Letter from the Chair

Sometimes we have to attend to the nuts and bolts of daily life, and springtime is traditionally a time for that (in sharp contrast to the New Year when we are filled with utopian aspirations). The nuts and bolts we have to attend to is whether to revise our section by-laws.

This seems no very glamorous thing to do. Changing the by-laws so they better reflect how we actually work together promises no big reward for anyone. Yet, failing to care whether the charter we live by is accurate suggests a kind of failing to care about ourselves as a community of scholars—a failing that is uncharacteristic of our section, as I know it. Take time to read the article about the proposed changes to the by-laws and, as you read, do not compare the proposed document with that great text found in the world of your dreams, but compare it rather with the current by-laws as they are. Then be sure to vote in the upcoming section elections, either for or against the changes as you think best.

Of course, I hope the changes will be approved. They are the result of serious thought and work done over the past two years—work that was largely done by Mady Segal to whom we owe our thanks. They reflect the suggestions and comments made by the membership at last year’s business meeting. They have been reviewed and unanimously approved by the council. In my
judgment, they better represent who we are than the existing by-laws.

Of course, another thing we do in spring is prepare for the annual meetings, this summer in Chicago. We have put together two challenging paper sessions—one on Theories of Humanitarian Crisis and Response and another on Changing Military and Political Cultures. In addition, we have an interesting and diverse set of papers for our roundtable session. There will be more to say about them all at a later date.

No doubt the upcoming presentations and discussions will be colored by our experience and understanding of the ongoing war on terror, and that color will be whatever is opposite a rose-colored glass. This war brings into sharp relief what we sometimes forget, namely, the seriousness and importance of the work we do for the well-being of the world. Hopefully, all of you will come to Chicago and contribute to the success of this effort.

James Burk, Texas A&M University

Proposed Changes to By-Laws

In addition to our customary vote for section officers, our spring election will also contain a referendum on proposed changes to the section by-laws. As you can see from the proposed changes in the text below, the current by-laws are deficient in many ways. They do not accurately reflect the section’s current name or clearly state the section’s mission. Nor do they accurately define the current committee structure. The current by-laws also contain no-longer-needed language about electing officers. Most of the proposed changes are meant to simplify the language of the current by-laws or more accurately to reflect current section practice. The major substantive change is to name the distinguished career award in honor of Professor Robin Williams, who was the first recipient of this award and whose work on war and peace set a high standard for all of us to follow.

The proposed changes are the result of much work and discussion. An earlier version of the proposed changes was reviewed by council and discussed at the section business meeting at the ASA meetings in Anaheim last summer. The text was revised based on comments and suggestions received at that meeting, with the revised text reviewed and unanimously approved by the council over the winter. The text they approved follows immediately below. If you have any questions about the recommended changes, please contact any of the section officers or members of the section council.

**SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF PEACE, AND WAR, AND SOCIAL CONFLICT**

**BY-LAWS**

The purpose of the Section on Sociology of Peace, & War, and Social Conflict is to foster the development and application of sociological theories and methods for the understanding and study of those conflicts which are wide enough in scope, and involve a large enough number of participants, to be regarded as a property of the sociosphere, or the total world social system. Conflict relationships between collectivities such as countries, ethnic groups, political movements, religious groups and other social entities are included. While the focus is on conflicts on a scale that produces differences in social patterning...
local conflicts also become a focus of study when they can be conceptualized in relation to the global system. Non-conflicting relations are also considered, insofar as they affect the awareness of conflicts, the manner in which they are conducted, and the nature of the conflicts’ outcome. 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. Also included are the roles of military organizations, other governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and social movements.

The Section facilitates the work of its members in several ways. First, at its meetings, sociologists working in related but, too often separate traditions and subject areas related to world conflicts are brought together. Section meetings bring together sociologists working in related, but too-often separate, traditions and subject areas related to peace, war, and social conflict. Second, the Section assists in the development of new courses and innovative approaches to teaching by facilitating exchange of experience and curricular materials. Thirdly, the Section encourages publication in this emerging field. These objectives are pursued through organized meetings and conferences, publications and other means deemed appropriate by the Council of the Section.

