

Poverty, Class, & Inequality

Division Newsletter

Society for the Study of Social Problems
Summer 2006

In this Issue:

- ✓ **Incoming Chair's Message:**
E. Brooke Kelly
- ✓ **Outgoing Chair's Message:**
Eric Swank
- ✓ **2006 SSSP Conference**
Information
- ✓ **Research Awards**
- ✓ **Conference Proceedings**
- ✓ **Call for Papers:**
 - ✎ Research in Political Sociology
 - ✎ Humanity and Society
 - ✎ Critical Sociology
 - ✎ The Journal of Primary Prevention
 - ✎ Families in Society
 - ✎ Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved
 - ✎ International Political Sociology

Incoming Chair's Message:




Dear PCI Division Members,

As incoming chair, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and solicit your feedback, enthusiasm, and ideas. I am an assistant professor in the department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. I have training and interests in gender studies, family sociology, and sociology of work. However, I have always centered and problematized inequalities in my own work. My most recent projects focus on rural poverty and the efforts necessary for mothers in rural areas to negotiate low-wage employment. Teaching and working in a county that has lost more than 9,000 jobs in textile and apparel since 1993 makes the realities of poverty and unemployment palpable, just as Hurricane Katrina awakened many to poverty previously brushed aside. It strikes me that we are at a critical juncture as scholars of inequality. Not only do we possess the skills to examine and assess the implications of such realities and problems, but we can also facilitate a dialogue about such problems beyond our own circles. I believe this section of SSSP is a wonderful venue to begin such a venture, and I welcome any and all of your suggestions on how to make this happen. Please contact me directly with your ideas (brooke.kelly@uncp.edu). I look forward to seeing you in Montreal.

Sincerely,
E. Brooke Kelly

2006 SSSP Conference Information:




Location:

-  Montreal
-  *Hilton Montréal Bonaventure*
-  900 de La Gauchetiere West




Dates:

-  August 10-12




PCI Section Meeting:

-  Thursday
-  10:30-12:10 pm
-  in Fontaine C

PCI Reception:

-  Thursday
-  6:30-7:30 pm
-  in Le Portage

Awards Banquet:

-  Friday
-  8:00-10:00 pm
-  at Westmont

Outgoing Chair's Message:

This upcoming conference should be a busy time. We will be recognizing the winners of the PCI research awards, we will be sponsoring some great sessions and we will be making some plans for the next year (and there will be joint reception as well).

The PCI papers at the upcoming conference in Montreal are an eclectic lot. In our six sessions, these works will explore they ways institutional practices perpetuate hierarchies among the housed and the homeless, the working poor and the middle-class, the landed-gentry and the disenfranchised. We have a large number of works with an policy focus, with a good deal of the studies exploring the consequences of governmental policies in housing, child care, working conditions, consumer debt and human rights. Additionally, these studies are drawing upon any different methodologies will be taking to us to Canada, Haiti, India, Cuba and the US.

My tenure as PCI session chair is coming to an end. This stint in the SSSP bureaucracy has been enjoyable and I do hope that the PCI section has served you well (as either a supportive venue to share one's research or as place to find like minded colleagues from other college campuses). In doing my tasks, I have felt very fortunate to meet numerous critical scholars with real committed to social change (be it in the classroom, community or academic studies). And the during the times of Bush, meeting with scholars who value clear thinking, greater equity and democratic process can be very refreshing. This also means E. Brooke Kelly of UNC Pembroke will taking over as the new PCI chair. I see her energy, competence and imagination taking the section into even greater feats.

