner shoot Gabrielle Giffords and nineteen others? If he is anything like the 200+ cases of multiple killers in Websdale’s study (2010), he would have a history of humiliation like theirs: so ashamed of his humiliation that he would hide it not only from others, but also from himself. Humiliation is painful but harmless when it is acknowledged; it becomes lethal only if it is kept secret (Gilligan 1997). In modern societies, we learn to hide our pain. At first we cover it up from others. After our early years, we learn how to hide it from ourselves.

What does acknowledgment look like? Sharing pain with others, or at least allowing one’s self to feel it, is a safety valve. A tiny, everyday example of sharing occurred between husband and wife. The wife yelled at him about something he did or didn’t do. Instead of yelling back, his usual response, he said: “Ouch.” She said: “Ouch?” He said: “That hurt.” They both laughed, quarrel over. It lasted about a hundred seconds.

Can a quarrel last a hundred years? Yes, if the parties are dominated by humiliation to the point that they refuse to negotiate. The problem with this strategy is that humiliating the other party for revenge sets up a chain reaction, revenge breeding counter-revenge.
The three wars that caused the most casualties in human history, seen in retrospect, may fit this pattern (Scheff 1994). The French felt humiliated after their defeat by the Germans in the Franco-Prussian War (1871), so plotted revenge for 43 years. They were able to involve Russia, England and the US on their side. In the months between the assassination of the Archduke and the beginning of the war, there were NO (ZERO) negotiation meetings between the two sides.

After losing the resultant war (WWI), the Germans, in turn, felt humiliated, which led to the rise of Hitler and WWII. 1871 to 1945: almost a hundred years and more than a hundred million casualties.

9/11 and the Iraq war may be a more recent example of revenge leading to revenge. In a broadcast on Al-Jazeera TV on Oct. 7, 2001, Osama bin Laden said:

“What the United States tastes today is a very small thing compared to what we have tasted for tens of years. Our nation has been tasting…humiliation and contempt for more than 80 years.”

Bin Laden was referring to the final fall of the Ottoman Empire (1918) when the Allies dismantled it after WWI. Predictably, Bin Laden’s vengeance against the US touched off what may have been counter-revenge by the US. The official reason for the invasion of Iraq was their supposed attempt to develop nuclear weapons, even though the administration knew that there had been none, and that Iraq had not been involved in 9/11. One of several reasons for the invasion may have been the humiliation the regime suffered because 9/11 occurred on their watch.

Why is secret humiliation sometimes lethal? There are two patterns. Some of the multiple killers in Websdale’s study merely swallowed their humiliation until they could stand it no longer. After being fired, some of the men pretended to go to their now non-existent job until the day they shot their family members, and in some of the cases, themselves. All of the women killers followed this pattern.

However, much more frequently, the cases involved men with a history of anger and/or aggression. Their pattern was to cover over their humiliation with anger. Fortunately, although most of us seldom acknowledge our humiliation, the cover-up with anger is much less frequent than simply swallowing the painful feelings, often resulting in silence or even depression, but not violence.

What can be done to stop the humiliation-vengeance pattern? Perhaps the public, and subsequently governments, could learn to give equal attention to the social and emotional sides of life, instead of focusing on the surface of things. One consequence might be to dole out to negotiation and diplomacy resources that approach those now being rained upon military force.

References


General Announcements

Hong Kong Sociological Association 13th Annual Conference

Hosted by Department of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Date: December 3rd, 2011. Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong
Call For Papers: Conference Theme: Global Sociology for a Global World. Conference information and the abstract submission form can be downloaded from the following website: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/soc/hksa2011/.

Special issue of Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare


Globalizations Journal Offers Special Section on Arab Spring and Global Protests

As the “October Offensive” of occupations spreads around the country and world, the October 2011 issue of Globalizations (Vol. 8, No. 5) features a very timely collection of commentaries on the Arab Spring and related protests in Europe and elsewhere. Among the contributors is section member Jackie Smith, who relates the Middle East protests to the larger context of global crisis and movement. This collection of short commentaries may be useful in classes and for other settings where people are trying to make sense of the “Occupy Wall Street” and “Occupy Together” protests.

Request for Sources

Senior Combat Commanders And Frontline Soldiers: Contact And Influence: Have "ordinary" soldiers just bloodied in combat ever changed the perceptions, attitudes, beliefs and combat decisions of their most senior combat commanders (colonels and generals)? How so? These are two of the questions at the heart of a long-term, book-oriented research project that I am conducting in military sociology and history. I welcome your references to related, highly credible published research as well as to general insights on the topic, with particular interest in current combat of U.S. forces and going back to at least the U.S. war in Vietnam, in which I served. Please contact: T. P. Schwartz-Barcott, Ph.D., 401-397-6700, 157 Weaver Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI 02817.

33rd Annual Meeting of the Hawaii Sociological Association

February 18, 2012, Kapiolani Community College, Honolulu, HI. Theme: Pacific Intersectionalities: Revisiting Race, Class, and Gender. Planned plenary speaker: Dr. Patricia Hill Collins, Distinguished University Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland. Abstracts (maximum 300 words) are invited on topics that broadly fit the theme. Deadline: December 2, 2011. Pre-registration to also begin in early December. Please contact Fumiko Takasugi at takasugi@hawaii.edu. For more information, and to submit an abstract, visit the HSA website: http://hawaiisoc.org/.

