Letter from the Chair

Dear Section Members:

Foremost, congratulations to our newly elected section officers for the coming year in Peace, War, and Social Conflict positions. Louis Hicks (Chair-Elect), Patrick G. Coy (Council Member) and Tammy A. Smith (Council Member). John T. Crist (Secretary/Treasurer). Thank yous to out-going section officers: Brigitte Neary and David Rohall.

Section membership is in very good standing. We have not quite reached my ambitious goal of 400 members for 2006; however, as of June 2006 we are at 297 members headed into the meetings membership drive and renewals. We should easily top the 300 benchmark. Thanks to everyone, especially our membership committee chaired by Yuko Kurashina Whitestone, for your individual and concerted efforts to get the word out about our vibrant section.

We have an outstanding section program prepared for the 2006 American Sociological Association meetings in Montreal. Our section day is the first day, August 11. Our section activities are listed in this newsletter. There are some additional activities touching on peace, war,
and the military at the meetings and we have them listed as well.

We’re excited about some section buttons we’ve created especially for this year’s conference. Throughout our section day, PW&SC Council Members will provide our 300-plus members and potential members in attendance with a button. Wear it with pride and advertise the section. I look forward to seeing many of you at the section’s reception on Friday night.

Other features of this summer newsletter include 2006 awards announcements, an essay by Jackie Smith, a book review by Ron Pagnucco, a reprinted video review, section member recent publications, recent films about peace, war, and social conflict, and other general announcements of interest to section members. Thanks to Josh Klein for putting our newsletter together again and again.

I bid you all farewell as Section Chair. A thousand thank yous for your calls and emails of support. Thank you for allowing me serve you and stewarding the section for a short tenure. I hope I left the section better than I found. We’re in great hands with Lee Smithey.

Morten Ender, Section Chair (2005-2006)

AWARDS

Robin Williams Distinguished Career Award

Congratulations to Charles Moskos as the 2006 Robin Williams Distinguished Career Award recipient. Past winners include:

1992 Robin Williams, Cornell University
1993 Louis Kriesberg, Syracuse University
1994 Elise Boulding, Dartmouth College
1995 Herbert C. Kellman, Harvard University
1996 Gene Sharp, Harvard University
1997 William Gamson, Boston College
1998 Allen Day Grimshaw, Indiana University
1999 Janet Abu-Lughod, New School for Social Research
2000 David R. Segal, University of Maryland, College Park

2001 Glen Elder, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
2002 Mady Wechsler Segal, University of Maryland, College Park
2003 Thomas J. Scheff, University of California, Santa Barbara and Suzanne M. Retzinger, Santa Barbara
2004 Paul Wehr, University of Colorado, Boulder
2005 Lester Kurtz, University of Texas, Austin

2006 Elise M. Boulding Student Paper Award

Congratulations to Arielle Botter (Rowan University) and Tammy Smith (Columbia University) as the 2006 Elise M. Boulding Student Paper Award recipients. The undergraduate award goes to Arielle Botter for her paper “Their Own Corner of the Island: Violent Nationalism Among Sri Lanka’s Tamils.” The Graduate Paper Award goes to Tammy Smith for "Institution-Building After Conflict: Emergent Confidence or Interpersonal Trust?"

2006 United Nations Memorial Fellowship Award Recipients

Congratulations to Ryan Burgess (Teachers College, Columbia University) and Michelle Gawere (Boston College) as the Peace, War and Social Conflict Section’s Graduate Student Fellows for 2006. Ryan and Michelle have demonstrated through their research and their commitment to a more peaceful world that they exemplify the goals not only of the Section, but more importantly those of the people for whom this award was established.

The PW&SC section’s newly created United Nations Memorial Fellowship Award program pays for ASA and section membership fees to two graduate students. Applicants were asked to submit a curriculum vita, along with a statement of how their research interests coincide with the study of peace, war, genocide, military institutions and social conflict. The two winners were asked to submit a brief bio regarding their scholarly activities—this year’s recipients are Daniel Ritter, University of Texas-Austin and Tammy Ann Smith, Columbia University.
Michelle Ilana Gawerc  Biographical Note

I am a PhD Student in the Department of Sociology at Boston College. My research interests are in world conflict, multi-faceted peace-making, peace-building, people-to-people projects, and finally, the possibilities and limitations of the various modalities for creating an infrastructure for sustainable just peace.

My scholarly interest in peace-making, peace-building, and social justice is rooted in the past eleven years in which I have actively explored issues of prejudice, conflict, structural violence, and social change. Prior to my doctoral studies, I pursued an MA: Peace Studies from Notre Dame, and conducted graduate research on Israeli-Palestinian peace-building at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at the University of Haifa as a Fulbright Fellow. Much of my passion has been applied and this hands-on experience has grown to include Israeli-Palestinian peace-building with teachers, high school students, and kindergarteners in Israel-Palestine; German-Polish-Jewish dialogue with young adults in Oswiecim (Auschwitz), Poland; race and ethnic relations with secondary school and university students in the United States; and international education for peace work as a consultant for UNESCO-Washington.

