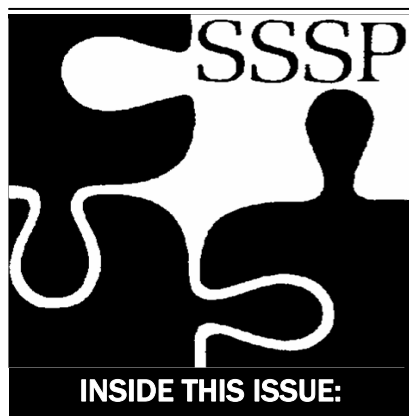


# Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter

Editor: Ken Kyle

Public Affairs & Administration  
California State University, East Bay

Editorial Asst: Jenny Lam



## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

This summer's issue of *Social Problems Forum* includes another installment of our Presidential Reflections Essay Series, this one by Louis Kriesberg who served as SSSP president from 1983-1984. It offers an essay raising concerns about No Child Left Behind legislation, its impact, and its likely continuation by educator John S. Broussard. And it presents a question and answer exchange with SSSP member (and forensic sociologist, applied sociological consultant and university instructor) Stephen Morewitz for this edition's Job Talk.

Also appearing is timely information on our upcoming annual conference in Boston (e.g., registration and hotel information, fundraiser and reception information, etc.) and other important business information (e.g., calls for resolutions, welcome message for new members, etc.). In addition, we include program information on two other conferences associated with the SSSP taking place on Sunday, August 3, 2008: the 16th Annual International Coalition Against Sexual Harassment conference and a one day conference on "Power and Resistance, Critical Reflections and Possible Futures" co-sponsored by *Critical Sociology*, the SSSP Global Division, the ASA Marxist Section, and SAGE Publications.

I hope to see you in Boston next month!

Cheers,  
Ken Kyle, Editor

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## 2008 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

### PRESIDENT ELECT (2008-2009)

#### President (2009-2010)

JoAnn L. Miller

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#### Vice-President (2009-2010)

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David R. Rudy

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### EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (2008-2011)

Benigno E. Aguirre

Claire M. Renzetti

# FUTURE SSSP ANNUAL MEETINGS

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

**August 7-9, 2009**  
**The Stanford Court Hotel**  
**San Francisco, CA, USA**

**August 13-15, 2010**  
**The Sheraton Atlanta Hotel**  
**Atlanta, GA, USA**

**August 12-14, 2011**  
**The Blackstone, A Renaissance Hotel**  
**Chicago, IL, USA**

**\*\*\* VISIT THE SSSP WEBSITE – <http://www.sssp1.org> \*\*\***

## Submission Information:

.....  
 We welcome essays, commentaries, letters to the editor, and announcements of interest to SSSP members. Submissions by email or diskette using Microsoft Word or Word Perfect files are preferred. For a list of books available for review, see <http://www.sssp1.org/index/cfm/m/274> The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is September 26, 2008.

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**Jenny Lam**, Editorial Assistant  
 California State University, East Bay

# From the Executive Office — Tom Hood

First congratulations to Robert Perrucci, Kathleen Ferraro, JoAnn L. Miller and Glenn W. Muschert on completion of the editing of the eleven chapter, AGENDA FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: SOLUTIONS 2008. Visit our web site [http://www.sssp1.org/File/Agenda\\_For\\_Social\\_Justice\\_2008.pdf](http://www.sssp1.org/File/Agenda_For_Social_Justice_2008.pdf) for free download of abstracts and/or full text. As you read note how five of the eleven selections help to define problems in the socialization and support of the next generation of Americans. These problems appear in several levels of our educational institutions and in the nature of the American family. Does American society lack an adequate institutional/organizational structures to address the concerns raised in these articles?

Second congratulations to the winners of our first general election conducted by electronic ballot. You will find the results elsewhere in this issue. Please give the newly elected candidates your full support. The Society needs the efforts of every member to remain strong and to deal with the problems noted in AGENDA. Thank you to every candidate who stood for election. Those of us who work in the Executive Office know that agreeing to run for office is a meaningful commitment and, of course, not every candidate that appears on the ballot is elected. Please support President Elect JoAnn L. Miller over the next few months as she makes a few key appointments that will serve in important positions during her Presidency.

Third congratulations to the organizers of the 2008 Program for the Boston meeting. President Nancy Naples theme, **CROSSING BORDERS: ACTIVIST SCHOLARSHIP, GLOBALIZATION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE** produced an abundance of submissions organized into sessions by the Special Problems Divisions and the Program Committee. Go to our web site and see how exciting the program looks. This annual meeting is not to be missed. Special thanks go to the Program Committee Co-Chairs Hector Delgado and Wendy Simonds and the members of their committee Alison Griffith, Adia Harvey Wingfield, Charlotte Ryan and Clare Weber. Each year many hours go into the preparation of the annual meeting program. We have a record number of papers and presentations scheduled for the annual meeting this year, which will take place in Boston from July 31-August 2. YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND, AREN' T YOU? Send in your registration today. All necessary details appear on our web site.

Since I wrote to you last, the Executive Office has added a half-time staff member with primary responsibility for dealing with our web site. Sharon Shumaker, a native of Tennessee and honor graduate of the University of Tennessee with majors in Math and Computer Science, brings an excellent skill set, a strong work ethic and experience in meeting deadlines from her time in the business world. Sharon plans to return to school part-time possibly studying psychology, while maintaining a family life with her husband and young daughter. In addition, Sharon will assist us at the annual meeting. We have found her

an excellent addition who works well with Michele Smith Koontz, our Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager and Sarah Hendricks, our Graduate Assistant. Sarah completed her Masters degree in our department recently and is continuing in our Ph.D. program.

I am happy to report that the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee's biannual visit to the Executive Office went very well with administrators at the University of Tennessee continuing to express strong support for hosting the Executive Office.

As we enter this election season, I hope that each of you will challenge the candidates to not think of the United States of America as an empire. In recent years the United States government has acted as if we were an empire. An early Christian acrostic was "Roma." The first letters of four Latin words formed the acrostic. *Radix* means "root"; *omnium* means "all"; *malorum* means "evil"; *avaritia* means "avarice" (or "greed"). I am indebted to the scholarship of Marcus Borg for calling this to my attention. Just as Rome became corrupt as a system of domination as it gathered resources from the known world to furnish its palaces, those of us who care must watch our lives. As Borg puts it in his book, *THE HEART OF CHRISTIANITY*, "The embodiment of greed in domination systems is the root of all evil." Keep working to combat the arrogance of power and the visions of empire in the minds of candidates.

Thank you to all of you who make the Society for the Study of Social Problems possible.

Tom Hood, Executive Officer

## Call for SSSP Nominations

This year, we will be electing a President-Elect, a Vice-President Elect, regular and student members of the Board of Directors, members of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, Committee on Committee, and the Editorial and Publications Committee. Please consider nominating a colleague or yourself for one of these offices. To complete an online nomination form for elected offices, go to <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1082/>.

Nominations should include a brief description of the nominee's SSSP involvement and other relevant experiences. The Nominations Committee will meet at the Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. All nominations should be submitted prior to July 15, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Mezey, Chair, Council of Special Problems Divisions, [nmezey@monmouth.edu](mailto:nmezey@monmouth.edu).

## FILM EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

**Saturday, August 1**  
**The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers**  
**Room: Stanbro**

This year's film exhibit is organized by Program Committee member Clare Weber, California State University, Dominguez Hills.

**12:30PM – 2:10PM**  
***IMAGINE IF YOU WERE POOR LIKE ME***

CTV Productions produced this video for Mercy Connections. It features several women talking about what it's like to live in poverty. A film that breaks stereotypes. It examines the personal struggles of women in poverty. The women featured in the documentary will be on hand to discuss the film and anti-poverty struggles.

**2:30PM – 4:10PM**  
***BREAKTHROUGH***

Breakthrough is an international human rights organization that uses education and popular culture to promote values of dignity, equality and justice. Breakthrough will be showing several music videos focusing on women's rights, violence and HIV/AIDS. There is a curriculum that accompanies the videos. In addition, they have an amazing video game on detention and deportation for use in the classroom. Breakthrough human rights advocates will be presenting the videos and games and will be available for discussion.

**4:30PM – 6:10PM**  
***AN ARMY OF LABOR: THE BRACERO PROGRAM***

Labor documentarian Vivan Price partners with Gilbert Gonzalez to reexamine the Bracero Program in light of current immigration issues, policies and injustices. Dr. Price will be on hand to discuss her work.

Vivian Price and Co-director Gilbert G. Gonzalez

## DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR AIDS FUNDRAISER AUCTION

Join us for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS Fundraiser and the Graduate Student and New Member Reception on Thursday, July 31 from 9:00pm – 11:00pm.

Be prepared to laugh. *4 Women Only* is a comedy tour like none other. Each of the female comics has a very unique and powerful message. Rarely does an audience get an opportunity to see talent that crosses many social, economic, class, and lifestyle genre. The group is a wonderful mix of black, white, hispanic, straight, gay, married, and divorced women whose humor ranges from political, urban, family, queer, and inspirational humor. Comics are in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

After the comedy act, you will be able to dance to oldies, disco, hiphop, and country music. There will be a good mix of everything from two step music, slow dances, line dancing music especially from the 70s (Electric Slide and Hustle), and hiphop music heard on R&B stations.

A dessert station and a limited cash bar will be available. During the evening, there will be a silent and a live auction.

You'll be able to place bids on lots of great stuff.

SSSP is fortunate to have many talented individuals among its membership, including a number of artists. If you are one of those talented individuals, please consider donating a piece of your work to the auction. You can mail it to me ahead of time, or you can bring it to the meeting. Provide us with a full description of the item (and its estimated value, if you can do that) by June 1.

