



SPPS NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Section on Sociological Practice and
Public Sociology, American Sociological Association

Summer 2009

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National Institute on Drug Abuse

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University of North Florida

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Alliant International University

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Editor's commentary

Building Bridges Between Learning and Doing

Leora Lawton

TechSociety Research and UC Berkeley

Our section is all about building bridges. We take what we've learned – the theories and methods – and apply them to non-academic situations in order to create, build, modify, maintain and improve. Our professional role requires constantly reaching out to others, and at times, we also listen to those who reach out to us.

A recent recipient of a bachelors degree in sociology from UC Berkeley approached me and several other Cal professors for advice: Should he pursue a Ph.D. in sociology to try to become a professor? I wrote him a lengthy response but the short version is this: If you like research and teaching, it's great work if you can get it, but there are more qualified Ph.D.s than there are or will likely ever be jobs. I concluded that getting a Ph.D. might be worthwhile if he has the mindset that he might do something else, that many rewarding careers exist outside of academia, and so he should gain all the skills he possibly can while in school. I then recommended that he attend career workshops and other sessions at the ASA this summer, given that it's in the neighborhood this year.

I wonder how many people start their doctoral studies in sociology planning NOT to pursue a professorship. As I pondered the graduate's dilemma, I realized that the future of sociology must include preparing sociology degree candidates at all levels for a range of career possibilities, and yes, even at the top tier schools. With our membership increase, we now have the opportunity and the responsibility to keep building bridges – through participating in workshops and presenting our work in sessions, and of course, through submitting articles to our Newsletter about your experiences and successes.

A Note from the Chair

Augusto Diana

National Institute on Drug Abuse

Reaching Out Beyond Traditional Borders

Ok, we are still university-centric at our core. And ok, we have to acknowledge that this is necessary, meaningful to our cause, and useful to us. After all, it is university faculty who promote the sociological message more than any others and those who “create” the sociologists of the future. So, what efforts are we taking or can we take to expand this core?

It has already proven to be a good start to recognize our connection to public sociology. Since merging with this interest group and changing our Section name to include Public Sociology, our membership has risen to earlier levels. We do not yet have the data to know if this is a causal relationship but a 50% jump in membership from 2008 is a good sign, regardless. More to the point, the public sociology message is a relevant and important one for us, as for the rest of sociology. I hope we can continue to foster this connection and use it to help expand our thinking, as well as our numbers.

Several other exciting things are happening that may prepare us for an expanded vision. Your Council is a wonderful group of committed practicing sociologists with great ideas that, if implemented, will help widen our net. We would love to hear your ideas for how to bring in more practicing sociologists as well.

Leadership

Your current Section Chair has been in the practice world for 20 years. All of this time has been focused on research but the connections to policy and service orientations are significant. I have tried to promote the message that there must be more of me out there and regularly wondered how we might reach them. I have learned since joining the federal government 7 years ago that there are scores of sociologists spread throughout the public sector. These sociologists are consistently excited to find others like themselves and relish the opportunity to work collaboratively with sociological colleagues. This is likely a function of the social bonds that form when like individuals find themselves in a common, if unexpected, group context.

Your past Chair, Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler, has operated a small business doing research, teaching

and organizational consulting for a number of years, guiding her clients in the value of the sociological perspective. Your incoming Section Chair, Jeff Will, is university-based but is passionately committed to addressing social justice issues on the ground, and uses research as a vehicle to practice his sociological skills in carrying out a very public form of sociology. And your Chair-Elect, Roy Feldman, is a small business person who has been conducting sociological research for some time. Kathryn, Jeff and Roy have used their Council roles to guide us to think of other arenas where our voice is meaningful and where we might reach people. I am particularly excited to have a small business person learning the Section ropes, since my development as a sociological researcher occurred in the small business world. These Council officers reflect the necessary diversity in our membership and leadership if we are to be seen as relevant to the world in and out of the academy.

People who have to think beyond the relative safety and stability of a work environments like the university or federal and state governments, and those in the university like Jeff who are soft-money driven, offer exciting ways to think beyond our traditional borders. Roy and Jeff have helped our Section to think of institutional bodies with an interest in our work, and money to contribute as well. For instance, we are currently exploring ways to include local and national foundations and non-profit groups in our Section activities at the 2010 ASA conference in Atlanta. Preliminary research has shown a strong interest and willingness on the part of Foundation representatives to be part of our efforts. There are many good reasons for this: foundations often fund research and almost always support positive social change efforts, and they seek out dedicated and competent professionals in the research and policy worlds. From personal experience I can tell you that they see sociologists as this type of professional.

