



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Community Research and Development Division Fall 2020 Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

By Judith R Halasz,

State University of New York at New Paltz

As I write this message, communities in the US and across the globe are contending with an unprecedented set of acute social problems. The Covid-19 pandemic has strained not only community health, but also economic well-being, housing, food security, education, and much more. Many of us have experienced firsthand how the pandemic has compelled academic institutions to rapidly transform teaching and learning to protect educators, staff, students, and the communities in which they live and work. Depending on their resources, communities have experienced the impact of the pandemic quite differently. Stock markets have rallied fueling massive growth in the elite's wealth, while small businesses and the precariat struggle with curtailed business, recession, unemployment, and the threat of eviction. Many people have fled large cities, adding pressure to suburban and exurban housing markets and infrastructure. While this pandemic has hit nearly every community, it has disproportionately challenged marginalized and vulnerable populations including low-income, Black, Latinx, indigenous, incarcerated, and elderly people in the US and elsewhere, reinforcing structural inequalities. In May, George Floyd's murder reignited the Movement for Black Lives, drawing masses to the streets to protest police brutality and systemic racism in communities large and small. These two developments—the pandemic and BLM—initially fostered a sense of solidarity with nightly 7pm shout-outs for essential workers and broad participation in BLM demonstrations. Yet, in the final stretch of the momentous 2020 US election, both have been used to foment social divisions, with social media misinformation campaigns, battles over masks, and armed counter-protests. As the smoke from massive West Coast wildfires spans North America and hurricanes cut across national boundaries, the climate crisis reminds us that our communities are inexorably interconnected. This is a historical moment that beckons community social problems scholars and activists—we have the skills, knowledge, and capacity to critically analyze these developments and help address these problems in alliance with those directly impacted.



The SSSP Community Research and Development Division remains a vehicle to support the work of scholars, activists, and organizations working on community social problems. The Division recognizes graduate students and scholars who partner with community organizations to research social problems and promote social change. Congratulations to Allison S. Reed, University of Chicago, the 2020 winner of the Community Research and Development Division's Student Paper Competition for her essay "'Enclaves of Poverty' or 'Homes That Last?': Temporality, Strategy, and Competing Ideologies in the Preservation of Affordable Homeownership."

We also offer a diverse slate of conference sessions conceptualized and organized by division members. The 2021 division-sponsored and co-sponsored sessions speak to the pressing issues of our historical moment as well as long-standing social problems in communities, including the pandemic, public health and inequality, loss and healing, isolation and resilience, policing, criminal justice reform, social movements, migration, gentrification, and community development in the classroom. We are especially excited to make the conference more accessible by hosting two virtual sessions and a critical dialogue between scholars and activists off-site, closer to the communities served by local social justice organizations in Chicago. We will also host our third annual Community-Based Participatory Action Research workshop. The full list of sessions is included in this newsletter.

This year we will hold an election for the next division chair. Please keep an eye out for the call for nominations. In addition to this opportunity to lead the division, you can also shape the division by submitting conference papers, proposing future conference sessions, serving on our graduate student paper award and community partner paper award committees, volunteering to be a discussant on a paper panel, and contributing to the division newsletter. If you would like to get more involved with the CRD Division, please email me at halaszj@newpaltz.edu.

The vitality of the division is the result of our collective effort. I am heartened by the willingness of so many of you to contribute to the division, especially in this difficult moment. Established and emerging scholars from a wide array of institutions across the world have crafted next year's conference sessions and serve on our award committees.

Special thanks to our **members for organizing CRD Division sponsored sessions for SSSP 2021:**

Meghan Ashlin Rich, University of Scranton
Molly Clark-Barol, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Ebonie Cunningham Stringer, Penn State University
Amy Foerster, Pace University
Victoria Faust, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Josephine Greenbrook, University of Edinburgh
Judith Halasz, State University of New York at New Paltz
Michael O. Johnston, William Penn University
Matthew McLeskey, State University of New York at Buffalo
Luis Nuño, California State University-Los Angeles
Eberhard Raithelhuber, University of Salzburg
Nathalie Rita, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Felicia Sullivan, Jobs for the Future
Sarah Stanlick, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Abby Templer Rodrigues, Missouri State University
Amie Thurber, Portland State University