Gordana Rabrenovic, Local Arrangements Committee Chair at [g.rabrenovic@neu.edu](mailto:g.rabrenovic@neu.edu)

Sarah Bakanosky, Local Arrangements Committee at [bakanosky.s@neu.edu](mailto:bakanosky.s@neu.edu)

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager at [mkoontz3@utk.edu](mailto:mkoontz3@utk.edu)

Those of you who are not artists may wish to donate an item. Perhaps you've written a book and would be willing to donate a signed copy, or maybe you have something special that you think would be a hit at the auction.

Please get in touch with us about your donations. All proceeds from this event benefit a local AIDS organization, so please help us make the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS Fundraiser and Graduate Student and New Member Reception a big success by donating an item.

## Attention *SOCIAL PROBLEMS* Contributors and Authors

Beginning June 1, 2008 *Social Problems* will be implementing an all electronic manuscript submission process. The system being introduced, MsCentral, is the same as that used by *Social Forces*, *Sociological Perspectives* and *Gender and Society* among other prominent journals. The decision to move in this direction has received the strong support of the Editorial and Publications Committee of SSSP as well as the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee and the Board of Directors.

To submit a manuscript, please log on to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ucpress-sp> and follow the user-friendly instructions. If you have any questions or encounter any difficulty, please contact the new editorial office at [socialproblems@fsu.edu](mailto:socialproblems@fsu.edu) or at 850 410-0258. Please note that there is a manuscript submission fee of \$20, which is payable to SSSP. Consideration of the manuscript cannot proceed until payment is received. Checks can be mailed to:

Ted Chiricos, Editor  
*Social Problems*  
College of Criminology & Criminal Justice  
325 John Knox Rd., Building  
Florida State University  
325 John Knox Rd. Building L-102  
Tallahassee, FL 32303-7809, USA

### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS - 58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

● Boston, MA - July 31 - August 2, 2008

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## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

The Society for the Study of Social Problems would like to welcome the 225 members who have joined since January 1, 2008 (prepared 5/20/08):

SUSAN ADAIR  
WALTER AIKMAN  
WENDIE ALBERT  
WILLIAM ANDERSON  
BHAVANI ARABANDI  
YUMIKO ARATANI  
JODIE ATKINSON  
ALGERNON AUSTIN  
PAIGE AVERETT  
ORIT AVISHAI  
ARTURO BAIOCCHI  
SARAH BAKANOSKY  
JILL BAKEHORN  
MATT BAKKER  
LINDSAY BARAN  
CAROLYN BARBER  
CARLA BARRETT  
CLAIRE BARSHIED  
LITTISHA BATES  
AGATHA BEINS  
CORONA BENSON  
TERRESSA BENZ  
UMUT BESPINAR  
JOAO BIEHL  
JANET BOKEMEIER  
SYLVAIN BORDIEC  
STEPHANIE BOUCHER  
MARGARET BOYD  
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KATHLEEN BRENNAN  
ROBERT BROOKS  
NANCY BROWNING  
RAVEN BRUNO  
KARL BRYANT  
TINA BURDSALL  
ELIZABETH CARON  
MOON CHARANIA  
LAURA CHARLES  
PATRICK CHEEK  
LARROYCE CHILDS  
ANDREW M. CISLO  
SARAH CLANCY  
LAURIE CLUNE  
TAURA COATS  
CLAUDIA D. COFFIELD  
LAURIE COHEN  
DENISE COPELTON  
JAY CORZINE  
CHRIS COWEN  
JOHN CRANDALL  
HELANDA CRESPIN

VLADIMIR CUK  
AMY D'UNGER  
LORY DANCE  
KIM DAVIS  
GINI DEIBERT  
ELIZABETH DEPOY  
SARAH DESAI  
MICHAEL DRAHOS  
AILEEN DULDULAO  
JULIE DUMOIS-SANDS  
JARIN EISENBERG  
ARTHUR EMLN  
LUIGI ESPOSITO  
MYCHEL LYNN ESTEVEZ  
HERNANDEZ-MEDINA ESTHER  
HEATHER FELDHAUS  
JO FELLER  
JESSICA FIELDS  
HEATHER FITZ GIBBON  
JASON FORD  
ARA FRANCIS  
LINDA FRANCIS  
BETINA FREIDIN  
ELIZABETH GAGE  
AMANDA GARRISON  
RICK GARVEY  
AMANDA GENGLER  
ELISABETH GENTRY  
KELLY GEORGE  
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LAURIE GOULD  
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ERIC GROLLMAN  
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CLARE HAMMONDS  
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KASEY HENRICKS  
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ERIC HIRSCH  
TAYLOR HOLDER  
SUSAN INGRAM  
BRANDON JACKSON  
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 LEANNE WARREN  
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 MATTHEW WEST  
 EMMA WHELAN

## BOSTON AREA SSSP MEMBERS – AIDS FUNDRAISER

For the past seven years, SSSP has donated the proceeds from its Annual AIDS Fundraiser to an AIDS organization in the Annual Meeting's host city. For the upcoming meeting, I thought that SSSP may be able to increase the money raised from this event by having a number of items that members could use when they attend the 2008 Annual Meeting in Boston. Therefore, I am asking Society members who reside in the Boston area if they are willing to solicit donations from Boston area restaurants, hotels and/or merchants for the AIDS Fundraiser auction. Ideally, the Boston specific items should allow Society members to redeem or use the item at the Annual Meeting from July 31-August 2, 2008.

If you are able to obtain donations for the auction please contact:

Gordana Rabrenovic, Local Arrangements Chair  
 Associate Professor and Director  
 Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict  
 Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
 571 Holmes Hall  
 Northeastern University  
 Boston, MA 02115  
 email: [g.rabrenovic@neu.edu](mailto:g.rabrenovic@neu.edu)  
 phone: 617-373-4998

Thank you,  
 Gordana Rabrenovic

## Obituary

### Brent K. Marshall: 1966-2008

**Brent K. Marshall**, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Central Florida (UCF), passed away in the early evening of Sunday, April 27, 2008, from complications resulting from a motorcycle accident in the early morning of Friday, April 18, 2008. He was well attended by his family, friends, and colleagues throughout his hospitalization.

Brent grew up in the small city of Blaine, near Bellingham, Washington. He graduated from Blaine High School where he developed his love for good friends and basketball. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Washington and his master's degree in Political Science at the University of New Orleans. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Tennessee and moved to Orlando, Florida, in 2000 to continue his research and teaching at UCF. Brent dedicated countless hours to progressing the study of environmental sociology and sociological issues associated with disasters and natural resources. Outside his office, he enjoyed fishing, riding his motorcycle, playing with his dogs (Vonnegut and Bronte), and spending time with his friends and family.

Brent's teaching at the University of Central Florida spanned the spectrum from large enrollment introductory courses to upper-level and graduate courses in his specialty areas of environmental sociology and stratification. He had recently assumed the responsibility for an environmental sciences course offered through Interdisciplinary Studies. Students always found him to be accessible and helpful, and it was contacts with Brent that led numerous undergraduates to pursue advanced degrees and employment in environmentally-related fields. In addition to his work with students, Brent was a major architect of the department's development of a Ph.D. in Sociology degree program that was initiated in Fall 2004 with environmental sociology as one of the four substantive concentrations.

Beyond service work in the department, Brent spent a good deal of time networking with faculty with similar interests from other departments and colleges at the University. He had active collaborations with individuals from Biology, Political Science, Economics, Chemistry, and Engineering. At the time of his death, he was working to develop a collaborative graduate curriculum with a focus on disasters that would involve Public Administration and Sociology. The same enthusiasm and commitment to networking marked his efforts in the Orlando community where he assumed the role of an applied sociologist. He served on the Boards of Directors for various community organizations during his eight years at UCF and worked with the University's Metropolitan Center on projects dealing with environmental issues. He was a member of the Focus the Nation Team at UCF that forged partnerships with the City of Orlando, Orange County Government, the Orlando Utilities Commission, and a wide range of private businesses and public interest organizations. Contacts made through Focus the Nation recently opened the doors for UCF

students to complete internships on "green" projects with different agencies of local government.

Brent was a young rising sociologist who, since 2002, published eleven journal articles and two book chapters in the areas of environmental risk, disaster impacts and environmental justice. His publications appeared in outstanding journals, such as *Social Science Research*, *Social Forces*, *Environment and Behavior*, *Law and Policy*, *Organization and Environment* and *Sociological Inquiry*. Brent was also a co-principle investigator on a number of grants awarded over the last five years. These awards totaled over a million dollars and included research on hurricane Katrina, environmental issues, resource management and contaminated communities. These projects were funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, EPA and Heart of Florida United Way. Brent had developed a focused research agenda for the future and as a member of the American Sociological Association Gulf Coast Research Group, he was excited about and committed to a five year study of community recovery from Hurricane Katrina along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in the New Orleans area. Although many of his publications included rigorous and innovative data analysis techniques, e.g., GIS techniques, structural equation models, etc., most recently he had expanded his research interests to broader theoretical concerns that insightfully addressed the relationship of science, risk and environmental catastrophes in the twenty-first century—(See *Sociological Inquiry*, Vol. 78, 2008). His untimely death took away what was sure to be a future of major academic contributions to environmental sociology, disaster research and research on the changing nature of risk in late modernity.

Brent's efforts to promote sociology and environmental issues were tireless, but he was hardly a "workaholic." He didn't pass up very many opportunities to have a good time and passed many hours exploring the outdoors of Florida. The love of fishing that dated from his youth in Washington continued during his academic career at UCF, although he once commented that sharing the water with alligators added a new dimension to sport fishing.

Donations may be made to the Brent K. Marshall Memorial Scholarship Fund through the UCF Credit Union, 12253 Challenger Parkway, Orlando, FL 32826. This fund has been set up by the family to continue Brent's dedication to the educational and learning experience of graduate students in the field of environmental sociology. Words cannot adequately express how much he will be missed by family, friends, colleagues, students and those who were able to share what limited time he had.

