



# The Society for the Study of Social Problems

## *Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division*

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### **Newsletter Editor:**

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### ***Message from the Division Chair: Maralee Mayberry***

Greetings! The 2012 Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division's sponsored sessions in Denver were very successful. We sponsored 11 stimulating sessions and all were well attended. The SSSP membership was particularly excited about two of our sponsored sessions—*Collaborations: Professionals, Researchers, and Community Activists* and *Challenges in Conducting and Publishing Social Action Scholarship*. Both of these sessions drew a "standing room only" audience. I look forward to working with you throughout the year in hopes of sustaining our very visible and vital Conflict, Social Action and Change Division.

The SSSP 2013 meetings will be held in New York City and organized around an ambitious theme: "Re-imagining Social Problems: Moving Beyond Social Constructionism." SSSP president Richard Dello Buono guarantees us a fabulous time, complete with live entertainment and other exciting additions to the program. This newsletter provides you with preliminary information about the Division's thematic and co-sponsored sessions to help you begin planning for August. More detailed information will be included in the early summer newsletter.

Each division will be sponsoring a new session format called "Critical Dialogue." This format includes short (5 minute presentations) by a group of authors followed by an engaged dialogue that critically explores connections among presentations. The audience will have an opportunity to participate in the dialogue as well. The emphasis is placed on exploring interesting connections between presentations organized around a broadly similar theme. The Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division's Critical Dialogue, "Uniting Theory and Practice in the 21st Century: Consciousness, Vision and Strategy for Social Transformation," will be organized and moderated by Walda Katz Fishman. We hope you put this exciting session on your calendar!

Finally, my thanks to our division members who organized and presided over our 2012 sessions and my thanks in advance to all members who have agreed to organize our 2013 sessions.

Please take a look at the rest of the newsletter as it provides important information about the student paper competition (\*new deadline\*), SSSP elections, and member news.

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## Conflict, Social Action & Change 2013 Division Sessions

### Division 2013 Thematic Session

**“Uniting Theory and Practice in the 21st Century: Consciousness, Vision and Strategy for Social Transformation.” A Critical Dialogue** (organized by Walda Katz Fishman, Howard Univeristy)

### Division Sponsored Sessions

**“Barriers to Social Activism: Gender, Race, and Class’** (organized by Andy Plotkin, Palm Beach State College)

**“Media and Social Change”** (organized by Lynn Letukas, University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse)

### Division Co-Sponsored Sessions

**“Community-Based Social Justice Activism, Education, and Social Change”** (organized by Debbie Perkins, Coastal Carolina University)

**“Re-Framing Sex Work: Women, Labor and Social Policy”** (organized by Andrea Mayo, Arizona State University)

**“Re-Imagining Social Constructionism: Moving Beyond Western Capitalist, Individualist Bias”** (organized by Donileen Loseke, University of South Florida)

**“Transformative Environmental Education”** (organized by Matt Wilkinson, Coastal Carolina University)

**“Promoting Social Welfare: Examples of Collaboration between Academic and Grassroot Participants”** (organized by Linda Houser, Widener University)

**“IE as Activism** (organized by Ian Hussy, York University)

**Re-Imagining War: Social Creation of Disability** (organized by Alexis Bender)



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CSA&C Student Paper Competition  
2013

Please Inform Your Graduate Students About this Opportunity

The Conflict, Social Action, and Change division announces its 2013 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 2013 SSSP meeting in New York City, 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 2013 meeting in New York City, August 9-11, 2013. 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](mailto:mayberry@usf.edu) with the subject line: SSSP-CSAC Student Paper Competition

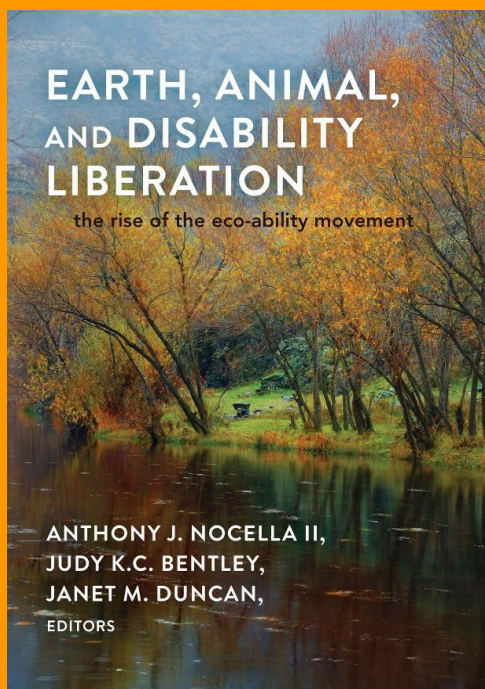
*Deadline: January 31, 2012*

A committee of 3 scholars will review and rate the submissions. Thanks to the efforts of the 2012 committee—John Alessio, Larry Isaac, and Nancy Naples,—we made the award to a very talented graduate student, Jesse Klein. [I am looking for volunteers to serve on the 2013 committee.](#) If you are interested, please contact me at [mayberry@usf.edu](mailto:mayberry@usf.edu). THANKS!

