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

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Notes from the Chair

Greetings from New York City where the Rockefeller Center tree is now gone and we get ready for a busy year. Hope that everyone enjoyed the annual SSSP meeting and the New York City ambiance. We now begin preparations for the 2008 SSSP meeting set for Boston, Massachusetts from July 31-August 2. Deadline for all submissions will be January 31. Please note that the meeting is set approximately two weeks earlier. This means more vacation time after the meeting for those faculty starting classes sometime in mid-August.

This newsletter brings you important details about contemplated sessions and division competitions. We contemplate organizing three division organized sessions and approximately eleven sessions co-sponsored with four other divisions. In addition, we will also offer the annual Lindesmith Paper Competition-chaired by Emily Horowitz and a new division book award competition chaired by Bruce Arrigo. Deadline for both competitions will be April 1. You will find full details on eligibility and submission contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition, the terms of the current Chair and Vice-Chair of the Law and Society Division expire effective the 2008 SSSP meeting. Therefore, we need to hold an election for officers to serve as Division

Chair and Vice-Chair from 2008-2010. Please nominate yourself or someone who is willing to run and can adequately serve the division. I would like to hold elections no later than late February. Please note that forthcoming elections
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will be conducted online rather than the usual postal ballots. You will receive biographies of the candidates and an opportunity to vote via e-mail from the SSSP Executive Office.

Everyone is invited to submit essays or features relevant to the focus of the Law and Society Division. I would like to have a diversity of information contained in forthcoming editions of the division newsletter. In addition, I would like to recruit someone either residing in or familiar with the Boston area for background features to be included in the Spring and Summer editions of the division newsletter. Any information on local landmarks, self guided walking tours, and tips on restaurants, local transportation, and other information would be relevant. Please contact me if you can write two short pieces for these forthcoming newsletters.

Once again, we have some funds in the 2008 division budget allocated for student memberships. Please feel free to offer memberships to some of your students. You only need to ensure that the students send in a membership form with a copy of their ID card. I will facilitate the process. This is a great opportunity to provide students with access to a professional organization. Many of our graduate students participate through presenting papers, serving as session chairs, and working in the capacity of newsletter editors. These activities look great to search committees evaluating graduate students passage into entry level teaching positions after completion of their doctoral degrees.

I am still seeking individuals willing to offer short essays representative of research interests emphasized by the Law and Society Division. Ken Keil, SSSP newsletter editor, has expressed an interest in the inclusion of a division-focused feature. Please contact me with an abstract of your contribution should you wish to be considered for this project.

The organizers of the Law and Society related sessions look forward to your submissions for division sessions within the 2008 annual meeting. Please

contact me in the event that you have further questions.

Cary, Jen, and I hope that you had a successful Fall semester along with pleasant Christmas and New Years holidays. We are here to work with you and meet your professional needs. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or offers to share information with other division members. Deadline for the Spring newsletter is March 15.

Division Chair,
Lloyd Klein

2007 Alfred R. Lindesmith Competition Winner Announcement

The Law and Society Division congratulates Dr. Emily Horowitz, Assistant Professor of Sociology, St. Francis College, for winning the 2007 Alfred R. Lindesmith Competition.

Emily received a plaque and banquet ticket for her paper entitled "Civil Commitment Laws for Sex Offenders: Protecting the Public or Manufacturing Fear?"

The paper will be published as a journal article within the near future.

2008 SSSP ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

**Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers, Boston, MA
July 31 - August 2, 2008**

Law and Society Division Conference Sessions

Sponsored Sessions

Session 1: Sex Offender Legislation: National and International Legislation across Borders –
THEMATIC
Organizer: Lloyd Klein
W: 718-368-5417; lklein@kbcc.cuny.edu

Session 2: Legitimacy and Bureaucracy of Law
Organizer: Cary Federman
W: 973-655-7576; federmanc@mail.montclair.edu

Co-Sponsored Sessions

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

Session 15: Laws' Violence (Crime and Juvenile Delinquency and Law and Society)
Organizer: Bruce Arrigo
W: 704-687-2686; barrigo@email.uncc.edu

