

Winter 2012



The Society for the Study of Social Problems *Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division*

In This Issue:

- ◆ Message from the Division Chair
- ◆ 2012 SSSP Conference: *CSAC Division Sessions*
- ◆ Feature Story:
On Vegas: Sociologists, Slots, and Morals
- ◆ Sex Worker Outreach Project—Las Vegas
- ◆ 2012 CSAC Graduate Student Paper Competition
- ◆ Books and Publications of CSA&C Division Members
- ◆ Travel Funds and Scholarships Available

Newsletter Editor:

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Message from the Division Chair: Maralee Mayberry

Greetings and a happy New Year to all! I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve SSSP and the Conflict and Social Action Division. I look forward to working with all of you as we strengthen the Division's visibility and impact. This newsletter provides you with important information about the Division's schedule for the 2012 meetings, funding opportunities, student paper competition, scholarships, and reflections from the 2011 meetings in Las Vegas, NV.

The 2012 meetings, held in Denver, CO, will be informative and exciting. The theme, "The Art of Activism," focuses its sessions and workshops on the myriad intersections between art and activism to "explore the creative spirit in activism as well as the sociopolitical power of art." I am excited by the Division's thematic sessions which span a variety of topics, including: the artist as observer and social critic; redefining political action and activism; and challenges in conducting and publishing social action scholarship. As exciting are the numerous co-sessions we are sponsoring with other SSSP divisions. These sessions will explore topics ranging from sex/y activism, to environmental activism, to youth activism, to name just a few. More detailed information about the division's program is contained within this newsletter.

Also included in this newsletter is our feature story, "On Vegas: Sociologists, Slots, and Morals," which is a thoughtful reflection on the 2011 meetings in Las Vegas. The stories author, Barb Brents (UNLV), studies sex and gender in market cultures including the relation between tourism, consumption and sexuality. I'm sure you'll find her commentary about the controversy erupting around the 2011 meetings thoughtful and engaging.

As we move forward toward the 2012 meetings, please help the Division by distributing this newsletter to your colleagues and students who may have an interest in being a part of the Division's activities. I look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at the SSSP meetings in Denver.

A Call for Content: The next newsletter will be published early Summer 2012. We would love to publish information about what our members are working on. Please forward any short narratives or summaries about your teaching, research, publishing, community partnerships, etc. that you would like to share with division members to: mayberry@usf.edu

2012 SSSP Conference Preliminary Schedule: CSAC Division

Division Sessions

- (1) Title: Meet the Authors of *"Art Reflects Life: The Artist as Observer and Social Critic,"* (thematic session, by invitation only). Organized by Shawn Bingham (editor). Email: Bingham@usf.edu
- (2) Title: Redefining Political Action and Activism. Organized by Catherine Gillis. Email: cgillis@luc.edu
- (3) Title: Challenges in Conducting and Publishing Social Action Scholarship. Organized by John Alessio. Email: jcalessio9@gmail.com

Co-Sponsored Sessions

- (1) Title: Sex/y Activism. Organized by Barbara Brents. Email: barb.brents@unlv.edu. Co-Sponsor, Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Community
- (2) Title: Transforming Social Change into Social Policy. Organized by John Barnshaw. Email: Barnshaw@usf.edu. Co-Sponsor, Social Problems Theory
- (3) Title: Environmental Activism. Organized by Tracy Perkins. Email: teperkin@ucsc.edu. Co-Sponsor, Environment & Technology: Poverty, Class, Inequality
- (4) Title: Grassroots Women Activists. (by invitation only). Organized by Joyce Bialik. Email: BIALIK@YU.EDU. Co-Sponsor, Sociology and Social Welfare
- (5) Title: Radicalism in the 21st Century: Networking and Social Activism. Organized by Tracy Peressini. Email: tracy.peressini@uwaterloo.ca. Co-Sponsor: Sociology and Social Welfare
- (6) Title: Engaging Youth in Social Action (Papers in the Round). Organized by Abbilyn Harmon. Email: amille22@illinois.edu
- (7) Title: Collaborations: Professionals, Researchers, and Community Activists. Organized by Alison Griffith. Email: agriffith@edu.yorku.ca. Co-Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography

****Dates, Times, Locations, and Session Numbers will be forthcoming in the Summer 2012 newsletter****

Feature Article:

