

# Poverty, Class, & Inequality Division Newsletter

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Summer 2005

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**2005**  
**ANNUAL**  
**MEETING**

**AUGUST 12-14**

**CROWNE PLAZA  
HOTEL**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**

## Chair: Eric Swank

### Chair's Message

During the upcoming meeting in Philly, the PCI will be active. Along academic lines, the section will sponsor or co-sponsor six paper sessions. In choosing crucial and poignant themes, our able session organizers have assembled an impressive and eclectic list of papers. These works come from many theoretical perspectives and deal with the dynamics that cause and perpetuate inequalities (i.e., racism in US homeless shelters or the pay scales of multinational corporations) and grassroots attempts to alter or lessen such polarizing forces (i.e., the political participation of runaways and the way poor people circumvent derogatory characterizations). PCI has some social events planned as well. The first shindig will be the divisional business meeting (Friday 12:30 to 2pm in Liberty room A). At this meeting we will plan sessions for next year's conference and solicit nominees for SPSS committee assignments (for the list of openings please see Carrie Yang Costello's message at the end of this newsletter). If you are interested in any of these tasks, please attend this gathering, stop Eric Swank at the conference, or email me <e.swank@morehead-st.edu> or Carrie herself. Another conference event is the PCI reception. This year we are creating a joint effort and having one big bash with several other sections (Friday from 6:30pm - 7:30pm).

Eric Swank  
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## Contact Information for Poverty Class & Inequality:

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**CALL FOR EDITOR**  
**For**  
**RACE IN SOCIETY**

The Publications Committee of the Association of Black Sociologists welcomes applications for the next editor of **RACE IN SOCIETY**. The editor serves a three-year term. Your application should include a preliminary discussion of the monetary and/or in-kind resources your institution would provide to the editor, including office space, furniture, networked computers, printer(s), telephone and e-mail access, graduate student assistance stipend(s), and faculty release time. Additional items that should be discussed are expenses for photocopying, postage, supplies, a managing editor (including summer salary), and funding for a book review editor(s) and summer staff. Applicants should send a letter of application, curriculum vita, and documentation of institutional support by **July 15, 2005**. Members of ABS are encouraged to apply and/or nominate colleagues who might be encouraged to apply. Please send applications and nominations to: *Donald Cunnigen, Department of Sociology-Anthropology, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881-0808. For more information, contact Donald Cunnigen, ABS Publications Committee Chairperson, at: [Dcunn@uriacc.uri.edu](mailto:Dcunn@uriacc.uri.edu)*

**A SPECIAL ISSUE OF JOURNAL OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Submission Deadline: July 15, 2005**

A forth-coming issue of the Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment will focus on homelessness. Articles in this special issue will examine the nature and characteristics of homelessness, causes and contributing factors, as well as interventions and programs that address homelessness. Submissions of manuscripts that are based on empirical studies of homelessness are encouraged, but manuscripts on theoretical issues and/or practice frameworks will be considered. Manuscripts may not exceed 30 pages in length. Include an abstract of 100 words or less and 3 – 5 key words. The references and format of the manuscript should follow the style of the American Psychological Association. Please submit your manuscript in MS Word for peer-review, via email to [rnooe@utk.edu](mailto:rnooe@utk.edu) or [dpatter2@utk.edu](mailto:dpatter2@utk.edu). For further information, contact either of the guest editors.

**Special Issue Editors:**

**Roger M. Nooe, Ph.D Professor.**

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The Journal of Poverty: Innovations on Social, Political & Economic Inequalities is the first refereed journal designed to provide a focused outlet for discourse on poverty and inequality. The Journal welcomes article manuscripts which sensitize social scientists and practitioners to the varied forms and patterns of inequalities, new developments in cultural diversity, and interventions promoting equality and social justice. Article manuscripts should increase knowledge of oppressive forces such as racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia, which contribute to the maintenance of poverty and inequality, and suggest methods of change leading toward the eradication of such oppressive forces. Submissions may be theoretical, analytical, or empirical (quantitative Manuscripts should be submitted in quadruplicate to the Editors, Keith M. Kilty, PhD, and Elizabeth A. Segal, Ph.D., P. O. Box 3613, Columbus, OH 43210-3613 USA.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**

