
Pro Bono

Newsletter of the Law and Society Division of the
Society for the Study of Social Problems

Kim Richman & Otis Grant, co-editors

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PREFACE

Greetings to all our members and supporters! Kim and I are pleased to offer our first issue of *Pro Bono*. We would like to thank our past Chair Mathieu Deflem and Vice-Chair Stacy Burns for their dedication and leadership to the Division and SSSP!

San Francisco is a beautiful city, warm and inviting with magnificent skyscrapers. A city that also has the homeless pushing shopping carriages down main street and panhandling for their next meal. The symbolism of a great city like San Francisco points out the dynamics and some of the reasons that SSSP exists.

This will be a landmark year – from the U.S. Presidential election to wars across the globe to issues that seem home grown but are actually global in perspective. As a Division we hope to keep you informed.

The academic year has begun and campuses are beaming with energy. At the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Ed.*, American schools are more segregated than ever. Globally, socio-economic classes seem to become more stratified on a daily basis. Moralism is used as a sword against same-sex couples as they demand rights that have been wrongfully denied them. Once again, gender will be a battleground but we are up for the fight.

For our activist counterparts, we recognize the struggles inherent when you challenge the status quo. Yet, without you there would never be change. Speaking “truth to power” is a noble calling. Whether you are championing the poor, battling discrimination and prejudice, demanding shelter for the homeless, or challenging the authenticity of the criminal justice system, we both salute and support you as you try to make the world a more humane place.

This year our Division has activities ranging from our annual meeting in Philadelphia to our annual call for papers, where tomorrow’s scholars set forth their agendas, challenging us to rethink the way we view the world. Submissions for the Lindesmith Award may now include papers that are under review but not yet accepted for publication (see page 6 of this newsletter for the “Call for Nominations”). *Pro Bono* is now exclusively online. This new format should be cost effective, environmentally progressive and more efficient. You are encouraged to participate in all aspects of your Law and Society Division!

As always, Division members are encouraged to send in short “Law and Social Problems Essays” to share their scholarly work in the area of our Division’s scholarly interests. The newsletter is an excellent medium to expose your current research to an interesting and interested readership. Graduate students are especially encouraged to submit their work! Contact the Division’s Vice-Chair or Chair for more information.

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SSSP LAW AND SOCIETY @ SAN FRANCISCO



Division Business Meeting Report, 2004

Present at the meeting in San Francisco were: Mathieu Deflem, Stacy Burns, Steven Barkan, Cary Federman, and Kim Richman.

1) **Passing of the Torch:** This was the last meeting held under the leadership of outgoing chair and vice-chair Mathieu Deflem and Stacy Burns, who spent much of the meeting graciously showing the incoming vice-chair the ropes. Many thanks to Mathieu and Stacy for their outstanding work on behalf of the division.

2) **Lindesmith Award:** The winner of the 2004 Lindesmith Award was Michael Sauder of Northwestern University, and the runner up was Michael Smyth of the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at U.C. Irvine. Congratulations to the two Michaels! Both received attractive plaques and will serve, along with Otis Grant and Kim Richman, on the award committee this coming year. There was also discussion of altering the submission guidelines. Papers that have been submitted *but not accepted* for publication may now be entered.

3) **2005 Panels:** The division is organizing or co-organizing no less than five panels for next year's meetings in Philadelphia (listed on page 3 of this newsletter). Thanks to all those who have agreed to organize and chair panels.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Richman, Vice-Chair

Division Meeting Participation, 2004

Our Division organized panels at the San Francisco meeting that were stimulating, provocative and informative! Thanks to all who participated including Ken Kyle, Pennsylvania State University; Dhananjaya Arekere, Texas A&M University; William R. Wood; Richelle Swan, California State University, San Marcos; Mark Ferran; Steven E. Barkan, University of Maine; Steve Stack, Wayne State University; Liqun Cao, Eastern Michigan University; Joseph J. Titus, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Dan Steward, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Stacy Burns, Loyola Marymount University; Lloyd Klein, Bemidji State University; David Ford, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Roger Roots, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Angela Keen, Pennsylvania State University; Jill McCorkel, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Otis Grant, Indiana University South Bend; Peter Shrock, University of Albany; Michael Lepore, Georgia State University; Laurie Schaffner, University of Illinois at Chicago; Gabrielle Ferrales, Northwestern University; Mathieu Deflem, University of South Carolina; Connie Oxford, University of Pittsburgh; Kirk Miller, Northern Illinois University; David F. Luckenbill, Northern Illinois University; Pamela Irving Jackson, Rhode Island College; Peter A. Zervakis, Center for European Integration Studies, Rahul Mathur, Behind Telephone Exchange; Sidhanshu Prakash, National Law Institute University, India, and Laura Finley.

