
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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EDITORS' PREFACE

Greetings! This is the final issue of the Law & Society Division's newsletter edited by the organizational team of Kim Richman, Vice-Chair, and Otis Grant, Chair. Thank you to all who shared in the Division's activities during our tenure!

Our new Division leaders, Lloyd Klein, Chair, and Cary Federman, Vice-Chair, are looking forward to working with you over the next two years. In this issue of *Pro Bono*, we have provided some "parting" and "welcoming" words, respectively (see pages 3 & 9).

Also in this issue, readers will find announcements regarding the Division's participation at the annual meeting in Montréal, the winner of the Lindesmith Award, call for SSSP resolutions, and member news and announcements. Also of interest is the new speed mentoring session and a special session on transgender and legal issues.

We are excited about this year's conference. Your Law & Society Division will be sponsoring/co-sponsoring several sessions. We ask that you attend and encourage your colleagues. Montréal has a wide array of activities for all to enjoy!

Division members are encouraged to send in "Law and Social Problems Essays" or other scholarly contributions of interest to the division membership. 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 incoming Chair or Vice-Chair for more information.

Contact:

Lloyd Klein, Division Chair 2006-2008
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SSSP LAW AND SOCIETY @ MONTRÉAL MEETING 2006

This year's SSSP meeting will be held at the Hilton Montréal Bonaventure in Montréal, Québec, Canada, August 10-12.

The theme of the meeting is "Building Just, Diverse and Democratic Communities."

See pages 6-8 for more details.

2006 ALFRED R. LINDESMITH AWARD GOES TO ADAM JACOBS

The winner of the Lindesmith Award is Adam Jacobs for his paper:

"High on the Agenda:
The Disappearance of Marijuana
Decriminalization, 1975-83"

See page 10.

2006 CALL FOR SSSP RESOLUTIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

SSSP resolutions constitute an important opportunity for our scholar-activist membership to publicly declare their sentiments, thereby creating a channel for greater visibility and more direct influence upon a variety of "publics," i.e., fellow activists, scholars, students, decision-makers, social action groups, voters, and others. Thus, as Vice-President this year, I am calling on the membership to submit resolutions for discussion, debate, and in some cases, passage. To do so, simply forward your resolution or your idea for a resolution to the appropriate SSSP Division Chair. When doing so, remember that proposed resolutions can serve as useful discussion points for SSSP members, helping to increase and enhance communication and activities during the long period between annual meetings. Resolutions that are submitted to Division Chairs should contain a concise position statement concerning a social problem of urgent concern to the Division. In most cases, the resolution should include some sort of call for viable action on the part of the SSSP. This typically has involved a letter from the Board directed to some public entity, expressing concern, support, or protest. Feel free, however, to propose other forms of appropriate action. It is the SSSP Vice-President's responsibility to serve as the facilitator for resolutions being sponsored by the Divisions as well as from individual Society members, making them available to the membership at the annual business meeting. This year in Montréal, Canada, the resolutions process will be organized in a manner that promotes wider discussion prior to formal consideration at the 2006 Business Meeting. The process is as follows:

- On the first day of the meetings an open forum of discussion will be held, which is designed to encourage a political discussion of concerned members. At this meeting, each proposed resolution should be presented for membership discussion by the sponsoring Division's Chairperson (or designated representative) and adequate time for discussion will be properly allotted to each. To facilitate this process, all proposed resolutions

should be made available to the SSSP Vice-President well in advance of the meetings such that the membership can be provided a print copy with their registration packet.

- Modifications and revisions will be considered during the open discussion forum that will meet in place of the annual meeting of the Resolutions Committee. All Division Chairs should plan to participate in this session or designate a proxy from their division if unable to attend. It is *essential* that someone be present who can speak to the substance of the proposed resolution.

- During the 2006 Annual Business Meeting, the resolutions will be presented (including any modifications or revisions) by the Vice-President as a package for approval for action by the attending membership. The membership will vote on proposed resolutions that were discussed and revised on the first day of the meeting. Experience shows that the Annual Business Meeting fails to provide sufficient time for a detailed discussion of resolutions. If objections from the floor are raised to any specific resolution at this year's Business meeting, that resolution can, by majority vote of those present, be singled out from the package, and voted on separately. Those present can either support the resolution for approval as proposed or decide to table the resolution for further discussion at the subsequent year's annual meeting.