Jay Corzine, University of Central Florida &

J. Steven Picou, University of South Alabama



**ANNOUNCING THE**  
**FINALISTS for the**  
**2007 C. WRIGHT MILLS AWARD**  
*(in alphabetical order)*

**Janet L. Abu-Lughod, *Race, Space, and Riots in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles*, Oxford University Press**

**Phil Brown, *Toxic Exposures: Contested Illnesses and the Environmental Health Movement*, Columbia University Press, Foreword by Lois Gibbs**

**Todd R. Clear, *Imprisoning Communities: How Mass Incarceration Makes Disadvantaged Neighborhoods Worse*, Oxford University Press**

**Peter Conrad, *The Medicalization of Society: On the Transformation of Human Conditions into Treatable Disorders*, The Johns Hopkins University Press**

**Matthew Desmond, *On the Fireline: Living and Dying with Wildland Firefighters*, University of Chicago Press**

**Sarah E. Igo, *The Averaged American: Surveys, Citizens, and the Making of a Mass Public*, Harvard University Press**

**Daniel Jaffee, *Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability, and Survival*, University of California Press**

**Ching Kwan Lee, *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*, University of California Press**

**David Naguib Pellow, *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements for Environmental Justice*, The MIT Press**

**Andrew Szasz, *Shopping Our Way to Safety: How We Changed from Protecting the Environment to Protecting Ourselves*, University of Minnesota Press**

**The C. Wright Mills Award will be presented on  
Friday, August 1 at the Awards Banquet.**

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**C. WRIGHT MILLS AWARD COMMITTEE**

**Kathleen Lowney, *Chair*, Valdosta State University**  
**Heather Dalmage, *Chair-Elect*, Roosevelt University**  
**Margaret L. Andersen, University of Delaware**  
**Aneesh Aneesh, University of Wisconsin**  
**Ione DeOllos, Ball State University**  
**Lara Foley, University of Tulsa**  
**Mark Goodman, York University**

## BOSTON TOURS

SSSP is proud to offer three local tours. You can sign up for the tours when you pre-register, <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/305>. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### **Walking Tour of Bay Village and the South End (limit 25):**

**Thursday, July 31, 4:00pm - 6:00pm, tickets \$15 each**

Bay Village, tucked into a triangular area near the SSSP hotel, is a small, quaint neighborhood that was built on reclaimed land at the edge of the Back Bay former tidal marsh in the 1820s and 1830s. Most of the small brick rowhouses were built by and for the workmen who were building Beacon Hill mansions. In the 1860s the entire neighborhood was raised about 15 feet because water backed up from newly filled areas to the west; hundreds of homes were jacked up and land was filled around them. The South End was developed after about 1850 on both sides of the narrow "Neck" of land that originally connected Boston to the mainland in Roxbury. Wealthy Protestants bought houselots on "park streets" and built elegant townhouses between 1850 and 1870. In the 1870s conditions changed because a depression and the availability of more attractive land led families to move to the Back Bay and to the suburbs. For nearly 100 years the South End was a slum neighborhood with many ethnic groups, having thousands of rooming houses. In the 1960's "urban pioneers" sought out some of the elegant old buildings and renovated them, and starting in the 1970s gentrification followed with its condominium conversions and upscale businesses. Today the young professionals and gay community share the South End with a large Latino housing development, a hospital complex, and homeless shelters. The tour will begin at the Columbus Avenue entrance of the Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers.

### **Tour of Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative Area (Limit 15):**

**Friday, August 1, 1:00pm - 4:00pm, tickets \$20 each**

DSNI is well known for its successful development of housing and social services in one of Boston's poorest neighborhoods where many multifamily buildings had been burned down in the 1970s by their owners for the insurance money. Many participants will know the book about DSNI, *Streets of Hope*, and the video, "Holding Ground." Professor Will Holton of Northeastern University will drive a van from the conference site and lead a walking tour in the DSNI development area in Roxbury and Dorchester. A DSNI staff member will host the group, presenting on its successes and answering questions. The tour will begin at the Columbus Avenue entrance to the Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers.

### **Walking Tour of the Filling of Boston's Back Bay (Limit 25):**

**Saturday, August 2, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, tickets \$15 each**

A recent book has explored the social class motivations behind the planning of the massive urban development project that transformed a horribly polluted former tidal marsh into the wealthiest neighborhood in America. The tour covers the social motivations, powerful personalities, and technological innovations that made the project possible. Learn about the unique neighborhood where the conference is located. The tour guide, Will Holton, is an Associate Professor at Northeastern University and co-author of *Boston's Back Bay: The Story of America's Greatest 19th Century Landfill Project* (University Press of New England, 2006). The tour will begin at the front entrance to the Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers on Park Square at Arlington Street.

## **Dear Annual Meeting Presenters and Organizers:**

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) has arranged with The Scholar's Choice to manage the combined book exhibit for our 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting taking place July 31-August 2, 2008, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers in Boston, MA. It will be possible for your recently-published books to be included in their display. Please refer to the guidelines below:

Any members interested in having their book displayed at the upcoming SSSP meeting should contact their publisher after February 28<sup>th</sup>. Please keep in mind that the publishers pay a fee to display with The Scholar's Choice and may not have the marketing budget necessary to honor all requests, particularly for older titles. We ask that books be appropriate to the meeting and published recently. Reservations from the publishers will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis so reserving early is highly recommended. Please note that The Scholar's Choice displays on behalf of the publishers and *ALL requests must come from them, not the author*. Therefore, please contact your publisher (do not call The Scholar's Choice directly) as soon as possible to see whether or not they will reserve your title. The person who handles publisher reservations at The Scholar's Choice is Debby Pitts. She can be reached at [dipitts@scholarschoice.com](mailto:dipitts@scholarschoice.com) or at 585-262-2048 x.108.

The Scholar's Choice has a long and successful history of managing academic book exhibits and we welcome them to our meeting.

Most sincerely,  
Nancy A. Naples, SSSP President

***YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO***  
***the RECEPTION HONORING OUR PAST PRESIDENTS***

***and the***  
***AWARDS BANQUET***

***at***  
***The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers***  
***64 Arlington Street***  
***Boston, MA***

***Friday, August 1***

***Reception: 6:45pm - 7:45pm***  
***Banquet: 8:00pm - 10:00pm***

**AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED**

**SSSP Division Awards:** Winners of various student paper competitions and other division awards will be announced.

**Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship:** This \$3,500 scholarship will be awarded to a new or continuing graduate student who began her or his study in a community college or technical school.

**C. Wright Mills Award:** For a distinguished book that exemplifies outstanding social science research and an understanding of the individual and society in the tradition of C. Wright Mills.

**Joseph B. Gittler Award:** For significant scholarly achievement that a SSSP member has made in contributing to the ethical resolution of social problems.

**Lee Founders Award:** For recognition of significant achievements that have demonstrated continuing devotion to the ideals of the founders of the Society and especially to the humanistic tradition of the Lee's.

**Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship:** This \$12,000 scholarship is given annually for support of graduate study and commitment to a career of scholar-activism.

**Social Action Award:** This \$1,000 award is given to a not-for-profit organization in the Boston area in recognition of challenging social inequalities, promoting social change, and/or working toward the empowerment of marginalized peoples.

Join us for a catered reception with a cash bar honoring our past presidents. The reception is *complimentary* to SSSP members and will be hosted in the Plaza Ballroom. The awards banquet will be held in the Imperial Ballroom. A special thanks to the Office of the Vice Provost for Multicultural and International Affairs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology and the Women's Studies Program at the University of Connecticut for their generous financial contributions to the reception and banquet.

The Swan Dinner Buffet will feature: Roasted Vegetable Salad; Greek Salad with Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Olives and Feta Cheese; Crisp French Rolls with Sweet Butter; Marinated Grilled Chicken, Roasted Corn, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Baby Spinach; Pan Seared Salmon, Lemon Thyme Butter; Wild Mushroom Ravioli, Garlic Herb Cream; Fresh Seasonal Vegetables; Rice Pilaf; Assorted Cakes and Pies; Freshly Brewed Coffee and Tea. A vegan dish will be available for those who request one. A cash bar will be available. Come celebrate with your friends and colleagues and enjoy the evening!

**The reception honoring our past presidents is *complimentary* to SSSP members.**  
**The cost of a banquet ticket is \$65 per person.**

**A limited number of banquet tickets will be sold in the registration area.**  
**Those with advance reservations will receive their ticket/s with their registration materials.**

## News of Note

### **Call for Articles, Book Chapters, and Teaching Materials** (by submission deadline)

#### **Submissions sought for a special issue of *Sociology* on "Re-thinking Sociologies of Work"**

Special issue editors Susan Halford and Tim Strangleman welcome submission of articles, shorter review articles, commentaries and book reviews for a issue of *Sociology: A Journal of the British Sociological Association* focusing on "Re-thinking Sociologies of Work: Past, Present and Future." The study of work lay at the heart of sociology from its classical foundations and on to its post-war expansion. However, recent decades have seen an erosion of work sociology from this core status in the wider discipline, both in terms of teaching and research. This Special Issue asks – what happened? Where are we now? And where are we going? This Special Issue aims to draw together contemporary sociologies of work and act as a catalyst in this process of rediscovery and innovation. We aim to bring together a variety of contributions, from related disciplines as well as sociology and from contributors based outside as well as in the UK, to reflect on the legacy, contemporary practice and significance of work to the study of Sociology.

Submissions will be accepted via the journal's Manuscript Central site. Full submission instructions are available on this site on the Instructions and Forms page. Please read these in full before submitting your manuscript. Deadline for submission, **July 31, 2008**. <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/soc>

#### **Contributors sought for a special issue of *Health Sociology Review* on "Expert Patient Policy"**

Guest Editor Sally Lindsay is seeking contributors for a special issue. Reducing the incidence of chronic disease and health inequalities is a key priority for governments. Sociologists of health and illness have sharpened the realization of the extent to which the management of chronic conditions is not in the direct control of health professionals but rather in that of patients and their informal careers. This notion of 'expert patients' has recently emerged in health policy and is pivotal to government plans to modernize health care by linking patient expertise to ideas of empowerment, a better quality of life, self-esteem and a user-driven health system.