I would also like to thank **everyone who volunteered to serve on the 2021 CRD paper award committees:**

Community Research and Development Division Graduate Student Paper Award Committee:

Jen Satya Lendrum, Aquinas College
Michael O. Johnston, William Penn University
Tracy Peressini, University of Waterloo
Laura Pin, University of Guelph
Elena Polush, University of Iowa
Sarah Stanlick, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Community Research and Development Division Community Partner Paper Award Committee:

Kristina Brant, Harvard University
Annette Mackay, West Virginia University
Matthew McLeskey, State University of New York at Buffalo
Debarashmi Mitra, Central New Mexico Community College
Olanike Ojelabi, University of Massachusetts-Boston
Helen Rosenberg, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Normally, the division chair would have an opportunity to recognize the work of division members in person at our annual conference. Since that was not possible this year, some acknowledgments are in order. I would like to acknowledge the work of the SSSP 2020 session organizers and those who submitted proposals to participate in these sessions. While the paper panels and critical dialogues were cancelled due to the pandemic, the valuable work reflects engagement with wide-ranging community social problems.

The 2020 session organizers were:

Meghan Ashlin Rich, University of Scranton
Marisol Becerra, Ohio State University
Tyrell Connor, State University of New York at New Paltz
Ebonie Cunningham Stringer, Penn State University
Amy Foerster, Pace University
Judith Halasz, State University of New York at New Paltz
Jess Lucero, Utah State University
Theo Majka, University of Dayton
Matthew McLeskey, State University of New York at Buffalo
Jason Orne, Drexel University
Cynthia Puddu, MacEwen University
Frank Ridzi, Le Moyne College
Felicia Sullivan, Jobs for the Future
Abby Templer Rodrigues, Missouri State University

I would also like to **acknowledge the members of the 2020 paper award committees:**

Community Research and Development Division Graduate Student Paper Award Committee:

Tyrell Connor, State University of New York at New Paltz, Co-chair
Jen Satya Lendrum, Aquinas College, Co-chair
Felicia Sullivan, Jobs for the Future
Abby Templer Rodrigues, Missouri State University

Community Research and Development Division Community Partner Paper Award Committee:

Felicia Casanova, University of Miami, Chair
Amy Foerster, Pace University
Olanike Ojelabi, University of Massachusetts-Boston
Sarah Stanlick, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Finally, I would like to thank our 2019-2021 newsletter editor Molly Clark-Barol from the Human Ecology and Sociology doctoral programs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Good luck with the semester.

Best wishes,
Judy

Judith R. Halasz, Ph.D.
Chair, Community Research and Development Division
Associate Professor, Sociology Department, State University of New York at New Paltz

2021 Annual Meeting Program Theme

Corey Dolgon, Stonehill College

Revolutionary Sociology: Truth, Healing, Reparations, and Restructuring

The way to right wrongs is to shine the light of truth on them.

--Ida B. Wells, *A Red Record* (1895)

Wouldn't a better use of our labor be to create a system of justice based on healing, redemption and real accountability, a system that empowers us to stand up and put things right?

--Rosado, et. al., *Larger Than Life* (2018)

IF WE THINK of reparations as part of a broad strategy to radically transform society — redistributing wealth, creating a democratic and caring public culture, exposing the ways capitalism and slavery produced massive inequality — then the ongoing struggle for reparations holds enormous promise for revitalizing movements for social justice.

--Robin D.G. Kelley, *Freedom Dreams* (2002)

Can social science still be the brash, young, vital, productive, unsettling, even revolutionary pursuit it has been in its most valuable periods?

--Al McClung Lee, *Social Problems* (1954)



We build on the past--stand on the broad shoulders of giants--but our vision and our actions are shaped by the ideological frameworks and institutional structures that constitute what Cooley called the "social mind." Of course, sociologists such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Jane Addams had already developed a much more sophisticated and dialectical theory of identity, social consciousness and social forces well before Cooley's published work. The tragedies of Du Bois, Addams, and others' exclusion from the field was not just the overt racism and patriarchy that lay behind it--although such acts were purposeful and reprehensible. A similarly troubling result from the triumph of white male professionalized (or corporate) sociology was its repression of the discipline's most radical and engaged efforts at being a revolutionary force for global justice.