Call For Participation

RC46, the clinical sociology (social intervention) division of the International Sociological Association (ISA), will hold its 2012 meeting (August 1-4) in Buenos Aires, Argentina as part of the second ISA Forum. Abstract submission is done through the International Sociological Association website http://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2012/cf p.cgi Information about the clinical sociology division is found at http://www.isa- sociology.org/RC46.htm. ISA conferences have extremely early deadlines for submission. If you have questions about the research division, the listed sessions or the abstract submission process, please contact Jan Marie Fritz, the RC46 president, at jan.fritz@uc.edu.

Member Update

Jan Marie Fritz (University of Cincinnati) is currently the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Human Rights and International Studies at the Danish Institute for Human Rights. In June, with a grant from the American Scandinavian
Foundation, she interviewed government and civil society representatives in Sweden and Norway about their updated and revised national action plans for women, peace and security. In July, she gave a one-week mediation training for faculty at the University of Johannesburg and gave a presentation about the national action plans (for women, peace and security) at the South African Sociological Association annual conference. In August, she was the international external examiner for quality assurance of the School of Behaviour Science at North-West University (South Africa). In September, she gave a presentation, "Reflections about September 11, 2001," at the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

**Brian J Grim awarded prize**

Section member Brian J Grim was awarded the Robert M. Worcester Prize by the World Association for Public Opinion Research for 2010’s outstanding research article contributed to the International Journal of Public Opinion Research, the leading scientific journal in the field, titled “Western Views Toward Muslims: Evidence from a 2006 Cross-national Survey” (with co-author Richard Wike).

**2011 Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award**

The Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award is awarded by the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society to a limited number of senior scholars whose careers most demonstrate excellence in the study of armed forces and society and important service to the discipline.

One of our own members was selected as the 2011 recipient of the award: Mady Wechsler Segal. Dr. Segal is Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland. She has a distinguished career studying the military institution, in addition to her work as a social psychologist. She has published dozens of books and articles in journals ranging from Armed Forces & Society to Social Psychology Quarterly. She regularly consults with the U.S. government on issues related to military families, gender, and sexuality in the military. Most importantly, she is a past chair of the Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section and has helped the section become what it is today!

The award ceremony took place at Palmer House Hilton on October 21, 2011. Dr. Segal is preceded by other section members who have also been selected to receive this prestigious award including Charles Moskos (2005), David R. Segal (2007), and James Burk (2009).

**Corona, Victor. "Career Patterns in the U.S. Army Officer Corps," a quantitative study of U.S. Army officer careers in Public Organization Review, 6 April 2010.**

**Corrigall-Brown, Catherine. 2011. Patterns of Protest: Trajectories of Participation in Social Movements, Stanford University Press.**

Description: "Patterns of Protest (Stanford, 2011) by Catherine Corrigall-Brown examines why some people stay active in social movements over time while others do not. Through the use of a quantitative panel survey that follows individuals from 1965 until 1997 and qualitative interviews with past participants in 4 social movement organizations, this book illustrates that most individuals who participate..."
in protest move in and out of engagement over time dispelling long-held stereotypes of the life-long activist. The author shows that one's trajectory of participation is the result of both characteristics of the individual themselves as well as the organizations in which they engage."


Abstract: In the United States, rhetoric in support of the Iraq War often focuses on discourses of patriotism and supporting the troops. These discourses hold enormous sway over the American public because of the discursive legacies of the Vietnam War and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. In response, members of the peace movement who are veterans, soldiers, and military families stress their military identities during activism. These individuals have organized as an important branch of the U.S. antiwar movement that challenges the pro-war framing of patriotism and troop support by strategically deploying “oppositional identities.” The oppositional identity strategy involves highlighting the activism of individuals who many would assume would be part of the movement’s opposition. In an effort to assert credibility and support their frames, activists assert this novel and seemingly contradictory identity through organizational affiliation, rhetoric, clothing, mannerisms, and symbols.


Join the Section on Peace, War and Social Conflict, or Renew Your Membership

If you are a member of the ASA, now is the time to consider showing your support for the work of the Section on Peace, War and Social Conflict by joining the section or renewing your membership. To do either online, you can go to: [https://www.e-noah.net/ASA/Login.asp](https://www.e-noah.net/ASA/Login.asp)

If you are not already a member of the American Sociological Association, and would like to join the Association and the Section, you can do so online by going to: [https://www.e-noah.net/ASA/Profile/General.asp?S=1](https://www.e-noah.net/ASA/Profile/General.asp?S=1)

Any questions you might have regarding membership in the association can be addressed to membership@asanet.org; or you can telephone the ASA at 202-383-9005, ext. 389.

Questions about membership in the section may be directed to Steven Scanlan at scanlans@ohio.edu

Section Listservs

Section Announcement Listserv:

Please send your announcements to any of the following officers and they can post your announcement to the listserv: Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and immediate Past Chair. Announcements are automatically sent to all section members via email. Messages are routed via peace_war-announce@listserv.asanet.org.

To be excluded from the list, email infoservice@asanet.org. A marker will be placed on your record so that your e-mail address will be excluded when the distribution list is refreshed. ASA will refresh the distribution list on a bi-monthly basis or as needed.

Section Discussion Listserv:

To join the section discussion listserv you must send an email as described below:

1. In the address field type in majordomo@listserv.asanet.org; leave subject field blank;
2. In the text of the message type subscribe peace_war
3. Make sure there is nothing else in the message (no signature)
4. Send the message. You will receive confirmation, and an authorization key with which to confirm that you really want to join the list. Once you reply positively to that you will get a welcome message.

The section’s discussion list, at peace_war@listserv.asanet.org, unlike the section announcement list, is not “prepopulated” with e-mail addresses of section members. Individuals must subscribe.