- We will attempt to make approved resolutions immediately available to the press. In addition, all approved resolutions will be submitted for publication in the Fall issue of the *Social Problems Forum*.

Members who wish to propose resolutions for consideration of the SSSP should submit them to a Division Chairperson (see <http://www.sssp1.org> for current contact information) or directly to the SSSP Vice-President at cookk@uncw.edu.

I look forward to hearing your ideas.

Kimberly J. Cook
SSSP Vice-President 2005-2006

PARTING WORDS

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### **Otis Grant**

Division Chair, 2004-2006  
[ogrant@iusb.edu](mailto:ogrant@iusb.edu)

### **Kimberly Richman**

Division Vice-Chair, 2004-2006  
[kdrichman@usfca.edu](mailto:kdrichman@usfca.edu)

As our tenure as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, comes to an end, we're pleased to reflect on what has been both an enjoyable and an enlightening experience. We have met many new colleagues and have had the pleasure of being part of one of the most dynamic divisions in SSSP.

Over the years, we have participated in numerous panels and bore witness to our colleagues as they have redefined and reconceptualized the way in which we view the world. SSSP has always been on the cutting-edge of progressive scholarship, and the Law & Society Division stands as a testimonial to those who wish to challenge the status quo.

These are interesting times and over the last two years we have been reminded time and time again of the need for organizations such as ours. We have watched the world at war, the harm that comes from the widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, the lack of educational opportunities, the retrenchment of civil and human rights, and the lack of respect for our gay, lesbian and transgendered colleagues. Indeed, we have witnessed human failure time and time again. Yet, we are not deterred because we also bear witness to the power of education, the ability to form coalitions, and the resilient spirit of those who refuse to settle for second class citizenship.

For the last two years, we have endeavored to present panels and discussions on such diverse topics as civil liberties in the post-9/11 era, the overcrowding of prisons, and the intersection of law and sexualities, which allowed our colleagues to discuss and strategize about complex social problems. The Law & Society Division continues to stand as a force to question and confront those who wish to oppress, discriminate, harass, and disenfranchise. Though this work has often been daunting, it has also been immensely fulfilling. We thank our colleagues for having faith in our judgment, supporting us, and being vital and active participants in the Division throughout the years. It is our sincere pleasure to now turn over the leadership of our Division to Lloyd Klein and Cary Federman, the incoming Chair and Vice Chair. They are enthusiastic about fulfilling their duties, and worthy of their offices, and we look forward to a continuing tradition of excellence in the Law & Society Division.

We would like to thank all our colleagues for their tremendous support and efforts on behalf of the Division and SSSP, and we look forward to serving with you in the years to come!

See you in Montréal!

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MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations are in order. . .

Steven A. Barkan (Department of Sociology, University of Maine) has won the **2006 "Texty" Textbook Excellence Award** in the humanities and social sciences category from the Text and Academic Authors Association for his Criminology: A Sociological Understanding, 3rd edition (Prentice Hall, 2006).

Laurie Schaffner, sociologist at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has been selected to be a **Visiting Faculty Scholar at the American Bar Foundation** in Chicago, Illinois for the 2006-2007 academic year.

New Books. . .

James W. Loewen's new book, SUNDOWN TOWNS, has legal implications of at least two kinds for the Law & Society Division. First, it shows that although the Supreme Court invalidated this type of action in 1917, nevertheless many towns were formally or informally closed to blacks (and sometimes to Jews, Native Americans, Chinese Americans, etc.) for decades thereafter, thus impinging on theories of legal/social change. Second, it suggests research to be done TODAY to expose and end those sundown towns that remain all white (on purpose) today. Jim is giving a session on this at SSSP, plus his book should be in most bookstores and libraries. For more information contact Jim at jloewen@zoo.uvm.edu.

JoAnn Miller (and Dean Knudsen) have a new book coming out in October titled Family Abuse and Violence: A Social Problems Perspective. The book presents a new perspective for studying inter- and intragenerational forms of family abuse and violence. The framework integrates existing theories and guides an interpretation of empirical data to study socially deviant or criminal problems that occur within families. It is available in the "Violence Prevention and Policy Series," Alta Mira Press, ISBN (paper) 0-7591-0801-3. For more information contact JoAnn at jmiller@purdue.edu.

New Positions. . .