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## Division Member News and Notes

### **Recent Publications and Member News:**



This provocative and groundbreaking book is the first of its kind to propose the concept of Eco-ability: the intersectionality of the ecological world, persons with disabilities, and nonhuman animals. Rooted in disability studies and rights, environmentalism, and animal advocacy, this book calls for a social justice theory and movement that dismantles constructed “normalcy,” ableism, specieism, and ecological destruction while promoting mutual interdependence, collaboration, respect for difference, and inclusivity of our world. Eco-ability provides a positive, liberating, and empowering philosophy for educators and activists alike.

October, 2012  
Peter Lang Publishing



*The Global Industrial Complex: Systems of Domination* is a groundbreaking collection of essays by a diverse set of leading scholars who examine the entangled and evolving global array of corporate-state structures of hegemonic power—what the editors refer to as “the power complex”—that was first analyzed by C. Wright Mills in his 1956 classic work, *The Power Elite*.

December 2011  
Lexington Books

## Recent Publications and Member News Continued:

**Gurbuz, Mustafa and Mary Bernstein.** 2012. “‘Thou Shall Not Protest!’: Multi-Institutional Politics, Strategic Non-Confrontation and Islamic Mobilizations in Turkey.” *Research in Social Movements, Conflict and Change* 34: 63-91.

**Stewart, Julie and Thomas Christian Quinn.** 2012. “To Include or Exclude? A Comparative Study of State Laws on In-state Tuition for Undocumented Students in the U.S.” *Texas Hispanic Journal of Law and Policy* 18: 107-177.

**Stewart, Julie.** “A Tale of Two Communities: Divergent Development and Embedded Brokerage in Post-war Guatemala.” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 42(4): 402-430.

**Stewart, Julie.** 2012. “Fiction over Facts: How Competing Narrative Forms Explain Policy in a New Immigration Destination.” *Sociological Forum* 27(3): 591-616. DOI: 10.1111/j.1573-7861.2012.01337.x.

**Steward, Julie and Ken Jameson.** 2012. “Interests Aren’t Everything: An Exploration of Economic Explanations of Immigration Policy in Utah.” *International Migration*, July: DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-2435.2012.00765.x.

## New Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division Chair 2013-15

Congratulations to Crystal A. Jackson who was recently elected as the Division’s new chairperson. Crystal studies how inequalities related to gender and sexuality are reproduced and challenged within law, politics, and the economy. She specializes in the analysis of legal and illegal sexual commerce. Jackson has researched strip club laws, an annual professional conference for the adult film industry, queer adult film producers and performers, and rural brothels. Her academic life and activist life are closely linked and she advocates for sex workers’ rights, LGBTQIA rights, immigrant and migrant rights, and gender equality. Jackson believes scholarship is a path toward social change. I’m very excited about working with Crystal to ensure a smooth and productive transition.



## Recent Publications and Member News Continued:

### New Approach to Education Set to Launch

The Academy for Individual Evolution announces the beginning of a new type of school. As Bernard Phillips, the academic dean, describes it, "The nonprofit Academy points toward nothing less than a next stage in the evolution of educational institutions. Its uniqueness derives from putting into practice the interdisciplinary ideas developed by The Sociological Imagination Group ([www.sociological-imagination.com](http://www.sociological-imagination.com)) contained in its 7 books and 3 edited volumes of 30 papers delivered within 9 international research conferences in the U.S.A. and Canada over the past dozen years."

"It is this interdisciplinary orientation," Phillips notes, "that is the basis for an individual's personal evolution. For it yields an approach that is broad enough to include one's ability to develop intellectually (head), emotionally (heart), and in problem-solving procedures (hand)." Phillips continues: "It is this very breadth that opposes people's present beliefs in their limited intelligence (head), their limited self-confidence (heart) and limited reliance on their own problem-solving abilities (hand). People generally conform to so-called experts with narrow perspectives. Yet by dipping into integrated knowledge of human behavior and learning to use the scientific method in one's everyday life, one can learn to reject these supposed limitations and move toward one's own personal evolution."