As our most recent presidents have stated, the Society for the Study of Social Problems [SSSP] was born out of the struggle to rescue and revitalize a relevant sociology for "the people" and use social science as a weapon for a just world. In 2015, Marlese Durr argued that our work must actively "pursue a just society [if we] may alter the most pressing problems carried across centuries." In 2018, Luis Fernandez encouraged us to be bold in not only studying social problems, but in developing ways to abolish them, "eliminat[ing] systems of subjugation" and "reimagining social justice." When Heather Dalmage claimed last year that "resistance alone [would] not create a new world with new possibilities," she called on us to build pathways, solidarity, political engagement and pedagogies of liberation to "create the structural changes that bend toward justice." She asked, "Where does our scholar activism, as we live it through SSSP, fit into our dreams of transformation, toward building new worlds?"

Unfortunately, SSSP itself has too often fallen short in meeting the radical aspirations of its members and leaders. From the late 1960s onward, presidents complained about the organization's conservative tendencies and the ways in which fighting for professional status and scientific legitimacy too often limited the revolutionary imagination and political interventions of the organization. By its 25th Anniversary, founders suggested that SSSP had become a "mini ASA" losing both its analytical focus on power and structure and its political focus on policy applications and movement activism. By its 50th Anniversary in 2001, many wondered whether the organization then suffered from its own institutionalized and rigid orthodoxies. That year, Ellen Reese (2001) issued SSSP a Call to Action for a more politically engaged professional organization. Twenty years later we echo that call with even greater immediacy and purpose. SSSP *can* be a stronger, more active and transformative body that supports social movement work in our communities, in our nations, and around the

world. But we must make it so.

The 2021 Program Committee invites you to join us in Chicago to envision a more effective future for the forces of radical and revolutionary sociology. We must be bold and persistent, not in dogma, but in passion, commitment and action towards global justice. We call for papers that ask--and try to answer--the questions posed so many years ago: "sociology for what?" (Lynd, 1936) and the "sociology for whom?" (Lee, 1951). We invite scholars looking to reach out to, and work with, community groups and social movement organizations—whom we hope will have a strong presence at meeting sessions and at conference events throughout the city. We hope to inspire innovative, interdisciplinary and collaborative efforts at what Nancy Naples (2007) called "research that matters." While we cannot predict now what next summer's social and political context will be, we know that pandemics and racist police murders are symptoms of the already existing structures of oppression and violence that SSSP members (and the organization itself) must work to end.

Finally, in part as a response to possible pandemics but also as a strategy to increase our global vision and inclusivity, we will have a virtual component to this year's conference. While attendance will be open to all members, virtual sessions are specifically targeted to those who could not otherwise attend in person. We believe this mechanism and strategy will help us increase the participation of international and low-income professionals, graduate students, and young scholars who might otherwise not be able to participate in person. As we answer former President David Smith's (2016) call to increase our global presence and analysis, we also understand that the forces of inequality and patriarchy, white supremacy and violence, have always been global in nature. The formation of a revolutionary sociology focused on both a new abolitionism and a new vision of radical democracy and redistribution must also be international. We look forward to having these conversations, dialogues, debates, and celebrations next year in Chicago. Please join us.