Loyola Marymount University. The Department of Sociology invites applications for **two tenure-track positions** at the level of Assistant Professor, commencing August, 2007. Candidates for the positions are expected to have completed the Ph.D. in sociology by that date. **Areas of teaching responsibility for position #1 will include** (a) international migration (with a focus on Latin America and Asia), and (b) population/demography. Preference will be given to persons who also could successfully teach introduction to sociology and statistics. **Areas of teaching responsibility for the position #2 will include** (a) social movements/collective behavior (with a focus on global issues), and (b) revolutions. The person will also teach introduction to sociology. The teaching load is three courses each semester. Ability to teach effectively at the undergraduate level is essential. Reappointment, tenure, and promotion considerations will give special emphasis to teaching effectiveness, scholarly achievement, and service to the University. The Sociology Department currently includes eight faculty, with approximately 145 majors. LMU offers faculty housing assistance. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants should send: (1) a letter of application, (2) curriculum vitae (including email address), (3) academic transcripts, (4) three letters of recommendation, (5) evidence of teaching ability, research and publication, (6) and a statement regarding future research within the substantive areas noted above. Send these materials to Jim Faught, Chair, Department of Sociology, One LMU Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659. **To ensure full consideration completed applications must be received by December 1, 2006.** Loyola Marymount University, a Catholic University in the Jesuit and Marymount traditions, is a comprehensive university emphasizing excellence in undergraduate education for a diverse student body. The University is located in a suburb on the west side of Los Angeles, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Loyola Marymount University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Visit WWW.LMU.EDU for additional information.

OF INTEREST. . .

"Transgender Legal Rights... or Where Does the White Go When the Snow Melts"

In 1999 Colonel David Schroer, a retired Special Forces Officer and expert in Terrorism, interviewed for and was offered the position of Counter Terrorism Expert at the United States Library of Congress. Prior to beginning the new position David disclosed to his new manager that when he began the new position he would no longer be David, but instead would be Diane Schroer. Within 12 hours the offer for the position was rescinded. With the help of the ACLU, David (who later became Diane) filed suit against the Library of Congress in what could prove to be a landmark case in gender discrimination and transgender equality. Diane has become a spokesperson for transgender equality and participates in ongoing discussions and education about issues faced by people in the transgender population.

On Friday, August 11, 2006 at a 12:30pm session of the SSSP annual meeting in Montréal, Diane Schroer and her Attorney Sharon McGowan Esq. will speak in an invited session on Transgender and Legal Issues. Their presentation is titled: "Transgender Legal Rights...or Where Does the White Go When the Snow Melts." This session is organized by Ms. Schroer's sister-in-law, Sandra Schroer, Ph.D., a SSSP member. We believe this session will be an exceptional opportunity for the members of SSSP. Our theme for the 2006 meeting, "Building Just, Diverse and Democratic Communities" is relevant to Diane's situation, particularly given her professional military background in the Special Forces, her service to the nation as an expert in foreign terrorist activities and most recently, her experience with institutional discrimination as a member of the transgender community. We hope you will agree.

Speed Mentoring Session... Session #28: Speed Mentoring will be held on Thursday, August 10 from 2:30pm - 4:10pm. The session is sponsored by the Program Committee. This special session will offer meeting attendees the opportunity to sit one-on-one with senior SSSP members to get feedback on dissertations and/or research projects that are underway or still in the planning stages. For more information, see below. **The deadline for indicating interest in meeting with one or more of the speed mentors has been extended to July 20; please contact Steven Barkan, barkan@maine.edu by this date.** See page 8 of this newsletter for description of session.

Individuals interested in participating as mentees should contact the session organizer, Steven Barkan (barkan@maine.edu) by JULY 20. Professor Barkan will email them a short form on which they will be asked to briefly describe their projects and to indicate their preferences for mentors. These forms should be returned by JULY 25. The speed mentoring schedule will then be compiled and emailed to both mentors and mentees by August 5; it will also be available at the conference registration desk in Montréal. 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.

