



FALL 2007/WINTER 2008

Healthy Outlook

Division of Health, Health Policy and Health Services of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

Statement from the Co-Chair *Emily S. Ihara*

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Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Division:

I am honored to take on the role of co-chair for the Division of Health, Health Policy, and Health Services and want to express my appreciation to the past division co-chairs who have successfully nurtured an engaged and committed membership. I returned from the 2007 SSSP Annual Meeting energized by the many interesting and thought-provoking presentations about how “Research Matters.” The interdisciplinary nature of SSSP allows us to critically challenge prevailing notions about social problems by integrating knowledge from many disciplines and offering solutions to address the causes and consequences of these problems.

There is certainly no shortage of issues that affect the health of our society. Of great concern to many is the enormous cost of health care as premiums continue to rise while coverage declines. Employers are increasingly dropping (or never offered) health insurance as a benefit, which is particularly dire for low-

wage workers. As a result, the number of uninsured and underinsured individuals continues to grow, thus contributing to the rising cost of health insurance premiums. On the policy front this past month, the battle to expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has garnered bipartisan support in both chambers but was vetoed by the President in early October. The modified version that was passed in the House on October 25, 2007 was seven votes short of a veto-proof majority. All of these issues – the seemingly never-ending rise in health care costs, the growing number of uninsured and underinsured individuals, and the debates about which low-income individuals “deserve” to be covered – are interconnected, but not the whole picture.

There is a strong and growing body of evidence about the social determinants of health – namely how education, working conditions, housing, food security, employment security, and income distribution shape population health and perpetuate inequities. I had the opportunity to preview segments of the upcoming PBS series, *Un-natural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?*, a four-hour documentary that will air in March 2008. This series will be an excellent teaching tool because it provides an alternative to the traditional individual-blaming discourse that is rampant in social policy and frames the issues of socioeconomic and racial inequities in health in the social conditions in which we are born, live, and work.

As academics and activists committed to health and social justice, I believe that our division will have much to offer at the 2008 SSSP Annual Meeting, which will be held from July 31 to August 2 in Boston, MA. The theme, “Crossing Borders: Activist Scholarship, Globalization, and Social Justice” offers an exciting opportunity to think “beyond the borders” or “outside the box” about our work – whether it is in the realm of health, health services, or health policy – and how it is connected to other issues. At the 2007 Division Meeting in New York City, our members proposed a rich and diverse array of sessions, including two thematic sessions, the roundtable session, and 11 co-sponsored sessions. Submissions are due on January 31, 2008.

SSSP Nancy Naples has encouraged all of us to think creatively and collaboratively and to blur intellectual and disciplinary boundaries. I am enjoying the collaborative nature of our division’s “co-chair” structure and have already made wonderful connections with my co-chair, Amy Schulz, and past co-chair, Valerie Leiter. I look forward to hearing more from you, our division members, about your ideas, your work, and your passion in the coming months.

2008 Call for Papers – Instructions for Submission

Papers or extended abstracts (2-3 page summary of your intended presentation) for presentations at division sponsored sessions **MUST** be made via our online submission cover sheet to session organizers no later than midnight (EST) on January 31, 2008. If your paper *does not* fit into one of the sessions listed in the Call for Papers, send your submission **electronically via our online submission cover sheet** to Hector Delgado, Program Committee Co-Chair (delgadoh@ulv.edu) and Wendy Simonds, Program Committee Co-Chair (wsimonds@gsu.edu).

If you would like to submit a complete session (of four papers and a discussant or a maximum of five papers without a discussant, in order to allow ample time for a discussion of the presentations) for consideration, please complete our online individually-proposed session information form, no later than midnight (EST) on January 31, 2008. **NOTE**, individually-proposed sessions are on a first-come, first serve basis, space permitting.

