NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Law and Society Division Members,

I am sure you are all getting very excited for our 2009 annual meeting! Our meeting takes place from August 7 thru August 9, 2009 at the Stanford Court Hotel in the Nob Hill section San Francisco! This year our SSSP meeting promises to be filled, as always, with many exciting and provocative panels, roundtables and receptions. The theme of the conference this year, Race, Ethnicity, and the Continuing Problem of the Color Line is particularly exciting in light of the election of Barack Obama ...and, of special interest to many members of the Law & Society division, the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to fill the seat on the Supreme Court. I hope that all of you will make an effort attend our divisional meeting this year. In the past, we have had only a few members actually attend the divisional meetings, and I hope that this year will be different! Please make a note that our divisional meeting will take place on Friday, August 7 at 4:30pm. The timing of our meeting is excellent because it takes place just before the SSSP reception at 6:30 that we co-sponsor with many of the other divisions. Please come to our meeting and we can all go to the reception immediately afterwards!

We are sponsoring and co-sponsoring many fascinating sessions this year, including two sessions on Friday morning (8:30 – 10:10am) on Gender, Race, Class & Law and Teaching about Human Rights. On Friday afternoon, before our divisional meeting, we have a session on Wrongful Convictions & False Confessions. On Saturday morning (8:00 – 9:40am) we are sponsoring Race, Policing & the Law. On Saturday afternoon (12:30-2:10pm) we have an Author Meets Critics session featuring Law and Society Division member Steve Morewitz and his book, Death Threats & Violence. Later on Saturday, we have a session (2:30 – 4:10pm) on Offender Reentry and a later session (4:30 – 6:00pm) on Victims and the Law.

(continued on page 2)
On Sunday morning (8:30 – 10:10am), we have another Author Meets Critics session which features Mathieu Deflem and his book Sociology of Law: Visions of a Scholarly Tradition, as well as a Roundtable on Juveniles and Education. The final Law & Society-sponsored session takes place on Sunday afternoon (12:30pm) on Crime & Sexuality.

Please try to attend as many of our sessions as possible. It is important to meet one another and to connect and network with others who share our interest in Law & Society and who share an interest in social justice. It is especially important during this time of economic crisis and uncertainty to mentor and assist division members who are seeking employment or career guidance. I know that in past years, many of us have connected through this division and this has led to research collaborations and job opportunities. Let’s try to make an extra effort this to meet one another and to learn more about what we have in common and how we can assist one another. This is of special importance to those of us working in small departments at colleges or universities where there are not many others specializing in issues related to Law & Society. In this time of hiring freezes and cutbacks in all fields, it is crucial that we come together to help and learn from each other. I hope that we can use some of the time at our divisional meeting again this year to discuss how the economic crisis is influencing our lives and our organizations (or our lives for those of us that are adjuncts or on the job market). I also look forward to more spirited debates at our meeting about what resolutions we hope to sponsor this year.

On a very personal note, I would like to thank Mary Nell Trautner, our vice-chair, for helping me organize and run this division while I was on maternity leave this past semester. I am back at work now, but this division would not have had any sessions at this meeting if Mary Nell had not responded immediately and without question or complaint to my plea for assistance and help! I also have to thank Lloyd Klein, a wonderful colleague who answered every single question I had this year about how to manage this division. Finally, I would like to thank Michael Smyth for editing this newsletter!

I am incredibly excited to see all of you again in August in San Francisco!