Mentors (name, affiliation, areas):

Joel Best, University of Delaware, Constructionist Work on Social Problems and Deviance; Qualitative Sociology; Historical Sociology

Richard K. Caputo, Yeshiva University, Social Policy; Poverty; Social Justice; Income Dynamics

Kimberly J. Cook, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Criminology; Restorative Justice; Violence Against Women; Capital Punishment

Elizabeth Eitorre, University of Plymouth, Gender and Health; Substance Use; Autoethnography; the New Genetics

Kathleen J. Ferraro, Northern Arizona University, Gender; Intimate Partner Violence; Criminology; Poverty and Homelessness

Gregory Hooks, Washington State University, Political Sociology; Peace and War; Regional/Urban Inequality; Prison Siting

Valerie Jenness, University of California, Irvine, Crime, Law, and Social Control; Social Movements; Public Policy

Nancy C. Jurik, Arizona State University, Gender and Work; Work Organizations; Small Business; Economic Development

Kathleen S. Lowney, Valdosta State University, Qualitative Sociology and Ethnography; Popular Culture and Media; Religion

Nancy A. Naples, University of Connecticut, Inequality; Social Movements; Social Policy; Feminist Theory; Qualitative Methods; Gender and Sexuality

Mary Romero, Arizona State University, Women and Work; Qualitative Methods; Race Relations; Critical Race Theory; Latino/a Studies

Barbara Katz Rothman, Baruch College, CUNY Graduate Center, Sociology of Medicine; Bioethics Issues; Maternity Issues

Richard W. Wilsnack, University of North Dakota, Epidemiological Aspects of Alcohol and Other Substance Use; Gender Roles; Micro Issues in Medical Sociology

LAW & SOCIETY DIVISION PANELS - SSSP ANNUAL MEETING
MONTRÉAL, CANADA, AUGUST 10-12, 2006

This year's SSSP meeting will be held at the Hilton Montréal Bonaventure in Montréal, Québec, Canada, August 10-12. The theme of the meeting is "Building Just, Diverse and Democratic Communities." The Law & Society Division business meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in Fontaine C. At the meeting, we will be planning next year's sessions and discussing resolutions. You are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the Law and Society Division!

There will be a large joint reception this year scheduled for Thursday, August 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All special problem divisions will be participating. The location for the reception at the hotel will be in "Le Portage."

Your Law and Society Division has also organized some really exciting sessions. Thanks to all who were involved in organizing!

Diversity, Democracy, and the Challenge of Protecting Liberties

Sponsor: Law and Society Division

Date: Thursday, August 10

Time: 8:30am -10:10am

Room: Le Portage

Organizer, Presider and Discussant: Cary Federman, Montclair State University

Papers:

"The Challenge of Democracy in the Global Age," Preston P. Logan, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

"Civil Confinement and Lifetime Registration Policies for Sex Offenders: Protecting the Public or Manufacturing Fear?" Emily Horowitz, St. Francis College

"Foreigners as a Crime Problem: Transnational Migration and Policing in Japan," Ryoko Yamamoto, University of Hawaii at Manoa

"Racial Profiling Policy: An Examination of Variation in Large Municipal Police Agencies," Kirk Miller, Northern Illinois University

"Invisible Immigrants: Exploring the Lives of Gays and Lesbians from Latin America," Katie Acosta, University of Connecticut

Toward a Just Drug Policy: Comparative Perspectives

Co-sponsors: Drinking and Drugs Division & Law and Society Division

Date: Thursday, August 10

Time: 4:30pm - 6:10pm

Room: Pointe-aux-Trembles

Organizer & Presider: Andrew Golub, National Development and Research Institutes, Inc.

Papers:

"Substance Abuse and Slow Motion Disasters: The Need for a Critical Counter Narrative," Paul Draus, University of Michigan, Dearborn

"The Community Turn in UK Anti-Drugs Policy," Susanne MacGregor, London School of Hygiene

"Congressional Decision-Making in the Adoption of Substance Abuse Legislation by the United States Congress: A Case Study," Duanne R. Neff, Brandeis University - The Heller School for Social Policy and Management

"Is There a Role for Research and Knowledge in Support of a Just Drug Policy," Henry H. Brownstein, NORC at the University of Chicago

—Continued on page 7.

Next year's SSSP Annual Meeting will be held in New York at the Roosevelt Hotel, August 10-12, 2007.

Transgender and Legal Issues

Co-sponsors: Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division & Law and Society Division

Date: Friday, August 11
Time: 12:30pm - 2:10pm
Room: Outremount

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Sandra Ellen Schroer, Muskingum College

This is a discussion of the personal and legal challenges of transgender individuals in the workplace, both government and private sector. Sharon McGowan, Esq. is the lead attorney for the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project and AIDS Project. Diane Schroer is a retired military officer, MtoF transsexual, and litigant in a U.S. Federal Government lawsuit on employment discrimination (see page 5).

