

Newsletter of the Mental Health Division of the Society for the Study of Social  
Problems

Summer 2008

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Summer greetings from the Chair. We will assemble shortly in Boston for the SSSP annual meeting (Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> – Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>) at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers, 64 Arlington Street. It is close to all the ASA hotels and meeting sites so it will not be too difficult to catch sessions at both meetings. We have a great line-up of five sessions (see below for a formatted schedule with meeting rooms). Jay Turner has organized and will be the discussant on Thursday afternoon of *Crossing Borders and Mental Illness* dealing with immigration, returning soldiers and mental health. On Friday afternoon, Eric Wright has organized and will be the discussant of an invited session on *Cutting Edge Issues on Stigma* featuring those sociologists conducting the cutting edge research. On Saturday we have three sessions co-sponsored with three other sessions. First, on Saturday morning Rich Carpiano and Brian Kelly organized a session on *Substance Abuse and Mental Illness*; followed immediately by a session on *Mental Health across the Life Course* organized by Kristen Springer. At the last time slot on Saturday afternoon is a session organized by Stephanie Hartwell on *The Sociology of Therapeutic Jurisprudence*.

At these Boston meetings we are renewing a SSSP Mental Health Division tradition (started by Jay, I think) of having a reception separate from the larger organization's reception where our small group can more easily visit with one another. This arrangement is conducive to established members getting to know new young faculty and graduate students, and vice-versa. Many members have suggested a return to this arrangement, recalling fond memories of past gatherings. The reception will be right after our first session (Jay's *Crossing Borders*) from 6:15-7:30 in the Swan's Café in the lobby of the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers.

The Mental Health Division's business meeting will be Friday at 12:30 in the Georgetown Room. This meeting is important in making plans for next year's program, appointing committees, discussing possible changes to the way we've organized our division. Please come and give us your ideas.

We had a large number of papers submitted to the Mental Health Division's Graduate Student Paper Award competition. In fact, we think it represents a record-breaking number of entries. The judges noted the high quality of papers received. Jason Houle of Pennsylvania State University is this year's award winner for his paper, *Falling from Grace? The Psychological Impact of Downward Intragenerational Mobility*. Some comments from judges are:

*"...a well-formulated paper that .... nicely bridges work from distinct subareas of sociology that need to be integrated more (i.e. class mobility and mental health). I particularly appreciate how the paper draws from classical theory (Durkheim and Sorokin) in addition to the less theoretical/more practical or policy-oriented work of Newman in proposing competing testable hypotheses." "The analysis is sophisticated yet it is explained well. The research questions and hypotheses are carefully formulated, and possible alternative explanations thoughtfully addressed."*

Congratulations to Jason and his faculty mentor, Molly Martin. A second paper was so close that the Award Committee gave Honorable Mention to Robyn Lewis of Florida State University for her paper, *The Significance of Social Stigma for the Association between Visual Impairment and Psychological Well-Being*. Congratulations to Robyn and her faculty mentor, John Taylor. Next year we hope to have a large competitive field again so graduate students be working on your papers to submit and faculty encourage submission of good papers from your graduate students.

Our thanks go to Richard Carpiano, University of British Columbia, who chaired the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee and reviewers on the committee: Karen Albright (University of Colorado Health Sciences and Medical School), Elbert Almazan (UCLA), Henry Eliassen (University of Houston), Virginia Hiday (North Carolina State University), Sara Kuppin (Columbia University) Krysia Mossakowski (University of Miami), David Russell (Rutgers University), and Teresa Scheid (University of North Carolina-Charlotte). And thanks to Eric Wright, past chair, for guidance, assistance and materials.

We want to renew the Greenley Award for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to the Sociology of Mental Health. Please nominate persons whom you think are worthy of this award. Unfortunately, the SSSP only has a record of the winners from 1989, the first year it was given, through 1996 (Walter Gove and Thomas Scheff in 1989, followed by Jerome Myers, David Mechanic, Leonard I. Pearlin, R. Jay Turner, George Brown and Bruce Dohrenwend, and Jim Greenley. Those who were present at last year's division business meeting remember Bill Avison as the last recipient of the award, given at the last San Francisco meeting, 2004; but they could not remember any winners between Jim Greenley and Bill Avison. If anyone remembers recipients and their years, please let me know.

Here's the schedule. See you in Boston at the sessions, reception and business meeting.