The Program Committee may be able to find a place for your presentation/session in the annual program. The Program Committee reserves the right to redefine a session as a roundtable if there are less than three papers. Sessions will be assigned to a day of the conference that works best for the Program Committee, which is charged with ensuring the overall coherence of the program and maximizing the number of sessions and papers included in the program. Individual preferences for dates for presentations cannot be accommodated. All questions relating to the program should be sent to Hector Delgado and Wendy Simonds. **When sending an e-mail, please place SSSP in the subject line.**

An online submission cover sheet **MUST** accompany all papers and extended abstracts. Do not submit the same paper or extended abstract to more than **ONE** session organizer at the same time. If your submission is **NOT** accepted, the session organizer will inform you and forward your information to the 2nd choice organizer listed on the submission cover sheet. **ONLY ONE SOLE-AUTHORSHIP PAPER IS PERMITTED PER PARTICIPANT** (without an accompanying co-authored paper). Authors may submit more than **ONE** paper or extended abstract; however, each submission must be submitted to no more than **ONE** session organizer at a time.

Please visit the SSSP website for forms and more details.



Boston Park Plaza & Towers

Division Sponsored Sessions

Session 1: Challenging Borders: Construction of 'Health' and 'Pathologies' - THEMATIC

Co-organizer: Elizabeth Ettorre;
e.ettorre@liverpool.ac.uk

and

Co-organizer: Elroi J. Windsor

W: 404-413-6533;
elroiw@gmail.com

Session 2: Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Roundtables

Organizer: Amy Schulz

W: 734-647-0221;

amy@schulz.com

Session 3: Health, Activism, and Social Justice – Thematic
Co-organizer: Amy Schulz

W: 734-647-0221;

amy@schulz.com

and

Co-organizer:

Lora Bex Lempert

W: 313-593-5520;

llempert@umich.edu

Co-Sponsored Sessions

Session 2: The Sociology of Disaster
(with Community Research and Development;
Environment and Technology)
Organizer: Brent K. Marshall
W: 407-823-6238; bmarshall@mail.ucf.edu

Session 13: Health Effects of Victimization
(with Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; and
Law and Society)
Organizer: Stephen J. Morewitz
W: 415-252-0569; morewitz@earthlink.net

Session 23: Disability and Family
(with Disabilities; and Family)
Co-organizer: Alexis Bender
W: 404-413-6532; abender1@gsu.edu
and
Co-organizer: Valerie Leiter
W: 617-521-2217;
valerie.leiter@simmons.edu

Session 24: Speaking to 'The System': Diagnosis, Access, and Services from Users' Perspectives (with Disabilities; and Institutional Ethnography)
Organizer: Jean-Louis Deveau;
jlpdev@nbnet.nb.ca

Session 25: Community Health and Substance Use (with Drinking and Drugs)
Co-organizer: Andrew L. Golub
W: 802-862-6717; andrew.golub@uvm.edu
and
Co-organizer: Paul J. Draus
W: 313-583-6628; draus@umd.umich.edu

Session 40: Globalization, Immigration, and Health
(with Global; and Racial and Ethnic Minorities)
Co-organizer: Jean Elson
W: 603-862-1885; jelson@unh.edu
and
Co-organizer: Howard Lune
W: 973-720-3714; luneh@wpunj.edu

Session 44: Working in the Health Care Sector
(with Labor Studies)
Working in the Health Care Sector (Health, Health Policy, and Health Services and Labor Studies)
Co-organizer: Corey Dolgon
W: 508-929-8534; cdolgon@worcester.edu
and
Co-organizer: Amy Schulz
W: 734-647-0221; amy@schulz.com

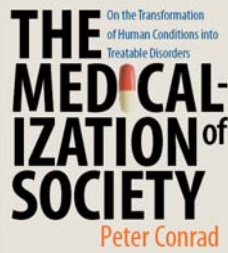
Session 45: Food and Inequality
(with Poverty, Class, and Inequality)
Organizer: E. Brooke Kelly
W: 910-775-4038; brooke.kelly@uncp.edu

Session 46: Boundaries of Race, Ethnicity, and Class: Inclusion and Exclusion in Health
(with Poverty, Class, and Inequality; and Racial and Ethnic Minorities)
Co-organizer: Emily S. Ihara
W: 703-993-2023; eihara@gmu.edu
and
Co-organizer: Robert L. Hawkins
W: 212-998-5939; rlh6@nyu.edu

Session 47: HIV and AIDS Research: Policy and Politics
(with Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities)
Organizer: Lloyd Klein
W: 718-368-5417; lklein@kbcc.cuny.edu

Session 48: Teaching Health from a Social Problems Perspective
(with Teaching Social Problems)
Organizer: Alexis Bender
W: 404-413-6532; abender1@gsu.edu

NEWS OF NOTE!!!