**Officers of the Section**: The officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, a Chairperson-Elect, and a Secretary-Treasurer. The Chairperson-Elect will automatically become Chairperson in the year following his or her office as Chairperson-Elect. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years. There shall be a Council consisting of six members, each serving for three years, with two council seats being vacated each year. In the first election of the Council the terms of office, whether for one, two or three years, shall be designated by the Chairperson. Officers shall not succeed themselves, with six members, each serving for three years, with two council seats being vacated each year. The Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, the immediate Past-Chair, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as members of the Council, with the Chairperson acting as Chairperson of the Council.

**Powers of the Officers**: The Council is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section, acting as the representatives of for the membership of the Section. Any action of the Section, including changes of the By-Laws, may be brought to the vote of the Section by the Council, by a petition of 10 percent of the members of the Section or by 25 members of the Section, whichever is less. Questions that are interpreted by the Council to be matters of new program development or policy shall be brought before the membership for discussion (at meetings, in the newsletter, on the website, and/or the listserv).

**Elections and Voting**: The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association, according to its rules, and coordinated to their its
schedule. The exception for this shall be the first election, which shall be carried out concomitantly with the formation of the Section. Officers elected shall serve through the first year after the Section is formed and accepted into the Association.

**Committees on Nominations.** There shall be a Committee on Nominations, appointed each year by the Chair with recommendations and approval of the Council. This is accomplished when the Council convenes at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall be non-overlapping from year to year, and shall be constituted of at least five members. Two candidates shall be presented for each office by the Committee on Nominations. Other Committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson with the approval of the Council on an ad hoc basis.

**Membership Committee.** A Membership Committee shall have the task of trying to maintain current Section members and recruit new members whose scholarly interests relate to the sociology of peace, war, military institutions, and/or social conflict. The Membership Committee shall be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Council.

**Elise Boulding Student Paper Award.** The Section shall give a student paper award named in honor of Elise Boulding to recognize her contributions to the study of peace and her role as a founding member of the Section. Submissions are solicited from students (who do not need to be Section members to be eligible). An Elise Boulding Student Paper Award Committee of at least three Section members shall be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Council. The term of office on the Committee shall be one year (though the same members may serve a second year). This Committee shall read the submitted papers to determine whether to give an award that year. There shall usually be a maximum of one award each year, though there is the possibility of an honorable mention and, in the event that the quality of the submissions warrant, there can be separate undergraduate student and graduate student paper awards.

**Robin Williams Award for Distinguished Contributions to Scholarship, Teaching, and Service.** The section shall give an Award for Distinguished Contributions to Scholarship, Teaching, and Service named to honor 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 shall honor 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 A.S.A. Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict. Nominations shall be solicited from Section members. The choice of award recipient shall be made by a committee consisting of the Section Chair (who shall chair the committee), the Chair-Elect, and the immediate Past-Chair.
Other Committees shall be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Council on an ad hoc basis.

Membership: The membership of the Section shall be drawn from members of the American Sociological Association who pay their dues. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended, and dropped from the rolls after two years.

Dues: Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accord with the requirements of the American Sociological Association. In addition, members of the Section shall be assessed as necessary to carry out any programs undertaken by the Section. The Council of the American Sociological Association shall from time to time determine the base dues for membership in the Section. Additional dues may be recommended by the Section Council and shall take effect if approved by written ballot of the members of the Section.

Nominations Sought for Distinguished Career Award

Now is the time to make nominations for this year’s award for Distinguished Contributions to Scholarship, Teaching or Service. The award is intended to honor an individual with an outstanding scholarly career in the study of peace, war, genocide, military institutions or social conflict and/or important contributions to teaching the sociology of peace, war, and social conflict and/or outstanding service to the ASA Section on Peace, War and Social Conflict.

Letters of nomination with a copy of the nominee’s curriculum vitae should be sent to James Burk, Department of Sociology, Texas A&M University, 4351 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4351 or by e-mail to jsburk@tamu.edu. To receive full consideration, nominations should be received before 1 May 2002.