Presentation:

"Transgender Legal Rights...or Where Does the White Go When the Snow Melts," Diane J. Schroer, Strategic Initiatives Group, Inc. and Sharon McGowan, Esq., Lesbian and Gay Rights, and AIDS Project

Law, Legitimacy and Building a Just Community

Sponsor: Law and Society Division

Date: Friday, August 11
Time: 4:30pm - 6:10pm
Room: St-Michel

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Otis Grant, Indiana University South Bend

Papers:

"Constitution and Common Law in American Jurisprudence," Joel C. Gibbons, Logistic Research & Trading Co.

"The Effectiveness of Rape-Law Reform: A Cross-National Study," Tara Hardinge & Kassia Wosick-Correa, University of California, Irvine

"Legal Localization of International Trade and the Challenging of Its Povertizing Impact," Orly Benjamin, Bar-Ilan University and Daphna Rubenstein, Tel-Aviv University

"Clients, Duds and Wobblers: Screening Practices of Pretrial Release Programs," Ursula Abels Castellano, Ohio University

"Where Have All the Judges Gone? The Effects of Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Statutes on 'Fair and Uniform Sentencing Practices,'" Honorable Charles R. Alexander, Senior Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Rebecca Carroll, Saint Mary's College of California

Sexuality, Crime and the Law

Co-sponsors: Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division & Law and Society Division

Date: Saturday, August 12
Time: 10:30am - 12:10pm
Room: St-Michel

Organizer & Presider: Sandra Ellen Schroer, Muskingum College

Organizer & Discussant: Lloyd Klein, Grambling State University

Papers:

"Same Story – Different Players: Does the Absence of Women in Gay Male Porn Negate the Anti-Female Critique?" Amy N. Palder and Jennifer L. Chandler, Georgia State University

"Sexual Citizenship: A Comparative Analysis of Australia and New Zealand," Dina L. Giovanelli, University of Connecticut

"Anti-Trafficking and the Conservative Agenda," Wendy Chapkis, University of Southern Maine

"Injustice in the Workplace: The Persistence of Sexual Harassment," Suzanne Kurth, Hoan Bui, Julie Wiest and Sarah Whiteford, University of Tennessee

"Beyond Pornocopia: Human Sexuality and Young Adults," Taryn Walcott and Robert Leibson Hawkins, New York University

—Continued on page 8.

Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System

Co-sponsors: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division & Law and Society Division

Date: Saturday, August 12

Time: 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Room: Fontaine A

Organizer, Presider and Discussant: Jemel Aguilar, University of Minnesota

Papers:

"The Securitization of Immigration Policy, Shifts in National Immigrant Integration Models and the Incarceration of Immigrants in Germany, France and Britain 1970-2003," Pamela Irving Jackson, Rhode Island College and Roderick Parkes, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

"Addressing the Racial Disparity in New York City's Marijuana Arrest Policy," Andrew Golub, Bruce D. Johnson and Eloise Dunlap, National Development and Research Institutes, Inc.

"Criminalizing Color: Schemas and Disproportionate Minority Contact," Jemel Aguilar, University of Minnesota

"Unsafe Driving Behavior and Deviance Among African American Youth," Judi Anne Caron Sheppard, William K. Agyei, Rudolph Wilson, Desideria Hacker and Rosylen Ogelsby, Norfolk State University

Families: Criminal Justice and Sexuality

Co-sponsors: Family Division & Law and Society Division

Date: Saturday, August 12

Time: 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Room: St-Michel

Organizer & Presider: Ebonie L. Cunningham, Purdue University

Discussant: Dana Berkowitz, University of Florida

Papers:

"Crew Cuts, Combat Boots, and Babies: Masculine, Lesbian Perceptions of Pregnancy," Maura Ryan, University of Florida

"Gender and Race Disparities in Federal Drug Sentencing: Is Familial Paternalism the Answer?" Melissa A. Logue, Saint Joseph's University

"Mothering and Identity Strategies Among Incarcerated African American Women," Ebonie L. Cunningham, Purdue University

"Forced Sex During and After Exiting Intimate Relationships: Results of the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study," Walter S. DeKeseredy, University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Carolyn R. Block, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

"Not Healthy for Our Mothers and Daughters': Sex, Gender, and the Body in Evangelical Businesses," Alice P. Julier, Smith College

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SPEED MENTORING SESSION

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.

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

The deadline has been extended to July 20th!

See page 5 for further details.