Future Leaders

Your incoming Secretary-Treasurer, Becky Hsu, is a recent sociology Ph.D. who has her hand firmly on the pulse of the younger sociological population. Becky has already helped us to think about ways to

make better use of the modern technological world, especially social networking sites such as Facebook. Becky has created a Facebook page for our Section to share information with each other but also with the wider sociology-thinking youth population. Think about how many students you have known, taught or mentored over the years who disappear from our consciousness. Don't you wonder if they are using their sociological knowledge in their professional lives? Think of the ways social networking sites can help us to know this and, perhaps, to continue to exert some influence over their choices. Even if they don't pursue traditional sociological careers, isn't it an inspiring thought that their professional choices and decisions could be guiding by ongoing awareness and use of the sociological perspective?

It is my firm belief that if sociology can become a more regular part of the public dialogue, more people

will use our theories, concepts and tools. I would not still be a sociologist if I did not think this would make the world a better place. My former mentor and the president of the small business company I worked at for almost 10 years, Susan Stein, was one of the few non-academic sociologists I ever knew who would unabashedly self-identify as a sociologist. By extending our sociology beyond hidden borders where it is comfortable, perhaps we can promote more pride and satisfaction with sociology as a public rather than a private discipline. Following Becky's lead and getting more young sociologists involved in discussion with one another is a great way to promote this goal. Simultaneously, we will be collecting money to support student memberships in our Section so be thinking of ways to draw the young into our efforts. I believe that only good things can come from it.

Member News

- Sam Friedman, a Senior Research Fellow at National Development and Research Institutes in New York City was awarded the 2009 International Rolleston Award of the International Harm Reduction Association. He received the award at the annual meeting held in Bangkok.
- Harry Perlstadt, professor in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University has received a Fulbright Scholar Award. He will be lecturing on US Health Care Policy and Politics and on the History of Public Health and Epidemiology at Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary. starting in late January, 2010.
- Susan Stall delivered her Presidential Address on "Civic Sociology" for the Midwest Sociological Society meetings on April 2 in Des Moines Iowa.

New Publications and Grants

Doing Sociology: Case Studies in Sociological Practice. Edited by Jammie Price, Jeff Breese, and Roger Straus. Lexington Books.

This successor to the well-known *Using Sociology* covers standard topics found in any Sociology textbook. *Doing Sociology* walks lay readers through the steps of doing real-life sociological practices as conducted by experts in the field. Not surprisingly, it features many of our section members as well, who range from university and college faculty, government sociologists, and practitioners from the private sector. Each of the chapters is by intention and design a *personal* statement, a case study illustrating how the authors practice sociology in their own words and style, giving readers a clearer understanding of what sociologists do outside of teaching in universities. And most importantly, an understanding of what they could do with sociology. As such, *Doing Sociology* is a readable and invaluable resource as a standalone course reader or as a supplement to a traditional textbook.

List of Contributors: Susan Ayres, Chet Ballard, Jeffrey R. Breese, Tim Cheney, Augusto Diana, John Glass, David Hartmann, Michael L. Hirsch, James Hougland, Ya-Lin Liu, Christopher J. Mansfield, Paul T. Melevin, Tracy A. Milligan, Harry Perlstadt, Jammie Price, Rudy Prine, Tina A. Quartaroli, Gayle M. Rhineberger-Dunn, Gene Shackman, Johnnie Spraggins, Stephen F. Steele, Roger A. Straus, Xun Wang, Jay Weinstein, and Jeffrey A. Will.

About the Editors: Jammie Price is professor of sociology at Appalachian State University.

Jeff Breese is associate dean of the School of Education and Human Services at Marymount University.

Roger Straus is vice president of TVG, Inc., and author of *Using Sociology: And Introduction from the Applied and Clinical Perspectives.* For more information, visit the Lexington Books website, <http://www.lexingtonbooks.com>.

Notes from the U.S. Field

Upcoming Annual Meetings

- The Fourth Annual Meeting of The Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology will be held October 7 to 11, 2009, in San Antonio at the St Anthony, a historic hotel located approximately a block or two from the Alamo. For more information, please visit <http://www.aacsnet.org>.
- Call for papers for the Pacific Sociology Association annual meeting to be held in Oakland April 8-11 2010. For more information, visit the website, <http://www.pacificsoc.org>.
- The International Sociological Association is organizing its XVII World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden, July 11-17, 2010. The Research Committee Futures Research (RC 07) invites papers for a range of planned sessions including one on "Power, Politics, Publics: Sociological Experiences". How does sociology relate to policy, power, and publics? How do sociologists contribute to social projects and alternative views? What is the experience of sociologists who engage in "critical" or "public" modes of doing sociology, including collaboration with social movements or public service? What can we learn from comparisons between different national experiences and different disciplines? What lessons can be learned from recent experiences in Latin America or other sites of the Global South? What is to be done to make sociology and the sociological imagination more relevant?