Although expert patient initiatives have many implications for patients, health care providers and broader social structures, there has been little discussion of this from a sociological perspective. This is important because sociology can help shed light on the impact of the expert patient agenda by opening the debate of whether, and the extent to which this agenda addresses patient needs, how patient-provider relations are changed, and whether inequalities in health and access to services are affected. This special issue aims to stimulate debate on the controversy around 'expert patient' initiatives by providing a forum to discuss whether instilling information is adequate for patients to be able to self-manage their condition. Further, this issue aims to develop a better understanding of the mechanisms of engaging patients in self-care and the impact this has for patients, health care providers and larger social structures.

Authors are invited to contact the Guest Editor with their

topic in advance of submitting papers – email: [s.lindsay@salford.ac.uk](mailto:s.lindsay@salford.ac.uk). Completed manuscripts from those authors invited to submit are due **August 15, 2008**.

#### **Contributions for an edited book to be entitled *Uprooting Neo-Liberal Globalization From Below* sought**

There is an emerging dialogue taking place worldwide against the backdrop of a failed neoliberal development model and a legacy of regional integration schemes developed by and for economic and political elites. The dialogue involves women and men from political parties, social movements, universities, NGOs, and international cooperation agencies calling for a more inclusive model of development and an alternative, more responsive system of regional integration.

This volume intends to bring together analytical and empirical case studies or essays on how people/grassroots groups in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Middle East, North America and Europe are organizing resistance and alternatives to neo-liberal globalization. The collection seeks to introduce readers to arguments, debates and demands from civil society spawned out of resistance to neoliberalism, including the alternative platforms put forth by peoples' social movements, Left or progressive political parties, independent academic institutions or progressive think tanks, development NGOs, and alternative mass media projects, among others. The volume has been inspired by sessions recently organized by the SSSP Global Division, however, all those interested in the topic are welcome to submit a brief proposal consisting of a 1-2 page abstract and contact information. For those with already completed papers you may include the paper and abstract. The volume will be edited by Ligaya Lindio McGovern of Indiana University, Kokomo, and Richard A. Dello Buono of Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, Mexico. Proposals should be sent to [lmcgover@iuk.edu](mailto:lmcgover@iuk.edu) and [rdellob@hotmail.com](mailto:rdellob@hotmail.com) by **August 31, 2008**.

#### **Articles concerning "Older Workers and Aging Policy" sought for a special issue of the *Journal of Aging & Social Policy***

This issue will address policy and programmatic issues surrounding employment in later life, and will be co-edited by Maximiliane E. Szinovacz and Philip Taylor. The issue addresses both the feasibility of late life employment (e.g., in terms of appropriate job opportunities and employer incentives, workers' ability and willingness to remain in or reenter the labor force) as well as relationships between expected demographic trends and current policies and programs. The overall perspective of the issue will be that public or organizational policies addressing issues of later-life employment are both highly complex and of great importance. Of particular interest within the public policy debates on older workers are issues pertaining to health, occupational trajectories and human capital, and family constraint disparities, their relationships to gender, race/ethnicity, and class and how they influence later life transitions.

The following are among the topics of interest: international, national, and regional trends in later-life labor force participation and their implications for public and organizational policies; the effects of new global economic structures on the management of labor supply and how older workers negotiate change in an increasingly complex and

Dynamic environment; critical overviews and discussions of policies that encourage/discourage late-life employment; the role of programs and policies supporting jobless workers and those designed to further later-life employment; the interplay among work-related and other policies; late-life employment in relation to family obligations and pertinent policies; issues surrounding relations between late-life employment and retirement migration; policies that can address the impact of cumulative advantage/disadvantage on late-life employment of women, racial/ethnic minorities, and low-income workers.

Both research articles and commentaries are welcome. Research articles should be focused on explicit policy issues. Commentaries are shorter articles that provide authors with an opportunity to make a case for an approach to a particular policy issue. Manuscripts that provide international perspectives are particularly welcome. In addition, authors of some selected papers will have the opportunity to present their work at a symposium to be held in Spring 2009 at the University of Massachusetts Boston campus.

Interested authors should submit a prospectus of no more than two pages in length by **September 30, 2008**. Manuscripts will be due in January, 2009. Please direct inquiries to: Robert Geary, Gerontology Institute, University of Massachusetts, Boston, [Robert.Geary@umb.edu](mailto:Robert.Geary@umb.edu), +1 617 287 7308.

#### **Special Issue of *Gender & Society* on “Heteronormativity and Sexualities” accepting submissions**

In her groundbreaking 1984 essay “Thinking Sex,” Gayle Rubin illustrated that ideas about what constitutes natural and ethical sexuality are used to discipline all people, including subjects occupying multiple axes of privilege. Yet Rubin also argued that sexual norms weigh down most harshly upon groups already marginalized along gender, race, and socioeconomic lines. Far from being reducible to matters of individual orientation, the force of sexual normalcy intersects with other systems of oppression and frequently takes center stage in moral, political, legal, and cultural formations in the U.S. and globally. Though feminist and queer sociologists have been critical of the limited incorporation of queer theoretical insights into the sociology of gender, a growing body of social science research has indeed begun to investigate sexual norms—and heteronormativity in particular—as a central organizing principle in social life, one with consequences well beyond discrimination against lesbians and gay men. This special issue of *Gender & Society* seeks articles that investigate the operation and effects of heteronormativity (defined broadly as the beliefs and practices that naturalize heterosexuality and place it at the center of social organization) and resistance across a variety of gendered, racialized, and classed contexts. We welcome papers providing sociologically-grounded, data-rich empirical scholarship that demonstrates how heteronormativity works in everyday lives, production of culture, and the practice of social institutions.

Completed manuscripts should be submitted online to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/gendsoc> and should specify in the cover letter that the paper is to be considered for the special issue. Manuscripts are due **October 1, 2008**. For more information, contact editors Beth Schneider ([schneider@soc.ucsb.edu](mailto:schneider@soc.ucsb.edu)) or Jane Ward ([janew@ucr.edu](mailto:janew@ucr.edu)).

#### **Call for Presentations—Other Conferences**

(by submission deadline)

**The Association for Humanists Sociology would like to invite submissions for its 2008 Annual Meeting in Boston, November 6-9, 2008.** The conference theme is “What is to be Done? Public Sociology in Theory and Practice.” 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. The deadline for proposal submission is **July 15, 2008**. Visit <http://www.altrue.net/site/humanist/> for submission guidelines and deadline.

**The Southern Political Science Association's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held January 8th - Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in New Orleans.** Proposals from all fields of political science are encouraged. Historically, the meeting has had strong participation in the areas of: Political Theory, International Relations, Judicial Politics, Comparative Politics, Elections and Voting, and Women and Politics. For more information visit, [http://www.spsa.net/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=31](http://www.spsa.net/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=31). The deadline for submission of proposals is **July 25, 2008**.

**The Western Social Science Association invites papers and panels on American Studies topics for its 51st annual conference, April 15-18, 2009, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.** The WSSA's annual meeting presents panels in 30 different academic fields, offering an extensive, interdisciplinary range of subjects for scholars to explore. A review of the past year's conference program provides a sense of the diverse disciplines that participate in the event (<http://wssa.asu.edu/pdf/2008/finalWSSAprogram.pdf>). We encourage proposals in American Studies that range broadly across the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Scholars willing to serve as moderators/discussants should indicate their research specialties.

Send a 150-word abstract and c.v. by **December 1, 2008** to: [daniel.mcinerney@usu.edu](mailto:daniel.mcinerney@usu.edu) or to Prof. Daniel J. McInerney, WSSA-American Studies Program Chair, Department of History, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-0710.

#### **Call for Award Nominations**

##### **The Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship**

Named in honor of the Founding Editor of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, the Catharine Stimpson Prize recognizes excellence and innovation in the work of emerging feminist scholars. The Prize carries a financial honorarium of \$1,000 and is awarded biannually to the best paper selected in an international competition by a jury of leading feminist scholars. The prize-winning paper is published in *Signs*. All papers submitted for the Stimpson Prize are considered for peer review and possible publication in *Signs*.

Eligibility: Feminist scholars in the early years of their careers (less than seven years since receipt of the terminal degree) are invited to submit papers. Papers may be on any



topic that falls within the broad rubric of discipline-based or interdisciplinary feminist scholarship. Papers submitted for the Prize must not exceed 10,000 words and must conform to the guidelines for *Signs* contributors. Guidelines for submission are available at Information for Contributors. Deadline for Submissions: The deadline for submissions for the current Stimpson Prize competition is **September 20, 2008**. Papers should be submitted online at <http://mss.uchicago.edu/Signs/>. Be sure to indicate in a cover letter that the submission is for consideration for the Catharine Stimpson Prize. The honorarium will be awarded upon publication of the prize-winning article. Submissions may also be sent by post to:

The Catharine Stimpson Prize Selection Committee  
*Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*  
 Rutgers University  
 Room 8, Voorhees Chapel  
 5 Chapel Drive  
 New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

### **Congratulations!**

#### **SSSP member starts new academic position**

**Jeremy Brunson** has begun a new position as assistant professor of sociology at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. *Congratulations, and best wishes with your academic career!*

#### **SSSP member awarded tenure and promotion**

**Valerie Leiter** was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of sociology at Simmons College, in Boston

Massachusetts. *Congratulations on these major achievements!*

#### **SSSP author wins accolades for two books**

**Stephen J. Morewitz's** new book, *Aging and Chronic Disorders* (with Mark L. Goldstein) (Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, 2007) won a Nicki's Pick in *Academia, An Online Magazine and Resource for Academic Libraries*. Additionally, his book, *Domestic Violence and Maternal and Child Health* (Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, 2004), was placed on the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence suggested reading list. *Congratulations on these recognitions!*

#### **SSSP member accepts high profile administration position**

**Phoebe Morgan**, professor of criminology and criminal justice at Northern Arizona University, has been named the new coordinator of the Faculty Ombuds Program. *Best of luck in your new position!*

### **Fellowships and Summer Institutes**

#### **Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship**

Announced by The Mid South Sociological Association Scholarship Committee announced the availability of the Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship for a Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation in sociological theory, symbolic interaction, race relations, law, or ethics. Applicants must be receiving the degree from an institution within the MSSA member states (see <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/> for more information) or from an institution which has active MSSA student/faculty memberships. Application Deadline: **September 1, 2008**.