Peter Conrad would like to announce the availability of his new book:

The Medicalization of Society: On the Transformation of Human Conditions into Treatable Disorders.

Over the past half-century, the social terrain of health and illness has been transformed. What were once considered normal human events and common human problems—birth, aging, menopause, alcoholism, and obesity—are now viewed as medical conditions. For better or worse, medicine increasingly permeates aspects of daily life.

Building on more than three decades of research, Peter Conrad explores the changing forces behind this trend with case studies of short stature, social anxiety, "male menopause," erectile dysfunction, adult ADHD, and sexual orientation. He examines the emergence of and changes in medicalization, the consequences of the expanding medical domain, and the implications for health and society. He finds in recent developments—such as the growing number of possible diagnoses and biomedical enhancements—the future direction of medicalization.

Conrad contends that the impact of medical professionals on medicalization has diminished.

Instead, the pharmaceutical and biotechnical industries, insurance companies and HMOs, and the patient as consumer have become the major forces promoting medicalization. This thought provoking study offers valuable insight into not only how medicalization got to this point but also how it may continue to evolve.

Peter Conrad is the Harry Coplan Professor of Social Sciences at Brandeis University. He is the coauthor of *Deviance and Medicalization: From Badness to Sickness* and coeditor of *The Double-Edged Helix*, also published by Johns Hopkins. You can write to him at conrad@brandeis.edu for an order form.

Wendy Chapkis has an article forthcoming in *Contemporary Justice Review* (CJR 10 - December 2007) in the special issue called: "Drugs, Healing, and the Expansion or Repression of Human Consciousness: PART II." Her article is entitled "Cannabis, Consciousness and Healing" and discusses the medicinal use of marijuana and the possible therapeutic effects of the "high" for those living with life threatening illness and severe chronic pain. The research is part of a larger book-length project (to be published this spring by New York University Press: *Dying to Get High: marijuana as medicine*) and is based on over three dozen interviews with medical marijuana patients participating in one patient/caregiver cooperative in California, the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana.

Carroll Estes of the Univ of CA SF received the Hall of Fame award of the American Society on Aging (2007) and the 2007 UCSF Chancellors award for the Advancement of Women. Charlene Harrington and Carroll Estes have edited the 5th edition of *HEALTH POLICY: Crisis and Reform in the US Health Care Delivery System* (2007 published by Jones and Bartlett (Boston)). It contains critical perspectives on major policy questions.

- Continued on the next page...

Send Correspondence to:

Alexis Bender
Healthy Outlook, Editor
Department of Sociology
PO Box 5020
Georgia State University
Atlanta, GA 30303
or
abender1@student.gsu.edu

Amy J. Schulz
Division Co-Chair
Health Behavior and Health
Education
School of Public Health
University of Michigan
ajschulz@umich.edu

Emily S. Ihara
Division Co-Chair
Department of Social Work
George Mason University
eihara@gmu.edu

...News of Note Continued

David Schleifer did some public sociology on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 when he presented research from his dissertation on a panel organized by the American Institute of Wine and Food, which is an organization for food industry professionals. His presentation was called "Where did all the trans fats come from? Where have all the trans fats gone?" The panel itself was called "What Will Happen to My Doughnut? How to Cope with the Trans Fat Ban," and included staff from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Details about the event are at --

http://www.aiwf.org/site/calendar/event.html?calendarevent_id=1944&date=2007-10-10&SID=0f020a4246296a2263268c1a9

He says "It was quite an interesting evening: the very nice presenter from the Department of Health was on the defensive after I presented a (fairly gentle) critique of nutritional policies that focus on one nutrient at a time, which has been the case with trans fats and was previously the case with saturated fats. But it seemed like she was really listening, and that may be the first step in creating change."

** Great to hear all the good news from division members. Keep it coming! **

Do you have News of Note?

We would love to hear from you!!!

Items of interest are new books, promotions, successful dissertation defenses, acquisition of first jobs and anything else you would like to share with fellow division members.

Also let us know about calls for papers and relevant grants or fellowships.

Send your good news to Alexis Bender at the correspondence address listed on page 4.