If you are interested in presenting, please send your proposal by October 15, 2009 to the organizers: Raquel Sosa (UNAM, Mexico) <rsosa@servidor.unam.mx> and Markus S. Schulz (UIUC, USA) <isarc07@gmail.com>. For further details and updates, visit: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rc07.htm>

Career

Getting a Job with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology

Laura Nichols, Department of Sociology and Enzie Lagattuta,
Career Center, Santa Clara University

This economy might be dismal but if you are looking for a job or helping students with this process we hope this short piece will be helpful. While our experience has been that undergraduate sociology majors can get jobs in a variety of fields, it is important to remember that many employers may not understand what sociology is and the skills that sociology majors have. Therefore, think like a sociologist and make sure to market yourself well!

PREPARING FOR THE JOB SEARCH WHILE STILL A STUDENT

- Use your campus career center. It is amazing to us how many undergraduate students, especially sociology majors, assume that their campus career center is not for them. We hope that is not the case for you. If you have such an office on campus visit their website for resources and make an appointment to meet with a counselor today. At Santa Clara University the Career Center speaks to all of our majors in our Junior/Senior capstone class, Applied Sociology. The session helps students think about the skills they have as a sociologist, how to better prepare themselves to be employable, and where to look for jobs.
- Social capital matters. Try to get a job working with a faculty member or offices at your college doing research. Research skills are in demand and working effectively on a project outside of coursework will allow faculty to be very good references for you (if you do a good job that is!). And it doesn't just have to be with faculty in sociology, apply for research positions in the social sciences and humanities especially.
- Do at least one internship before you graduate. Your campus career center and/or faculty can help you with this. Another great way to shore up references for later.
- Volunteer and community-based/service learning counts. Do not shy away from classes where community-based placements are part of the coursework. This is valuable experience.

LOOKING FOR JOBS

Looking to use your applied skills in the workforce, as a volunteer, or intern for non-profit organizations? Check out these sites for jobs and opportunities.

- Jobs in all sectors: <http://www.onlineuniversities.com/blog/2009/05/100-useful-job-search-tools-for-recent-college-grads/>
- Non-profit sector: <http://opportunitynocs.org/>
- Jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities all over the world: <http://www.idealists.org/>
- Jobs in policy and research: <http://www.policyjobs.net/>
- Professional networking site: <http://www.linkedin.com/>
- In addition, there are many opportunities to practice your skills in Washington, D.C. or your state capitol. Talk to your campus career center. Here is one good listing of internship options in DC put together by the career center at UC San Diego: <http://career.ucsd.edu/sa/ResearchInternship.shtml> or search by state under “research AND internships”.

GETTING THE JOB

Rising costs, budget reductions, and diminishing revenues mean that fewer jobs and internships are available. As the number of positions decrease, competition for each open position increases. It's a buyer's market and the employer is the buyer. You must therefore demonstrate why you are the best fit for the job to compete successfully.

Market Yourself

Be able to communicate the skills that you have as a sociology major. For ideas check out the following links:

- http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/careers_and_jobs/sociology_major_preparation_for_careers
- <http://www.soci.canterbury.ac.nz/about/skillsgained.shtml>
- <http://www.utexas.edu/student/cec/careers/booklets/sociology.pdf>

Know Yourself

Be able to answer five key questions: Who are you? What are you looking for? What have you done? What do you have to offer? Why do you think you are the best person for the job? Present yourself successfully in the job search process by assessing and identifying your strengths, then articulating and communicating them confidently.

Your strengths include knowledge-based skills (skills acquired from education and experience), transferable skills (portable skills you takes from experience to experience), and personal traits or attributes (your own unique qualities).

The knowledge base and critical thinking/analytic skills that you have developed through your courses in sociology are valued by employers. However, it is your task to explain how your knowledge and skills will be applied to a particular position.

Because your cover letter and resume are often the first impression you may make, they must be of excellent quality to compete with other candidates. Interviewing skills, both over the telephone and in person, need to be strong. All of this requires time and attention, much practice, and utilizing any resources and networks you have.

These are just a few resources we hope will help you in your search. If you have more ideas please go to the Section's Facebook Page and look for our discussion on this topic there--and add your ideas.

GOOD LUCK!

Welcoming Our New Section Officers

Congratulations to our new Section officers!

Chair-elect

Roy Feldman, Behavior Analysis, NY (royfeldman@bainy.org)

Secretary-Treasurer

Becky Hsu, Princeton University

Council:

Marv Finkelstein, Southern Illinois University

Leslie Hossfeld, University of North Carolina - Wilmington

Johanna P. Bishop, Wilmington University

And of course, we thank those who generously ran and yet were not victorious.

Essay

Teaching Applied Sociology

Nicole Carr

University of South Alabama

I am employed at a university with a nice balance between teaching and research. I enjoy my research, but I also like teaching so this balance is good for me. Each time I teach a class, I still ask myself: What do I want my students to know when they leave this course? When I teach applied sociology, I am faced with a bigger question: What exactly is applied sociology and what should a course in applied sociology cover? I recognize applied sociology and conduct applied research, but when it comes to teaching a course titled "Applied Sociology" I am stymied.