Corey Dolgon, SSSP President
Stonehill College

CRD Sessions at 2021 SSSP Annual Conference

Session Title	Sponsors (s)	Organizer(s)
Social Impact of and Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic in Global Communities (virtual critical dialogue)	CRD	Judith R. Halasz (State University of New York at New Paltz)
Beyond Migration: The Role of (Im)mobility in Community Inclusion and Exclusion (virtual paper panel)	CRD Division; Transnational Initiatives Committee	Nathalie Rita (University of Hawaii at Manoa & Eberhard Raithelhuber (University of Salzburg)
Gentrification, Migration, and Decline: Recent Changes and the Future of Cities and Communities (paper panel)	CRD	Judith R. Halasz (State University of New York at New Paltz) & Meghan Ashlin Rich (University of Scranton)
Shifting Demographics, Race, Ethnicity, and Community Identity in the Current Political Climate (critical dialogue)	CRD	Felicia Sullivan (Jobs for the Future)
Activist Café: Community Activists and Scholars in Dialogue (off-site critical dialogue)	CRD; Gender; Conflict, Social Action, and Change Divisions	Amy Foerster (Pace University) & Ebonie Cunningham Stringer (Penn State University)
Community Public Health and Racial, Ethnic, and Socio-economic Inequality (paper panel)	CRD; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division	Matthew McLeskey (State University of New York at Buffalo) & Josephine Greenbrook (University of Edinburgh)
Social Control and Policing Communities and Cities (paper panel)	CRD; Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Law and Society; Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Divisions	Amy Foerster (Pace University) & Luis Nuño (California State University-Los Angeles)
Loss and Healing in the Community (critical dialogue)	CRD; Sociology and Social Welfare; Family; Youth, Aging, and Life Course; Society and Mental Health Divisions	Michael O. Johnston (William Penn University)
Vulnerable Populations, Social Isolation, and Resilience (paper panel)	CRD; Sociology and Social Welfare; Family; Society and Mental Health Divisions	Sarah Stanlick (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)
Social Movements and Community Organizing for Criminal Justice Reform (paper panel)	CRD; Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Law and Society; Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; and Conflict, Social Action, and Change Divisions	Molly Clark-Barol, (University of Wisconsin-Madison) & Victoria Faust (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Classroom community development: Fostering Healing, Hope, and Revolution in the Classroom (critical dialogue)	CRD; Teaching Social Problems Divisions	Abby Templer Rodrigues (Missouri State University) & Amie Thurber

Call for Paper Award Submissions

The CRD Division sponsors a graduate student paper award and a community partner paper award. Take a look at the call for papers below and consider submitting a paper. **The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2021.**

Community Research and Development Division Graduate Student Paper

The Community Research and Development Division announces its 2021 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Paper topics can focus on various aspects of communities, including their capacity, development, renewal, and relationship with other social issues or problems. Qualitative and quantitative empirical analyses, applied research, and theoretical papers are welcome. To be eligible for submission, a paper must not be published nor accepted for publication. Papers must be student-authored; they may be authored by a single student or co-authored by more than one student, but may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student. Papers must not exceed 25 double-spaced pages (including all notes, references, and tables), and should include a brief abstract. To be eligible for the award, the author(s) must make a commitment to present the paper at a session during the 2021 SSSP Annual Meeting in San Francisco. To be considered, submit (a) a copy of the manuscript, (b) a cover letter specifying that the paper is to be considered in the Community Research and Development Division Graduate Student Paper Competition, and (c) a short letter from each author's advisor certifying the person's status as a student and including some brief comments about the research. All materials must be submitted electronically to the Annual Meeting Call for Papers on the SSSP conference website by January 15, 2021 and also sent to the Committee Chair, Dr. Michael O. Johnston at johnstonmo@wmpenn.edu. Please note that students may only submit to one division. The winner will receive a \$100 cash award, a one-year student membership to SSSP, conference registration fees, and a plaque of recognition at the conference awards ceremony.

Community Research and Development Division Community Partner Paper

The Community Research and Development Division announces its 2021 Community Partner Paper Competition. Consistent with our division's mission, this paper award is intended to recognize rigorous academic work that has practical implications for members of marginalized communities and specifically, to celebrate community-engaged work. Paper topics can focus on various social issues and problems related to community, such as the causes and consequences of communities' exclusion or marginalization from processes and resources, the capacities and strengths of communities and community movements, and the development and changes within communities. Qualitative and quantitative empirical analyses, applied research, and theoretical papers are welcome. To be eligible for submission, a paper must not be published or accepted for publication. Papers must be coauthored with a community partner; they may be coauthored by more than one faculty member and/or student, but must include at least one community partner. Community partners are characterized by any community-based entity that is outside of the academy. Papers must not exceed 25 double-spaced pages (including all notes, references, and tables), and should include a brief abstract. To be eligible for the award, the author(s) must make a commitment to present the paper at a session during the 2021 SSSP Annual Meeting in San Francisco. To be considered, submit (a) a copy of the manuscript, (b) a cover letter specifying that the paper is to be considered in the Community Research and Development Division Community Partner Paper Competition, and (c) a brief letter from the community partner commenting on his or her role in the paper. All materials must be submitted electronically to the Annual Meeting Call for Papers on the SSSP conference website by January 15, 2021 and also sent to the Committee Co-Chairs, Olanike Ojelabi at olanike.ojelabi001@umb.edu and Matthew H. McLeskey at mhmclesk@buffalo.edu. The winner will receive a \$100 cash award and a plaque of recognition at the Community Research and Development Division business meeting.