Eric Swank,
Morehead State University
<e.swank@morehead-st.edu>

Conference proceedings in Montreal (August 10-12, 2006):

Session: Poverty and Power:

1- “The Frequency of Human Rights Violations in Port-au-Prince, Haiti,”
Athena Kolbe and Royce A. Hutson, Wayne State University

2- “Organizational Politics and Economic Rents: Towards a Relational Model of Stratification,”
Dustin Avent-Holt, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

3- “Victims, Villains and Higher Justice: Media and the Moral Governance of Disasters,”
Michael Coyle, Arizona State University and Michaela Popescu, University of Pennsylvania

4- “Restoring Civic Legitimacy and Social Value: Prerequisites for Social Capital Building,”
Kathryn A. Sowards, Center for Community Alternatives and John C. Mero, Syracuse University

5- “Policy Brief Analysis: High Stakes Testing,”
Sharon Yee, Arizona State University

Session: Work, Family and Social Class:

1- “Impact of Family Leave in Canada and the United States on Post-Birth Employment Dynamics of Women”
Eileen Trzcinski, Wayne State University and Maria Hanratty University of Minnesota

2- “Bringing Low-Income Mothers back in: Competing Moral Domains of Work and Motherhood in the Post TANF Welfare Policy Regime.”
Judith Hennessy, Central Washington University

3- “The Relationship Between Work and Childcare”
Keith Johnson, The State University of New York Institute of Technology.

4- “Social Mobility: ‘A Gender Dilemma’: How Work and Family Affect Women’s Class”
Sarah A Damaske, New York University.

Session: Debt, credit and inequality:

1- “Leveraged Buyouts for the Poor: Credit Cards and the New Get Rich Quick Schemes”
Dan Krier and Ryan Orr, Iowa State University.

2- “Just Prior to Personal Bankruptcy: Privations of America’s Most Indebted Families”
Deborah Thorne, Ohio University.

3- “Ethnicity, Housing Tenure and Residential Choice: The Role of Wealth”
Antwan Jones, Bowling Green State University.

4- “Rethinking the Role of Foreign Investment and International Lenders in Developing Economies.”
Micah Holland, University of Cincinnati.

Session: The Creation and Formation of Racial Identities:

1- “What’s in a Name: How Latino Identity Has Been Portrayed in U. S. High School History and Civics Textbooks,”
Keith M. Kilty, Ohio State University and Maria Vidal de Haymes, Loyola University Chicago

2- “Latinos’ Racial Identities,”
Joseph Michael, University of Cincinnati

3- “Black Nationalism and Political Behavior”
Randall Swain, Morehead State University.

4- “Race/Ethnicity and the Body Project: Perceptions of Overweight, Actual Weight, and Weight Control Practices in Adolescent Girls,”
Patricia Yancey Martin, John Reynolds, Emily Boyd and Kathryn Tillman, Florida State University

4- “Public Opinion and Prevalence of Homelessness in Canada: A Preliminary Investigation”
Karen L. Hobden and Paul A. Toro, Wayne State University.

Session: Homelessness—Understanding Unique Sub-Groups of the homeless population:

1- “I’ll show it to everyone’: Homeless women create their own websites”
Marcella C. Gemelli, Arizona State University

2 -“The differences between currently homeless and formerly homeless women:”
Amy Donley, University of Central Florida

3- “Polydrug use amongst “traveling” homeless youth”
Bill Sanders and Steve Lankenau , University of Southern California; Jennifer Jackson-Bloom and Dodi Hathazi, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

4- “Homeless and Victimized”
Melanie Carlson, University of Central Florida.

Session: Homelessness—Policy, Politics and Implications for the Homeless

1- “Predictors of Homeless Youth Service Provision”
Nicole Esparaza, Princeton University.

2- “Politics of Homelessness: Hidden Motivation in Criminalizing the Homeless”
Olivia R. Hetzler, University of Missouri-Columbia.

3- “Compassion Fatigue: News Coverage of Homelessness and Activism”
Diana E. Leung, University of British Columbia.

Research Awards:

In honoring recent studies on inequalities, PCI is proud to announce the winners of this year’s research awards. For the faculty award, the committee decided to go with Ira Silver and Mary-Ellen Boyle’s paper “Poverty, Partnerships, & Privilege: Elite Institutions and Community Empowerment” (available in the most recent edition of *City and Community*). In addressing a university’s efforts at “community revitalization,” this works shows how the apparently “benign” or “noble” project can turn into another version of empire building. One reviewer wrote “this work shows how easily universities and foundations can expand their power base, co-opt community activist groups while maintaining the guise of “liberal” or “well-intentioned benefactors.” Allison Pugh of the University of California wrote the strongest student paper of “Culture, Inequality and Consumption”. In the vein of Thorstein Veblen, her study focuses on issues of childhood self-conceptions and the ability to possess high status goods. Her special attention to the nuances and subtleties of this insidious socialization process was noted by several judges.