My applied bias has been towards evaluation research; this is what I know best and what I am most comfortable bringing into the classroom. However, it is certainly not representative of the breadth of applied sociology. I offer this class once every year or so, and it includes advanced undergraduates and graduate students. The past three times I offered it, I spent considerable time online looking for examples of syllabi and trying to get some ideas from what others have done. Once, I taught the course as an evaluation class. Another time I used problem based learning and our class consulted with a client (the Dean of our college) and conducted research for their use. I also taught the class as a hybrid, including evaluation and then other kinds of applied work. I covered many different kinds of applied work but the course felt disjointed. And, I need to add that I have never included any significant discussion of counseling or therapeutic services; that is very far outside my area of expertise and I am not comfortable teaching that content.

I am teaching the applied sociology course again this summer. This time I made significant changes. First, I am teaching the class online. Given that most of the students are graduate students that are employed in the community, it seems to make sense. Second, I have divided the course into three parts. During the first part of the course, we read articles about the history of sociology as a discipline. We discuss our roots. Then, in the second part of the course we practice sociology. This requires students to take seriously critical thinking and to actually do some practice research in the field. The manual we use could be used in a smaller undergraduate class, maybe even an introductory course depending on the institution and the students. However, it works very well with this group of students and addresses areas that they have not either had the time to develop in the classroom to this point or material that we might assume they know- but do not. The final part of our course includes some recent research discussing applied sociology and challenges facing applied researchers. We discuss the media, client interests, political influence, the public, and the dangers of good intentions.

I am sure I will change this course again the next time I offer it, although I am happier with this iteration than most of the others. I hope that this course provides students with the chance to think about what kind of research they want to do and how they want to characterize themselves and their work. However, I am still not quite sure of the course outcomes for a class called "Applied Sociology."

It's About Time!

By Karen White and Mary Gatta,
Center for Women and Work, Rutgers University

On May 2, 2008, New Jersey took a strong step forward in helping its working families meet the challenges of balancing work and family by enacting a family leave insurance program. On that day, Governor Jon Corzine signed legislation into law making New Jersey the third state in the nation to enact a family leave insurance program for its working families. The Center for Women and Work, a member of the Institute for Women's Leadership Consortium at Rutgers University, recognized the need for policy changes at both the state and national levels to allow workers to be good employees *and* good family members, and played a leading role in making this policy change at the state level possible. In early 2003, the Center for Women and Work began work on both the local and national level to raise awareness of the need for family-friendly workplace practices, including the need for family leave insurance for New Jersey's working families.

As a first step toward policy change on the state level, Center for Women and Work staff met with key stakeholders in New Jersey to gauge interest and support for a state-wide initiative to provide family leave insurance for New Jersey's working families. From that meeting, we formed the *New Jersey Time to Care Coalition* (NJTCC), a group of diverse organizations working to win family leave insurance for all New Jersey workers. In 2003, we started with four member organizations – Center for Women and Work, New Jersey Citizen Action, Local 1034 of the Communications Workers of America, and New Jersey Policy Perspective – which ultimately formed the NJTCC steering group. Since that time, however, the Coalition has grown to over 80 organization members, including small businesses owners. The Center for Women and Work took a leading role with the Coalition and served as its research and administrative arm. As the Coalition's research arm, the Center conducted research, produced fact sheets, comparison charts, and other informational material. As its administrative arm, the Center was responsible for the Coalition's web site and membership database, meeting and event plans, and managing communications with and among Coalition members. We also conducted outreach and education through

seminars, presentations, and meetings throughout the state on the need for family leave insurance.

The Coalition launched its campaign at a press event at the State House in Trenton in December 2005. Less than a year later, in October 2006, Senator Stephen Sweeney introduced legislation expanding New Jersey's Temporary Disability Insurance Program to provide partial wage replacement for workers when they need to take time to care for a seriously ill family member or to bond with a newborn or newly adopted child.

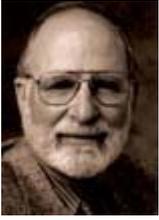
Over the course of the following three years, the Center for Women and Work and its Coalition partners persistently worked to keep the issue of family leave on the forefront of New Jersey's legislative agenda and to move it forward through committee hearings and floor vote.

The Center for Women and Work and its Coalition partners conducted countless presentations throughout the state to advocacy and civic organizations, unions, students, church groups, small business owners, and individuals. Through this work and other outreach and education activities, we identified supportive small business owners and other individuals with personal stories to provide testimony at legislative meetings and to respond to the media on the benefits of and need for family leave. CWW conducted a state-wide poll to demonstrate the widespread support for family leave insurance in New Jersey. We held over 20 press conferences and garnered press in all major New Jersey media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Philadelphia Inquirers*, and others.

A crucial gap in the campaign that we were able to fill was research that would make the business case for family leave insurance. CWW Director Eileen Appelbaum and Ruth Milkman conducted research in New Jersey on small businesses and how they manage leave and turnover.