LAW AND SOCIETY DIVISION SESSIONS SSSP ANNUAL MEETING, 2005

Next year's SSSP meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia, August 12-14.

The theme of the meeting is

"Blowback: The Unintended Consequences of Social Problems Solutions"

We are excited about next year's session topics and we eagerly await submissions! See p. 6 for Program Participation Schedule.

Call for Papers

Your Law and Society Division is organizing the following panels for 2005:

- 1) **(Un)Intended Consequences of Law**
Organizer: Otis Grant, School of Public & Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, P.O. Box 7111, South Bend, IN 46634
tel. (574) 520-4157 fax. (574) 257-8236
ogrant@iusb.edu

- 2) **Law and Sexualities** (co-sponsored with Sexual Behavior, Politics & Communities)
Co-organizers: Kim Richman, Dept. of Sociology, University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117
tel. (415) 422-5414 fax. (415) 422-5671
kdrichman@usfca.edu

Lloyd Klein, Department of Criminal Justice, Bemidji State University, 1500 Birchmont Drive NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
tel. (218) 755-2841 fax. (218) 775-2822
lklein@bemidjistate.edu

- 3) **Civil Liberties in the Post-9/11 Era**
Organizer: Cary Federman, Duquesne University, 503 College Hall, Political Science, Pittsburgh, PA 15282
tel. (412) 396-6483 federman@duq.edu

- 4) **The Problem with Prisons** (co-sponsored with Crime & Juvenile Delinquency)
Organizer: Richelle Swan, CSUSM, Dept. of Sociology, 333 W. Twin Valley Oaks Road, San Marcos, CA 92096
tel. (760) 750-4633 fax. (760) 750-3551
rswan@csusm.edu

- 5) **Illusion of Democratic Politics: Unintended Consequences** (co-sponsored with Conflict, Social Action & Change)
Organizer: Kim Richman, Department of Sociology, University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117
tel. (415) 422-5414 fax. (415) 422-5671
kdrichman@usfca.edu

Please contact the respective organizers of our panels for more details.

***Deadline for submissions is
January 31, 2005.***

Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter Editorial Search

The Editorial and Publications Committee has begun its search for the next Editor of *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*. The Editor's three-year term begins with the last issue of Volume 36 in the Fall 2005.

Self-nominations, request for further information, or names of potential nominees should be sent to:

Nancy A. Naples, Chair, SSSP Editorial and Publications Committee, 82 Kenyon Street, Hartford, CT 06015;
(860) 231-9440 (work); (860) 233-7404 (fax);
email: nancy.naples@uconn.edu

Nomination Deadline:
March 1, 2005

ERRATUM

Justice 21 Project, 2004

The Summer 2004 issue of Pro Bono indicated that the Law and Society Division chapter on domestic violence for the Justice 21 Project was authored by Alesha Durfee. However, the newsletter did not include Karen Rosenberg as co-author of the chapter. We apologize to Karen for this omission. Many thanks to Karen and Alesha for their hard work on the chapter!

Thank you to our colleagues for submitting information to the Law & Society Division.

A special thank you to Kim Richman and her students for the contribution "Law & Social Problems Essay: A Dialogue Behind Bars" (pages 4 & 5)

Also included in this newsletter are two position announcements (page 7)

Law & Social Problems Essay: A Dialogue Behind Bars

On October 20th, Kim Richman took a group of University of San Francisco Criminology students on a tour of San Quentin State Prison in California. The students toured the prison facilities, the execution chamber, and had a sit-down dialogue about the problems of recidivism and reintegration with a group of inmates serving sentences ranging from ten years to life. The following are excerpts from the students' reactions to the experience, in their own words:

"How do you expect a man to be sorry when you don't give him a chance?" This statement from one of the prison inmates at San Quentin changed my view of the criminal justice system instantaneously. As this man hung his head between his legs, I saw something most would not have ever expected out of a prisoner: I saw a human. Within our day-to-day lives, we go through the motions, never giving a single thought to the entire population behind bars. We are taught by the media as well as our families, our schools, and even in our own minds that prisoners are no longer human once they have committed a crime. These people who have committed a crime, whether they stole a car or took a life, are all rightfully stripped of their rights, and sense of self. But when does it end; when is a sentence fully served?