The Third US-UK Medical Sociology Conference—A Residential Conference

Expanding Comparative Frames for Medical Sociology: Professionals, Patients and the Public

Plenary Speakers:

Ichiro Kawachi
Harvard University

Susan Scrimshaw
Simmons College

Clive Seale
Brunel University, UK

Elizabeth Armstrong
Princeton University

Date: July 29-31, 2008

(Directly preceding the 2008 ASA meeting)

Location:

Simmons College
Boston, Massachusetts
Registration Fee: \$160

(includes meals & snacks; special rates and limited scholarships for graduate students).

Accommodations: From \$80-\$185/night

Online Registration: begins December 10, 2007 at
www.regonline/MedSoc2008

Organizers:

Mike Calnan (University of Kent, UK); Peter Conrad (Brandeis University, US); Judy Green (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK); Valerie Leiter (Simmons College, US); Karen Lutfey (New England Research Institutes, US); Sigrun Olafsdottir (Boston University, US); Bernice Pescosolido (Indiana University, US); Patricia Rieker (Boston University, US); Jonathan Tritter (University of Warwick, UK) Meeting Sponsors: Simmons College & NHS

Contact person: Sarafina Kennedy

Sarafina.Kennedy@gmail.com

Call for Papers

The Journal of Long Term Home Health Care is interested in articles of about 20 pages that are focused on any aspect of health care and social issues as they pertain to the elderly. Manuscripts may include position papers, reports of research studies, case reports, analyses of government policy, descriptions and/or evaluations of agencies, programs, and not-for-profit organizations serving any component of the aged population. Papers that offer detailed discussions of a topic, forecast developments, or provide readers with enhanced perspective are particularly welcome. The Journal also considers for publication commentaries on previously published articles, book and media reviews, etc.

The readership of the Journal consists of physicians, nurses, social workers, social scientists, and others who work directly with older persons, as well as managers and staff of not-for-profit and government agencies serving the elderly.

Author queries should be directed to DRPWB@aol.com or forwarded by mail to

F. Russell Kellogg, MD, Editor
or
Philip W. Brickner, MD, Managing Editor
Saint Vincent's Hospital-Manhattan
Department of Community Medicine
41-51 East 11th Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10003

Open Call for Papers

Special Issue of the International Journal of Self Help and Self Care entitled "Cross-Cultural and International Issues in Self-Help/Mutual Aid," edited by Thomasina Borkman and a guest editor is seeking one-page descriptions of manuscripts that focus on cross-cultural and international research on self-help and mutual aid.

Self-help/mutual aid is being defined as voluntary (non-coerced and non-professionalized) groups or organizations of self-governing people who band together to resolve their common problem/issue through experiential information, emotional support and sometimes advocacy.

Excluded from consideration are support groups controlled by professionals including closed groups for which attendees are charged fees. Microcredit or economic self-help groups for women's empowerment or self-help groups operating within NGOs (non-governmental organizations) in developing countries are possible foci as well as the more prevalent single-issue health and disability groups/organizations in industrialized countries.

The purpose of this special issue is to broaden our understanding of the range of contemporary self-help/mutual aid theoretically, methodologically and empirically. Gidron & Chesler's suggested framework in 1994 for analyzing international and cross-cultural research could be useful: what is universal and what is particularistic about specific instances of self-help/mutual aid in various countries (Prevention in Human Services, (Haworth Press, Inc.), vol.11, No. 1, 1994, pp. 1-44). Possible topics and methods could include but would not be limited to:

- Qualitative and quantitative research methods are equally welcome
- Comparative research on self-help/mutual aid for the same illness/condition in different countries or for different ethnic/racial groups
- Relationships between self-help/mutual aid groups/organizations and professionals, service agencies or government.
- Historical, cultural, economic and social background and context that shapes the expression of self-help/mutual aid in a country.
- Theoretical formulations that explain such processes as recruitment of members, leadership, change or outcomes.
- Methodological challenges in studying mutual help in various settings.

Direct inquiries or email a one-page description by January 15, 2008 to: tborkman@gmu.edu. Authors invited to write papers will be notified by February 28, 2008. Finished papers will be due June 30, 2008 and will be blind peer reviewed.