The **Department of Sociology seeks a Department Head** to begin July 1, 2009. The appointment is for an initial period of five years and is renewable. The Department Head is appointed by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and reports to the Dean.

**Responsibilities:** Areas of interest are open, but should complement existing faculty interests. Qualifications include a distinguished record of research and publication, suitable for appointment as a full professor with tenure, and evidence of leadership ability. Preference will be given to candidates with faculty experience in a PhD-granting department. We expect the Head to further develop the strengths of a dynamic department through effective management, leadership, and a shared vision of the Department's future. The Department has over 25 faculty members and offers degrees at the BA, MS, and PhD levels (see <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/sociology>). Purdue has one of the best benefit packages in the nation and is located in an affordable metropolitan area of 150,000 people conveniently located between Indianapolis and Chicago.

**Application Procedures:** Submit letter of application outlining research and teaching interests, statement of approach to departmental leadership, and vita to: Chair, Head Search Committee, Department of Sociology, Purdue University, 700 West State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2059. Review of applicants will begin October 3, 2008, but applications received after this date will be accepted until the position is filled. Names of references will be requested from finalists.

Purdue is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce.



### New Journals of Interest

*Spaces for Difference: An Interdisciplinary Journal* announces the publication of its inaugural issue! The journal seeks to publish research that expands our understanding of issues relating to race and racism, gender and sexuality, social activism, and intersectionalities.

Articles freely available at [http://repositories.cdlib.org/ucsb\\_ed/spaces](http://repositories.cdlib.org/ucsb_ed/spaces). Please direct questions to: [spacesfordifference@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:spacesfordifference@sa.ucsb.edu)

### Other Conferences/Workshops of Interest

(by conference date)

The European Sociological Association is holding its 4th Mid-term Qualitative Methods Research Network Conference in Lodz University, Poland, September 15-17, 2008. The conference is aimed at broadening the discussion of the teaching process including lecturing and training in qualitative methods of social research. Confirmed keynote speakers include Anssi Peräkylä and Johanna Ruusuvuori, Andrzej Piotrowski, Brian Roberts, and Hans Georg Soeffner. For more information, visit <http://www.soc-org.edu.pl/Conference2008/>.

The CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAS II will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, October 8-11, 2008. Its theme will be "Uniting the Americas: Exploring Media Convergence, Public Communication and Intercultural Communication." For more information contact Professor Tyrone L. Adams at [theswampboy@gmail.com](mailto:theswampboy@gmail.com).

The 2008 American Society of Criminology meeting will take place November 12-15, 2008 in St. Louis, Missouri at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis Riverfront (previously called the St. Louis Adam's Mark). The conference theme is "Reinvigorating Theory through Diversity and Inclusiveness." For more information, visit <http://www.asc41.com/annualmeeting.htm>.

### Recent Books Published by Members

Paul D. Almeida. 2008. *Waves of Protest: Popular Struggle in El Salvador, 1925-2005*. University of Minnesota Press. ISBN: 10: 0816649324

Stephen Steinberg. 2007. *Race Relations: A Critique*. Stanford Social Sciences. ISBN: 10: 080475327X

Adia Harvey Wingfield. 2007. *Doing Business with Beauty: Black Women, Hair Salons, and the Racial Enclave Economy*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. ISBN: 10: 074256116X

## PERSONAL MENTORING PROGRAM

### CALL FOR MENTORS (extended to June 25, 2008)

SSSP is launching a *Personal Mentoring Program* designed to match SSSP members with mentors who can offer guidance in a number of areas — job hunting (job skills, interviewing, vitae writing, etc.), manuscript preparation, dissertation support, tenure and promotion review, career development, and so forth. The mentoring relationship can last for a period of 3 months, 6 months or 1 year. Mentors and mentees will be matched in time for them to make arrangements to meet in person at the annual meeting in Boston. (Participants in the program are encouraged but not required to attend the meeting.)

Specifically, we are seeking mentors with interests and expertise in immigration, social psychology, health, and/or methods. If you are willing to serve as a mentor, please complete the [online application form](#) no later than June 25, 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield ([aharvey@gsu.edu](mailto:aharvey@gsu.edu)).

## PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS SERIES

### Making the World More Peaceful and Just

Louis Kriesberg, Syracuse University\*

My engagement in SSSP, sociology, peace studies and conflict resolution has deep roots. I grew up in Chicago in the 1930s, a Jewish son of immigrants from Russia, hearing stories of anti-Semitism in Russia and experiencing some myself in my neighborhood. I was fascinated and appalled at the horrors of wars, in China and in Spain, and of Nazism in Germany. Then the terrible events of World War II confirmed my conviction that I had to help avert such calamities in the future.

After the War, I entered the University of Chicago, seeking to learn how to construct a more peaceful world. I discovered sociology and believed it could reveal how warfare might be controlled and prevented. I completed my graduate studies at the University of Chicago in 1953. My dissertation research found that patriotic considerations had little effect upon the business conduct of steel distributors during the Korean War.

For the next several years I researched matters that I thought were relevant to building peaceful relations. I studied transnational nongovernmental organizations as elements in a global society. With a Fulbright award in Germany, I examined the European Coal and Steel Community's impact on German nationalist attitudes.

During this period, as an Instructor at Columbia University, then as a Study Director at the National Opinion Research Center, and in my early professional years at Syracuse University, I taught courses and published research that were only tangentially related to peace making. The major research project in which I was engaged at Syracuse University assessed housing policies that might help people overcome their poverty. I worked with Irwin Deutscher, Charles V. Willie, S. M. Miller, and Seymour Bellin who also were active in the SSSP and helped form the supportive network that SSSP was for me.

New opportunities to do peace work in cooperation with others arose in the 1960s. My growing participation in SSSP lent support to doing applied work and to being engaged in social actions. Then in the late 1960s, with rising opposition to U.S. engagement in the war in Vietnam, sociologists joined together to examine the war and resistance to it. This was particularly the case in the congenial setting of the SSSP where the International Tensions Division was formed, which I chaired in 1969-1972. Later, a Committee on the Sociology of World Conflicts was established in the ASA by the Council; I was a member of it and of the Section that succeeded it. At last, I belonged to a community of sociologists who shared my conviction about the importance of doing research relevant to peacemaking. As is so often the case, social movement activism was creating new ideas and practices that stimulated the growth of new fields of analysis. It was true for peace studies as it was later true for conflict resolution (Stephenson 2008).

In the 1960s, I came to know many other sociologists who were doing work related to conflict analysis and conflict mitigation, including Norman Angell, Jessie Bernard, Elise Boulding, Randall Collins, Lewis Coser, William M. Evan, Amitai Etzioni, Johan Galtung, William Gamson, Allen Grimshaw, Irving Louis Horowitz, Morris Janowitz, C. Wright Mills, and Mayer Zald. In the 1970s, encouraged by Elise Boulding, I joined peace research communities outside of sociology and in

other countries, including the Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development (COPRED) and the International Peace Research Association (IPRA). I also became active in the International Sociological Association and in its Research Committee on Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution.

In the 1950s and 1960s, a variety of seeds were planted in the emerging field of conflict resolution that began to flower and spread in the 1970s. Academics from many disciplines initiated publication of *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* in 1957. The Center for Research on Conflict Resolution was established in 1959 at the University of Michigan. The International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) was founded in 1959 and it began publishing *The Journal of Peace Research* in 1964.

Drawing on many different areas of research, and more importantly of practice, the conflict resolution movement grew quickly during the 1970s. This was the case particularly in the areas of negotiation, mediation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). In the 1980s, many research and teaching programs were initiated, greatly assisted by grants from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. In 1986, I and a multidisciplinary group of colleagues received a grant from the Hewlett Foundation to establish the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflicts at Syracuse University. I was excited to be its founding Director and to work with faculty and graduate students who believed a more peaceful and just world could be built.

My own work has drawn from and contributed to this new conflict resolution field, focusing particularly on the Cold War and Arab-Israeli conflicts. I have analyzed how intractable conflicts can become transformed so that they are conducted and settled constructively and how struggles for justice can be effectively waged without resorting to violence. Inferences about effectiveness have been made by analyzing the conduct of officials and activists who were engaged in conflicts as partisans or as intermediaries.

A substantial field has been created and its ideas and practices can help prevent, stop, and resolve destructive conflicts (Kriesberg 2007a; Kriesberg 2007b). They are increasingly being implemented by young women and men who are working in many societies. They are helping adversaries to avoid destructive conflict eruptions, helping antagonists to stop using violence, and assisting people to recover from destructive wars. The end of the Cold War enabled the UN and other international organizations to actively intervene in major conflicts and help settle wars and avert destructive conflict escalations. Some members of contending parties have learned ways to avoid destructive escalations. Such developments have contributed to various noteworthy achievements, including the remarkably non-violent transformation of South Africa and the decreased incidence of civil and international wars in the 1990s (Human Security 2005).

