

# Society for the Study of Social Problems

Founded 1951

DRINKING & DRUGS DIVISION

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## Matters of Substance

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## 2011 SSSP Annual Meeting

Program Theme:  
**Service Sociology**

**"If each of us chooses some form of public service and puts himself  
thoroughly into it, things will go very well."**

Charles Horton Cooley

61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting August 19-21, 2011  
Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel  
Las Vegas, NV



### **Message from the Chair:**

Dear Members,

The 2011 Annual Meeting is a little over three months away. As we all know, the meeting has been moved from Chicago to Las Vegas. This change in venue affords us the opportunity to reflect upon this year's meeting theme of "service sociology." Simply put, service sociology is a sociology of social problems intended to ameliorate conditions of life. Over the decades, Chicago has been the site for many novel efforts to study or address social problems – including alcohol and substance use – given its size, local resources, and unique history. Despite its history as "sin city," Las Vegas does not immediately come to mind in the context of addressing social problems. Yet, Las Vegas is likely to be in need of some solutions– both social and economic– given that it had the highest home foreclosure rate in the U.S. over the past two years. In 2010, one in nine homes in Las Vegas had some kind of foreclosure notice. Traveling to Las Vegas in these times provides us with the opportunity to think about new ways that service sociology can be practiced and potentially merged with our own divisional concerns relating to research and teaching in the areas of alcohol and drug use.

The meeting is in the final planning stages, and we have a great program lined up. I look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas.

Best,

Steve Lankenau



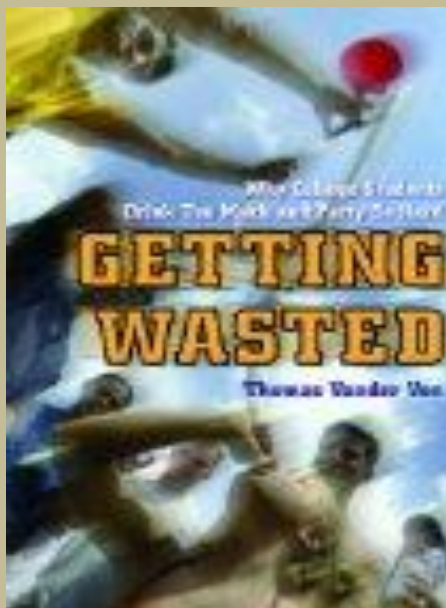
## New Publications

Samuel R. Friedman, Enrique R. Pouget, Sudip Chatterjee, Charles M. Cleland, Barbara Tempalski, Joanne E. Brady, and Hannah L.F. Cooper. (2011). Drug Arrests and Injection Drug Deterrence. *American Journal of Public Health* 101(2):344-349.

### **Abstract**

*Objectives.* We tested the hypothesis that higher rates of previous hard drug-related arrests predict lower rates of injection drug use. *Methods.* We analyzed drug-related arrest data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program for 93 large US metropolitan statistical areas in 1992 to 2002 to predict previously published annual estimates of the number of injection drug users (IDUs) per 10 000 population. *Results.* In linear mixed-effects regression, hard drug-related arrest rates were positively associated (parameter = +1.59; SE = 0.57) with the population rate of IDUs in 1992 and were not associated with change in the IDU rate over time (parameter = -0.15; SE = 0.39). Overall, changes in hard drug arrest rates did not predict changes in IDU population rates. *Conclusions.* Deterrence-based approaches to reducing drug use seem not to reduce IDU prevalence. These results are inconsistent with criminal deterrence theory and raise questions about whether arresting people for hard drug use contributes to public health. Alternative approaches such as harm reduction, which prevents HIV transmission and increases referrals to treatment, may be a better foundation for policy.

### **New book!**



**Available in August 2011**

### **Thomas Vander Ven (Ohio University) GETTING WASTED: Why College Students Drink Too Much and Party So Hard.** New York: New York University Press.

Most American college campuses are home to a vibrant drinking scene where students frequently get wasted, train-wrecked, obliterated, hammered, destroyed, and decimated. The terms that university students most commonly use to describe severe alcohol intoxication share a common theme: destruction, and even after repeated embarrassing, physically unpleasant, and even violent drinking episodes, students continue to go out drinking together. In **Getting Wasted**, Thomas Vander Ven provides a unique answer to the perennial question of why college students drink.