Dr. Phillips, former professor of sociology at Boston University, further notes, "These interdisciplinary ideas are the basis for (1) an educational aim to help students from age 16 through senior citizen learn how to achieve personal evolution throughout their own lives with absolutely no limit as to how far they might go. These comprehensive ideas are also the basis for (2) a vocational aim to equip students to teach individuals and organizations how to continue to evolve, once again with no limit. Given our ability to fulfill these twin aims, the students of the Academy not only will receive an interdisciplinary education but will also be prepared for meaningful work."

Dr. Phillips of Longboat Key, Florida, sees the Academy's interdisciplinary ideas as sharply contrasting with the degree of integration of knowledge throughout the social sciences: "This lack of integration is illustrated by the 51 Sections—and counting—of the American Sociological Association with little communication across Sections, a situation repeated in psychology, anthropology, economics, political science and history." Phillips further notes that "this disintegrated situation, in addition to being unscientific, works to prevent policy-makers from building on a broad understanding of the complexity of human behavior, where ideological opinions substantiated by no more than a sliver of knowledge have become the 'facts' that people now generally accept."

Educationally, the Academy aims to carry the idea to "think globally and act locally" into the educational arena by focusing its interdisciplinary knowledge on just a single program. Instead of failing to see the forest for the trees, students will learn to see both the forest and the trees. We hold up as our ideal the words of Francis Bacon: 'I take all knowledge to be my province.' We hope to follow in his footsteps and 'go where no man has gone before.'"

The Academy's online educational program will include a focus on the students' emotional development, stressing "heart" no less than "head." Its courses will present ways in which a limited understanding of how to deal with negative emotions—like fear, shame, guilt, hate and unhappiness—leads people to bury those emotions within their unconscious rather than confront them and work toward changing them. "Yet," Dr. Phillips explains, "the confidence that we can gain from learning to practice the scientific method within our everyday lives can help us learn to transform them into positive emotions like confidence, pride, self-acceptance, love and happiness. This releases us from dependence on others for positive reinforcements, granting that relating to others remains most important."

The Academy's vocational aim emphasizes "hand." Phillips states: "Our students will learn to function as 'evolutionary coaches' for any and all individuals and organizations throughout their communities—perhaps even the world—helping others to move in an evolutionary direction." The expansion of the field of coaching over the past decade is documented in the May 6th New York Times article, "The Outsourced Life," based on Professor Arlie Russel Hochschild's just-published book with the same title. As Phillips playfully points out, "We now have the "fitness coach," the "nutrition coach," the "life coach," the "knife coach" for the cooking-challenged, the "dating coach" (with 1,200,000 Google entries), the "wantologist," the "rent-a-dad," the "rent-a-mom" and the "rent-a-friend." (continued on next page)

## Recent Publication and Member News Continued:

Phillips notes that "these coaches with their narrow focus parallel the highly specialized fields throughout the social sciences. Yet these coaches, along with anyone else, can learn to become evolutionary coaches who teach people to move away from 'outsourcing' and toward 'insourcing' more and more areas of their personal lives. Such an evolutionary perspective will add on to a coach's present-day specialized orientation, just as interdisciplinary knowledge can add on to the present-day specialized orientations of academic social scientists." Phillips reminds us that employment presently largely depends on demand for material products, due to the success of physical technologies.

"Nonetheless," Phillips concludes, "these coaches with their command of personal and social technologies will be able to help to develop national economies that balance the production of things with the development of people."

Dr. Plotkin, president of the Academy, says, "While these goals are extremely ambitious—some might even label them utopian, we are convinced that we have the interdisciplinary knowledge that can enable us to fulfill them.

Dr. Plotkin, resident of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, continues describing the Academy's program: "Courses will be six weeks long, with the inaugural course, Introduction to Personal Evolution, scheduled to begin on November 19th. Although this course alone should help students to improve their personal evolution and coaching ability, the completion of a 12-course program, culminating in a Certificate in Individual Evolution and Evolutionary Coaching, should yield the personal and social technologies required for working within a very wide range of situations. "A key thread linking our students' experiences within all of the Academy's courses," Plotkin notes, "is the 'evolutionary journal,' where students will record the details of their personal successes and failures in their efforts to achieve personal evolution and evolutionary coaching. Just as published research studies help scientists to 'stand on the shoulders of giants'—following Newton's claim—and build on what has been learned previously, so can an evolutionary journal help a student to avoid previous mistakes and build on what he or she has already learned."