Thomasina Borkman
Editorial Board Member and Guest Editor
International Journal of Self Help and Self Care
Baywood Publishing Co, Inc.
Professor of Sociology, Emerita
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030, USA

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: THEMATIC SESSION

**Crossing Your OWN Borders:
Theorizing Across Substantive Sections of SSSP**

Organizers:

Mitch Berbrier

University of Alabama in Huntsville

mitch.berbrier@uah.edu

Michelle Corbin

University of Maryland

mcorbin@socy.umd.edu

Within our discipline, angst is almost ritually expressed about the sectioning of sociology into Divisions (in SSSP) and the dividing of sociology into Sections (in ASA). We thereby request theoretically-orientated papers that explicitly run against these trends, crossing those intellectual borders. We imagine that these papers would in creatively engage two or more theories or orientations that are ordinarily confined within substantive areas. Our hope is that such cross-fertilization can yield interaction, discussion, and contestation which may in turn yield advances in social problems theory.

Conference/Call for Proposals

DNA, RACE, AND HISTORY (Friday-Saturday, April 18-19, 2008)

Center for Race and Ethnicity, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Organizers:

- Keith Wailoo, Director, Center for Race and Ethnicity/History/Health Policy, Rutgers
- Mia Bay, Associate Director, Center for Race and Ethnicity/History, Rutgers
- Catherine Lee, Sociology, Rutgers
- Alondra Nelson, African-American Studies, American Studies, and Sociology, Yale

Although scholars have long agreed that race is a social rather than genetic or biological reality, recent trends in DNA analysis have blurred this distinction. Today, genetic markers are discussed often as a proxy for race and ethnicity, lending renewed authority to biological conceptions of human difference. Employed for diverse purposes including genealogy, anthropology, evolutionary biology, and public history, genetic evidence promises to reshape understandings of individual and collective ancestry, the histories of particular social groups, and the significance of race in history and in the present. Across societies, genetic evidence is being called upon to perform a kind of racially-charged cultural work – to repair and recast the past, and to reshape identity in the present.

This conference brings together scholars from a wide range of disciplines – history, cultural studies, genetics, law, medicine, anthropology, ethnic studies, sociology, and other fields – to examine the emerging and often contested connections between race, DNA, and history.

We welcome papers on a variety of topics, including the historical use of DNA in biomedicine and the social sciences, the implications of the use of DNA in law, epidemiology, and other fields, the historical uses and misuses of genetic information, the way in which genetic testing is reshaping understandings of group identity, both within and across cultural and national boundaries, and the cultural, ethical, social, and philosophical challenges raised by relying upon DNA to resolve questions of history and identity.

The DNA, RACE, AND HISTORY conference will consist of a series of intensive panel discussions of short pre-circulated papers (15-30 pages).

Paper proposals (DUE by DECEMBER 15, 2007) should be no more than 1-2 pages in length, should engage intersections between race, history, and the mapping, testing, analysis, and cultural meanings of DNA in and beyond the United States, and should provide a platform for broad, cross-disciplinary discussion.

Travel and accommodation expenses relating to conference will be covered by the Center for Race and Ethnicity. Interested participants are asked to submit their paper proposals to the Center at raceethnicity@sas.rutgers.edu. We expect that an edited volume will be published from the proceedings.

Call for Nominations

We are currently soliciting nominations for the position of Co-Chair for the Health, Health Services and Health Policy Division.

Co-Chairs serve overlapping two year terms, and are jointly responsible for: developing the Division program (identifying sessions and organizers) for the annual meeting; running the Division business meeting at the annual meeting; working with the newsletter editor to assure publication of the annual newsletter; and other Division business.

If you are interested in learning more or in nominating yourself or another individual for this rewarding position, please contact Amy Schulz at amy@schulz.com for further information.

Information about Division Elections:

Chairpersons are elected for two years. No Division Chairperson can serve for more than three consecutive years. Note, self nominations are acceptable. If you are nominated, the Executive Office will contact you to request your biographical information and statement prior to the elections. Names of nominees must be submitted to the Executive Office no later than June 1, so please contact us soon if you wish to nominate someone, or to nominate yourself.

The election process is handled by the Executive Office. Election procedures will insure to all members of the Division an opportunity to vote in the election. A majority of votes cast will be necessary to elect any Division Officer. If there are more nominees for an office and there is not a clear majority, a run-off election will be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes. The same election procedures described above will be followed for the run-off election.