Session 16: Offender Reentry (Crime and Juvenile Delinquency and Law and Society)
Organizer: Kathryn Fox
W: 802-656-2170; kathy.fox@uvm.edu

Session 17: Race, Policy, and Law (Crime and Juvenile Delinquency and Law and Society)
Organizer: Suzanne Goodney Lea
W: 202-884-9234; goodneyleas@trinitydc.edu

Session 18: Restorative Justice (Crime and Juvenile Delinquency and Law and Society)
Organizer: Lloyd Klein
W: 718-368-5417; lklein@kbcc.cuny.edu

Session 19: Wrongful Convictions: Miscarriage of Justice (Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; Law and Society; and Poverty, Class, and Inequality)
Organizer: Emily Horowitz
W: 718-489-5446;
ehorowitz@stfranciscollege.edu

Session 20: Law and Sexuality (Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; Law and Society; and Sexual Behavior; Politics; and Communities)
Organizer: Lloyd Klein
W: 718-368-5417; lklein@kbcc.cuny.edu

Session 21: Sexual Assault and Victimization
(Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; Law and Society; and Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities)
Organizer: Melanie Carlson
H: 407-670-9167; melaniecarlson@earthlink.net

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Session 33: Institutional Ethnographic Studies of New Modes of Governance (Environment and Technology; Institutional Ethnography; and Law and Society)

Co-organizer: Susan Turner

W: 519-824-4120; susantur@uoguelph.ca

and

Co-organizer: Ercument Gundogdu;

gundogdu@yorku.ca

Session 34: Legal Issues and the Environment (Environment and Technology and Law and Society)

Organizer: Lisa Ann Zilney

W: 973-655-7225; zilneyl@mail.montclair.edu

Session 51: The Sociology of Therapeutic Jurisprudence (Law and Society and Mental Health)

Organizer: Stephanie Hartwell;

stephanie.hartwell@umb.edu

REMINDER:

The deadline for submission of papers/abstracts to Session Organizers or the Program Committee Co-Chairs is **Thursday, January 31, 2008!**

Law and Society Division Student Paper Competition and Outstanding Scholarship Award

Alfred R. Lindesmith Award

Deadline: April 1, 2008

The Alfred R. Lindesmith Award is annually given to the best paper presented at the previous year's (2007) SSSP Annual Meeting that is law-related and 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. If your paper or that of a friend meets these criteria, please submit it via hard copy and e-mail to: Emily Horowitz, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201, ehorowitz@stfranciscollege.edu. The winner will receive a plaque and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet.

Law and Society Division Outstanding Scholarship Award

Deadline: April 1, 2008

The Law and Society Division is initiating an annual Outstanding Scholarship Award. This award will go to an author whose work makes a significant contribution to the sociological understanding of issues related to law and society. If you know of a book published within the last year (2007) that you feel should be considered for this award, please mail or e-mail the nomination to Bruce Arrigo, Department of Criminal Justice, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223-0001, barrigo@email.uncc.edu. Please follow e-mailed nominations with a mailed hard copy. Nominations must be for treatises; the committee will not consider textbooks, edited volumes, or articles for this award. Please include the author(s), the title of the book, the publisher, the publication date, and a brief statement of why you believe that work deserves the outstanding scholarship award. The winner will receive a plaque and recognition at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Special Announcements ...

I am organizing a SSSP session sponsored by the SSSP's Social Problems Theory Division and the Teaching Social Problems Division and I am looking for participants.

The session is entitled "Teaching Social Problems Theory in Social Problems Courses in the Core Curriculum."

Social problems courses are often a part of the general education distribution (or core) curriculum. As many of us know, this can be challenging: How can we teach social problems theory to majors (and potential majors) in a manner that also engages students who may never be able to take another sociology course? Which are the best teaching practices to serve both these student constituencies? Similarly, how can we balance the theoretical depth that we feel ethically compelled to convey with the topical breadth that is more attractive to students? For this session, then, we ask that you please share your tensions, ideas, and teaching tips about teaching social problems in the core. Don't be shy!