For more information about the Academy, interested individuals may contact Bernard Phillips at [berniefmps@aol.com](mailto:berniefmps@aol.com) or Andy Plotkin at [aplotkin@bellsouth.net](mailto:aplotkin@bellsouth.net).

Contact for the Academy's prospectus, sample syllabus, and interviews: Bernard Phillips, 413-298-5419 until August 31st and 941-387-0784 afterwards, and Andy Plotkin, 561-775-1881.

## Recent Publications and Member News Continued:

### *Social Problems*

#### Editorial Search -- Call for Applications

The Editorial and Publications Committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems is soliciting applications for the position of Editor of the society's journal, *Social Problems*.

The Editor's three-year term will begin with the operation of the new editorial office at mid-year 2014. The new editor will be responsible for editing Volumes 62-64 (years 2015-2017). Applicants must be members or become members of the SSSP by the time of their application and for the duration of their tenure as editor.

The Editor is responsible for managing the peer review process for approximately 300-400 submitted manuscripts per year, and preparing four issues of the journal (approximately 650 printed pages) annually. The editorial office manages the review process including the on-line services of ScholarOne/Manuscript Central and also has responsibility for copy editing and proofreading in accordance with customary publishing standards.

The committee seeks editorial candidates with distinguished scholarly records, previous editorial experience (e.g., service as journal editor or associate editor, editor of scholarly editions, etc.), strong organizational management skills, and the ability to work and communicate well with others. A familiarity with, and commitment to, *Social Problems* and the SSSP are essential. The SSSP supports the operation of the editorial office with an annual budget and provides a modest stipend and travel expenses for the Editor. Support is also expected from the host institution. This may include office space, utilities, and use of computers and other office equipment, tuition waivers for office personnel (if appropriate), faculty release time, and other basic expenses. Each year the Editor will be expected to submit a budget to the SSSP to cover operating expenses that the host institution does not support.

Individuals interested in applying for the editorship should submit their curriculum vitae with a cover letter detailing their relevant experience, a preliminary operating budget, and a letter from the Department Chair, Dean, or other authorized university administrator confirming the institutional support referenced above. Guidance in the preparation of applications is available from the Editorial and Publications Committee Chair as well as the current *Social Problems* Editor, the Executive Officer, and the Administrative Officer, if necessary.

Please direct all questions, inquiries, nominations, expressions of interest, and application materials to: David A. Smith, Chair, SSSP Editorial and Publications Committee, Department of Sociology, University of California-Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697-5100. Email: [dasmith@uci.edu](mailto:dasmith@uci.edu)

**For more information on the position, please see Section V and Section VIII of the SSSP Operations Manual.**

**Deadline for Applications is February 1, 2013**

#### *A NEW BOOK SERIES*

***Solving Social Problems (Series Editor: Bonnie Berry, Director of the Social Problems Research Group, USA).*** *Solving Social Problems* provides a forum for the description and measurement of social problems, with a focus on the concrete remedies proposed for their solution. Work is welcomed on subjects as diverse as environmental damage, terrorism, economic disparities and economic devastation, poverty, inequalities, domestic assaults and spousal 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 problems in question, examining other attempts to resolve them, and adopting and discussion methodologies that are commonly used to measure social problems.

If you would like to submit a proposal for this series, please email: [Bonnie.Berry@socialproblems.org](mailto:Bonnie.Berry@socialproblems.org)



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## SSSP: Call for Nominations - 2014 General Election

Nominations are open for candidates to run in the 2014 General Election. We will be electing a President-Elect, a Vice-President Elect, regular and student members of the Board of Directors, members of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, Committee on Committees, Editorial and Publications Committee, and the Membership and Outreach Committee. Please consider nominating a colleague or yourself for one of these offices by completing the online nomination form.

Nominations should include a brief description of the nominee's SSSP involvement and other relevant experiences. The Nominations Committee will meet at the Annual Meeting in New York City, NY. All nominations should be submitted prior to Saturday, June 15, 2013. If you have any question, please contact Shannon M. Monnat [Shannon.monnat@unlv.edu], Chairperson, Council of the Special Problems Divisions.

Note: If a SSSP member is interested in serving on an appointed committee, the member may select the appropriate committee when renewing membership. The Administrative Office will give your name to the Committee on Committees for consideration.

Online Nomination Form: <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1082/>