On May 2, 2008, our work paid off. Beginning July 1, 2009, New Jersey workers will be able to draw partial wage replacement when they need to take time to care for a seriously ill family member or to bond with a newborn or newly adopted child..

In Memoriam



David Kallen: Former Sociological Practice Section chair and Michigan State University professor David Kallen died Monday at his home in Grand Ledge on April 20. He was 79. Kallen worked at MSU as a sociology professor in MSU's Department of Pediatrics and Human Development for more than 30 years. He passed away after fighting an eight-year battle with a rare form of thyroid cancer. Sandy Kallen said her husband of 16 years was passionate about his work and MSU's reputation for being on the cutting edge of clinical sociology, a field Kallen was instrumental in bringing to the university. Marsha D. Rappley, MD Dean, College of Human Medicine, said "David was our trusted colleague and friend. He always brought to us a point of view that we had not considered, and perhaps had not wanted to consider. He was passionate in his ideals and his desire to create a system of medical education that would result in better doctors and better health for all."



Carla Howery: Carla B. Howery, 58, the deputy executive officer of the American Sociological Association from 1990 until her retirement in 2007, died March 31 at her home in Takoma Park from breast cancer. She was a member of our section, and as a true representative, she devoted her life to furthering the cause of bringing sociology to the real world. For example, she co-directed ASA's Spivack Program on Applied Social Research and Social Policy from 1990-2007 and served as advisor to the ASA's Community Action Research grant program and the Congressional Fellows. Carla spent more than a quarter of a century serving sociologists, students, and society through her work at the ASA. Her accomplishments were many, and yet she was easy-going and approachable and a loyal friend. She will be missed by many, both professionally and personally. *A memorial for Carla will take place at the Annual Meeting. Check the program for time and place.*

Awards

Robert Dentler Award for Outstanding Student Achievement.

This year's winner is Lou Jacobson, who just completed his masters degree at Humboldt State University in California, based on his thesis titled "Anthropogenic carbon dioxide mitigation: the social barriers to the diffusion of compact fluorescent light bulbs." As one read into the thesis, one saw a depth of theory including the development of tests of solid hypotheses, and an application into real world problems. He collected a representative sample of student opinions, and identified barriers and motivators. He then took another step to calculate the decrease in carbon emissions by adopting CFLs in the student population. On the basis of this work, he was offered and accepted a position at Redwood Coast Energy Authority in Eureka, California, to be an Energy Specialist who conducts commercial energy efficiency assessments.

William Foote Whyte Award

We are proud to announce that the 2009 winner of the William Foote Whyte award is Kristin Moore, founder and former president of Child Trends, in Washington DC (www.childtrends.org) for her career-long efforts in using sociological research to develop policy, evaluate programs, and further understanding of society. The fact that the beneficiaries of all these efforts are children makes it all the more laudable. She also is committed to public sociology. Several years ago at the ASA in Washington DC, she was one of the critics in the Author Meets Critics panel for *State of the Union*, edited by Reynolds Farley. Dr. Moore stood up and said something to the effect of "This is a great book ... and no one who needs to read it is going to read it. It's too long for any politician to read. Have you ever heard of an executive summary? Bullets?" It's not enough to do good scholarship if no one but a narrow group of colleagues is going to read it. But good scholarship she does, having written over 100 articles and near countless reports, briefs and other communications. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 1975.

ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS OF THE SPPS SECTION

RECEPTION

Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Reception

Time: Mon, Aug 10 - 6:30pm - 8:10pm

Place: Hilton San Francisco

MEETINGS

Spivack Program in Applied and Social Research Advisory Panel

Time: Sat, Aug 8 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Place: Hilton San Francisco

Orientation for New Section Officers

Time: Mon, Aug 10 - 8:30am - 10:10am

Place: Hilton San Francisco

Section Officers with the Committee on Sections

Time: Mon, Aug 10 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

Place: Hilton San Francisco

Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Business Meeting

Time: Tue, Aug 11 - 11:30am - 12:10pm

Place: Parc 55 Hotel

SESSIONS

Regular Session. Public Sociology

Sun, Aug 9 - 8:30am - 10:10am

Parc 55 Hotel

Session Organizer: April Linton (Univ of California-San Diego)

Presider: April Linton (Univ of California-San Diego)

Can Sociology Contribute to Social Service?