Calls For Papers

ASR Call for Papers

The American Sociological Review invites manuscripts from members of the Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict. ASR’s mission is to publish the best contemporary scholarship from all areas of sociology. Without a healthy volume of submissions from scholars studying peace, war, and social conflict, this goal is seriously compromised. We thus encourage members of the Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict to submit their work for possible publication in ASR.

The ASR’s Deputy Editors and the members of the journal’s Editorial Board for 2002 comprise the largest and most intellectually diverse editorial team in ASR’s history. The editorial team joins the Editors in welcoming a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches and contributions from all substantive areas of the discipline. Also, ASR’s current editorial policies are highly flexible as to form and can accommodate manuscripts of various lengths and styles. (Full information about manuscript requirements is available in the August 2001 and February 2002 issues of the journal, at the ASR website. The web address is www.pop.psu.edu/ASR/asr.htm).
Alternatively, you may request the information by writing to asr@ssc.wisc.edu.

As a result of these editorial arrangements, we hope to publish more than our fair share of the best contemporary work on peace, war, and social conflict. We therefore strongly encourage Section members to submit their manuscripts to the American Sociological Review.

Charles Camic and Franklin Wilson, Editors

Recent Publications


Mathew Melko’s General War Among Great Powers in World History has been published by Mellen Press (2001).

Louis Kriesberg’s recent publication include:


The Growth of the Conflict Resolution Field, in Turbulent Peace, Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson and

Announcements

Graduate WebShop: The Impact of the Internet on Society

The Department of Sociology at the University of Maryland is hosting the 2nd annual graduate student workshop—or WebShop on June 3-14, 2002. Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, 30-50 leading scholars and experts who study the behavioral aspects of information technology will discuss current issues and research.

Student participants will receive up to $750 as a support grant as well as room and board. Students will develop original research projects as the basis for their thesis, dissertation, or other publication.

Topics include, but are not limited to: Inequality/Digital Divide, Public Access and Usage, Navigational Skills, Social Networks, Time/Activity Displacement, and Social Capital Implications. Please access the WebShop web page for the latest information about the WebShop and the invited participants.

Please find application information at: www.webuse.umd.edu. Application deadline for best consideration: April 8, 2002. For more information, please contact the Graduate WebShop, by regular mail at the Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-1315, by e-mail at webuse@soxy.umd.edu, by phone: 301-405-6421 or fax: 301-314-6892.

Upcoming Conferences

Research Committee 01, Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution, within the International Sociological Association (ISA), should interest members of this section. RC01 meets with the ISA at the World Congress, every four years; the next World Congress will be in Brisbane, Australia, July 7-13, 2002. In addition, it meets biennially in the United States. Gerhard Kuemmel is the Executive Secretary, and Giuseppe Caforio is president, officers from the U.S. are Mady Wechsler Segal, a vice president and Nehama Babin, Proshanta Nandi, and David R. Segal. See web page at http://www.ucm.es/info/isa.

The International Peace Research Association (IPRA) should be of interest to section members. IPRA meets every two years; the next meeting will be in Seoul, South Korea, July 2-5, 2002. For more information, see the IPRA web page: http://www.human.mie-u.ac.jp/~peace/about-ipra.
Join the Peace, War, & Social Conflict Section of the American Sociological Association

Our members are interested diverse areas, including:
♦ the dynamics of war
♦ peace movements
♦ refugees
♦ the causes of genocide
♦ conflict resolution
♦ nonviolence
♦ military institutions
♦ nongovernmental organizations

If you are a member of the ASA, simply fill out this form, include your section dues and mail it to ASA headquarters. If you are not an ASA member, you can use this form to get more information about the American Sociological Association and the section on Peace, War, & Social Conflict.

Mail to: American Sociological Association, 1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700 Washington, D.C. 20005-4701

From:__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

[ ] I am an ASA member and want to join the section on Peace, War, & Social Conflict. Enclosed is a check for $12 for section dues.

[ ] I am a student member of ASA and enclosed is a check for $7.

[ ] I am not a member of ASA, but am interested in joining. Please send me information about membership in both the ASA and the Peace, War, & Social Conflict section.

For more information, contact:
James Burk, Chair, JSBURK@TAMU.EDU, or
Morten Ender, Membership Chair, M2643@TROTTER.USMA.EDU.