ON VEGAS: SOCIOLOGISTS, SLOTS, AND MORALS

By: Barb Brents, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

*Barb Brents, Professor of Sociology at UNLV, is a co-author of *The State of Sex: Tourism, Sex and Sin in the New American Heartland* (Routledge Press, 2010). Brents' research and teaching interests include political sociology, gender and sexuality, urban sociology, and public sociology. Her recent work uses the sex industry as a site to understand the intersections of culture and economics—including the construction of “market morality” in political debates around sexuality; the relation between tourism, consumption and sexuality; the emotional and bodily labor of selling sex; and consuming sex. Brents is a founding member of *Globalization, Sexuality and the City*, an interdisciplinary project and network to encourage the production and dissemination of research on the intersections of sexuality, culture and economics across the globe. The project recently received support to conduct a three-year study of adult entertainment and tourism. It will examine adult consumption patterns of tourists attending a sample of Las Vegas conventions, and clients in legal brothels.*

When a labor dispute in Chicago brought the SSSP convention to Las Vegas, local sociologists were thrilled. I love Las Vegas and I'm used to defending that assessment. But I was just a little surprised at the downright hostility that surfaced as soon as people started to arrive. “Too big, too hot, too sexist, too exploitative, too expensive, too creepy, too much.” In the 30 plus years I've been attending conferences, no convention city has every drawn that much ire.

The debate lasted for several months in the blogosphere and in comments spurred by an *Inside Higher Ed* article, “Sociologists in Sin City,” that featured Sharon Zukin's provocative podcast from Norton titled “I Hate Las Vegas.”ⁱ That podcast provoked a response by the *Las Vegas Sun*, “to the sociologists: If you don't like Vegas, don't come back.”ⁱⁱ

While the critique of being too big or being too expensive could be leveled against many convention venues, the attack on Las Vegas seemed to have a bigger force behind it. Blogger Braydon King pointed out, it was as if the very idea of Vegas was morally reprehensible.ⁱⁱⁱ

What was just as interesting was the response that sociologists should somehow know better. One commentator called out “the church of sociology.”^{iv} As King noted, Vegas provoked our moral center, the values that for good or for ill, guide sociology.

To be fair, Sharon Zukin's comments on her short YouTube video, part of *NortonSOC Channel's* Sociology of Las Vegas series, were probably taken out of context. Las Vegas is a “big money making machine” she said with disdain. “People think they are having fun here, but in fact, they are wondering through a maze of really inauthentic fake landscapes and they can't escape.” She concluded, “Its not a real city.”

That last city comment provoked my seven-year-old daughter to rage, “Of course it's a real city,” she shouted at my laptop. “How do we eat here? How do we live here? How do we have houses here?” The *Las Vegas Sun* columnist raged against Zukin's video with a litany of defenses that amounted to ‘Vegas is really no different than the rest of you.’ That part of the Vegas attack has been easy to critique.

(Continued from Page 3) On Vegas: Sociologists, Slots, and Morals

Those of us who study here see Las Vegas as a fairly significant city of the 21st century. The Brookings Institute once called the area part of the “New American Heartland” because its demographic trends reflect the direction of the rest of the nation.^v Lisa Wade, a professor at Occidental College and co-editor of the blog, *Sociological Imagines*, commented to *Inside Higher Ed*, “there is a little bit of Vegas in all of us.”

But it was Zukin’s tone of smug moral superiority that mirrored the attitude of many convention goers. The *Las Vegas Sun* columnist called her reaction a “parody of academic pomposity.” UNLV assistant professor Shannon Monnat was among those who called out the superiority complex, telling *Inside Higher Ed* that the complaints, “should have given us all an opportunity to reflect on our privilege as academics.” Blogger Diedre Oakly at *Social Shutter*, pointed out that the favored convention cities—Chicago, New York, San Francisco—also happen to contain the most prestigious universities, reflecting a caste system of cities within sociology.^{vi}

As these and other commentators pointed out, the arrogant outrage at this ‘city,’ and the tastes of millions of tourists who drive the Las Vegas economy and thrive on its urban form may reflect the class position of sociologists more than sound sociology.

But the moral debate. Now that is sociologically interesting as well.

Labeling Las Vegas “morally reprehensible” plays right into our hand. Early in the 20th century, while the rest of the country was reeling under pressure from the likes of Anthony Comstock and the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, Nevada grew its leisure industries. During the 1920s, recognizing the nation’s growing thirst for increasingly denied sexual and hedonistic pleasures, Vegas legalized gambling, quickie divorce, and quickie marriage. Some small towns even encouraged brothel districts. Since the 1950s, any obsession with policing proper behavior greased our big money making machine. Now, much of the economy has caught up to us—sex sells.

