

Hi Everyone.

I hope you are doing well as the academic year moves along.

I wanted to remind you about several important items. First is the annual meeting August 2015 in Chicago. It is not too early to think about submitting papers. Our Division will sponsor three sessions and co-sponsor seven other sessions. So check the SSSP website for further details as they become available. Second is to think about submitting nominations for the Harrington Award and Student Paper Awards. The details are on the SSSP website. Third, please watch for and participate in the upcoming SSSP general elections. Fourth, please email me (williamcabin@yahoo.com or wcabin@umich.edu) with information you'd like included in the newsletter including your own accomplishments (publications, presentations, promotions, etc.); articles or web-based information you believe are important; and guest articles.

My best, Bill (Bill Cabin, PCI Division Chair)

Guest Article

Speaking of guest articles, here is one from David Wagner, a long-time PCI Division member.

From David Wagner (<http://wagnerpoverty.net>), on his new book: *Unlikely Fame: Poor People Who Made History*, with Jenna Nuziato.

ON FAME, POVERTY & RELUCTANT SCHOLARS

Several years ago as a sociologist, who is also very absorbed in American history, I became interested in the possibility of a new source about poverty. Everyone who has studied or researched in this area knows how little data is left behind by the lower classes of society as compared with upper and middle class members. After getting interested in the “miracle worker” Anne Sullivan who grew up in poverty and was never able to shake its effects (or her identification with the poor) and writing a book about her (*The Miracle Worker and the Transcendentalist*, Paradigm, 2012), I wondered if other poor people who were famous could provide sources of rich data about their lives and also whether they would have similar experiences to Sullivan.

Interestingly when I started my work, a number of my friends on the Left expressed hesitation about the project. They wondered whether poor people gaining mobility and fame (only sometimes wealth) would go against the project of informing people how rare mobility is in America. I thought a lot about this. Generally, of course, I very much agree with their view, and put prominently in my new book the rarity of not only poor people, but working people achieving upward mobility. Using the massive American National Biography, I found out of many thousands of biographies very few from those who were not at least middle class.

Still I am a little struck by the comments along with some other experiences I have had that many academics on the Left are so scared of controversy and also so pessimistic about having any control of the public and academic discourse. Now that the *Unlikely Fame: Poor People who Made History* is out, the first two stories in the news media about it in the *Huffington Post* and *Newark Star-Ledger* both referenced the difficulty of poor people have moving up in our society. Yet as presumably others read the book, hopefully the more major point of how the 27 people in the book- from Jack London to Margaret Sanger to Charlie Chaplin to Babe Ruth to Richard Wright to Billie Holiday to Marilyn Monroe, Malcolm X, Johnny Cash to Stephen King and George Lopez- were greatly shaped by poverty and most suffered their whole life as a result of this poverty can also make news or at least be read. I have the feeling we need to be bolder and less shaped by our fears.

PCI Member News

Clare Huntington, a Professor at Fordham Law School, published a new book: *failure to Flourish: How Law Undermines Family Relationships*. It is published by Oxford University Press. If you are interested in purchasing, you can get a 20% discount using promotional code 32722.

Request for Articles for SSSP's journal, *Social Problems*

The new editors of *Social Problems* are interested in increasing the participation of SSP members in the journal submission and review process. They encourage Division members to submit articles and to serve as reviewers for the journal. Reviewers must be faculty members. If you are interested, please contact: Pamela Anne Quiroz (paquiroz@uic.edu)