My dissertation research will focus on peace-building during times of acute violence utilizing longitudinal field research data and surveys of Palestinian-Israeli people-to-people initiatives—some of which was accomplished during my Fulbright Fellowship. More specifically, I will study how initiatives adapt to radically changing environments, the challenges they face, and their effectiveness - internally for the participants and externally for the larger political and cultural reality.

This research crosses various fields and seeks to make a distinct theoretical contribution to the broad fields of peace studies, conflict resolution, and organization studies by offering critical insight into how organizations adapt in radically changing environments, what is problematic, what are their possibilities, and what is their value/impact, documenting both patterns and different ways of adjusting to the shifts. Empirically, this longitudinal study of peace-building in the Israeli-Palestinian context, which includes research pre, para, and post Second Intifada (1997 – 2007), can also serve as a historical record. Bringing a critical eye to the research, I will seek for political import to offer recommendations to strengthen the symbolic, cultural, and political worth and value of peace-building during these three radically different periods.

Ryan Burgess  Biographical Note

Ryan’s research interests in peace, conflict and nonviolence stem from his experience in the field of international educational development, focusing on the relationship between policy reform and field-based approaches to formal and nonformal education programs.

For the past five years, Ryan has been working and conducting research in conflict and post-conflict areas including Eastern Europe, Africa and South America. His experience includes three years with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) managing, implementing and evaluating education development programs in eleven countries/territories, including Macedonia, Serbia and Armenia. During the past two years, Ryan has also been researching formal and nonformal education programs for street children and children associated with fighting forces in Latin America, Africa and Asia, including field research in Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica and Tanzania.

Ryan is currently a doctoral candidate in International Educational Development at Teachers College (TC), Columbia University, specializing in international humanitarian issues. Throughout his studies at TC, he has focused on developing curricula for utilizing nonformal approaches for addressing the needs of children associated with fighting forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo and for street children in Brazil. Ryan has also worked in the Children and Youth Protection and Development Unit of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) on programs for children associated with fighting forces. His work for the IRC focuses on programs designed to demobilize children from armed groups and reintegrate them into society. Key issues in this process include conflict resolution, addressing issues of gender and violence, and nonviolence to name a few. So as to inform how to improve nonformal education approaches for vulnerable children, Ryan’s current dissertation research is a psychosocial analysis of why children decide to join or not join armed groups in Colombia. Through participant observation of a core group of children for six months, he hopes to shed light on the factors involved in a child’s decision-making process under difficult and unstable conditions.

Approximately 20 percent of the 17 million children in Colombia are affected by the ongoing armed conflict. Colombia is recognized as having one of the highest numbers of child soldiers in the world, with between 11,000 and 14,000 children involved in one of the four main armed groups, all of which have been known to use children as active combatants, porters, mail-carriers or in other capacities, and continue to do so today. In Colombia, most children join 'voluntarily,' which seems to be the current trend globally.

Studies of children in conflict suggest that poverty, child abuse, and the prestige of armed groups are factors leading to children’s voluntary recruitment. There is a knowledge gap, however, on how the interaction of these factors increases a child’s vulnerability to recruitment and influences children’s decisions to join armed groups. By examining how the combination of social, political, economic and cultural factors influence these decisions,
this study will contribute to a topic that is central not only to the development of Ryan’s academic field, but also to international organizations working with populations of vulnerable children.

Essay: Human Rights Have No Borders

Debates about immigration in this country have failed to engage some fundamental moral and practical considerations. For instance, we need to ask whether we, as a society, really believe in universal human rights. In practice, we have reserved those rights only for those born within certain geographic boundaries.

But we should recall that, following World War II, first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and other Americans were at the forefront in promoting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Borderless human rights were seen as essential to any effort to “end the scourge of war” and to prevent the rise of another Nazi regime. States that respect the rights of their own citizens are less likely to engage in acts of international aggression. And international human rights ensure that those fleeing inhumane conditions in their home countries will not face abuses elsewhere.

We also need to ask whether border restrictions are really effective at limiting the flow of immigrants across our borders. We have lots of experience that speaks to this. The current proposals to build walls and send more security guards to the border are not new. Our government has been doing this for well over a decade. Since the mid-1990s, the United States has spent tens of billions of dollars and has tripled the number of officers at the U.S.-Mexico border. During that time, the number of confirmed deaths of would-be immigrants increased to nearly 500 annually. Despite these vast human and financial costs, the number of people crossing the border hasn’t changed. Why is this?

Most experts agree that our global economic policies are the key to explaining why people choose to leave their home countries in search of jobs. Since the North American Free Trade Agreement went into force, between one and two million agricultural jobs in Mexico disappeared due to competition from U.S. imports. Other sectors of the economy haven’t replaced those lost jobs, and as a result average wages in Mexico have declined as much as 60 percent in some sectors.