Emily Horowitz
Law and Society Division Chair (2008-2010)
Department of Sociology
St. Francis College
180 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
email: ehorowitz@saintfranciscocole.edu
Date: Friday, August 7  
Time: 08:30 AM - 10:10 AM  
Session 3: Gender, Race, Class, and Law  
Room: SCH-Nob Hill  
Sponsors: Law and Society/Crime and Juvenile Delinquency  
Organizer & Presider: Mary Nell Trautner, University at Buffalo SUNY  
Papers:  
“Possibilities and Limitations of Consent Decrees in Promoting Race and Gender Equality in the Workplace,” Cynthia Deitch, George Washington University and Ariane Hegewisch, Institute for Women’s Policy Research  
“The Discipline of Difference: Ethnolinguistic Heterogeneity and Corporal Punishment,” Matthew Pate, State University of New York at Albany and Laurie Gould, University of Texas at Arlington  
“Beyond the Hold of Death: The Issues and Concerns of Women Formerly on Death Row in the Philippines,” Diana Veloso, University of the Philippines Diliman  
“Race, Identity Politics, and a Native American Social Movement That Could Have Been,” DaShanne Stokes, University of Pittsburgh  

Date: Friday, August 7  
Time: 02:30 PM - 04:10 PM  
Session 30: Wrongful Convictions and False Confessions  
Room: SCH-California Gold  
Sponsors: Law and Society/Crime and Juvenile Delinquency  
Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Emily B. Horowitz, St. Francis College  
Papers:  
“Ratifying, Refocusing, and Reconciling Events in Wrongful Conviction Discourse,” Nathan Shippee, Fulbright Program in Ukraine  
“Towards Abolishing the Death Penalty,” Robert Aponte and Kendol Samuel, Indiana University-Indianapolis (IUPUI)  

Date: Saturday, August 8  
Time: 08:00 AM - 09:40 AM  
THEMATIC  
Session 51: Race, Policing, and Law  
Room: SCH-Russian Hill  
Sponsor: Law and Society  
Organizer: Suzanne Goodney Lea, Nteractivity Foundation  
Presider & Discussant: Emily B. Horowitz, St. Francis College  
Description: This session explores the ways in which race impacts policing, to include racial profiling, police use of deadly force, and other forms of racial/ethnic bias by and towards law enforcement personnel.  
Papers:  
“An Individual and Structural-Level Exploration of Racial and Ethnic Inequality in Police Interactions,” Mary Therese Laske, Kent State University-The University of Akron Joint Program  
“41 Shots...and Counting: What Amadou Diallo Teaches Us about Policity, Race and Justice,” Beth Roy, UC Berkeley  
“The Missing White Woman Dragnet: Race, Gender, and the Multiplier Effect of High-Profile Investigations,” Suzanne Goodney Lea, Interactivity Foundation  
(continued on page 4)
DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Time: 12:30 PM - 02:10 PM

Session 63: Author Meets Critics: Stephen Morewitz, Death Threats and Violence (Springer 2008)
Room: UC-Black Cat Bar
Sponsors: Law and Society/Crime and Juvenile Delinquency
Organizer & Presider: Lloyd Klein, St. Francis College
Critics: Kathleen Ferraro, Northern Arizona University; Suzanne Goodney Lea, Interactivity Foundation; Paul Steele, Morehead State University; Jack Levin, Northeastern University.

DATE: SaturdAY, AUGUST 8

Time: 02:30 PM - 04:10 PM

Session 74: Offender Reentry
Room: UC-Black Cat Bar
Sponsors: Law and Society/Crime and Juvenile Delinquency
Organizer: Kathryn J. Fox, University of Vermont
Presider: Danielle S. Rudes, George Mason University
Papers:
"From Prison to Integration: Applying Modified Labeling Theory to Sex Offenders," William Mingus, University of Illinois at Chicago
"‘Back-end Sentencing’ and Re-Imprisonment: Focal Concerns, Racial Threat, and Parole Sanctioning," Jeffrey Lin, University of Denver and Ryken Grattet, University of California, Davis
"Identity Work in Women’s Reentry," Vicki L. Hunter and Kimberly Greer, Minnesota State University-Mankato
"Conflicting Roles: Examining the Work of Frontline Staff in Community Corrections," Leah DeVellis, Carleton University
"Great Expectations for Problem Solving Courts: Observations of a Reentry Court," Jeralyn Faris and JoAnn Miller, Purdue University

DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Time: 04:30 PM - 06:10 PM

Session 83: Victims and the Law
Room: UC-Black Cat Bar
Sponsors: Law and Society/Crime and Juvenile Delinquency
Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Karen Weiss, West Virginia University
Papers:
"Restorative Justice and Violence Against Women: Recent Feminist Innovations," James Ptacek, Department of Sociology
"‘It’s Just Not Something You Report’: Reasons Why Teens Don’t Report Sexual Assault," Karen Weiss, West Virginia University

DATE: Sunday, August 9

Time: 08:30 AM - 10:10 AM

Session 88: Author Meets Critics: Sociology of Law: Visions of a Scholarly Tradition by Mathieu Deflem
Room: SCH-Nob Hill
Sponsor: Law and Society
Organizer: Cary Federman, Montclair State University
Presiders: Cary Federman, Montclair State University
Mathieu Deflem, University of South Carolina
Critics: Matthew Silverman, Bucknell University; Debarun Majumdar, Texas State University - San Marcos; Suzanne Goodney Lea, Interactivity Foundation; Stephen Morewitz, Steve Morewitz Inc.

DATE: Sunday, August 9

Time: 08:30 AM - 10:10 AM

Session 93: Juveniles and Education: Symbolic Frameworks and Institutional Issues
Room: UC-Dining Room
Sponsors: Program Committee/Teaching Social Problems/Racial and Ethnic Minorities/Law and Society/Crime and Juvenile Delinquency/Educational Problems
Organizer & Presider: Otis B. Grant, Indiana University South Bend
Papers:
"What Lessons Can Public Schools Learn From KIPP Charter Schools?" Marissa Shaw, Cecily Medved and Kiara Garcia, California State University, East Bay
"Teaching about US Punishment to Privileged Liberal Arts Students," R. Tyson Smith, Dickinson College
"Canadian Multiculturalism as an official policy of inclusion?: Immigrant youth, identity and symbolic constructions,” Maryam Nabavi, University of British Columbia
"The Manifestation and Consequences of Identity Issues for Children of ‘The Enemy’: A Continuum Approach," Selina Coleman and Alex Otiendo, Arcadia University
"Studying Race & Media: Is Reifying Race Unavoidable?” Natalie Byfield, St. John’s University.

(continued on page 5)
Law and Society Division
Call for Nominations

BE BOLD! LEAD THE DIVISION!

The Law and Society Division is currently soliciting nominations for Division Chair and Vice-Chair

Please submit nominations by February 15, 2010 to
Emily Horowitz
(ehorowitz@saintfranciscollege.edu)

REZA HASMATH TO RECEIVE DIVISION’S 2009 LINDESMITH AWARD

Each year, the Alfred R. Lindesmith Award recognizes the best law-related paper (not previously accepted for publication) authored by a graduate student or untenured faculty and presented at the preceding year’s SSSP Annual Meeting. The 2009 Lindesmith Award will be presented to Reza Hasmath for her paper titled “The Utility of Regional Jus Cogens in International Law,” as single-authored paper by Reza Hasmath. Hasmath recently completed her graduate studies in the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Cambridge University and received a doctoral degree from the University of Cambridge in April 2009. An abstract of the winning paper appears below.

“The Utility of Regional Jus Cogens in International Law.”

