

Educational Problems

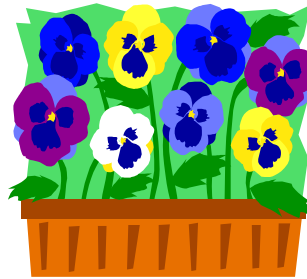
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From the Desk of the Chair

Dear Members:

Happy Spring! Thanks to everyone who submitted papers for this year's Annual Meeting in Montréal. Special thanks to our session organizers who had the difficult job of selecting from a very strong collection of papers. The preliminary program for August's sessions should be posted shortly, so please check SSSP's website (www.sssp1.org) regularly.



To all of the students who are graduating this Spring, congratulations and good luck. Please send us word of your theses and dissertations. It would be wonderful to highlight your work and future plans in the next issue.

To everyone else on the academic calendar, good luck with the end-of-semester rush.

Best wishes-
Billie Gastic

Interested in Serving on the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee?

We are looking for non-student members who are interested in serving on the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee. The committee will select the recipient(s) of this year's Award. This anticipated time commitment is about 5 hours. Your service is invaluable to the Division. Please contact Billie Gastic (bgastic@temple.edu) if you are interested.

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DID YOU KNOW?

There are currently 157 members of the Educational Problems division?

Please continue to encourage your colleagues and students to join our Division.

Member Updates

Jim Loewen's recent book, *Sundown Towns*, attempts to lay out the history and sociology of all-White towns that for decades were (some still are) all White on purpose. The book won the Gustavus Myers Human Rights Book Award for 2005. In it, Loewen shows that in some Northern states, a *majority* of all incorporated communities enforced formal or informal sundown policies. Often school systems in sundown suburbs have great reputations. However, they struggle to produce graduates who are knowledgeable or humane about race relations. After all, their very demography suggests that Blacks are a problem to be avoided. A chapter of *Sundown Towns* treats their effect on White residents, including students. Frequently, for example, interracial athletic teams have had difficult experiences when playing at high schools in sundown towns and suburbs. More research is needed on the topic of the educational impact of living in all-White or overwhelmingly White (or at least non-Black) communities. Now open, on a provisional basis, is Loewen's sundown towns website, <http://www.uvm.edu/~jloewen/sundowntowns.php>. At this site, visitors can learn what a sundown town is, how widespread they are, how to research them, some hypotheses to test, etc. Sundown towns in many states are not yet listed, because work is ongoing, but the site welcomes visitors' input.

Recently published was a Special Double Edition of *Humanity and Society*, edited by **Chris Baker** and Corey Dolgon. It addresses participatory research, community-based research and participatory approaches to service learning. Chris Baker has been an SSSP and Division member for 12 years and is a Professor of Sociology at Walters State Community College in Morristown, TN.

At the Annual Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education held in Chicago, IL in February, **Charles Trent** made a Gero-Ed Forum Roundtable presentation on *Sustaining Social Justice: Decision-Making and Practice with Elderly Interest Groups*.

Billie Gastic presented two papers at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in San Francisco in April: *At What Price? Safe School Policies and Their Unintentional Consequences for At-Risk Students* and *Exploring Patterns of Youth Civic Participation* (with co-author and Division member, **Dominique Johnson**).

Speed Mentoring at This Year's Annual Meeting

This year's SSSP annual meeting in Montréal will feature a "speed mentoring" session that will offer graduate students, untenured faculty and applied sociologists ("mentees") the opportunity to sit one-on-one with a stellar group of senior faculty ("mentors") to get feedback on dissertations and/or research projects that are underway or still in the planning stages. These meetings will each last 20 minutes and there will be time for four such meetings within the speed mentoring session time block of 100 minutes. Senior faculty mentors include Joel Best, Richard Caputo, Kimberly Cook, Elizabeth Ettore, Kathleen Ferraro, Gregory Hooks, Valerie Jenness, Nancy Jurik, Barbara Katz Rothman, Kathleen Lowney, Nancy Naples, Mary Romero and Richard Wilsnack.

Complete details about the speed mentoring session and how to participate as a mentee will be included in the SSSP preliminary program and will also be posted in May on the SSSP web site. Although this session is primarily intended for graduate students, untenured faculty and applied sociologists, tenured faculty are also welcome to indicate mentor preferences and will be accommodated as space permits.

For further information, please contact the speed mentoring session organizer, Steve Barkan (barkan@maine.edu).

2006 Educational Problems Graduate Student Paper Award

Deadline: May 15, 2006

The Educational Problems Division announces its 2006 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers must address a contemporary educational problem and may be empirical or theoretical in nature. Authors must be current graduate students or recent graduates with conferral dates no earlier than January 2006. Only unpublished, single-author papers will be considered. Papers must not exceed 30 double-spaced pages (excluding notes, references, tables and figures). All papers must include a 150-200 word abstract and be prepared for anonymous review with the author's name and institutional affiliation appearing only on the title page. Winners will receive a small monetary prize and a complimentary ticket to the Awards Banquet at which all winners will be recognized. All papers must be submitted electronically (as an attachment) to the Division Chair, Billie Gastic (bgastic@temple.edu), by the above deadline. Please include your name, institutional affiliation and contact information in the body of your email.

**Educational Problems Division
of The Society for the Study of
Social Problems (SSSP)**

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**Visit the SSSP
website at
www.sssp1.org**

Summer Opportunities

Fourth Annual Qualitative Research Summer Institute hosted by Research Talk, Inc. in Long Island, NY from June 23-28. For more information, visit <http://www.researchtalk.com>.

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. For more information, visit <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/training/summer/index.html>.

Call for Contributors

Please share news of your academic, scholastic and professional accomplishments with your Divisional colleagues. Email Billie Gastic (bgastic@temple.edu) with details about your most recent book, article, presentation or promotion. Let us know if you've just defended your dissertation or if you have changed jobs.

Short (1 single-spaced page) essays, articles, book reviews, research briefs or commentary are also welcomed.

Seeking Editorial Assistance

If you are a graduate student looking to increase your involvement in the Division, please consider applying for the Assistant Editor position. Although this is an unpaid position, you will gain valuable editorial experience, have the opportunity to connect with and learn more about your colleagues in the Division and take part in decision-making regarding the content and design of this newsletter. Please email Billie Gastic (bgastic@temple.edu) with a letter of interest and current CV.

"This Society shall be a non-profit corporation to promote and protect sociological research and teaching on significant problems of social life and, particularly, to encourage the work of young sociologists; to stimulate the application of scientific method and theory to the study of vital social problems; to encourage problem-centered social research; to foster cooperative relations among persons and organizations engaged in the application of scientific sociological findings to the formulation of social policies; to foster higher quality of life, social welfare, and positive social relations in society and the global community and to undertake any activity related thereto or necessary or desirable for the accomplishment of the foregoing purposes."