## SSSP Conference Proceedings (PCI SESSIONS):

### Title of Session: The Politics of Welfare Reform

- 'The States' Role in Welfare Reform: The National Governors' Association and Changes in Federal Welfare Legislation, 1988-1996"  
Carson Hicks, Columbia University  
Email: cch30@columbia.edu
- "The Politics of Women's Literacy in the Post-Welfare Era"  
Lorna Rivera, University of Massachusetts-Boston  
Email: lorna.rivera@umb.edu
- "Welfare Reform: What's Poverty Got to Do with It?"  
Keith Kilty, Ohio State University  
Email: Keith Kilty <kilty.1@osu.edu>
- "Is SSI a Safety Net or Social Control for Impoverished Appalachians?"  
Joanna M. Badagliacco, Carey D. Brown, Ashley Wellman, University of Kentucky  
Email: Badagliacco, Joanna" jmb@email.uky.edu

### Title of the session: Homelessness--Service barriers:

- "Institutional Ties and Trajectories of Homeless Parents and Children"  
Trillo, A., Saint Xavier University
- "The Homeless in Black and White: Affordable Housing, Shelter Access, and Racial Composition of the Homeless"  
Carter, G. University of Michigan  
Email: cartergr@umich.edu
- "Do Service Users Move to be Close to Services? Testing NIMBY in a Homeless Drug Abusing Population"  
Pollio, D, North, C., and Eyrich, K., Washington University  
Email: depollio@gwbmail.wustl.edu
- "Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Related Behaviors Amongst Homeless Women."  
Austin, E, Andersen, R., and Gelberg, L., UCLA,  
Email: elAustin@ucla.edu

### Title of the session: Homelessness—Policy, Politics, and Power:

- Public Policy Nihilism: Gender & Homelessness in Canada  
Tracy Peressini, University of Waterloo  
Email: tperessi@uwaterloo.ca
- Democracy Despire Barriers: The Political Activism of Some Homeless Youth, and the Political Alienation of Many  
Matthew Cardinale, UC Irvine  
Email: mcardina@uci.edu
- Homeless Families and Childcare Assistance: Vulnerable Futures and the Inevitability of State Fiscal Crisis  
Matt Aronson, Colorado State University  
Email: maronson@lamar.colostate.edu
- Down and Out in Downtown Los Angeles: Identity Management of Skid Row Residents at a Community Feeding  
Pamela Leong, University of Southern California  
Email: pamelale@usc.edu
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### Title of Session: Inequality, Globalization, and Empire:

- "Misinterpretation of Poverty by Poor Women in Turkey"  
Fatime Gunes, Anadolu University  
Email: fgunes@anadolu.edu.tr
- "Hawaiians and discrimination: a human capital analysis"  
Maria-Elena D. Diaz, University of Notre Dame  
Email: mdiaz5@nd.edu

- "Patterns of Inequality in the World-Economy: First Results from the Standardized Income Distribution Database"  
Salvatore Babones, Maria Jose Alvarez, University of Pittsburgh  
Email: sbabones@pitt.edu; maa7@pitt.edu
- "Integration, Citizenship, and Minority Rights: The European Union vs. the Nation State?"  
Lisa Fein, University of Michigan  
Email: lisafein@umich.edu

Title of Session: Bankruptcy, Debt and Inequality:

- "Working the System that is Working Her"  
Jennifer Friedman, Laurel Graham, University of South Florida.  
Email: friedman@cas.usf.edu; lgraham@cas.usf.edu
- "Who in the World Benefits from Free Trade?: A Case Study of the World Wine Industry"  
Heather Jamerson, Emory University.  
Email: hjamers@emory.edu
- "Just How Clean is the Slate?: Reduced Life Chances After Personal Bankruptcy"  
Deborah Thorne, Ohio University  
Email: thorned@ohio.edu

Title of Session: Class Dynamics in Tax and Welfare Policy:

- "Taxable Income from Dividends, Capital Gains, and Wages and Salaries: Taxation and Social Justice in the US, 1978-2002"  
Richard Caputo, Yeshiva University.
- "No to US Citizenship - I am Sovereign: The Logic of Patriot Tax Resisters."  
Lorna Mason, CUNY Graduate Center.
- "Welfare Diversion Texas Style: The One-Time Benefit Program in Texas"  
Karen Douglas, Prairie View A&M University; Laura Lein and Kathleen Murphy, University of Texas at Austin.
- "TANF Justice: The Impact of Welfare Implementation on Fair Hearing Appeals"  
Frank Ridzi, LeMoyne College

**Book Discussion: Breaking the Code of Good Intentions**

Examining the contemporary white experience, *Breaking the Code of Good Intentions* examines why most white people in the United States believe we have achieved racial equality, even though social and economic indicators suggest otherwise. Drawing on systematic research conducted at the largest urban public university in the country, Melanie Bush explores white students' perceptions about identity, privilege, democracy, and inter-group relations.