Fall 2020 Member Spotlight

Allison Reed, PhD Candidate

Department of Sociology, University of Chicago

2020 CRD Graduate Student Paper Award Winner: *"Enclaves of Poverty" or "Homes that Last?": Community Land Trusts, Investment-Based Market Movements, and the Preservation of Affordable Homeownership*

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself, and what brought you to graduate school?

I'm from St. Louis, and I graduated with a BA in Urban Studies from Washington University in St. Louis in 2013. My senior thesis was on the perils of threatened and stalled gentrification on lower-income homeowners, particularly homeowners of color. This led to a Summer Associate position in the Bay Area at the Greenlining Institute right after college, where I was researching affordable homeownership strategies for low- and moderate-income people of color. My internships and jobs have ranged from projects with the ACLU of Eastern Missouri,

a Black working-class government Building and Community/Economic Development department, youth civic education, and racial justice policy research. Recently I worked with Chapin Hall Policy Institute on an implementation project for Washington State. All that to say, I've had a longstanding devotion to social justice work, and I have spent the past 10 years or so figuring out where I fit into it. After a kind of process of elimination, and repeated affirmation that my research and writing skills were valuable to more frontline social justice workers, I decided to come to graduate school.



Congratulations on winning the CRD Division Student paper award for *"Enclaves of Poverty" or "Homes that Last?": Community Land Trusts, Investment-Based Market Movements, and the Preservation of Affordable Homeownership*". Can you talk a little about what drew you to the topic, and what you think the most essential take-aways are for policy?

Through my work with the Greenlining Institute, I was exposed to the Community Land Trust (CLT) movement and model. It's such a compelling housing innovation, and I found it puzzling that it was so underutilized despite how well it performed in providing financially safer wealth building options for LMI homebuyers, particularly of color. That became the basis of my graduate school applications and this project, which I completed for my MA. I think there are several policy implications. I hope it provides practical insight into how material and ideological barriers shape CLT implementation, and how those barriers can be overcome. I think the work also has implications for scholars wanting to contribute to policy research. Sometimes contributing to policy does not mean evaluating or theorizing well-trod policies, or ones we know are significant and recognized in the policy field. It should also mean taking social innovation seriously, leaning into the time, resources, and leeway to focus on something that might not appear immediately "practical" afforded to us as academics, luxuries that practitioners can benefit from but do not often get themselves.

A challenge for early career scholars (especially those of us interested in social justice) can sometimes be the process of wedding an empirical story that we think is important to a theoretical framework that 'speaks to the field'. You made great use of social movement theory in your piece. Can you talk a little about how you came to that framing?

This was a huge point of growth and learning for me. In part because what the field often deems "descriptive," I think can be profoundly important for actual policy work. So, I pushed back a lot on simply treating CLTs as a case to illustrate a theoretical point. A social movements frame was a compromise between my social justice values and the demands of the discipline. I came to that framing really from a fascination with prefigurative politics, which isn't the framing I used here, but which drew me into the social movements literature. The Community Land Trust as a movement is more than just a tool for housing policy, it's also a way of completely reimagining community and property relations. So initially I thought I would take on that prefigurative angle (after having had a decidedly policy-oriented angle), but I realized my data weren't quite suited for it. I still wanted to stay in the movements sandbox, though, so it really became a process of trial and error, trying on different frames, tweaking them, abandoning them, revisiting them, and so on. For publication, the frame I'm working on now draws more heavily on organization theory in addition to the movements lens. All this to say--wedding empirics to theory has required flexibility, imagination, and a willingness to try and try again.