The Vegas “counter morality” signifies a widespread populist reaction against elitist bourgeois asceticism at the same time as embracing bourgeois conspicuous consumption. The ad campaign, “What Happens in Vegas Stays In Vegas,” captures what we might call a new morality. You are free to be whomever you want in Vegas, free from moral judgment, free to indulge your hedonism, free to consume. It has become one of the most popular ad campaigns of all time.

To be sure, this Vegas morality promotes heteronormative consumption and objectifying images of women. At the same time, its moral freedom extends the social (if not economic) right to consume to a host of groups previously excluded. It objectifies male bodies and extends sexual consumption rights to women. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority has a fairly prominent section of its web site devoted to the gay consumer.^{vii} Job opportunities for women and minorities exist in ways that don’t exist elsewhere. “Objectified” cocktail waitresses are unionized, have pensions and health care. Nevada for the past 15 years has been among states with the most number of women holding political office. The research UNLV colleagues and I have done on Nevada’s legal brothels found that selling sex in the legal brothels is safe and free from trafficking.

(Continued from Page 4) On Vegas: Sociologists, Slots, and Morals

Las Vegas is no picnic of equality, but its problems are not because it is “Sin City.” The Vegas morality that provoked our attention signifies a shifting morality that is not uniformly ‘bad.’ What is clear is that this consumer morality and sexual economy is complicated.

As I said, I love doing sociology in Las Vegas. It keeps my sociological imagination finely tuned and my feminism sharp. It reveals the contradictions and complexities of social life. All this pondering Vegas is a good thing for us. I hope the conferences come back to Las Vegas. And if we get to plan ahead next time, I promise we’ll provide a good “local’s guide” to cheap eats.

Article Links

ⁱ Serena Golden, “Sociologists in Sin City,” *Inside Higher Ed*, August 26, 2011. http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/08/26/sociology_conference_in_vegas Sharon Zukin, “I Hate Las Vegas,” NortonSOCChannel on YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvPPHp6EeVs&feature=plcp&context=C34496fdUDOEgsToPDskJ5py7BWil-LKFZX1-KckG>

ⁱⁱ J. Patrick Coolican, “To the Sociologists: If you Don’t like Vegas, Don’t Come Back,” *Las Vegas Sun*, Aug. 20, 2011. <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/aug/29/sociologists-if-you-don-t-vegas-don-t-come-back/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Brayden King, “Is Sociology a Conservative Discipline.” <http://orgtheory.wordpress.com/2011/09/01/is-sociology-a-conservative-discipline/>

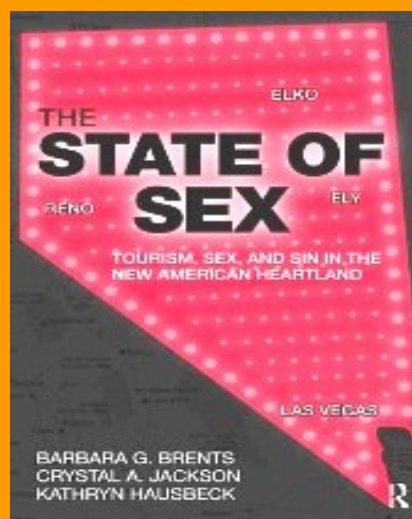
^{iv} Henry Vandenburg, “Sociologists in Sin City.” *Inside Higher Ed*, August 26, 2011. http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/08/26/sociology_conference_in_vegas

^v Robert Lang, Andrea Sarzynski, and Mark Muro, “Mountain Megs: America’s Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help Them Prosper.” Washington D. C.: The Brookings Institution, 2008, 20-21.

^{vi} Dierdre Oakly, “Dissing Las Vegas: Can Sociology’s Cast System of Cities Ever Change,” *Social Shutter*, September 4, 2011. <http://socialshutter.blogspot.com/2011/09/dissing-las-vegas-can-sociologys-cast.html>

^{vii} <http://www.visitlasvegas.com/how-to-vegas/gay-vegas/>

The *State of Sex* is a study of Nevada’s brothels that situates the nation’s only legal brothel industry in the political economy of contemporary tourism. Nevada is part of the “new American heartland” as its pastimes, people, and politics have become more central to the nation. The rise of a service and leisure economy over the past sixty years has propelled sexuality into the heart of contemporary markets. Yet, neoliberal laws in the United States promote business but limit sexual commerce.