If the causes of migration are global, then the responses must also be global. Policies that enhance border controls without changing the policies that fuel migration are doomed. Such policies will not only fail, but they also guarantee that more people will die and suffer human rights violations at the hands of the U.S. government. This will fuel the growing anti-American sentiment around the world, increasing threats to security rather than reducing them.

A better approach would be to confront the causes of migration while also emphasizing universal respect for human rights. Proponents of immigrant rights should press the U.S. government to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families. This treaty came into force in 2003 to help guarantee that the rights established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights apply to everyone—including those forced to leave their countries in search of work. Thirty-four governments have already signed the treaty, but others are unlikely to do so without substantial pressure from citizens.

Critics of the United States point to our government’s failure to act on our nation’s noble principles of democracy and human rights. By joining the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families, the United States would be demonstrating true leadership for human rights. It would also be advancing international law and democracy, thereby promoting our own national peace and security.

Jackie Smith is a professor of sociology and faculty member at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Her forthcoming book is called Changing the World: Struggles for Global Democracy.

Book Review


David Cortright, President of the Fourth Freedom Forum, and Peace Studies Professor at Notre Dame, is a unique combination of scholar and activist. He has written a number of books and essays that explore in a scholarly fashion the organizations and movements in which he has been involved such as Soldiers in Revolt: GI Resistance During the Vietnam War (Haymarket Books, second edition, 2005); A Peaceful Superpower: The Movement Against War in Iraq (Fourth Freedom Forum, 2004); and Peace Works: The Citizen’s Role in Ending the Cold War (Westview, 1993). He served as the director of The Committee for a SANE Nuclear Policy (SANE) for 10 years, and is one of the founders and leaders of the United for Peace and Justice coalition and the Win Without War coalition. Cortright's broad experience in peace movement organizations at the national and local levels provides him with a pragmatic understanding of how nonviolence works as a movement tactic, making this book a very valuable contribution to our understanding of nonviolent action. Cortright has
succeeded in his goal of writing a book that is at once both a useful guide to more effective action and a scholarly analysis. That is not an easy task.

Interestingly, Cortright embraces nonviolence as a philosophy of life, not simply a tactic; several chapters of the book explore its philosophical and theoretical aspects. The chapters on Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, Cesar Chavez, and Barbara Deming provide very readable and informative introductions to their lives and thought. The chapter on Gandhi explores his and King's thought and behavior concerning women, and then looks at the life and thought of Margaret Sanger while also briefly exploring the thought of others on feminism and nonviolence. Those familiar with these topics would no doubt still benefit from reading these chapters.

Three chapters look at the more pragmatic issues of using nonviolent action. Cortright is refreshingly straightforward in stating that we must realize that nonviolent action has worked in some cases, failed in others, and may not work in all cases. He insightfully analyzes a couple of U.S. cases in which nonviolent action failed, though I would have liked to see a little more discussion of such cases. Cortright intelligently combines insights from his earlier chapters as well from social movement research, and the work of Gene Sharp and Saul Alinsky, As Cortright acknowledges, he had to modify Alinsky as he was rather cynical about Gandhi (and just about everyone else) and some of his advice is not really consistent with a philosophy of nonviolence. Since Cortright uses Alinsky's work, I would have liked to see more discussion of how Alinsky's approach is different from the approach Cortright is advocating; Alinsky seemed to think personalizing the problem and stirring up anger and indignation were key components of mobilization, something nonviolent activists seemingly reject as such. However, drawing from his own experience as well as the relevant literature, Cortright does present an excellent practical guide to what is needed to mobilize and sustain a nonviolent movement, and to how nonviolent tactics actually work. I strongly recommend this book to all who would like to see nonviolent action from the viewpoint of the nonviolent actor, an important perspective that complements the more macro-level comparative work one finds in such books as Kurt Schock's masterful Unarmed Insurrections: People Power Movements in Nondemocracies (University of Minnesota Press, 2005).

Ron Pagnucco is Chair of the Department of Peace Studies at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in Minnesota.

**PW&SC Section Member Publications**


**Smith, Tammy.** (forthcoming). “Why Social Capital Subverts Institution Building in Risky Settings,” Qualitative Sociology (Earlier version of the paper awarded the 2005 Elise M. Boulding Graduate Student Paper Award).
PROGRAM: PEACE, WAR, & SOCIAL CONFLICT AT THE 2006 ASA MEETINGS IN MONTREAL

Section Day Friday, August 11th

07:00am – 0830am

Hyatt Regency Montreal - Le Café Fleuri

PW&SC Council Meeting

10:30am - 12:10pm

Palais des congrès de Montréal

PW&SC Regular Session: Sociology of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars

Session Organizer: Brigitte U. Neary (University of South Carolina Upstate)

Presider: Morten G. Ender (United States Military Academy)