You worked with Habitat for Humanity International for this project, both collecting data for your research and providing a research product to the organization. What advice do you have for graduate students on forming relationships with organizations, and finding a balance between their research needs and yours as a graduate student? Do you have any advice for adapting to the Covid-19 environment of restrictions?

For me the connection to HFHI started with a connection I made to another graduate student in a community and social change class with Prof. Robert Chaskin... I think one lesson is to get clear on your values and the values embedded in your work, and then take advantage of opportunities (classes, community engagement, etc.) that may put you in contact with folks who share your interests. This is especially valuable early on in graduate school, when you're still in coursework and can pick classes more likely to introduce you to like-minded people.

In terms of balancing the needs of the organization and your needs as a graduate student, having some sort of formal work agreement is really important. Define what you want, let them define what they want, then decide what both parties need and can agree upon. I was fortunate enough to work before coming back into the academy and learned that formalizing agreements isn't a sign of mistrust, but professionalism.

As for Covid, my first line of advice is to take care of yourself and know that your health and safety come first. The rest falls apart without that. Beyond that, don't be afraid or ashamed of remote methods. All of my HFHI interviews are remote. So, something like that may not be the type of study you planned on before, but it can be done, and the data can be rich.

Where do you see your work going in the future?

I am still interested in social movements. While this project focused on the external side of movements--that is, getting programs implemented--I wanted to explore the "interior life" of movements as well. So, in my dissertation project I am looking at the ways health, care, and the body/mind shape social movement engagement. These may seem like divergent projects, but both are fueled by an interest in innovation--the CLT project looked at policy innovations, the current looks at innovation around care and interpersonal relations. So, I see them as both linked in my overarching research program.

What would you tell other graduate students about how to take advantage of SSSP membership?

I am incredibly grateful for the award and for being part of the SSSP/CRD Division community. In this time of great social and existential unrest, it's easy to get discouraged about the value of social justice research to actual social justice fights. So, it's affirming to be part of a community that sees those two things not in opposition to each other, but as indispensable to each other.

SSSP CRD Member Accomplishments:

Two recent publications by CRD members may be of interest to membership:

Johnston, Michael O. 2020. "The Queen and Her Royal Court: A Content Analysis of Doing Gender at a Tulip Queen Pageant." *Gender Issues* 37: 1-20.

ABSTRACT: The aim of this study was to better understand how local privilege is reproduced through community beauty pageants and how the girls who were part of the pageant represented themselves in media. Findings showed that the girls on royal court presented themselves in media interviews as having common personal and familial traits and as having common experiences in the local community. The girls had common lifelong aspirations for being on royal court, the girls participated in similar extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, they had similar aspirations to earn a college degree, the girls had a common religious identity, and the girls all had parents who were in similar areas of employment.

Templer Rodrigues, Abby. 2020. "Techniques for Shifting Economic Subjectivity: Promoting an Assets-based Stance with Artists and Artisans." in *The Handbook of Diverse Economies*. Edited by J.K. Gibson-Graham and Kelly Dombroski. Cheltenham, U.K.: Edward Elgar.

Please share news of publications, dissertations, job changes, upcoming conferences, and other relevant updates with your CRD Division colleagues. **Send information about recent news to halaszj@newpaltz.edu for inclusion in the next division newsletter by December 1, 2020.**

Special Calls, Invitations, and Announcements

There is a job opportunity for an **open-rank Tenure Track position for a Professor of Civil Society and Community Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison**. The department is looking for a community-based researcher who uses quantitative/mixed methods and is informed by critical theory perspectives. **Applications are due October 15.** For more details see: <https://jobs.chronicle.com/job/278696/assistant-associate-or-full-professor-of-civil-society-and-community-studies/>

Would you like to **contribute to the CRD Division newsletter**? We are looking for interviews with scholars, practitioners, or community activists working on community-related issues and short essays on timely community-related research. Interested? **Please email Judy Halasz at halaszj@newpaltz.edu by December 1, 2020.**



Society for the Study of Social Problems
Community and Research Development Division
<https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageId/1329/m/464>
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