The evolution of peace research and conflict resolution has been aided by new generations of sociologists, for example, Heidi and Guy Burgess, Pat Coy, John Crist, James Laue, John Paul Lederach, Lester Kurtz, Marie Pace, Brian Polkinghorn,

Gene Sharp, Anna Snyder, Hendrick van der Merwe, Paul Wehr and Lynne Woehrl. Exciting research is being done about conflict resolution applications in diverse kinds of conflicts, by different actors, at different conflict stages.

We can and should do much more to promote peace. Back in the 1950s, influential work was published about the military-industrial complex. Yet now, although that complex is even more extensive and powerful, there is little investigation of its extent and consequences (Johnson 2004). In the 1960s and 1970s a great deal of research was done about popular resistance to the U.S. engagement in the Vietnam War and in the 1980s to the intensification of the Cold War during the first years of President Ronald Reagan's administrations. Now, however, when the U.S. government has been conducting tragically wrong policies, there is little analysis of what resistance there has been and too little effort to explain why there has not been more (Mueller 2006). During the Cold War, consequential peace and conflict resolution work was undertaken on alternatives to the way the Cold War was being waged.

Such research and practices contributed to new thinking among Soviet leaders, which was crucial to the nonviolent ending of the Cold War (Evangelista 1999). But now, little work is being done about fundamentally better ways to conduct American foreign policies (Hastings 2004; Rogers 2002).

I conclude with reflections about the SSSP annual meeting of 1984, when I was President. The Program Co-chairs, Kathryn Ratcliff and Richard Ratcliff, planned the structure of the meetings with me and they oversaw organizing the sessions. I wanted to have a notable leader from the region address our plenary session, but the meetings were in San Antonio and I had little knowledge of the area. I wrote and called colleagues in Houston, Austin, Lubbock, and San Antonio for help; several suggested approaching Henry Cisneros, the mayor of San Antonio. He was also a Professor at the University of Texas, San Antonio and was to be a Visiting Professor at Trinity University; I also understood he was teaching urban sociology. I invited him to address a plenary session and he accepted, but with the caution that events might prevent him from attending. Oz White and others in San Antonio suggested I also invite Rudolfo de la Garza of the University of Texas, Austin and William C. Velasquez, of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, also in San Antonio. I did and they accepted.

They all showed up for the evening plenary on "Ethnic Issues in the Southwest," and delivered what was for me the finest panel presentation I would ever hear. I had already learned that these three men had worked closely together in overturning the political order long dominated by an Anglo minority. De la Garza gave a brilliant exposition of the findings from the survey research he had conducted for years about the grievances among Mexican-Americans and what they wanted fixed. Velasquez, looking like the community organizer he was, spoke with conviction and humor about how that information was used in going door-to-door and getting people registered to vote. They voted and elected Henry

Cisneros to be Mayor of San Antonio. Cisneros spoke with charisma about what his administration was doing and about what more could be accomplished. It was an exciting evening, demonstrating how research and activism together could produce substantial change.

I was thrilled by the plenary session, enjoyed my presidential address and appreciated my many friends. The friendships went back to graduate-student years at the University of Chicago, to years of working together at Syracuse University and to many shared SSSP undertakings. The safety I felt enabled me to be fully engaged in my presidential responsibilities and also to grieve the death of my oldest brother Lee. Throughout the meetings, I knew he was dying and learned of his death as the meetings ended. The affection I experienced at the SSSP meetings comforted me at that time. Truly, I appreciate the many years the SSSP has been a base of support for me personally as well as a source of encouragement and intellectual stimulation for doing peace-relevant work.

*We can and should do more to promote peace. Back in the 1950s, influential work was published about the military-industrial complex. Yet now, although the complex is even more extensive and powerful, there is little investigation of its extent or consequences.*

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**International Coalition Against Sexual Harassment  
2008 Annual Conference**

*Working Together in Dealing with Sexual Harassment: Researchers, Advocates, Therapists and Attorneys*  
**August 3, 2008**

**Cambridge Room, The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers, Boston, MA**

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|--|--|--|--|
| <b>7:00-8:00</b>   | <b>Registration</b>  | <b>Table 4</b>   | <b>Sexual Harassment Prevalence Rates</b>  |
| <b>8:00</b>  | <b>Welcome</b>   |  | <b>Frequency Rates and Consequences of Peer Sexual Harassment: Comparing U.S. and International Students</b><br><b>Eros R. DeSouza and Joy Chien</b> |
| <b>Session I: Sexual Harassment: Legal and Historical Perspectives in Academia and the Workplace</b> |  |  | <b>Sexual Harassment in Israel: Prevalence and Gender-Based Perception Gaps</b><br><b>Avigail Moor</b>   |
| <b>8:15</b>  | <b>Invited Presentation: Making Social Change from the Grassroots: The Women's Movement Against Sexual Harassment</b><br><b>Carrie Baker</b>   | <b>Session III: Keynote Address</b>  |  |
| <b>8:45</b>  | <b>From "Grobe and Hope" to Cheeky Gags by "Snags" 20 Years of Sexual Harassment Legislation- Have We Really Come Very Far?</b><br><b>Leanne Faraday-Brash</b>   | <b>11:30</b>   | <b>What a Difference a Word Makes? Sexual Harassment or Bullying—According to the Feds, Researchers and the Public</b><br><b>Nan Stein</b>           |
| <b>9:15</b>  | <b>Invited Presentation: A Decade for Sexual Harassment Legislation in Israel: Training Educational Staff Toward Prevention Programs Among Young Children.</b><br><b>Ayelet Giladi</b>   | <b>12:15</b>   | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| <b>9:45</b>  | <b>Invited Presentation: Recent Developments in Sexual Harassment Case Law</b><br><b>Howard Kallem</b>   | <b>Session IV: Invited Presentation</b>  |  |
| <b>10:15</b>   | <b>Break</b>   | <b>1: 30</b>   | <b>When Sexual Harassment Turns Violent</b><br><b>Billie Wright Dziech and Morgan Denney</b>   |
| <b>Session II: Roundtable Presentations</b>  |  | <b>Session V: Sexual Harassment Policies, Investigatory Procedures and Training Programs</b> |  |
| <b>10:30-11:30</b>   |  | <b>2:15</b>  | <b>What Sexual Harassment Policies Work in the Dutch Police Force?</b><br><b>Greetje Timmerman</b>   |
| <b>Table 1</b>   | <b>Sexual Harassment of Adolescents</b><br><b>Adolescent Sexual Harassment of Peers: A Predictor of Perpetration of Sexual Assault?</b><br><b>Paula Ross-Durow</b>   | <b>2:45</b>  | <b>Red Light, Green Light: More Effective Approaches to Anti-Harassment Education and Responses</b><br><b>Michael Kaufman</b>                        |
|  | <b>Race, Bullying, and Sexual Harassment: The Impact of Health and Academic Outcomes of Adolescents</b><br><b>James Gruber and Susan Fineran</b>   | <b>3:15</b>  | <b>Invited Presentation: Understanding and Preventing Gendered Violence-A Campus Perspective</b><br><b>Howard Kallem and Connie Kirkland</b>         |
| <b>Table 2</b>   | <b>Impact of Workplace Sexual Harassment</b><br><b>The Effects of Racial and Sexual Harassment on Work and the Psychological Well-Being of African American Women</b><br><b>NiCole T. Buchanan and Louise F. Fitz Gerald</b>   | <b>3:45</b>  | <b>Break</b>   |
|  | <b>Gender Harassment by Physicians to Registered Nurses in the Operating Room</b><br><b>Susan Strauss</b>  | <b>Session VI: Roundtable Presentations</b>  |  |
| <b>Table 3</b>   | <b>Sexual Harassment on College Campuses</b><br><b>Implementing Reasonable Care on College Campuses</b><br><b>Michele Paludi, Moderator</b><br><b>Dianne Bouvier</b><br><b>Deannndra Dodd</b><br><b>Diana Mililo</b><br><b>William Schweinle</b><br><b>Janet Sigal</b> | <b>4:00-4:30</b>   |  |
|  |  | <b>Table 1</b>   | <b>Out of the Closet: The Harassment of Sexual Minorities</b><br><b>Eros DeSouza</b>   |
|  |  | <b>Table 2</b>   | <b>Issues in Sexual Harassment Training</b><br><b>Sharon Butler</b><br><b>Amy Ramson</b><br><b>Carrie Turco</b>                                      |
|  |  | <b>Table 3</b>   | <b>Sexual Harassment: Implications I in the New Economy</b><br><b>Laura A. Brunner</b>   |
|  |  | <b>Session VII: Keynote Address</b>  |  |
|  |  | <b>4:30</b>  | <b>Beyond Sexual Harassment: A Bold Proposal for Transforming Our Workplaces</b><br><b>Linda Gordon Howard</b>                                       |
|  |  | <b>5:15</b>  | <b>Closing Plenary</b>   |

## 2008 CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

SSSP resolutions constitute an important opportunity for our scholar-activist membership to publicly declare their sentiments, thereby creating a channel for greater visibility and more direct influence upon a variety of “publics,” i.e., fellow activists, scholars, students, decision-makers, social action groups, voters, and others. Thus, as Vice-President this year, I am calling on the membership to submit resolutions for discussion, debate, and in some cases, passage. To do so, simply forward your resolution or your idea for a resolution to the appropriate SSSP Division Chair. When doing so, remember that proposed resolutions can serve as useful discussion points for SSSP members, helping to increase and enhance communication and activities during the long period between annual meetings.

Resolutions that are submitted to Division Chairs should contain a concise position statement concerning a social problem of urgent concern to the Division. In most cases, the resolution should include some sort of call for viable action on the part of the SSSP. This typically has involved a letter from the Board directed to some public entity, expressing concern, support, or protest. Feel free, however, to propose other forms of appropriate action.