Vander Ven argues that college students rely on “drunk support:” contrary to most accounts of alcohol abuse as being a solitary problem of one person drinking to excess, the college drinking scene is very much a social one where students support one another through nights of drinking games, rituals and rites of passage. Drawing on over 400 student accounts, 25 intensive interviews, and one hundred hours of field research, Vander Ven sheds light on the extremely social nature of college drinking. Giving voice to college drinkers as they speak in graphic and revealing terms about the complexity of the drinking scene, Vander Ven argues that college students continue to drink heavily, even after experiencing repeated bad experiences, because of the social support that they give to one another and due to the creative ways in which they reframe and recast violent, embarrassing, and regretful drunken behaviors.



## Current Research

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### VETERAN REINTEGRATION, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE IN THE INNER-CITY

Andrew Golub

- **PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** A high proportion of returning veterans have been experiencing drug abuse, alcohol abuse, smoking, serious psychological distress, and related civilian reintegration problems (e.g., homelessness, unemployment, family distress). This study seeks to provide new, in-depth insights that will lead to improvements in outreach initiatives and treatment programs for the predominately African American veterans returning to the inner-city, who face particularly high risks and more complex problems than other veterans. Ultimately, the findings will help preserve these veterans' physical and mental health; reduce substance abuse and HIV infection; reduce the cost of care; and reduce the social burden of troubled veterans with unmet mental health and substance abuse concerns.

### ASIAN AMERICAN MSM, CLUB DRUGS AND NIGHTLIFE

Geoffrey Hunt

- **PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** This qualitative research project will provide much-needed empirical information about the extent and social context of club drug use by young Asian American men who have sex with men (MSM). Findings from this project will provide information regarding the relationships between their drug use, their identities as young Asian American men, and their sexual identities, sexual practices, and risks of exposure to HIV. This study's findings will be published in forms appropriate for the following audiences: people who work in drug abuse and HIV treatment, prevention and intervention programs; social scientists; and clinicians and other representatives from the broader biomedical community.

### EMERGENCE AND DIFFUSION OF CRACK AND RELATED HEALTH RISK BEHAVIORS IN MEXICO CITY

Valdez Averardo

- **PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** The proposed international research collaboration will conduct a social epidemiological study on the emergence and spread of crack use among adults in Mexico City. Specifically, using analytical constructs from the Diffusion of Innovation Theory and an ethnographic methodological approach we will explore the processes associated with the initiation and rapid spread of crack use and related high risk sexual and drug using behaviors. Findings from this study have important bi-national public health implications and will contribute to the development of a theory based HIV and STI intervention for crack using high risk populations in Mexico.

SSSP Drinking & Drugs Division Sessions  
Annual Meeting  
Las Vegas, NV  
August 19-August 21, 2011

**We have several exciting sessions planned for the 2011 Meeting:**

- Workshop: Preventing Drug Overdoses, Saving Lives
- Legal Highs
- Servicing Drug Users: From Harm Reduction to Drug Treatment
- Global Drug Issues
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Among Military Service Men and Women

**We hope you're able to join us for all of these interesting sessions.**

More details will be released with the SSSP Preliminary Program.

*See you in Vegas!*

Drinking & Drugs Division site on the SSSP Website:

<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1321>

**SSSP Membership:** You can renew your SSSP membership via our secure website at: <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pagid/925/fuseaction/ssspmember.portal>. All SSSP members receive a year's subscription to the journal, Social Problems. Upon joining SSSP any past issues in the membership year will be provided to new members. Members also receive Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter. Social Problems Forum is published three times year. Members are eligible to join up to three of SSSP's special problems divisions at no additional charge. With 21 special problem divisions, three is a hard choice. For a small charge of \$2 per division, members can join the other 18 as well. Membership in the special problems divisions allows current members to vote on who will be chair of the division and also receive the division's unique newsletters. All current members receive a reduced rate to attend our Annual Meeting.