The book explores mechanisms that reinforce adherence to dominant narratives and function to maintain and reproduce racialized structures of inequality. It identifies "cracks in the wall of whiteness," circumstances that can foster understanding about systemic and racialized patterns of inequality. The author illuminates the connection between everyday thinking and the policies and programs that structure society.

Framed within an analysis of economic and political transitions that have occurred within the United States and globally in the second half of the twentieth century, the author examines the shift in public opinion from a presumption of collective responsibility for the common good, toward a belief in the social survival of the fittest. Concluding with recommendations for academia and society at large, the author contends that the time is overdue for the dismantling of narratives that align ordinary whites with global elites. Indeed, she argues, the very future of humanity depends on challenging this persistent pattern.

Melanie Bush. 2004. *Breaking the Code of Good Intentions: Everyday Forms of Whiteness*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

### **Call for Discussion by Melanie Bush:**

Breaking the Code of Good Intentions: Everyday Forms of Whiteness (BCGI) came out [last] summer. My greatest hope is that it will be useful to engage discussions about where we are as a society, and how people develop ways of thinking that seem contrary to their material interests. In particular I am hoping that it provides insight as to why racial inequality persists - that it helps whites especially understand how racialization and racism shape all of our lives and the stories we are told to tell about history and current circumstances.

We need to understand how that wallet became a gun (Diallo), how "morality" became about who marries who, rather than poverty war hunger violence and racism. This is what this book is about. Using the discussions, surveys, interviews and observation of over 1000 Brooklyn College students, I identified ways that structures of society are disguised for example the notion that everything that happens is because of us as individuals (lazy and poor or hardworking and rich) (The Afterword has a section on Chickens Roosting, Wizards Oz-ing and Sharks Biting!) but also openings where I think we have a chance to make inroads into understanding what is really happening - why for example did so many people cast their vote as they did on Nov. 2nd.

My goal is to engage the conversation... Thanks for your consideration.

Melanie

### **Call for Nominations of SSSP Positions and Committees:**

Dear SSSP Members,

I hope this message finds you enjoying your summer. I am Carrie Yang Costello, the Chair of Special Division Chairs of the SSSP. At our upcoming annual meeting (only a few weeks away!), I have the responsibility of facilitating two meetings of the Special Division Chairs held so that the Chairs can develop and vote upon lists of nominees for various elected SSSP positions and committees. If you would like an opportunity to serve the SSSP and the profession, you may send an e-mail to me at this time stating your interest. The positions and committees for which nominees are needed are listed below. Please indicate which of these interests you, and, to assist the Division Chairs, please let us know in what capacity you have worked with SSSP in the past, and inform us of other experience which you feel makes you qualified for the position. I need to hear from you by Monday, August 1.

#### The positions for which nominees will be needed are:

- o President-Elect (2006-2007); President (2007-2008), 2 candidates needed
- o Vice-President Elect (2006-2007); Vice-President (2007-2008), 2 candidates needed
- o Board of Directors (2006-2009), 6 candidates needed
- o Student Board Representative (2006-2008), 2 candidates needed
- o Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, (2006-2009), 2 candidates needed
- o Editorial and Publications Committee, (2006-2009), 4 candidates needed
- o Committee on Committees, (2006-2009), 4 candidates needed

Nominees for the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee should have substantial financial competence. Those nominated for the Editorial and Publications Committee should have editorial expertise and a history of reviewing for and/or publishing in Social Problems. Strong candidates for the Committee on Committees should have substantial and varied professional networks, and familiarity with the institutional history of the SSSP. Candidates for the Board of Directors should have a history of involvement with the SSSP, obviously of a shorter nature for student nominees than for regular nominees. Finally, nominees for President-Elect and Vice-President-Elect should have a longstanding history of involvement with SSSP, and a reputation as significant contributors to the sociology of social problems.

Thank you!

Best, Carrie

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