It is the SSSP Vice-President’s responsibility to serve as the facilitator for resolutions being sponsored by the Divisions as well as from individual Society members, making them available to the membership at the annual business meeting. This year in Boston, the resolutions process will be organized in a manner that promotes wider discussion prior to formal consideration at the 2008 Business Meeting. The process is as follows:

- On the first day of the meetings an open forum of discussion will be held, which is designed to encourage a political discussion of concerned members. At this meeting, each proposed resolution should be presented for membership discussion by the sponsoring Division’s Chairperson (or designated representative) and adequate time for discussion will be properly allotted to each. To facilitate this process, all proposed resolutions should be made available to the SSSP Vice-President well in advance of the meetings such that the membership can be provided a print copy with their registration packet.
- Modifications and revisions will be considered during the open discussion forum that will meet in place of the annual meeting of the Resolutions Committee. All Division Chairs should plan to participate in this session or designate a proxy from their division if unable to attend. It is essential that someone be present who can speak to the substance of the proposed resolution.
- During the 2008 Annual Business meeting, the resolutions will be presented (including any modifications or revisions) by the Vice-President as a package for approval for action by the attending membership. The membership will vote on proposed resolutions that were discussed and revised on the first day of the meeting. Experience shows that the Annual Business meeting fails to provide sufficient time for a detailed discussion of resolutions. If objections from the floor are raised to any specific resolution at this year’s Business meeting, that resolution can, by majority vote of those present, be singled out from the package, and voted on separately. Those present can either support the resolution for approval as proposed or decide to table the resolution for further discussion at the subsequent year’s annual meeting.
- We will attempt to make approved resolutions immediately available to the press. In addition, all approved resolutions will be submitted for publication in the fall issue of the *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*.

Members who wish to propose resolutions for consideration of the SSSP should submit them to a Division Chairperson (see <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/21> for current contact information) or directly to the SSSP Vice-President at [costello@uwm.edu](mailto:costello@uwm.edu). I look forward to hearing your ideas.

**Carrie Yang Costello, SSSP Vice-President 2007-2008**

**CRITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

Conference co-sponsored  
by the SSSP Global Division,  
ASA Marxist Section &  
SAGE Publications

**POWER AND RESISTANCE:  
CRITICAL REFLECTIONS, POSSIBLE FUTURES**  
The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers ~ Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
August 3, 2008

**8:30-9:00am**

**COFFEE, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** (White Hill Room)

Conference Organizers:

David Fasenfest, Editor, *Critical Sociology*

Ricardo Dello Buono, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Zacatecas, México

**9:00-9:45am**

**“FAT CAT” SOCIOLOGY: REFLECTIONS ON 1968 AND THE SOCIOLOGY LIBERATION MOVEMENT** (White Hill Room)

Robert J. S. Ross, Clark University

Rhonda F. Levine, Colgate University

**10:00-11:30am**

**CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN MOBILIZING CONSTITUENCIES FOR PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL CHANGE** (Whittier Room)

Organizer and Presider: Michael Sukhov, CUNY Graduate Center

“Rethorizing the Politics of the Left: A Critique and Some Lessons for Contemporary Activists and Movements” Michael E. Brown, Northeastern University

“Between Protest and Political Organization: The Case of the Globalization Movement and World Social Forum” Heather Gautney, Fordham University

“Political Activism and Deferred Agency: Towards a Theory of Differential Political Participation” Michael J. Sukhov, The City University of New York Graduate Center

“The Technocratization of Protest: Transnational Advocacy Organizations and the WTO” Kristen Hopewell, University of Michigan

Discussant: Samuel Cohn, Texas A&M University

**A “THIRD LEFT” IN LATIN AMERICA?** (White Hill Room)

Presider: Marie Kennedy, University of Massachusetts Boston

Organizer: Chris Tilly, University of Massachusetts Lowell

“Understanding Latin America’s ‘third left’” Chris Tilly, University of Massachusetts Lowell

“Resurrected Enterprises and Social Mobilization in Argentina” Laura Collin Harguindeguy, Colegio de Tlaxcala

“The Zapatistas’ ‘other’ politics” Margaret Cerullo, Hampshire College

“Community Organizing and Rebellion: Neighborhood Councils in El Alto, Bolivia” Emily Achtenberg, Urban Planner and Independent Researcher

Discussant: Fernando Leiva, State University of New York Albany

**TOWARD A CRITICAL SOCIOLOGY** (Winthrop Room)

Session Organizer and Presider: Warren S. Goldstein, University of Central Florida

“The Case for a Critical Sociology of Religion” Warren S. Goldstein, University of Central Florida

“Dismantling the Defensive Wall of the Colonized: The Veil (Hijab) and the French Laws on Secularity and Conspicuous Religious Symbols in Schools” Mohammad A. Chaichian, Mount Mercy College

“After Althusser: The Lacanian Left and the Resurgence of Materialism” Marios Constantinou, University of Cyprus

“Why New Socialist Theory Needs Guy Debord: Reconsidering Situationist Praxis” Richard Gilman-Opalsky, University of Illinois-Springfield

“Excremental Culture and Simulation: Dubai and Las Vegas” Mark Gottdiener, University at Buffalo

Discussant: George Sanders, Oakland University

**11:30-12:45pm**

**LUNCH**

**1:00-2:00pm PLENARY** (White Hill Room)

**It’s Real: Racism, Color Blindness, Obama, and the URGENT Need for Social Movement Politics**

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Duke University

**2:15-3:45pm**

**THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM AND US SOCIAL FORUM:**

**21ST CENTURY MOVEMENT BUILDING FROM THE BOTTOM-UP** (Whittier)

Organizer and Presider: Walda Katz-Fishman, Howard University

“The Social Forum Movement and the Praxis of Gender, Race, Class, Sexualities” Rose Brewer, University of Minnesota

“The Space of Anamnesis: Writing the Social Forum” Thomas Ponniah, Harvard University

“Reflection on Organizing a Campus Delegation to the US Social Forum” Melanie Bush, Adelphi University

“Bridging Contentious and Electoral Politics: Move on and the Digital Revolution” Victoria Carty, Chapman University

“Mobilization for a Better World” Lauren Langman, Loyola University of Chicago

“Consciousness, Vision and Strategy for 21st Century Bottom-up Movement Building” Jerome Scott, Project South



## **ESTADOS UNIDOS: HEGEMONÍA, TRANSFORMACIONES SOCIALES Y POLÍTICA / UNITED STATES: HEGEMONY, SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND POLITICS (*panel in Spanish / en Español*)** (White Hill Room)

Presider: Ricardo Dello Buono, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Zacatecas, México

“Poder global, geopolítica y las tendencias de la economía mundial” Carlos Eduardo Martins, Universidad de São Paulo, Brasil

“Los partidos políticos en Estados Unidos” Marco A. Gandásegui, h.,

Universidad de Panamá y Centro de Estudios Latinoamericanos “Justo Arosemena” (CELA), Panamá

“Hegemonía y clase obrera de Estados Unidos” Dídimo Castillo Fernández, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, México

“Migración y juventud. Los jóvenes latinos en Estados Unidos” Alejandro I. Canales, Universidad de Guadalajara, México

“Salsa, migración y globalización. Las luchas por la hegemonía desde la cultura” Ángel G. Quintero Rivera,

Universidad de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico

Discussant: Víctor M. Figueroa, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas

## **RACE, GENDER AND IMMIGRATION** (Winthrop Room)

Presider: Daphne Phillips, the University of the West Indies

“Race and Immigration: Imperialism Gone Wild” Rodney Coates, Miami University of Ohio

“Negotiating the Meaning of “Family” in the Transnational Field: A Case of Taiwanese Immigrants and their Families”

Ken Chih-Yan Sun, Brandeis University

“Visual Technology Culture and Gender in Remaking the Globalized Representation of Forced Migration” Oscar F. Gil,

UC Santa Barbara

“The Global Structuring of Gender, Race/ Ethnicity and Class: When Filipino Migrant Domestic Workers Rebel”

Ligaya Lindio-McGovern, Indiana University Kokomo and SSSP Global Division Chair

Discussant: Monica White, Wayne State University

**4:00-5:30pm**

## **THE SOCIAL FORUM PROCESS AND GLOBAL SOCIAL CHANGE** (Whittier Room)

Organizers and Presiders: Ellen Reese and Chris Chase-Dunn, UC-Riverside

“Comrades in Arms?: Socialists and Communists at the World Social Forum” Bridgette Portman, UC-Irvine

“Environmentalists and the Family of Anti-systemic Movements” Matthew Kaneshiro and Kirk Lawrence, UC-Riverside

“The Movement of Movements and Global Social Change” Chris Chase-Dunn, UC-Riverside

“Neoliberal Policies Persist, Indigenous Movements Resist: Making Sense of the Current Social and Political-Economic Conjuncture in Southern Mexico” Molly Talcott, UC Santa Barbara

Discussant: Walda Katz-Fishman, Howard University

## **PODER Y RESISTENCIA EN AMÉRICA LATINA: REFLEXIONES CRÍTICAS SOBRE LA CRISIS ACTUAL Y LOS FUTUROS POSIBLES / POWER AND RESISTANCE IN LATIN AMERICA: CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE CURRENT CRISIS AND POSSIBLE FUTURES (*panel in Spanish/ en Español*)** (White Hill Room)

Presider: Alfonso Latoni, Independent Scholar

“Quince años de TLC. Su legado en el medio rural mexicano” Irma Lorena Acosta Reveles, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, México

“Inserción asimétrica y migración internacional” Víctor Figueroa, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, México

“El conflicto colombiano y las posibilidades para una genuina integración sudamericana” Diana Avila, Diálogo Sudamericano, Lima, Perú

“Procesos emancipatorios emergentes en America Latina” Ximena de la Barra, Diálogo Sudamericano, Santiago de Chile y

R.A. Dello Buono, *Critical Sociology*

Discussant: Nicole Trujillo-Pagan, Wayne State University

## **CRITICAL INSTITUTIONALISM** (Winthrop Room)

Organizer and Presider: Graham Cassano, Oakland University

“Symbolic Exploitation: An Institutional Approach” Graham Cassano, Oakland University

“Finance Capital, Neo-Liberalism and Critical Institutionalism” Dan Krier, Iowa State University

“‘IR Experts’ and the New Deal State: The Diary of a Defeated Subsumed Class” Michael Hillard, University of Southern Maine and Ric McIntyre, University of Rhode Island

Discussant: Robert J. S. Ross, Clark University

**5:45-7:00pm**

## **AWARDS and RECEPTION (Stanbro Room, Mezzanine Level)**

### **CRITICAL SOCIOLOGY RESEARCH AWARD PRESENTATION**

Chair: Graham Cassano, Oakland University

Rhonda F. Levine, Colgate University

Paul Paolucci, Eastern Kentucky University

**Best Graduate Student Paper, SSSP Global Division and *Critical Sociology***  
Award Announcement

**Reception to follow: Food and Drink (Cash Bar)**

## NCLB and the Future of Public Education

John B. Broussard, California State University, East Bay\*

Late last year, I heard an educator remark that public schools were designed for generating income for the bureaucracies that run them, and not structured to actually educate students. According to that college professor, charter schools were more effective in actually delivering K-12 education to students. More recently, I had an opportunity to sit in for a superintendent at a breakfast exclusively for area school district superintendents. Overall, the attendees voiced very serious concerns with the downside of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) measures. Together, these two exchanges draw attention to the contested state of public education in the U.S. today. These experiences raise questions about public education's viability and about the best means of carrying out its mandate.