I am hoping to have a more panel discussion with lots of audience involvement. If you are interested, please contact me ASAP and no later than January 31, 2008.

Kathe Lowney
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice
Valdosta State University
Valdosta, GA 31698-0060
e-mail: klowney@valdosta.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 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.

Crossing Your OWN Borders: Theorizing
Across Substantive Sections of SSSP
Theory Division of SSSP

Organizers: Mitch Berbrier
University of Alabama in Huntsville
mitch.berbrier@uah.edu
and

Michelle Corbin
University of Maryland
mcorbin@socy.umd.edu

Please send submissions for future newsletters to Lloyd Klein or Jen Girgen. Contact information is provided at the top of page 1.

Calls for Papers

The Association for Humanists Sociology (AHS) would like to invite submissions for our 2008 Annual Meeting at the John Hancock Center in Boston, MA, November 6-9. Our conference theme is "What is to be Done? Public Sociology in Theory

and Practice."

While public sociology has attracted excitement in recent years, sociology as a resource for social action is not new. From Marx and Mills, to Dubois

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and Jane Addams, to Al Lee and Francis Fox Piven, the reemergence of public sociology is really the product of a long march by politically interested and socially engaged scholars through educational institutions, professional associations and publications, and other places where sociology is done. Yet, public sociology remains a contested terrain, criticized as "too political" by some and "not political enough" by others. Since our inception in 1976, AHS and its members have been contemplating and practicing public sociology, mostly from the margins of the discipline. Now that public sociology is front and center, we ought to have much to say about it: historically, theoretically,

ethically, politically, and practically. This Annual Meeting is an opportunity to examine the past, evaluate the present, and begin to shape the future of a public sociology that matters. Paper submissions should address some aspect of public sociology and its relationship to teaching, activism, policy or community-based research, or other aspects of sociology as they relate to incorporating humanist goals with sociological work. Please send papers, abstracts, posters or session/workshop ideas to Program Director Daniel Egan, Daniel.Egan@uml.edu or AHS President, Corey Dolgon, cdolgon@worchester.edu

Announcements

SEARCH FOR SSSP EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) announces an opening for the position of Executive Officer. The SSSP is an interdisciplinary and international community of scholars, activists, practitioners, and students creating greater social justice through social research. The members of the SSSP work in colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, research organizations, activist groups, and other applied settings. A detailed description of the Executive Officer's position is posted on the SSSP web site, <http://www.sssp1.org>. Preference will be given to those familiar with, or a commitment to, SSSP's purposes. Interested applicants may apply by submitting a letter of interest, CV, contact information for three references and a letter of support from the applicant's Department Chair and Dean to: Gabriel Aquino, Chair of the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee, Department of Sociology, Westfield State College, 577 Western Avenue, Westfield, MA 01086 (gaguino@wsc.ma.edu). The letter of interest should include a statement of the applicant's vision for the future of the Society and understanding of the duties of the Executive Officer that are stated in the SSSP Bylaws and Operations Manual. The candidate should also indicate what support the host institution is willing to provide if selected for the Executive Office site. Institutional support information should be corroborated by the letters from an official with budgetary authority. Applications received by February 15, 2008 will receive full consideration. Compensation will include salary assistance and travel.

The Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee (POSPC), working in consultation with the Board of Directors and the Treasurer, will screen the applications and will take into consideration the protection/promotion of affirmative action and cultural diversity interests, as well as the qualifications of the applicants and the resources available from the applicants' institutions, including estimated budgets for operating the Executive Office at their institutions. Following established procedures, up to three application files will be supplied to the Board of Directors by July 1, 2008. Finalists will be interviewed by the POSPC and the Board separately at the 2008 Annual Meeting. A site visit to the selected site will be conducted not later than November 1, 2008. Final appointment will take place by March 1, 2009. The President of the Board, Chair of the POSPC, and newly appointed Executive Officer will make arrangements to have the Executive Office moved to its new location – following the 2009 Annual Meeting.