Shana Cohen (University of Sheffield)

Imagining Empirical Programs for Public Sociology

Stephen Paul Smith (University of California, Berkeley)

Making the Intangible, Tangible: Subjugated Knowledges and Struggles for Dignity

Jordan Thomas Camp (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Sociologists in public: two views of policy and politics

Karim Murji (The Open University)

Discussant: Hayward Derrick Horton (SUNY-Albany)

Contradictions in Service Learning and Community-based Research

Mon, Aug 10 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm,

Parc 55 Hotel

Session Organizer: Randy Stoecker (University of Wisconsin)

Presider: Randy Stoecker (University of Wisconsin)

Session Organizer: Jose Zapata Calderon (Pitzer College)

President: Jose Zapata Calderon (Pitzer College)
Panelist: Randy Stoecker (University of Wisconsin)
Panelist: Philip Nyden (Loyola University Chicago)
Panelist: Rose Brewer (University of Minnesota)
Discussant: Jose Zapata Calderon (Pitzer College)

Abstract:

For more than a decade, there has been much written and said about the great service that universities have been providing to excluded communities through service learning and community-based research. Nevertheless, an ugly underside is beginning to emerge of academics building their careers and students building their resumes with little success to show in reversing the ravages of disinvestment. This panel will explore the contradictions of academy-based service learning and civic engagement as part of considering whether it is living up to its rhetoric.

Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Paper Session. Practicing Sociology for Community Change

Tue, Aug 11 - 8:30am - 10:10am

Parc 55 Hotel

Session Organizer: Jeffrey A. Will (University of North Florida)

President: Jeffrey A. Will (University of North Florida)

Access and Utilization of Free Health Care Service: Findings from Community-Based Research

*Byron K Thomas (Indiana University), *Oren Pizmony-Levy (Indiana University), Bryce A Wininger (Indiana University), Abigail M. Shaddox (Indiana University - Bloomington)

Building Community, Struggling for Justice: A Community-Based Approach to Migration Research

Leah Caroline Schmalzbauer (Montana State University), Bethany Lyn Letiecq (Montana State University), Kim Abbott (Montana Human Rights Network), Katie Gray (Coalition of Resource Organizations), Mayra Gutierrez (Coalition of Resource Organizations)

Feasibility of Adding Health-related Services to Free Produce Distribution Sites: Participant Perspectives

*Maryann Mason (Northwestern University), Katherine Kaufer Christoffel (Northwestern University/Children's Memorial Research Center), Lara Jones Jaskiewicz (Childrens Memorial Research Center)

Abstract:

In this session, panelists will present papers on community based research and public sociology in local community settings. Papers will focus on practical uses of sociology to promote community change. Panelists may discuss research or public action designed to involve local communities in social change efforts. Change may be considered in terms of local policy, community organizing, programs to address social problems, public practices such as mobilizing the populace around elections, and other areas. Please consider both the theoretical grounding of your research or practice, and the ways your work draws on the fields of sociological practice and public sociology

Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Invited Session. Applying Sociology and Engaging Communities

Tuesday Aug 11 – 12:30 -2:10

Parc 55: Sociological Practice in the Private Sector.

Session Organizer and President: Jeff Will (University of North Florida)

James D. Wright (University of Central Florida)

Roy E. Feldman (Behavior Analysis In New York)

Marilyn Dyck (The Back Door)

Abstract:

In this session, leaders in the field of Sociological Practice and Public Sociology will discuss how their research centers are engaging communities through Community Based Sociological Research and Public Sociology. The session is organized around the three themes of University, Professional, and Community Based Approaches.

ROUNDTABLES

Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Refereed Roundtables

Tue, Aug 11 - 10:30am - 11:30am

Parc 55 Hotel

Session Organizer: Jeffrey A. Will (University of North Florida)

Table Presider: Kathy Shepherd Stolley (Virginia Wesleyan College)

The Public Sociologist as Essayist

*Monte Bute (Metropolitan State University)

Action Teaching and Learning: Four Reasons for Teaching Applied Sociology and Community Based Change

*Marv Finkelstein (Southern Illinois Univ Edwardsville)

From NIMBYISM to YIMBYISM: Effective Strategies for Establishing Immigrant Service Facilities

*Gregory M. Maney (Hofstra University), *Margaret Abraham (Hofstra University)

Sociological Practice in Teaching and Learning: Clinical Sociology, Mediation and a Culture of Peace

Tue, Aug 11 - 10:30am - 11:30am

Parc 55 Hotel

Session Organizer: Jeffrey A. Will (University of North Florida)

Table Presider: Philip Nyden (Loyola University Chicago)

TITLE

*Jan Marie Fritz (University of Cincinnati)

The Multilevel Processes of Mental Health: Neighborhood Practice for Improving Resident Mental Health

*Megan E. Gilster (University of Michigan)

Social Contexts and Volunteerism: Resources or Constraints?

*Joongbaeck Kim (University of Tennessee-Knoxville), Manacy Pai (Kent State University)

WORKSHOPS

Teaching Workshop. Pedagogy in Practice and Producing Practicing Sociologists

Sat, Aug 8 - 8:30am - 10:10am

Hilton San Francisco

Session Organizer: Nicole T. Carr (University of South Alabama)

Participants: Dr. Jeff Will, University of North Florida, Dr. Laura Nichols, Santa Clara University, and Dr. Leslie Hossfeld, University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

Abstract:

As teachers of sociology, many of us have a great influence on solving social problems through educating our students. As our students gain the sociological perspective and integrate its practice in their personal and work activities, we can have an indirect positive impact on our communities. The goal of this regular session is to assemble presenters that will focus on approaches to teaching that promote critical thinking and evidence gathering which are cornerstones of sociology in practice. Presenters will discuss either 1) specific assignments that facilitate active learning and require students to use sociological tools to answer a question or 2) pedagogical approaches to entire courses that engage students in using sociological approaches to study the world around them.