Policing Iraq: Iraqi Civilian Police and the Reconstruction of Society, Mathieu Deflem (University of South Carolina), Suzanne Taylor Sutphin (University of South Carolina - Columbia)

The Militarist Self: A Challenge to Prevailing Views of the Individual in a War Culture, Josh R. Klein (Iona College)

Analyzing the Role of Gender in an Abu Ghraib Courts-Martial, Stjepan G. Mestrovic (Texas A&M University), Ryan Ashley Caldwell (Texas A&M University)

Gender, Ideological, and Racial Differences in Attitudes toward the War in Iraq among Military Personnel, David E. Rohall (Western Illinois University)

Discussant: Brigitte U. Neary (Univ. of South Carolina Upstate)

2:30pm - 3:25pm

Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict Peace, War, and Social Conflict Roundtables (one-hour)

Palais des congrès de Montréal

Session Organizer: Meredith A. Kleykamp (Princeton University) and Louis Hicks (Saint Mary’s College of Maryland)

Table 01. Torture and Human Rights

Perpetrators, Bystanders, and the Whistle-Blower at Abu Ghraib: A Symbolic Interactionist Analysis

Tina M Gray (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), Rosalyn Benjamin Darling (Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania)

Civil and State Terror: an Analysis of Terrorism’s Effects on States’ Respect for Human Rights

Kristopher K. Robison (Ohio State University)

When Democracies Violate Human Rights: The Spiral Model for Norms Socialization and the Israeli Case

Eran Shor (Stony Brook University)

Table 02. Ethnicity, Gender, and Conflict

Session Organizer: Louis Hicks (St. Marys College of Maryland)

Ethnic Boundaries in Darfur: From Economic Fluidity to Militarized Rigidity

Erik Nielsen (University of Kansas)

Severed From Their Homeland And Livelihoods: The Internal Displacement Of Kurds in Turkey as a Process of Social Exclusion

Hatice Deniz Yukseker (Koc University)

Terrorism and Women: Domination and the State

Pat L. Lauderdale (Arizona State University), Annamarie Oliverio (Director, SRI)

Political Geographies, Politicized Masses: Mobilization among the Displaced Kurds in Southeastern Turkey

Deniz Gokalp (The University of Texas at Austin)

Table 03. Social Relations and Conflict

Trade and the Flag: Integration and Conflict in Waves of Globalization and Deglobalization
Robert Alan Hanneman (University of California, Riverside), Anders John Carlson (University of California Riverside), Richard Evan Niemeyer (University of California, Riverside)

War as Process and Event: The Case of Northern Ireland

Wendy Wiedenhoft (John Carroll University), James M. Murphy (University of Maryland)

Table 04. Media, Framing and Knowledge

Core Constructs and Coherence? Whither Peace and Conflict Studies in the US and Canada?

Timothy K. Hedeen (Kennesaw State University) and Patrick G. Coy (Kent State University)

Manufactured Risk, Manufactured Consent: Media as Risk Management in the Age of Terror

Christopher Pieper (University of Texas)

Reading the War with Iraq

Ahoo Tabatabai (University of Cincinnati)

When Yellow Ribbons Just Aren't Enough: A Case of Framing the Anti-Iraq War Movement

Gregory C. Gibson (Purdue University)

3:30pm - 4:10pm

Palais des congrès de Montréal

Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict Business Meeting and Awards Presentation (40 minutes)

4:30pm – 6:10pm

Palais des congrès de Montréal

PW&SC Regular Session: Global Conflicts and Prospects for Peace

Session Organizer: Meridith Gould (Delray Beach, FL)

Presider: Meridith Gould (Delray Beach, FL)

Contentious Allies: How Social Movements in Turkey Impacted the American Military Presence

Amy K. Holmes (Johns Hopkins University)

Joining the War: Masculinity, Nationalism and War Participation in the Balkans War of Secession, 1991-1995

Aleksandra Milicevic (Colgate University), Stanley R. Bailey (University of California, Irvine)


J. Craig Jenkins (Ohio State University), Stephen J. Scanlan (Ohio University) Lindsey Peterson (Ohio State University)

The Case of Societal Destruction in Darfur: Sudan and Rule by Serial Genocide

Joyce Apsel (New York University)

Theorizing Civil Society, Public Sphere and Hegemony in Divided Societies along National Lines: From Negotiation to Unilateralism in Israel/Palestine

Silvia Pasquetti (UC Berkeley)

6:30pm - 8:15pm

Palais des congrès de Montréal

Reception of the Section on Peace, War and Social Conflict

Friday, August 11 and Saturday August 12th

Other Peace, War, Military, and Social Conflict Related Events

Friday, Aug 11

08:30am – 10:10am

Building: Palais des congrès de Montréal

Thematic Sessions: Transgressing Boundaries: War and National Sovereignty

Session Organizer: Christopher Chase-Dunn (University of California, Riverside)

Presider: Christopher Chase-Dunn (University of California, Riverside)
Saturday, Aug 12

08:30am – 10:10am

Palais des congrès de Montréal

Peace, Conflict, and War

Session Organizer: Sharon Erickson Nepstad (University of Southern Maine)

Presider: Sharon Erickson Nepstad (University of Southern Maine)

Examining the Social Origins of Nonviolent Revolutions: Nonviolence-receptive Ideologies

Daniel P. Ritter (University of Texas at Austin)

Levinas and “The Suffering of the Other:” Reconciliation in Israel/Palestine

Sarah L. MacMillen (University of Notre Dame)

Natural Resources: Predictors for War?