*Date:* Thursday, July 31 *Time:* 04:30 PM - 06:10 PM

**THEMATIC Session 44: Crossing Borders and Mental Illness**

*Room:* Whittier *Sponsor:* Mental Health Division

*Organizer, Presider & Discussant:* R. Jay Turner, Florida State University

*Papers:*

“Contexts of Immigrant Reception and Mental Health: Differences Among Cubans in Miami,” Andrew M. Cislo, Duke University, Mathew D. Gayman and Naomi J. Spence, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Immigration Age and Era as Contingencies in the Impact of Mental Health on Occupational Achievement in South Florida,” Donald A. Lloyd, Florida State University

“Returning Home to the Talk of PTSD: How Transition Narratives of Veteran National Guardsmen Construct the Prevalence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder,” Arturo Baiocchi and Thomas Walton, University of Minnesota

“Therapists: Attitudes and Reactions to Changing Formal Social Controls,” Mike Ryan, Longwood University

**Thursday: Mental Health Division Reception 6:15PM - 7:30PM in Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Swan Café.**

**Friday: Mental Health Division Business Meeting 12:30-1:30 Georgetown Room**

*Date:* Friday, August 1 *Time:* 4:30PM - 6:10PM (NOTE: changed from earlier schedule of 8:00AM - 09:40AM)

**Session 52: Emerging and Cutting Edge Issues in Research on the Stigma of Mental Illness**

*Room:* Lexington *Sponsor:* Mental Health Division

*Organizer, Presider & Discussant:* Eric R. Wright, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

*Papers:*

“A Decade of Continuity and Change in the Stigma of Mental Illness: Evidence from Two National Surveys,” Bernice Pescosolido, Jack Martin, J. Scott Long and Tait R. Medina, Indiana University, Bloomington, Bruce G. Link and Jo C. Phelan, Columbia University

“Comparison of Stigma and Status-Hierarchy Processes in Interpersonal Interactions,” Jo C. Phelan, Columbia University, Jeffrey Lucas, University of Maryland and Bruce G. Link, Columbia University

“Taking the Bad with the Good: Negative Interactions, Stigma, and Quality of Life among Persons with Severe Mental Illness,” Sarah Rosenfield, Rutgers University

“Extending Modified Labeling Theory: Self, Family, and Recovery Processes,” Fred E. Markowitz, Northern Illinois University and Beth Angell, University of Chicago

*Date:* Saturday, August 2 *Time:* 08:30 AM - 10:10 AM

**Session 101: Substance Abuse and Mental Illness**

Room: Stuart *Sponsors:* Drinking and Drugs Division & Mental Health Division

*Organizers:* Richard Carpiano, University of British Columbia, Brian C. Kelly, Purdue University

*Papers:*

“The Mental Health Consequences of HIV Disease for Individuals with Substance Abuse Problems,” Teresa Scheid, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

“Addressing Smoking Cessation Among People with Mental Illness,” Erica Solway, University of California, San Francisco

“Peeling Back the Layers: Multiple Disabilities among the Homeless,” Josie Parker, Georgia State University; Pathways Community, Jane Massey and Elizabeth Runkle, Pathways Community Network

“Rational Choice and Crimes of Survival: Mentally Ill Drug Offenders,” Stephanie Hartwell and Xiaogang Deng, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Rosalie Torres Stone and William H. Fisher, UMass Medical School Center for Mental Health

“PTSD, Substance Abuse, and Post-War Functioning in Vietnam Veterans,” J. Blake Turner, Columbia University

*Date:* Saturday, August 2 *Time:* 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM

**Session 104: Mental Health Across the Life Course**

Room: Cabot *Sponsors:* Mental Health Division & Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Division

*Organizer & President:* Kristen Springer, Rutgers University

*Papers:*

“Can and Should the Harmful-Dysfunction Framework of Disorder be Applied to the Study of ADHD?” Vivian Santiago, Columbia University

“The Pharmaceuticalization of Childhood: Ritalin Usage in France and the United States,” Manuel Vallee, University of California, Berkeley

“Differences in Partner Homogamy and Mental Health by Race/Ethnicity: The Role of Perceived Mate Availability,” Dawne Mouzon, Rutgers University

“A Thousand Tiny Cuts: The Social Roots of Postpartum Depression,” Carolyn Barber, Rutgers University

“The Effect of Sibling Number on Adult Self-Acceptance,” Laurie Cohen, Rutgers University

*Date:* Saturday, August 2 *Time:* 04:30 PM - 06:10 PM

***Session 140:* Sociology of Therapeutic Jurisprudence**

Room: Hancock *Sponsors:* Law and Society Division & Mental Health Division

*Organizer & President:* Stephanie Hartwell, University of Massachusetts, Boston  
*Papers:*

“Therapy as Social Control in a Maximum Security Prison for Women: Racial Differences in the Social Construction of Mental Illness,” Matthew Silberman, Bucknell University

“Event History Analysis of Mental Health Court Graduates,” Brad Ray, North Carolina State University

“The Effects of Mental Health Court on Criminal Recidivism, Stigma, Social Support and Self-Concept,” Christian Ritter, Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy, Kristen Marcussen, Kent State University and Mark Munetz, Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy

“The Old Diagnosis of ‘Dangerousness’: Should the Designation of ‘The Enemy Combatant’ become a New Category in DSM-V?” Siamak Movahedi, University of Massachusetts, Boston

“Does Civil Commitment Prevent Violence by Incapacitation?” Charles W. Lidz, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Edward P. Mulvey and Carol Schubert, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Steven Banks, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Jennifer Skeem and Candice Odgers, University of California, Irvine