Routledge, 2010

Sex Worker Outreach Project—Las Vegas

By Jennifer Heineman, UNLV, PhD Candidate

SWOP-LV, or the Sex Worker Outreach Project-Las Vegas, received this year's SSSP Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award. SWOP-LV is dedicated to fundamental human rights, with specific focus on ending violence and social stigma surrounding sex work through education and advocacy. They believe that the best way to do this is by taking a harm reduction approach to outreach and a decriminalization approach to policy regarding prostitution. SWOP-LV has five specific goals: HIV/AIDS outreach, ending sex trafficking, fighting poverty, providing resources to gender and sexual minorities, and ending sex shaming.

Among the activities SWOP-LV is involved in includes organizing harm reduction sites, including needle exchanges; organizing The Red Umbrella Diaries, a spoken word event hosted by sex workers in New York City, San Francisco, London, and soon Vegas; lobbying against the anti-prostitution loyalty oath, a requirement of U.S. grant recipients, which severely impacts the reproductive and emotional health of sex workers in nations bound to America's Global Health Initiative; helping to organize the Desiree Alliance conference, which is an annual professional conference to address needs of sex workers, and hosting the local December 17th International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. SWOP-LV will be featured in an upcoming National Geographic documentary about sex work, and were featured on the BBC's The World

The SSSP recently approved a SWOP resolution to decriminalize prostitution. The resolution called for de-stigmatizing sex workers at a social and cultural level and enacting policies that move towards eradicating criminalization on a legal level. The SSSP resolution states that members should actively reject legislation such as the Anti-Prostitution Loyalty Oath.

Contact Jennifer Heineman, anappleofdiscord@hotmail.com, for more information



Graduate Student Paper Competition

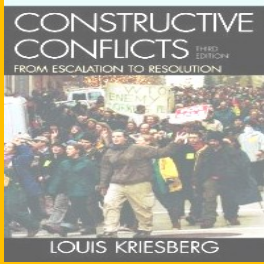
Division Members: Please help get the word out!!

**Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division
Deadline: 5/1/2012**

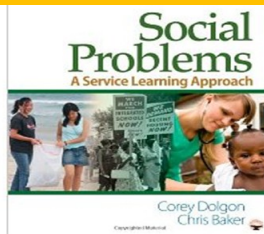
The Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division announces its 2012 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Students are encouraged to submit theoretical or empirical papers that address some aspect of the interrelation of conflict, social action, and change. The winner of the competition will receive a \$150 cash award, a one-year membership to SSSP, conference registration fees to the 2012 SSSP meeting in Denver, Co, and a ticket to the SSSP Awards Banquet. To be eligible for submission, a paper must not be published or accepted for publication. Also, papers must be authored by a current graduate student (either solely or co-authored by more than one student) and may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student. The winning author is required to present the paper at a Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division session during the 2012 SSSP meeting in Denver, Co, August 16-18, 2012. Papers must not exceed 30 pages including all notes, references, and tables. Please send an electronic copy of the paper and a cover letter to Maralee Mayberry at: mayberry@usf.edu with the subject line: SSSP-CSAC Student Paper Competition.

Division Members: Please help get the word out!!

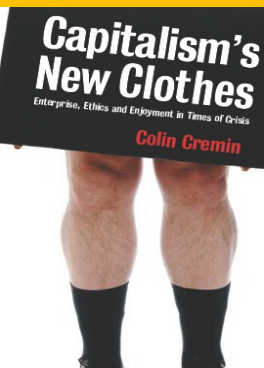
Books & Publications by CSA&C Division Members



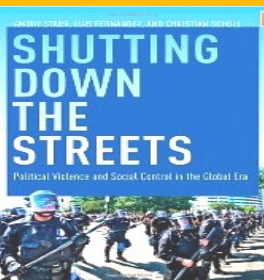
Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011) by Louis Kriesberg and Bruce W. Dayton. This comprehensive book provides a framework for analyzing diverse social conflicts. The fourth edition maintains the book's synthesis of theories about conflict, with key updates throughout. These include a more reader-friendly first chapter, new examples such as the Arab Spring, expanded discussions of recovery from violence and oppression, of reconciliation, and of moral concerns, and new discussions of social media and other ways conflicts are waged.