Abstract
This paper considers the principle of jus cogens norms from a regional perspective. It does so by looking at a regionalized set of legal norms and values, and expunge whether or not they can be reconstituted as regional jus cogens norms. An examination of the Brezhnev Doctrine, juvenile executions in the Americas, and Islamic ‘human rights’ will be instructive in this manner. The practical utility of norms of regional jus cogens will also be highlighted. Steeped in a positivist tradition, it will illustrate that a set of “higher laws” of overriding importance can assist in accomplishing certain social and political tasks that are deemed acceptable within a specific time-period by a group of nation-states. Moreover, such regional jus cogens norms can be replaced by another ‘super-norm’, or eliminated entirely by the passing of its usefulness. The implications for the existence and practice of regional jus cogens norms will be considered, notably its effect on sovereign equality and the role promoting ‘differential treatment’. Given a present international community of nation-states characterized by unprecedented heterogeneity, this paper will argue that the use of regional jus cogens norms are demanded in limited situations.
The SSSP Law and Society Division will institute a new Lifetime Achievement Award. As described in last summer’s division newsletter, the award is intended to honor individuals for their distinguished work in the study of law and society. The award will be given every other year and rotate with the Edwin H. Sutherland Book award designed to honor a noteworthy book publication within the past two years.

The first recipient of the L&S Division Lifetime Achievement Award is William J. Chambliss. William Chambliss is Professor of Sociology at George Washington University. He is a pioneer in the study of law and society and the author of numerous criminal justice or sociology books and articles devoted to the study of such topics as organized crime, state organized crime, corruption, political sociology, and criminal law. Several of Chambliss’ noteworthy publications include articles on vagrancy laws (1964, “A Sociological Analysis of the Laws of Vagrancy,” Social Problems, Summer, 67-77) and delinquency (1973, “The Saints and the Roughnecks,” Society, Nov/Dec, 24-31).

Chambliss is the recipient of numerous honors including the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sociology of Law Section of the American Sociological Association, the Edwin H. Sutherland Award from the American Society of Criminology, and the Bruce Smith Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. He is also Past-President of the American Society of Criminology.

In following the tradition of naming other SSSP awards after noteworthy contributors associated with the advancement of sociological research, this award will henceforth be entitled the William J. Chambliss Law and Society Division Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations to Dr. Chambliss for his contributions to the fields of sociology and criminology.

The award will be given during the L&S Business Meeting on August 7, 2009, scheduled from 4:30pm-6:30pm. We look forward to your attendance at this award presentation.

MAPS OF SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS

NOB HILL—1902

Described as the first comprehensive book on rape since Susan Brownmiller's *Against Our Will* and Susan Estrich's *Real Rape*, this volume probes every aspect of rape law and the discrepancies between ideal law (on the books) and real law (in action). Susan Caringella canvasses the success and failure of reform in the United States, as well as Australia, Britain, Canada, and New Zealand, and assesses alternative perspectives on rape reform, making use of theoretical models, court cases and statistical data. She uniquely delineates a creative model for change while addressing the discretion that undermines efforts at change. This includes charging the accused and plea bargaining, confronting a lack of transparency and accountability in implementing law, and acquiring funding for such changes.

Author Susan Caringella is a SSSP Law and Society Division member and professor in the Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice Program, and of Gender and Women's Studies at Western Michigan University.


A lesbian couple rears a child together and, after the biological mother dies, the surviving partner loses custody to the child's estranged biological father. Four days later, in a different court, judges rule on the side of the partner, because they feel the child relied on the woman as a psychological parent. What accounts for this inconsistency regarding gay and lesbian adoption and custody cases, and why has family law failed to address them in a comprehensive manner?

In *Courting Change*, Richman zeros in on the nebulous realm of family law, one of the most indeterminate and discretionary areas of American law. She focuses on judicial decisions—both the outcomes and the rationales—and what they say about family, rights, sexual orientation, and who qualifies as a parent. Richman challenges prevailing notions that gay and lesbian parents and families are hurt by laws' indeterminacy, arguing that, because family law is so loosely defined, it allows for the flexibility needed to respond to — and even facilitate — changes in how we conceive of family, parenting, and the role of sexual orientation in family law.

Drawing on every recorded judicial decision in gay and lesbian adoption and custody cases over the last fifty years, and on interviews with parents, lawyers, and judges, Richman demonstrates how parental and sexual identities are formed and interpreted in law, and how gay and lesbian parents can harness indeterminacy to transform family law.