--Pamela Taite, Senior

When I walked through the strict security at San Quentin I was expecting to immediately encounter loud and unmanageable men throughout the prison, but to my surprise I met a group of smart, well spoken, respectable, and very nice group of men. During the dialogue with these prisoners I learned that a few of them managed to earn a degree while in prison; some were valedictorians of their graduating class. From just listening to these men speak about their experience behind bars I gained a new perspective on the criminal justice system, the prison system, and the criminals in our society. One of the prisoners spoke about how there are two ways to kill a person: "The two ways to kill a man is to

physically kill him, and the other is to deprive him of any and all human development." When he said that I was taken aback, just because of its simple conviction. The prison system is quite successful at stripping any sign of potential intellectual growth these inmates have.

--Nancy Hernandez, Junior

It was hard to see people who had made mistakes at my age pay for them for the rest of their lives. I was also touched by how they wanted to try to make up for what they did or try to give back to society but there was no method to do so. I also saw quite clearly how not having parental support leads to cyclical deviant behavior. I also for the first time really saw them as human. It's horrible to say, but I think I walked out with a completely new pair of glasses. I also learned about my own subtleties of prejudice and I think it's field trips like the one we went on that are the most profitable-- not only because you learn something about yourself but also because you hear the prisoners' voice, and in some respects get to know the truth. It's a step toward fixing the issues with our system.

--Sabrina Fairchild, Sophomore

These inmates suddenly humanized my prison experience by sharing their thoughts and insights. I could see many of these men really wanted to change their lives and yet our system was giving them very few tools to do that. How can a freed convict go back into a system that marginalizes him or her without giving the resources that will guarantee he/she will not go back to prison? They end up lacking the social, educational, and coping skills to be truly empowered—this is not their fault but an indictment of our social system that stigmatizes people who serve their time and want to start new lives.

--Joseph Campi, Senior

...I did not know what to expect while walking into that classroom [to meet the inmates]. I was hoping to come out of that room inspired and I did. Those ten inmates spoke with such composure and had amazing ideas about what could be done to stop the vicious cycle that causes many prisoners to constantly be

sent back to prison once they are released. I don't want to say that I didn't think these men would have intelligent ideas; however I was blown away by how aware they were with the criminal system and how many insightful ideas they had to better the system. I feel as though these men (and other prisoners) are the ones who can change the criminal system and improve it because they are the ones who live within it. They know the ups and downs of life within prison and outside the prison walls. It frustrates me that these men's ideas and opinions are not accounted for because they are behind bars... these prisoners have something to say and it frustrates me that they cannot be heard.

--Marissa Carlisle, Senior

These men [the inmates] were very composed. I could tell that prison life had become part of them, and that they have thought a lot about their lives and how to reconstruct them... Being able to hear about the inmates talk about this issue [recidivism] was very enlightening. Hearing it directly from the inmates helped me have a better picture of the problem. It made me more aware of what needed to be done. The common solution that they all talked about was having a strong support of welcoming the inmates back into society again. It made me realize even more that the criminal justice is unjust. It also made me aware that prisons had become commodified and a lot of people profit from it. Because of this, I felt that the criminal justice system seems to take the inmates' humanity away from them. I know that there is no quick solution to this problem. However... I think that education is one way to help solve recidivism. People need to be aware of what these inmates are experiencing. For me, I know that I can start by telling others about my experience and educating them about the injustices that are occurring in society today, especially in the criminal justice system. As I make decisions about policies relating to crime, I will incorporate what I have learned from the inmates. I will definitely take this experience with me.

--Olivia Kho, Senior

It was an eye-opening experience to hear about the criminal justice system through the inmates' view... Speaking to these inmates, I learned that they are individuals; they are sorry for what they did ten or so years ago. They paid their dues. However, our criminal justice system—even worse, our American culture—sets these inmates up for defeat... I left prison in a melancholy state. I just interacted with inmates who are determined to be released from prison and want a real life. However, I learned that my American culture and the system are probably not going to give them the dream they seek. After this trip to San Quentin prison, I strongly question the American criminal justice system... Are they really enforcing our laws and freedoms??

--Lisa Lau, Senior

I was taken aback by [the inmates'] eloquence and knowledge of social issues. I was very impressed by how aware they were of the fallacies of the prison system... This conversation showed me that these people in prison had the same aspirations and goals as anyone else in society. I think our society has desensitized us to believe that prisoners and criminals are extremely violent people who are incapable of changing and learning from their previous mistakes. Clearly, those prisoners wanted to alter their lives and try to positively change their societies. I was touched by their honesty and their recognition that they had made mistakes in the past. We are all human and we all make mistakes. We are all capable of change regardless of where we live and sleep.

--Cameron Robertson, Senior

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2005 Program Participation Schedule

Deadline for submission of papers/proposals to session organizers of the Program Co-Chairs no later than **January 31, 2005**

Participants must be notified by the session organizer of acceptance or referral of paper/proposal no later than **February 21, 2005**

Session/paper titles and contact information for each author must be in the Executive Office no later than **March 1, 2005**

Preliminary programs will be mailed to all current members no later than **May 16, 2005**

2005 Annual Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1800 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA August 12-14, 2005

Call for Nominations!