Social Problems: A Service Learning Approach (Pine Forge, Sage Publications, 2010) by Corey Dolgon and Chris Baker. This book integrates an innovative case study approach into a comprehensive introduction that helps students understand how they can address social problems in their communities by applying basic theories and concepts. "This book empowers the powerless and gives sociologists and their students a new vantage point for understanding." (Judith Blau)

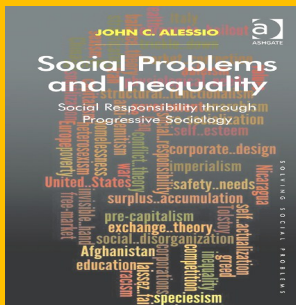


Capitalism's New Clothes: Enterprise, Ethics and Enjoyment in Times of Crisis (London: Pluto Press, 2011) by Colin Cremin. In broadsheet newspapers, television shows and Hollywood films, capitalism is increasingly recognized as a system detrimental to human existence. Colin Cremin investigates why, despite this de-robing, capitalism remains a powerful and seductive force. Using materialist, psychoanalytic and linguistic approaches, Cremin shows how capitalism, anxiety and desire enter into a productive/destructive relationship. The nuanced and sophisticated argument in *Capitalism's New Clothes* goes a long way to explaining the contradictions of contemporary existence under a system that has been revealed as damaging and regressive, but is more dominant than ever.

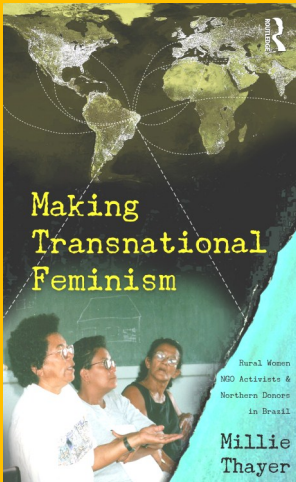


Shutting Down the Streets: Social Control and Political Violence in the Global Era (New York University Press, 2011) by Amory Starr, Luis Fernandez, and Christian School). This book examines the way that state control of dissent operates in democracies, arguing that current methods closely resemble counter insurgency techniques. The book is timely in that it provides a good framework for understanding police actions against the Occupy Movement. This is the first book to conceptualize the social control of dissent in the era of alterglobalization.

Books & Publications by CSA&C Division Members



Social Problems and Inequality: Social Responsibility through Progressive Sociology (Ashgate Publishing, 2011) by John C. Alessio. With a central focus on the problem of inequality and the manner in which this is manifested in crime, social class and stratification, this book explores integrated and root-cause-based explanations of complex social problems. Written in clear and understandable language, allowing it to be used for classroom purposes, it addresses the most fundamental principles of how humans, acting through social units, create, and eventually can remedy, social problems.

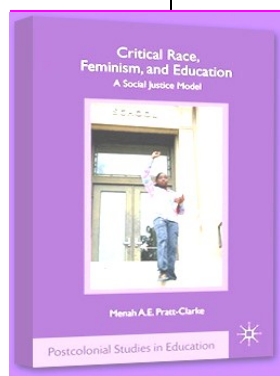


Making Transnational Feminism: Rural Women, NGO Activists, and Northern Donors in Brazil (Routledge, 2010) by Millie Thayer. *Winner of SSSP's 2011 Outstanding Book Award.* This ethnographic study examines the transnational relations among feminist movements at the end of the twentieth century, from the perspective of two differently situated women's organizations in the Northeast Brazilian state of Pernambuco. While the conventional narrative of globalization tells a story of disembodied and inexorable power, this study tells a different story, one of social movements purposefully weaving cross-border relationships. From this vantage point, global forces are not immaculately conceived. Instead, they are constituted by human actors with their own interests and identities, located in particular social contexts. The book moves beyond both dire predictions and euphoric celebrations about "global civil society" to show how transnational political relationships are constructed and sustained across social and geographical divides.

American Fascism and the New Deal: The Associated Farmers of California, Inc (Edwin Mellen Press, 2011) by Nelson A. Pichardo and Brian Kulik. This book provides a detailed examination of the Associated Farmers of California, an organization that arose in California during the Great Depression. Created, supported, and led by the agricultural and industrial elite of California, the Associated Farmers was the representative social movement organization of the Pro-Industrial movement which sought to create a fascist government in California and to export this model to the rest of the country. The book offers an overview of explanations of fascism, and applies theories of social movements, the state, and business economics to understand the conditions under which elite mobilizations take place and fascism may emerge. Discussion of modern conservative mobilizations (like the Tea Party) are also provided.