Call for papers:

Research in Political Sociology is accepting manuscripts for Vol. 16 that will focus on Politics, Neoliberalism, and Market Fundamentalism. The primary objective of **Research in Political Sociology** is to publish high quality, original scholarly manuscripts that advance the understanding of politics in society in a wide array of substantive areas that use different methods and employ a range of theoretical perspectives. Manuscripts submitted for Volume 16 can focus on empirical issues such as, but not limited to, business policy, social policy, globalization, inequality, and political protest. Four copies of the manuscripts should be submitted to Harland Prechel, Department of Sociology, 4351 Academic Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-4351. Deadline: August 30, 2006.

Humanity and Society invites submissions for a Special Issue, titled “Critical Race Theory: Applications and Interrogations,” edited by A. Javier Treviño and Michele A. Harris. A broad range of papers that carefully examine the impact that Critical Race Theory can make on various social phenomena (e.g., race relations, civil rights, immigration, social action), public policy, teaching, scholarly research, and social institutions (e.g., the workplace, health care, religion, family, law) are encouraged. Manuscripts should be 20-25 pages and should follow the standard editorial procedures of the journal. Papers written in the traditional scholarly mode as well as in the narrative or “storytelling” style (autobiographical and biographical) that develops a self-reflective form of sociology are welcome. Contact: jtrevino@wheatonma.edu or mharris@wheatonma.edu. Submit complete manuscripts to: Ann M. Goetting at Ann.Goetting@wku.edu. Identify your submission with keyword: Race. Manuscripts are due July 1, 2006.

Critical Sociology publishes articles from all perspectives within a broad definition of critical or radical social science. The journal grew out of tumultuous times of the late 1960s and was a by-product of the “Sociology Liberation Movement.” It has published work mainly within the broadest boundaries of the Marxist tradition, although it has also been home to post-modern, feminist, and other radical arguments. Send manuscripts to: Prof David Fasenfest, Critical Sociology 3229 FAB, Wayne State University 656 W. Kirby, Detroit, MI 48202, USA david.fasenfest@wayne.edu

The Journal of Primary Prevention, is preparing a special issue on homelessness prevention. Papers are invited that provide new knowledge and insight into services, programs, and policies that help individuals, youth, and families with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders to avoid becoming homeless and exit homelessness quickly. Contact: Dawn Jahn Moses at (617) 964- 3834 ext. 36 or dawn.moses@familyhomelessness.org. Deadline for submission: June 1, 2006.

Families in Society: Increasingly, many low-income working individuals and families confront significant challenges in their ability to remain economically self-sufficient. A substantial portion of these individuals, referred to as “working but poor”, or “the working poor”, rotate in and out of social service agencies seeking assistance in coping with everyday challenges emerging from insufficient social and/or financial capital. For this special focus, Families in Society is soliciting manuscripts, essays, and case studies containing research, policy, or practice interventions relating to affected individuals and families. Please inquire about this special focus by e-mail at:

manuscripts@familiesinsociety.org. Manuscripts should be submitted as attachments to the above email address by September 15, 2006.

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved: Papers are invited on the theme of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma and their Public Health Implications. Of special interest is how race and/or class relate to specific public health concerns emanating from the disaster and in ideas for solutions. Deadline: September 1, 2006 . For more info: journalquestion@mmc.edu or call 800-669-1269.

International Political Sociology, a new interdisciplinary journal to be published beginning in 2007. This new journal, from the International Studies Association, will draw especially on traditions of historical, legal, economic and political sociology, as well as on the burgeoning literatures on socio-political theory. Papers must be sent to both didier.bigo@libertysecurity.org and ips@ceri-sciencespo.org.

Seeking Newsletter Editor

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the PCI division, please contact :

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New Chair Contact Information

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