Teaching Workshop. Sociology and Community-based Learning: Integrating Sociology into Internships, Service-Learning, and Practice Experiences

Sat, Aug 8 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

Hilton San Francisco

Session Organizer: Kathleen Lowney (Valdosta State University)

Co-Leader: Kathleen Lowney (Valdosta State University)

Co-Leader: Ginger E. Macheski (Valdosta State University)

Co-Leader: Brenda M. Kowalewski (Weber State University)

Abstract:

With our discipline's turn toward public sociology/applied sociology, more faculty and degree programs are requiring sociology students to enter and engage with the community. This worthwhile educational goal may be met through internships, sociological practica, or service-learning assignments. Without a focus on the application of sociological knowledge, however, such requirements can too quickly devolve into simply credit hours for volunteering or "just showing up." Such community-college collaborations are lost opportunities for student learning. This workshop will offer ideas for how to infuse these educational opportunities with sociological knowledge, so that students both help their communities and see sociology in action.

Didactic Seminar. Protection of Human Subjects in the Social Sciences

Sun, Aug 9 - 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Hilton San Francisco

Session Organizer: Felice J. Levine (American Educational Research Association)

Panelist: John M. Kennedy (Indiana University)

Panelist: Thomas L. Van Valey (Western Michigan University)

Abstract:

This Didactic Seminar examines human research protection issues in the design, development, implementation, and review of social science research. The seminar provides sociologists with an understanding of key concepts that inform federal guidelines on human research protection (e.g., consent, privacy and confidentiality, benefits and harms, level of risk) and the tools for assessing best ethical practices in the context of social science research. It also offers guidance on the preparation of protocols and effective communication with Institutional Review Boards (IRBs). In addressing ethical issues in human research, the seminar focuses on a breadth of methodological approaches that are used-often in combination-in sociology and other social sciences (e.g., surveys, interviews, observations, ethnographies, case studies, laboratory and field experiments, secondary analysis of extant data). Attention is paid to human research protection issues involved in data collection, data use, data protection, data reporting, and data dissemination. This three-hour Didactic Seminar is comprised of three major units: understanding key concepts and ethical guidance in human subjects research, putting human research protections into practice in sociological research, and comprehending the IRB process and the role of review. Building upon research examples, the seminar examines how to weigh human research protection issues with varying substantive topics, methods, contexts, and populations under study. A volume of specially prepared readings and background materials is provided, and participants will be asked to complete in advance a brief information form to help structure the seminar responsive to the concerns, interests, and expertise of attendees.

Research/Policy Workshop. Human Rights Cities - Co-sponsored with Sociologists without Borders

Tue, Aug 11 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

Hilton San Francisco

Session Organizer: Judith Blau (University of North Carolina)

Leader: Judith Blau (University of North Carolina)

Abstract:

Human rights are enshrined in international laws and state constitutions, and they also are the /raison d'/être/ of social and political movements, as well as of hundreds of thousands of nongovernmental organizations around the world. Yet for human rights to become embedded in practices and everyday norms, people in communities need to engage human rights and apply these principles to government, social institutions, and economic practices. Several cities in the United States have embarked on this process and sociologists have played key roles. This workshop will draw from their experiences and they will discuss the challenges, setbacks and progress. This workshop exemplifies American sociology at its very best because those involved in these processes are putting sociological tools to work in an area that has never been chartered.

Professional Workshop. The Rhetoric and Reality of Being an Applied Sociologist

Time: Mon, Aug 10 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Place: Hilton San Francisco

Session Organizer: Joshua S. Meisel (Humboldt State University)
Co-Leader: Christine H. Morton (Stanford University Department of Pediatrics)
Co-Leader: Leora Lawton (TechSociety Research)
Co-Leader: Sabrina S Arredondo
Co-Leader: Judith K. Little (Humboldt State University)

Abstract:

The education literature is replete with accounts of the disconnect between what students learn in the academy and what they encounter in the field. For sociologists who decide to pursue careers doing applied sociological work, there are ongoing tensions over identity, voice, professional development and politics, and disciplinary connections as well as the practical challenges of running a business for those who become consultants. The purpose of this professional workshop is to provide a forum in which workshop leaders and participants can share their experiences doing applied sociological work. Workshop leaders come from an array of work settings as applied sociologists: the academy, private consulting, the public sector, and nonprofit organizations. Participants will become familiar with the challenges and rewards of applied sociological work as well as share strategies for overcoming the tensions identified.