Margarita V. Alario (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater), Leda E. Nath (University of Wisconsin at Whitewater)


Aleksandra Milicevic (Colgate University)

Discussant: Steven Carlton-Ford (University of Cincinnati)

Saturday, Aug 12th

10:30am - 12:10pm

Palais des congrès de Montréal

Session: Military

Session Organizer: Peggy McClure (Drexel University)

Presider: Peggy McClure (Drexel University)

War Propaganda: From WW II Radio to Internet Terrorism & Video War Games

Susan E. Cavin (New York University-SCPS)

The Production of Human Intelligence, Abu Ghraib and the Global War on Terror

Luca Follis (New School For Social Research)

Military Spending and Economic Well-Being in the American States: The Post-Vietnam War Era

Casey A. Borch (University of Connecticut), Michael E. Wallace (University of Connecticut)

The Changing Moral Contract for Military Service

James Burk (Texas A&M University)

African Americans and Latinos in the U.S. Military: Trends in Representation

Mady Wechsler Segal (University of Maryland), David R. Segal (University of Maryland)

Saturday, Aug 12th

12:30am - 2:10pm

Palais des congrès de Montréal

Informal Discussion Roundtables

The Military Peace Movement: Supporting the Troops by Fighting Against the War in Iraq

Lisa A. Leitz (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Peace, War, Military, and Social Conflict Films

A Company of Soldiers is a PBS Frontline feature capturing the experiences of a company of U.S. soldiers on the Tigris River in Iraq. Info at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/company/


The War Tapes is an autoethnographic documentary film by U.S. reserve soldiers in Iraq. Winner of the Best Documentary at the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival. Info at http://www.thewartapes.com/


Gunner Palace is the nickname of a palace in Iraq given by Uday Hussein. Filmmaker Michael Tucker documents the life of American soldiers occupying the palace during the Iraq war. Info at http://www.gunnerpalace.com/.

La Sierra about Colombia’s bloody civil conflict, in which left-wing guerillas fight against the government and illegal right-wing paramilitary groups. The documentary examines life over a year in a barrio (La Sierra, in Medellin) through lives of three young people. Info at http://www.lasierrafilm.com/.

Return to Kandahar features Nelofer Pazira, the star of the movie “Kandahar,” who returns to her native Afghanistan. In the hope of tracking down her childhood friend Dyana, whose story inspired the feature film, Nelofer travels to the city of Kabul, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif. Info at http://jfilm.org/rtk/.

Sir, No Sir with interviews with Jerry Lembcke (Holycross) will screen at the ASA in Montreal at 4:30 on Friday August 11. Info at http://www.sirnosir.com/.

Twilight’s Last Gleaming a 22-minute film of a Gold Star Mother’s son has been missing-in-action in Vietnam for thirty years. Before Alzheimer's steals her last memory of him, she begins a search to bring him home. http://www.ibiny.com/twilight.html

Voices of Iraq is an autoethnography of sorts. Cameras were given to Iraqis to document their experiences during the Iraq War. The film has already won a number of international film festivals. Info at: http://www.voicesofiraq.com/.

General Announcements

Tammy Smith accepted a joint one-year post-doc research fellowship at Harvard's Belfer Center and the Kennedy School's Women in Public Policy Program to examine international institutions' responses to the problem of trafficking of women in peacekeeping zones in the Balkans. She will be conducting research while in Bosnia this summer and expect to travel to Kosovo, Macedonia and Cyprus during the upcoming academic year.

The University of Maryland was recently awarded a contract with the United States Naval Academy to offer a graduate-level program to mid-grade Navy and Marine Corps officers who will be Company Officers at the Naval Academy. In this position they will be vital in midshipmen development as leaders, mentors and instructors. In the 2006-2007 cohort there are 12 Naval officers, 3 Marine Corps officers and 1 Coast Guard officer. The Navy's program was initially offered through the Naval Postgraduate School, with most courses offered as modules at the Naval Academy, with faculty from NPS. The program at University of Maryland will allow students to experience the University environment, taking most of their classes at UMCP along with other graduate students and incorporating into the academic setting.