WELCOMING WORDS

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### Lloyd Klein

Division Chair, 2006-2008

[creditcardman21@yahoo.com](mailto:creditcardman21@yahoo.com)

### Cary Federman

Division Vice-Chair, 2006-2008

[caryfederman@yahoo.com](mailto:caryfederman@yahoo.com)

I would like to thank division members for their support in the recent Law and Society Chair election. It is an honor to represent this division. Otis and Kim leave us with a tough act to follow. I applaud their professionalism and dedication in the management of many outstanding sessions during the past two years.

There are so many research interests and social concerns that we can bring to the table in the form of division organized and co-sponsored sessions. We can lead the dialogue in discussions of the current state of emerging constitutional issues, legal debates, and the usual consideration of the relationship between the state and other constituency groups. This is our mission and we must focus on exploring these ongoing concerns.

Please offer your assistance through submitting abstracts or papers for next year's SSSP meeting scheduled for New York City. In addition, promote the Lindesmith Graduate Student Paper award competition in your classes. Today's students will take their place as tomorrow's researchers and educators. Above all, come to the Division Business Meeting with proposals for sessions that we can organize within the 2007 SSSP meeting program. Cary and I solicit your support for these and other division endeavors.

Have a wonderful remainder of the summer. Hope to see many of you in Montréal for the 2006 SSSP meeting.

~ Lloyd Klein

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I would like to thank Otis Grant and Kim Richman for their truly excellent leadership and dedication to the Law and Society Division of SSSP. Both as editors of *Pro Bono* and as organizers of the yearly conference, they have made the Law and Society Division and SSSP outstanding examples of the achievements of dedicated academics.

Along with Lloyd Klein, I will work hard to continue Otis and Kim's excellent stewardship of our newsletter and the Division itself. Our Division remains a network of scholars, activists, practitioners and students who seek knowledge about law and society in all its forms. Please consider writing for the newsletter. As Otis has said, don't be shy, there's room for all of us at the table of knowledge.

In the spirit of my predecessors, I am looking forward to serving as the co-chair of the Law and Society Division of SSSP. This year's conference in Montréal, Canada, is designed to support the overall aims of SSSP, promoting diversity and encouraging critical scholarship. I look forward to seeing you in Montréal.

~ Cary Federman

Congratulations to ADAM JACOBS

Winner of the 2006 Alfred R. Lindesmith Award SSSP Law & Society Division

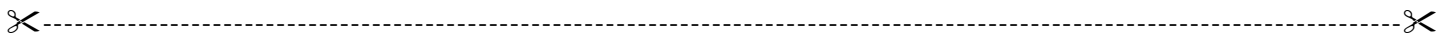
This year's winner of the Alfred R. Lindesmith Award is Adam Jacobs of University of Wisconsin for his paper, "High on the Agenda: The Disappearance of Marijuana Decriminalization, 1975-83."

This research investigates a period during the late 1970s when federal marijuana decriminalization shifted from a foregone conclusion to a fractious political issue. By 1976 11 states had already decriminalized marijuana, and a blue-ribbon Presidential commission headed by the Republican ex-governor of Pennsylvania had recommended nationwide decriminalization in 1974. Mainstream civil society groups such as the American Bar Association, the American Nurses Association and even several Parent-Teacher Associations had endorsed marijuana decriminalization as a timely, cost-effective and reasonable policy. But decriminalization never occurred - why? Using mixed methods, I examine three hypotheses for this shift: changing public opinion, new scientific evidence on marijuana's effects, and changing public discourses surround marijuana initiated by new anti-drug social movements. An examination of US Senate hearings and newspaper articles finds new discourses a) re-framing marijuana as a health issue rather than an individual choice issue and b) placing marijuana in the sphere of familiar conflict between parents and children. An examination of public opinion data from the General Social Survey confirm that while there was a general shift over time against marijuana law reform, the shift was especially localized among women and parents rather than the population as a whole. The interaction of health concerns with increased youth use have a strong interaction effect, as predicted by Beisel's (1997) theory that concerns over vice reflect middle-class anxiety over social reproduction. These findings support Gusfield's assertion that "It is when consensus is least attainable that the pressure to establish the legal norms appears to be the greatest" (Gusfield 1967: 188). They are also congruent with Paul Starr's (1992) description of the changing nature of classification in the liberal state, with increasing emphasis and legitimacy for governmental control of voluntary, publicly accountable behaviors such as drug use.

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



Society for the Study of Social Problems



Membership in 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 great newsletter, *Pro Bono!*

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