Cover Forthcoming

Books & Publications by CSA&C Division Members



Critical Race, Feminism, and Education: A Social Justice Model (Palgrave Macmillan, Dec. 2010) by Menah Pratt-Clarke). This work represents an almost twenty-five year personal journey for Menah Pratt-Clarke, as a Black woman activist-scholar. With a focus on praxis, the text uses a transdisciplinary approach—integrating law, sociology, history, Black feminism, social movement theory, and discourse analysis—to demonstrate the relationship between the construction of race, class and gender categories and social justice outcomes. The book demonstrates how marginalized groups are oppressed by the operation of ideologies of power and privilege, including racism, patriarchy, classism, and nationalism within the legal system, the education system, and the media.

Journal Articles

- ◆ Fox, Nicole. 2012. “‘God Must Have been Sleeping’: Faith as an Obstacle and a Resource for Rwandan Genocide Survivors.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 52 (1): forthcoming.
- ◆ Gonos, George and Carmen Martino. December 2011. “Temp Agency Workers in New Jersey’s Logistics Hub: The Case for a Union Hiring Hall.” *WorkingUSA*, 14: 499-525.
- ◆ Guenther, Katja M. 2011. “The Possibilities and Pitfalls of NGO Feminism: Insights from Postsocialist Eastern Europe.” *Signs*, 36(4): 863-888.
- ◆ Isaac, Larry. 2010. “Policing Capital: Armed Countermovement Coalitions against Labor in Nineteenth-Century Industrial Cities. In *Strategic Alliances: Coalition Building and Social Movements*, edited by Nella Vand Dyke & Holly McCammon. University of Minnesota Press.
- ◆ Isaac, Larry. 2012. “Literary Activists and Battling Books: The Labor Problem Novel as Contentious Movement Medium.” *Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change*, 33 (forthcoming).
- ◆ Kriesberg, Louis. 2012. “Challenges in Peacemaking: External Interventions.” In *Peacemaking: From Practice to Theory*, edited by Susan Allen Nan, Zachariah Mamphilly & Andrea Bartoli. Praeger Security International, Vol. 2.

Books & Publications by CSA&C Division

Journal Articles, Continued

- ◆ Kriesberg, Louis. 2011. "The Changing State-of-Art in Conflict Transformation." In *Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation*, edited by Martina Fischer, Hans J. Giessmann & Beatrix Schmelzle. Barbara Budrich Publishers, Berlin.
- ◆ Mayberry, Maralee; Chenneville, Tiffany; and Sean Currie. 2012. "Challenging the Sounds of Silence: A Qualitative Study of Gay-Straight Alliances and School Reform Efforts." *Education and Urban Society*, forthcoming.
- ◆ Morrison, Daniel and Larry Issac. (2012). "Insurgent Images: Genre Selection and Visual frame Amplification in IWW Cartoon Art." *Social Movement Studies*, 11(1): 1-16.
- ◆ Smith, Jackie. 2011. "Globalizations forum on Middle East Protests: Commentary on Links to Global Justice Activism." *Globalizations*, 8: 655-659.

Books, Forthcoming

- ◆ Smith, Jackie; Byrd, Scott; Reese, Ellen; and Elizabeth Smythe, Eds. 2012. *A Handbook of World Social Forum Activism*. Paradigm Publishers.
- ◆ Smith, Jackie and Dawn Wiest. 2012. *Social Movements in the World System: The Politics of Crisis and Transformation*. Russell-Sage Foundation.

A New Book Series

Solving Social Problems (Series Editor: Bonnie Berry, Director of the Social Problems Research Group, USA, www.ashgate.com/sociology). *Solving Social Problems* provides a forum for the description and measurement of social problems, with a keen focus on the concrete remedies proposed for their solution. The series takes an international perspective, exploring social problems in various parts of the world, with the central concern being always their possible remedy. Work is welcomed on subjects as diverse as environmental damage, terrorism, economic disparities and economic devastation, poverty, inequalities, domestic assaults and sexual abuse, health care, natural disasters, labour inequality, animal abuse, crime, and mental illness and its treatment. In addition to recommending solutions to social problems, the books in this series are theoretically sophisticated, exploring previous discussions of the issues in question, examining other attempts to resolve them, and adopting and discussing methodologies that are commonly used to measure social problems. Proposed solutions may be framed as changes in policy or practice, or more broadly as social change and social movements. Solutions may be reflective of ideology, but are always pragmatic and detailed, explaining the means by which the suggested solutions might be achieved.