Offering a challenging learning environment, it is a one year program in which the students will receive a Masters of Professional Studies in Leadership Education and Development (LEAD). It is an interdisciplinary program that combines elements of three academic programs at the University of Maryland: the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services (EDCP), the program in Industrial and Organizational Psychology in the Department of Psychology and the program in Military Sociology in the Department of Sociology. The program will fall under the purview of the Office of International and Executive Programs (OIEP), Dr. Charles Wellford, Director, in the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS). The program is cohort based, designed so that all members will complete the program as a cohort. The 45-credit degree core program is the same for all, with the exception of one or two optional courses (6 credits).

The program is built around seven fundamental themes: (1) leadership theory and application; (2) group and organizational dynamics; (3) counseling and mentoring skills and techniques, (4) student development theory and applications; (5) college teaching and curriculum development; (6) military sociology and (7) integration and application contextualized in the Navy environment. During their last semester (Spring) they will spend a majority of their time taking classes and student teaching...
at the Naval Academy by Academy instructors contracted by UMCP. In addition to the formal class work, the program plans to utilize local assets. The students will be privileged to have outside speakers and visit key agencies in the Washington D.C. area. For more information, please visit http://www.lead.umd.edu/

Funding Opportunities

Funding Available for Community Based Research Projects

The Sociological Initiatives Foundation provides grants of $5,000 to $15,000 to support community-based research projects.

Areas of interest include but are not limited to social justice, social welfare, human rights, literacy, language learning and use, dialect use and curricular issues in teaching second languages and non-native languages.

The Foundation is also interested in supporting research by sociologists and linguists that provide a direct benefit to communities.

Complete guidelines and on-line concept application for the August 15, 2006 deadline are available at http://comm-org.wisc.edu/sif. Contact Prentice Zinn at pzinn@grantsmanagement.com or 617-426-7080x307.

The United States Institute of Peace invites applications for two 2007-2008 Scholarships

Senior Fellowship Competition in the Jennings Randolph Program for International Peace

The United States Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan institution created by Congress to strengthen the nation's capacity to promote the peaceful resolution of international conflict. The Peace Scholar program supports doctoral dissertations that explore the sources and nature of international conflict, and strategies to prevent or end conflict and to sustain peace. Dissertations from a broad range of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields are eligible. Peace Scholars work at their universities or appropriate field research sites. Priority will be given to projects that contribute knowledge relevant to the formulation of policy on international peace and conflict issues. Citizens of all countries are eligible, but Peace Scholars must be enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States. Applicants must have completed all requirements for the degree except the dissertation by the commencement of the award (September 1, 2007). Applications are due on January 10, 2007. For more information and an application form, please visit the Institute's website at www.usip.org, or contact the Jennings Randolph Program, U.S. Institute of Peace, 1200 17th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036-3011, USA. phone: 202 429 3886, fax: 202 429 6063, email: jrprogram@usip.org.

Peace Scholar Dissertation Fellowship competition of the Jennings Randolph Program for International Peace

The United States Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan institution created by Congress to strengthen the nation's capacity to promote the peaceful resolution of international conflict. The Peace Scholar program supports doctoral dissertations that explore the sources and nature of international conflict, and strategies to prevent or end conflict and to sustain peace. Dissertations from a broad range of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields are eligible. Peace Scholars work at their universities or appropriate field research sites. Priority will be given to projects that contribute knowledge relevant to the formulation of policy on international peace and conflict issues. Citizens of all countries are eligible, but Peace Scholars must be enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States. Applicants must have completed all requirements for the degree except the dissertation by the commencement of the award (September 1, 2007). Applications are due on January 10, 2007. For more information and an application form, please visit the Institute's website at www.usip.org, or contact the Jennings Randolph Program, U.S. Institute of Peace, 1200 17th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036-3011, USA. phone: 202 429 3886, fax: 202 429 6063, email: jrprogram@usip.org.
Nature of this Subfield

Sociologists take human values into account, and we draw on universal conceptions of equity, fairness and notions of a decent society when we do. For example, racism and sexism are harmful to individuals and to society; great inequalities in wealth cannot be justified in a democratic society; child poverty and malnutrition cannot be tolerated; and, group differences are valued as a source of identity and belonging. Such notions relate to a broad understanding of human rights, and to fundamental principles that, humans are equal and that cultures are different and diverse. The first principle, human equality, motivates collective aspirations for universal education, decent jobs and full employment, and universal healthcare. The second principle, diversity, motivates respect for differences in culture and tradition, language, the expression of sexual orientation, interests, and talents.

These are principles that the United States endorsed when it became a party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and to the Vienna Declaration in 1993. Growing global interdependencies arising from, among other forces, rapid economic globalization and accompanying inequalities, the environment, worldwide communications, public health, and international terrorism have renewed worldwide commitment to these principles. U.S. scholarly bodies, including the American Sociological Association and the American Anthropological Association, have also passed resolutions in support of human rights.