A member and former vice-Chair of SSSP Law and Society Division, Kim Richman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of San Francisco.

Problem Solving Courts examines a relatively new approach to criminal justice in which judges, advised by law enforcement officers and mental health workers, meet with offenders on a weekly basis to talk about their issues in a socio-legal setting where therapeutic intervention is combined with a measure of punishment for program violations. Sociologist JoAnn Miller and judge Donald C. Johnson, creators of three successful problem solving courts themselves, address the compelling needs for alternatives to prisons, analyze problem solving courts in depth, and assess the impact problem solving courts can have on offenders and their communities.

Author JoAnn Miller is a former Chair of the Law and Society Division and currently is President-elect of SSSP. Miller was last year named Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies and Engagement, the College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University and Interim Head of the Department of Sociology, Purdue University. This year (in 2009) Miller is credited with creation of the Center for the Study of Violence, the College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University.

---


A new study of New York City drug users (ages 22-33) who self-identify as (dance) “club kids” challenges stereotypes of the typical drug user and common assumptions about controlling drug-related harms. The ethnographic research illuminates the club kids’ distinctive subculture, describes their patterns of drug use, and explores the factors that protect them from harms such as arrests and illness. Richly detailed and remarkably candid interview data vividly portray how the subjects manage to maintain productive, middle-class lifestyles despite engaging in heavy drug use.

Dr. Perrone situates the club kids in a historical perspective as a subculture with distinctive rituals, styles and cultural norms. Unlike earlier youth subcultures – such as the hippies, mods and rockers – the club kids do not reject the dominant values of capitalist society. The emergence of club kid culture and the clubbing experience are supportive toward current worldwide trends in consumption, commercialization and globalization.

The data indicate that the club kids’ strive to protect themselves from harms by their choices among drugs, the settings where they use drugs, and their mindsets during use. Also facilitating controlled drug use are the subjects’ high levels of economic and social capital, ample life and job skills (human capital), extensive social networks, and maturation through the typical life-course of educated middle class Americans.

The threat of criminal justice sanctions was not a significant factor in the club kids’ moderation in drug use, efforts at harm avoidance, or eventual desistance. Instead, the club kids’ cultural norms and socio-economic statuses were the predominant influences on their drug use and experiences. Implications for national drug policy are assessed.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

U. Michigan Graduate student and Division member Zakkiya Luna was recently awarded a $12,000 National Science Foundation Dissertation Research Improvement Grant from its Law and Social Science Program. The title and abstract of Luna’s dissertation follows.

Domesticating Human Rights: Women of Color Building Consciousness through the Reproductive Justice Movement
by Zakkiya Luna

The rejection of human rights by the US state may explain why marginalized women are using the concept to build a domestic social movement for reproductive justice (RJ) that challenges narrower reproductive rights analysis. SisterSong Women of Color Collective aims “to amplify and strengthen the collective voices of Indigenous women and women of color to ensure reproductive justice through securing human rights” (SisterSong Matrix, emphasis added). The lack of human rights law in the US should result in fewer opportunities to mobilize human rights discourse, which would result in weakened belief in the utility of human rights. Yet SisterSong has grown from 16 to over 80 organizations, with a newsletter circulation of 18,000, establishing it as the anchor of the reproductive justice movement.

First, I ask why are SisterSong and its member reproductive justice organizations integrating human rights when US social movements generally do not engage with this discourse and the state generally rejects it? The answer will come through revisiting the past through documents and interviews, but does not explain why this framing continues to resonate. Therefore, the second question is how does integrating human rights discourse impact members’ sense of self and other people as rights bearers? Answering the second question, via a member survey, interviews and participant observation, will explain how the organization’s construction of collective identity facilitates members’ understanding of human rights and their identities. I utilize Snow et.al.’s (1986) work on framing, how social movements talk about social problems to attract people to the movements. I engage with scholarship on human rights (Anderson 2003, Merry 2006), legal consciousness (Ewrick and Silbey 1998), and intersectionality (Crenshaw 1993) to explain SisterSong’s anomalous choice and success. SisterSong’s path shows that current literature—whether sociology, law, or anthropology—fails to address these new possibilities for raising consciousness and mobilizing around human rights.