2005 LINDESMITH AWARD SSSP LAW & SOCIETY DIVISION

The Alfred R. Lindesmith Award is annually given to the best paper 1) that was presented at the previous year's SSSP annual meeting, 2) that is law-related, 3) that is written by one or more untenured faculty and/or graduate student(s), and 4) has not been accepted for publication prior to presentation at the SSSP meeting.*

If your paper or that of a friend meet these criteria, please submit three (3) copies of the paper to: Otis Grant, Chair, SSSP Law & Society Division, School of Public & Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, P.O. Box 7111, South Bend, IN 46634-7111, ogrant@iusb.edu, phone: (574) 520-4157.

The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2005.

** Papers submitted for publication but not yet accepted are eligible.*

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Tell a Colleague! Tell a Friend!

Join the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the SSSP Law & Society Division!

Founded in 1951, the Society for the Study of Social Problems promotes research on and serious examination of problems of social life. The SSSP works to solve these problems and to develop informed social policy. As a member, you will find peers and colleagues working together to develop and apply research which makes a difference. And you will be able to join many of the SSSP Divisions, including... *The SSSP Law & Society Division*, dedicated to the study of all aspects of law and social problems, and publishes the newsletter, *Pro Bono!*

Visit the SSSP website for more information: <http://www.sssp1/org>

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Additional listings may be found on the SSSP website <http://www.sssp1.org>)

Arizona State University

Arizona State University, at West campus, The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences invites applicants for a tenure-track position at the Assistant level to begin August 16, 2005. We are seeking candidates whose teaching and research are in areas related to metropolitan studies and/or social justice and human rights such as, but not limited to migration, globalization, international non-governmental organizations, social policy organizations, and/or international human rights law. Required qualifications include a Ph.D. by August 15, 2005, in a social science discipline or interdisciplinary field; evidence of successful teaching in an area related to metropolitan studies and/or social justice and human rights; record of publication in one or both of these areas, and a record of, or evidence of potential for, external funding appropriate to experience. We desire candidates with a record of interdisciplinary collaboration in research and grant writing. The successful candidate will teach in our interdisciplinary department, conduct research, provide service to the campus and community, and contribute to the development of proposed MA programs in Metropolitan Studies and/or Social Justice and Human Rights. Applicants must send a hard copy cover letter addressing qualifications related to the above requirements, a statement about research, teaching and grant activity planned for the next five years, a current curriculum vitae, the names and contact information (address and telephone number) for at least three references. Please send your application to: Thomas Keil, Social Policy/Organizations Search Committee, Arizona State University West campus, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, P.O. Box 37100, Phoenix, AZ 85069. **Deadline is January 14, 2005**; if not filled the 15th of each month thereafter until the search is closed. For further information about the department, consult: <http://www.west.asu.edu/sbs>. As a new American university, Arizona State University is a force for discovery, turning students into leaders who shape the future. In its 20th year, the West campus of ASU, located in Phoenix, fulfills this mission through interdisciplinary teaching, research, and community engagement. The campus serves more than 7,300 students and offers 29 bachelor's degree programs, nine master's degrees, eight professional certificates and is currently developing its first doctoral degree program. Please visit our web site at <http://www.west.asu.edu/>. ASU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer in policy and practice.

Miami University

Family Studies and Social Work: Assistant or Associate Professor to teach undergraduate social work courses; advise students; conduct programmatic research; seek external funding; provide service to the university, community and profession; coordinate the practice field experience component of the social work program; provide support for students in field placements; implement field supervisor orientation sessions. Require: Ph.D., ABDs will be considered, but doctorate must be earned by date of appointment; master's of social work degree; minimum of two years of post-MSW practice experience. For appointment to rank of Associate Professor, require strong publication record. Desire: Ph.D. in social work; higher education-level teaching experience; familiarity with the structure and function of practice skill instruction; knowledge of CSWE accreditation standards; ability to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in family studies and serve on family studies graduate committees. For appointment to rank of Associate Professor, a demonstrated record of acquiring external funding is desired. Send letter of intent, curriculum vitae and three letters of reference to Dr. Glenn Stone, Miami University, Department of Family Studies and Social Work, 451 McGuffey Hall, Oxford, OH 45056. Contact phone number is 513-529-2323; email is stoneg@muohio.edu. **Screening of applications begins December 1 and will continue until the position is filled.** Miami University is an Equal Opportunity employer offering full same-sex domestic partner benefits. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.