The field of human rights makes explicit certain values, such as justice and equity. For sociologists, stating these values helps to focus research and makes clear the links between science, policies and practice. We believe that American sociologists have become accustomed to such honesty when they engage in research on peoples’ welfare, the environment, democracy, and inequalities by gender and race. None of the disaster researchers would have professed neutrality in their studies of the devastation wrought by Katrina just as no educational sociologist can be neutral about failing schools. It is becoming increasingly acceptable that sociologists are self-critical about their values and then they can roll up their sleeves and get on with research. This is in the best tradition of a publicly engaged sociology. […]

These disparate strands relate to aspects of human rights, as initially conceived in the 1948 Universal Declaration, and subsequently elaborated in treaties and declarations. Organizing these disparate strands into a common thread is helpful because it clarifies the conceptual framework, helps to guide research, and helps American sociologists organize their research interests within a broader international framework.

Issues Addressed within the Subfield
1. The relationship between human rights and citizenship rights. Often compared to each other, sociologists are increasingly asking how human rights and citizenship rights can coalesce to produce social change meaningful to various social groups.
2. Political rights: The ASA’s initiative on fair election practices in the 2004 election is a clear example of sociological interest in political rights.
3. Civil rights: From the early days of W. E. B. Du Bois and Jane Addams, sociologists have been interested in promoting civil rights, and research on racial disparities in such things as income has accompanied study of racism.
4. Economic rights: Labor market investigations deal with inequalities in the labor market (for example, Dan Clawson, Cynthia Epstein, and Arne Kalleberg), while others, such as William Julius Wilson focus on poverty.
5. Participation rights: Beyond government and the market place, sociologists study barriers to participation in civil society and ramifications of weakening participation rights on other human rights. Sociologists are interested in how participation rights are used across boundaries to expand human rights at the international level.
6. Women’s rights: Pioneering work by Elsie Parsons, anthropologist and sociologist, continues to this day, in the work of, for example, Patricia Hill Collins and Cynthia Epstein.
7. Children’s rights: There is abundant work on child welfare and children’s rights, and to give three examples, research on child homelessness by Roslyn Mickelson, on unequal schooling by Charles Willie, and corporal punishment by Murray Straus are important contributions to research on children’s rights.
8. Rights of the aged: Gerontology has as its premise the rights of older people, and has been the focus of sociological research by, for example, Jill Quadagno.
9. Environmental rights: In the past decade, considerable sociological work has focused on clean water, clean air, and nontoxic land and buildings (Lee Clarke and Kenneth Gould).
10. Sustainability: Sometimes considered a public good, which is the collective expression of human rights, sustainable communities and development is a central focus of disaster researchers, such as Havidan Rodriguez and Kai Erikson.

11. Responsibility to remember past harms and to affirm the rights of victims and their descendants, through reparations and to memorialize their sacrifices.

12. Refugees and asylum seekers: Often human rights are conceptualized as essential instruments for individuals and groups that are stateless or incapable of receiving justice from their own state.

13. Human rights institutions: Courts, NGOs, international governing institutions, and states are key institutions for establishment and enforcement of human rights. […]

Links to other fields

As implied, the field of human rights relates to many different sub-fields but it helps pulls them together, as Public Sociology has helped us understand. The human rights researcher is more likely to say, for example, ‘poverty is wrong, so how do we go about doing research that will show us how we can lessen it?’ rather than, ‘how can we account for the variation in poverty?’ We believe that many will be interested in this more straightforward approach. Additionally, the human rights researcher is more likely to look for connections across domains, such as housing, health, employment, education, because human rights have unitary coherence.

An ASA section devoted to human rights would form valuable links to other subfields of the discipline. Sociologists studying human rights often take a comparative perspective to evaluate human rights by gender or age, or membership status, such as citizen, immigrant, or refugee. Sociologists studying social policies ask whether human rights can mitigate socioeconomic differences by race, ethnicity, nationality, or language. In turn, some sociologists ask what explains differences in availability and application of human rights. Of course, sociologists study conceptions of human rights, as well as different kinds of human rights, including rights to education, health care, bodily control, and freedom of conscience. A rights-based sociology will also be closely connected to public sociology. Sociologists not only ask what factors influence establishment of human rights, we are interested in factors that mitigate human rights. For instance, what are the roles of social movements, political institutions, and other social actors, including labor unions and nongovernmental organizations, for human rights development? How do community development, wealth and technology, and legal systems affect establishment and employment of human rights? Sociologists are critical of human rights. Are human rights universal, or do human rights have a cultural bias by which they promote certain values and beliefs that are not globally embraced? These are questions that sociologists—across subfields—might explore.

An ASA section on human rights would promote sociology’s ties to other disciplines and professions. An especially important connection is with crimes against humanity, dislocations of populations, and genocide. These are criminal actions and fall under the framework of international law, especially the Geneva Conventions. Collaborating with legal scholars, sociologists can make invaluable contributions to prevent future atrocities as the Holocaust, dislocations of sociocultural groups such as and acts of ethnic cleansing like the Darfur genocide.