Professional Workshop. Sociologists as Organizational Consultants: Tips and Techniques for Getting Started (co-sponsored with the Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology)

Time: Mon, Aug 10 - 4:30pm - 6:10pm

Place: Hilton San Francisco

Session Organizer: Kathy Shepherd Stolley (Virginia Wesleyan College)
Co-Leader: Kathy Shepherd Stolley (Virginia Wesleyan College)
Co-Leader: Kathryn Goldman Schuyler (Alliant International University)
Co-Leader: Leora Lawton (TechSociety Research)

Abstract:

This interactive workshop introduces organizational consulting for sociologists. The content focuses on several basic questions. What do organizational consultants do? How can sociologists re-focus from the classroom into consulting roles, including the transition from academic teaching to practical training? How can sociologists present and market their specific perspective and expertise to prospective clients? How can the sociological perspective contribute to building healthy organizations? This workshop serves as a companion session with the "Using Sociology to Foster Healthy Workplaces" workshop that extends the examination of the fourth question in both depth and direction.

Research/Policy Workshop. Sociology and Policy: Applying Theory and Research to Public Policy

Mon, Aug 10 - 8:30am - 10:10am

Hilton San Francisco

Co-Leader: Philip Nyden (Loyola University Chicago)
Co-Leader: Leslie H. Hossfeld (University of North Carolina-Wilmington)

Abstract:

The workshop will focus on how sociology gets into play in the policy world. We will cover different types of research from basic research designed as "policy research" from the beginning to translational research that draws from existing sociological research to inform current policy questions. Topics to be covered include: the process of developing policy research projects; effective research design; work with non-academic community partners in the research process; use of the media in disseminating research; other avenues for getting research outcomes into the hands of policy movers and shakers. Examples of different types of successful projects will be presented, partially drawing from an ongoing project of the ASA Task Force on Institutionalizing Public Sociology.

Professional Workshop. Sociologists and the Media: Developing Positive Relationships Between Journalists and Academia

Tue, Aug 11 - 12:30pm - 2:10pm

Hilton San Francisco

Session Organizer: Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur (Rhode Island College)
Co-Leader: Scott Jaschik
Co-Leader: Tanya Schevitz (San Francisco Chronicle)

Panelist: Andrew A. Beveridge (Queens College and Graduate Center CUNY)

Panelist: Scott Jaschik

Panelist: Tanya Schevitz (San Francisco Chronicle)

Panelist: Julie Marie Albright

Panelist: Pepper J. Schwartz (University of Washington)

Abstract:

At the ASA meetings in New York City in 2007, panelists discussing academic freedom at a Presidential Panel on Academic Freedom Under Attack spent some time telling the audience about the trials of teaching as a sociologist (particularly a liberal sociologist) in a time when your lectures might end up on YouTube and your reading list in the /National Review/; a time when such publicity can and does lead to restrictions on academic freedom for some academics. At the same time, young academics still in graduate school are sometimes taught that media exposure will detract from their reputations as serious scholars. As one reported attending the panel on academic freedom put it, these fears have lead some academics to be so reluctant to answer reporters' calls that they surrender the dialogue to the other side. Yet in 2009, ASA will return to San Francisco, the same location from which Michael Burawoy in 2004 ushered in the era of public sociology. Many sociologists thus want to find ways to get their research and their message out there in the press, but have not had the opportunity to learn how to do so in a way that will minimize the possibility of being misquoted and maximize their impact. This workshop seeks to provide such tools by presenting a variety of perspectives from journalists and public sociologists with extensive media exposure in an interactive format that will help sociologists learn to work well with the media.

Professional Workshop. Using Sociology to Foster Healthy Workplaces

Time: Tue, Aug 11 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Place: Hilton San Francisco

Session Organizer: Kathryn Goldman Schuyler (Alliant International University)

Co-Leader: Kathy Shepherd Stolley (Virginia Wesleyan College)

Co-Leader: Russ Newman (Alliant International University)

Co-Leader: Kathryn Goldman Schuyler (Alliant International University)

Abstract:

This workshop shows how the behavioral sciences foster healthier organizations. The leaders are consultants and administrators who will share their experiences of building healthier workplaces. They will interact with the audience on topics such as how a professional organization like the ASA might promote organizational health (looking at what the APA has done in recent years), how interpersonal dynamics impact organizational health, how members of a university community can address a major societal issue (like homelessness) in a way that makes the university healthier, how military organizations address these issues, and what is required if organizational change efforts in this area are to have lasting impact. This workshop serves as a companion session to the workshop on "Sociologists as Organizational Consultants: Tips and Techniques for Getting Started". Participants can expect lively interaction and a chance to ask about anything connected with organizational health.

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Be sure to join our section when registering for the conference and/or when renewing your membership.

Already a member?

Send this newsletter to colleagues who might be interested in joining and encourage them to do so.

The more members, the more of a voice we have within the ASA, and the more we can make Sociological Practice and Public Sociology accessible.