If you would like to submit a proposal for this series, please email: the Series Editor, **Bonnie Berry**: solving@socialproblems.org

TRAVEL FUNDS AVAILABLE

THE ERWIN O. SMIGEL AWARD COMMITTEE announces funds available for *Unemployed and Underemployed Sociologists* to participate in the 2012 Annual Meeting, August 16-18, Denver, CO. Applicants should be sociologists with an advanced degree who are not full-time students and who are not fully employed. Guidelines: 1) the Smigel Fund monies are to be used to help pay for three or four unemployed or severely underemployed sociologists' transportation to and registration fees for the SSSP meeting; 2) applicants must be SSSP members who are presenting a paper at the main SSSP meeting (rather than at an adjacent workshop or meeting) or participating as a SSSP elected or appointed officer or committee member; 3) a maximum of \$500 is to be granted to any one recipient.

THE LEE SCHOLAR SUPPORT FUND COMMITTEE announces funds available for *Foreign Scholars* to participate in the 2012 Annual Meeting, August 16-18, Denver, CO. The specific purpose is to facilitate scholarly participation by persons engaged in research related to labor, gender, race-ethnicity, less advantaged countries, and other struggles. More generally, the purpose of this fund is to foster cooperative relations among persons and organizations engaged in applying sociological findings to confront social problems and create social change. Consistent with past practice, preference will be given to applicants from economically disadvantaged countries who without these funds could not attend the Annual Meeting. Preference will be given to applicants who have not received support from the Lee Scholar Fund Committee before.

THE LEE STUDENT SUPPORT FUND COMMITTEE announces funds available for *Undergraduate and Graduate Students* to participate in the 2012 Annual Meeting, August 16-18, Denver, CO. The fund provides up to \$500 in travel support (transportation costs only) for undergraduate and graduate student conference participants. In addition to need, the committee may recognize the Society's commitment to diversity, the applicant's commitment to scholar-activism, and interdisciplinary work among other factors.

All applications must be submitted online no later than March 15, 2012

For links to the online applications and more information, please access the home page for the Society for the Study of Social Problems (<http://www.sssp1.org>) and follow the link to the Social Problems Forum Fall Newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIPS

THE 2012 BETH B. HESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP. The Beth B. Hess memorial Scholarship is awarded to an advanced sociology Ph.D. student who began her or his study in a community college or technical school. A student advanced to candidacy (ABD status) in an accredited Ph.D. program in sociology in the U.S. is eligible to apply if she or he studied at a U.S. two-year college either part-time or full-time for the equivalent of at least one full academic year that was not part of a high-school dual-enrollment program. The scholarship carries a stipend to be used to support the pursuit of a Ph.D. in the amount of \$15,000 from Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) and an additional \$300 from the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), as well as a one-year membership in SWS (including a subscription to *Gender & Society*) and SSSP (including a subscription to *Social Problems*). The scholarship will be awarded at the summer meetings of SWS and SSSP. The awardee's economy-class airfare, train fare or driving mileage/tolls will be paid by SWS. Each association will also waive its meeting registration and provide complimentary banquet and/or reception tickets for the awardee. Application materials must be received by midnight on March 31, 2012.

For more information about award criteria and application materials please access the home page for the Society for the Study of Social Problems (<http://www.sssp1.org>) and follow the link to the Social Problems Forum Fall Newsletter or contact Denise Copelton at: dcopelto@brockport.edu

2012 RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP. The purpose of the scholarship is: to identify and support developing minority scholars who exemplify and give fresh voice to the SSSP history and commitment to scholar activism; to give renewed energy and wider lenses to diversity in scholarship; to increase the pool of minority social and behavioral scientists; to establish a formal commitment to diversity through support of a minority doctoral student in the social and or behavior sciences inclusive of course work or dissertation research support who demonstrates a commitment, through his or her scholarly examination, of any aspect of inequality, injustice and oppression. A \$12,000 scholarship will be funded to one student with an additional \$500 awarded for attendance at the annual meeting.

All applications must be submitted online no later than February 3, 2012

For links to the online applications and more information, please access the home page for the Society for the Study of Social Problems (<http://www.sssp1.org>) and follow the link to the Social Problems Forum Fall Newsletter