Division member Peter Cleary Yeager of Boston University’s Department of Sociology was recently elected vice president and president-elect of the White Collar Crime Consortium, the research arm of the National White Collar Crime Center, which is a Congressionally-funded organization of regulatory agencies and law enforcement authorities nationwide that deal with white-collar crime generally and as it relates to homeland security. In addition, members may wish to note Yeager’s recent publications:


Divison member Tarique Niazi (U. Wisconsin-Eau Claire) was invited to speak earlier this year at the Woodrow Wilson International Center (WWC), Washington, D.C., on "Sino-Pakistani Economic Relations: Past, Present and Future." On Jan. 27, he spoke on the "Geopolitics of South Asia" to key Congressional Staffers on Capitol Hill. Dr. Niazi’s presentation was sponsored by the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States, the Division of International Security Studies, and the Asia Program of the Wilson Center. In his presentations, Dr. Niazi highlighted the growing economic relations between China and India, China and Pakistan, India and Pakistan. He noted that although trade relations between China and India were growing dramatically, their investment in each other’s countries did not reflect the corresponding trends. On the other hand, China’s investment in Pakistan is several times the size of its investment in India. Dr. Niazi, who is an Environmental Sociologist, particularly addressed the ecological dynamics of strategic competition between China, India and Pakistan over the global commons, such as the Sea Lines of Communications (SLOs) in the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Strait of Hormuz, the Strait of Malacca, and above all the Indian Ocean. He noted that the United States and Britain favored open access to the commons. Similarly, the nations in the Indian Ocean region such as Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore want the Indian Ocean and shipping lines accessible to all seafaring nations. Dr. Niazi forecast that growing trade and investment in energy resources would make the global commons such as the Indian Ocean ever more contested.

Both presentations were attended by Washington-based diplomats, government officials, key Congressional Staffers, journalists, scholars and students of the D.C. area. Dr. Niazi has extensively written on Sino-Indian, Sino-Pakistani, and Sino-South Asian relations. His works have been cited, published and reproduced in the world's major publications including Jane’s Defense Weekly, Observer, London, Guardian, London, Toronto Star, U.S. Congressional Reports, China Brief, The Asia Pacific Journal: Japan Focus, China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly, Globalist, Global Politician, International Security Network, and Foreign Policy in Focus."
The American Society of Criminology announced that its "Outstanding Paper" award for 2007 is being given to Ted Chiricos, Kelle Barrick, Bill Bales and Stephanie Bontrager for "The Labeling of Convicted Felons and its Consequences for Recidivism" published in Criminology (45:547-582). Ted Chiricos is current editor of Social Problems and both Kelle Barrick and Stephanie Bontrager serve the journal as Advisory Editors.

Submissions for the Fall/Winter issue of Pro Bono should be sent to the Editor, Michael Smyth (smyth@susqu.edu), by October 1, 2009.

**Graduate Student Members**

A portion of the Fall/Winter issue of *Pro Bono* will be devoted to profiling research conducted by graduate student members of the Law and Society Division. All grad student members are urged to send academic bios and dissertation abstracts to the Editor for inclusion in the upcoming issue. Please send all related materials to Michael Smyth by October 1, 2009 (smyth@susqu.edu).

**Upcoming SSSP Annual Meetings**

**2010 Annual Meeting**
August 13-15, 2010
The Sheraton Atlanta Hotel
Atlanta, GA

**2011 Annual Meeting**
August 12 – 14, 2011
The Blackstone, A Renaissance Hotel
Chicago, IL