Short Bibliography of sociology authors, with explicit emphasis on human rights:


12
Smith, Jackie. Transnational Social Movements and Global Politics: Solidarity Beyond the State (Syracuse University Press, 1997)


There are frequent references throughout the documentary to the urgency of understanding the psychology of groups, tribes, and cultures. The complexity of society which has lost its humanity, is leading to erratic and difficult to diagnose and correct collapses of all the basic mechanisms of survival. General Dallaire's recount is not about Rwanda--it is about us and what will happen to us if we persist in being obtuse about our world. Perhaps the strongest message of this documentary lies in learning lessons from the genocide in Rwanda and understanding the forces that could, if properly implemented, permit billions to survive in peace.

Video Review:

Shake Hands with the Devil, The Journey of Romeo Dallaire


In the documentary “Shake Hands with the Devil, The Journey of Romeo Dallaire,” there are several pertinent educational points relevant for today’s future Army officer. Through interviews and insights from LTG Dallaire and a few of his subordinate officers, we learn of their capable leadership abilities, yet inability to accomplish their peacekeeping mission due to a host of factors including an absolute deprivation of UN resources and reinforcements. Despite the task forces’ (and specifically LTG Dallaire’s) valiant leadership efforts, the attempts to stifle the unrest and the resulting genocide are unsuccessful. Especially poignant is LTG Dallaire’s account of the world’s indifference (specifically the American media’s obsession with the OJ Simpson trial) to the growing atrocities occurring in Rwanda. He specifically poses the question, “Is one human life worth more than another?”

Other themes throughout the film include LTG Dallaire’s struggle with combat fatigue during the months in Africa and his resulting difficulty in issuing orders under these circumstances. His Post Traumatic Stress Disorder after returning to Canada is discussed in detail, to include several suicide attempts. The documentary captures this man’s struggle with and recount of the ghastly sensory experiences he perceived that forever changed his life.

Another important lesson is his failed use of the media in an attempt to grasp the world’s attention to the events in Rwanda (“One reporter with an INMARSAT is worth 100 troops”). This inability to gain worldwide attention and support caused a failure to build a cohesive UN task force, and ultimately led to each country with troops in Rwanda to withdraw individually after the first UN casualties occur.

Association of Religion Data Archives Announcement

The Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA), located at www.thearda.com, provides free access to high quality quantitative data on religion. The ARDA allows you to interactively explore American and international data using online features for generating national profiles, maps, church membership overviews, denominational heritage trees, tables, charts, and other summary reports. Over 400 datasets and a variety of learning modules are also available for download at no charge. Housed in the Social Science Research Institute at the Pennsylvania State University, the ARDA is funded by the Lilly Endowment and the John Templeton Foundation.

Recruit New Members!

We also invite each of you to bring one more member into our midst this year. Embracing the growing interests in war, peace, and social conflict among sociologists, we set our next goal to reach 400 members. Having 400 members will add another regular session and better facilitate our section members with additional funding given by the ASA. Please encourage your colleagues, students, and classmates who share research interests with us to join our section. Especially for graduate students, our section is a great place to start their professional career development and networking. There are few such sections that provide graduate students supportive environments and opportunities to play an active role.

At last, let me introduce the 2005-2006 Membership Committee members: Yuko Kurashina Whitestone (Committee Chair-University of Maryland, College Park), Stephen Trainor (U.S. Naval Academy), Aleksandra Sasha Milicevic (Colgate University), Laura Miller (RAND), and Scott P. Davis (St John’s University). Please feel free to contact me
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.

Section Discussion Listserv:

To join the section discussion listserv you need to do the following:

1. In the address field type in majordomo@listserv.asanet.org; leave subject field blank;
2. In 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.

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

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-oah.net/ASA/Profile/General.asp?S=1

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

In Memoriam

Professor Robin Murphy Williams, Jr. (1914-1993) died in early June 2006. A brilliant and productive sociologist, Professor Williams conducted field-work and published subsequent findings as part of The American Soldier during and after WWII. His most recent course syllabus taught in 2003 and titled “Sociology of Peace and War” is published in Teaching the Sociology of Peace, War, and Social Conflict: A Curriculum Guide (Washington, DC: American Sociological Association, 2003). Section members of the formerly named Peace and War and now Peace, War, and Social Conflict section inaugurated the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Award for Distinguished Career in Scholarship, Teaching, and Service in 1992 and Professor Williams was the first recipient of the award. Information about Professor Williams as the 48th ASA President is available at http://www.asanet.org/page.ww?section=Presidents&name=Robin+M.+Williams%2C+Jr.

Obituaries for Professor Williams have appeared in a number of venues:


Cornell University News Service http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/June06/Williams_obit.html;


Sociology & the Iraq War

Look for Sociological Focus soon to publish a special issue on “The Sociology of the Iraq War.” The issue is guest edited by Chair-Elect (Elect) Professor Louis Hicks, St. Mary’s College of Maryland.