In this essay, I will reflect on the current state of affairs and some trends in public K-12 education, highlighting four interrelated concerns specifically: (1) general problems with NCLB, (2) the growing celebration of a "top-down" business model applied to public education, (3) growing pressure to remove local control over public schools – a concern that has socio-economic, if not racial, undertones – and (4) the consequences that a failed public education policy has for Black and economically deprived students generally. But first, let me ground my discussion by revisiting NCLB legislation and some related topics.

### *Specific NCLB Provisions and General Outcomes*

For those unfamiliar with the intricacies of NCLB, some are worth reviewing briefly. NCLB is an expansive federal program (Public Law 107-110), building upon the earlier Title I legislation developed as part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty" initiative launched in 1965. However, unlike the original Title I legislation which emphasized "the special educational needs of children of low-income families and the impact that concentrations of low-income families have on the ability of local educational agencies to support adequate educational programs" (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Section 101), NCLB focuses on ensuring "that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and state academic assessments (No Child the Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1001).

Signed into law January 8, 2002, NCLB effects all school districts receiving federal funding. It was set to expire September 2007—and it did technically expire last year—but it was automatically renewed for one year. Nevertheless, as Karp explains,

Prospects for [NCLB's renewal in] 2008 are not looking good either.

But while the bipartisan consensus that passed NCLB in 2001 has fragmented, the old, unimproved version of the law is not going away anytime soon, and a better one is nowhere on the horizon . . . Congressional committee work on House and Senate bills will continue and efforts may still be made to move a reauthorization bill next year. But election-year politics makes passage unlikely (2007/2008).

This means the existing law is likely to be in place for at least several more years.

NCLB's impact seems to be most felt in Title I-designated schools and school districts. This isn't surprising given that during debate and afterwards, many presented the NCLB legislation as a way to address inadequacies resulting from earlier Title I policy implementation. Indeed, President George W. Bush went so far as to claim that NCLB would end the "soft bigotry of low expectations" that many children in poor school districts experience (2004).

But in contrast to the Johnson years, it appears that the atmosphere created by NCLB is more punitive than supportive, and that it is pervasive. Consider that U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, recently proposed a "merit-based" pay-for-performance plan directed at teachers in high-poverty schools (see Vu 2007) despite having declared earlier the same year: "People have a very strong sense that the No Child Left Behind Act is not fair, that it is not flexible and that it is not funded. And they are not wrong" (reprinted in Paley 2007).

Among the more controversial provisions of NCLB is the way it addresses schools that do not measure up; i.e., that do not meet their Academic Performance Index (API) quotas. Specifically, once states have established their benchmarks, schools and districts must meet or exceed those benchmarks. For those schools and districts that fail to meet their benchmarks two or more consecutive years, NCLB mandates a series of steps to address the deficiencies. Table 1 summarizes these steps. Such institutions are said to be in Program Improvement (PI) status.

These mandates are no small matter as the number of schools failing to achieve their AYP is significant. The Associated Press (AP) reported that as of May 9, 2006, 1,750 schools were in restructuring nationwide, up 44% from previous year, and that 70% of those schools are in seven states: California, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Further, the AP reports that this number is predicted to increase sharply in coming years (Feller 2006).

Moreover, the legislation appears to have a negative impact on urban and minority districts. Specifically, NCLB has resulted in a reduction in Title I funding for a disproportionately large number of urban and minority districts (see Karp 2004). As another example illustrating this trend, the Center on Education Policy reports that in California, urban schools are overrepresented among restructuring schools, accounting for 60% of all schools in the planning or implementation phase of restructuring (see Scott 2008).

### *General Concerns with NCLB*

Returning to the Superintendent Breakfast, the overall impact of NCLB was discussed as was a growing trend of schools succumbing to a PI status. Whereas all of the superintendents agreed that the accountability function of NCLB was warranted, most took issue with the stipulation that if a single subgroup within a school failed to meet API quotas, the entire

school failed to meet API quotas, the entire school would slip into a PI status. Some pointed out that English Learners and students with disabilities as subgroups sometimes failed to reach the API levels for a given school year within many school districts, but argued that shouldn't erase the accomplishments of other students and the school overall.

What is ironic about such scenarios unfolding within school districts is that the NCLB legislation was supposedly designed to address the disparities that exist in education. Yet some are of the opinion that the sum total affect of NCLB is that the schools and districts that are most in need of assistance are penalized by stringent mandates not fully supported by funding (e.g., Resseger and Ramsey-Lucas 2007). In fact, a lawsuit claiming that NCLB is an unfunded federal mandate is working its way through the judicial system, having been reinstated by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals earlier this year (see Romberger, Jr. 2008). Taking up the concerns raised by the superintendents at the breakfast, how can school districts help children who may be disadvantaged due to poverty, language barriers, disabilities, and other social/economical factors, if funding is cut off or significantly reduced due to inflexible and apparently unrealistic performance demands under NCLB and systemic underfunding?

Furthermore, the superintendents all were in agreement that at the current rate, virtually all of the schools in California would end up in PI. They are not alone in having reached this conclusion. Such concerns from educators in the field are echoed in concerns raised by various professional education associations and institutions (e.g., ACSA 2007).

Given such statistics and anecdotal evidence, it seems plausible to suspect that NCLB is designed to undermine public education and/or promote the privatization of public schools (cf. Bracey 2004; Emery & Ohanian 2004). Regardless of its supporters' intentions, it draws strength from and in turn fosters a climate facilitating the spread of a top-down business model (cf. Torres 2005). For instance, the Association of California School Administrators, which has reservations about NCLB, offers evidence of the growing celebration of the business model verses more traditional, educator-led school administration. In 2007 it selected Walt Hanline as its Superintendent of the Year, and lauded him and his District for their successes made while adhering to a business model (Hatfield 2007). Walt Hanline was quoted as saying, "We created a business-focused model . . . it still has some *educacionalese* in it, but it's business focused. It drives the budgetary process of our district and it really drives the vision of the board in the day to day practices . . ." [emphasis added] (EdCal 2007).

Or take the case of the Oakland Unified School District which slipped into receivership when it failed to meet NCLB mandates. Its duly elected school board was eviscerated; its decision making power taken from it. In its place, decision making authority was placed solely in the hands of one person, the state-appointed administrator for Oakland Unified School District, Dr. Randolph Ward.<sup>1</sup>

Since his appointment, the board of education members chosen by district residents have been reduced to functioning as

an advisory panel, literally powerless to make any final decisions on how to run the district. Dr. Ward was repeatedly quoted as saying, "I am a bottom line man." True to his word, Dr. Ward proceeded to cut – some would say gut – funding for programs that were deemed beneficial to the educational process by many local educators, although not cost effective. Schools were closed down despite outcries from parents whose children would be affected by the school closures. This raises the question of whether local control of schools, a cornerstone of the U.S. public education system, is a covert target of NCLB legislation. Perhaps this is the point at which the scale of balance is tipped either towards the betterment of school districts, or their detriment. Will school boards retain control over the decision making process or not? Clearly, if a District is forced into receivership due to failure to comply with NCLB mandates, local control is lost and a state appointee may assume one man or one woman control as in the case of Oakland. In such instances, one is compelled to again question the motives behind the NCLB legislation under Title I.

### ***Race, Class and NCLB***

To better understand NCLB's impact and the impetus behind it,

*. . . take the case of the Oakland Unified School District which slipped into receivership when it failed to meet NCLB mandates. Its duly elected school board was eviscerated; its decision making power taken from it.*

we need to consider the broader context circumscribing education in the U.S. Consider the views of former Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan. He points out that the distribution of wealth in this country is less evenly divided now than in years past when less importance was placed on students being technologically savvy. He contends that the global economy and its concomitant demand for more highly skilled, computer and hi-tech literate laborers, are creating a shortage of domestically

grown high income job-candidates (2007, p. 398). He blames a failing K-12 public education system for not adequately preparing students to graduate to institutions of higher learning where they can acquire the training and skills needed to be competitive. However, the failure of elementary and secondary institutions to adequately prepare youth is a systemic and chronic problem in his opinion. He favors such initiatives as the voucher system to provide impetus for school reform at the elementary and secondary levels. Perhaps Greenspan would also be in favor of George Miller's recommendation to "link pay to performance" as a way of motivating slack teachers working with poor students?

But would such initiatives really address the root causes of our failing public school system, or would they simply exacerbate the problem? Downward educational trends are particularly disturbing when race and ethnicity are factored into the discussion. Declining graduation rates for Blacks in particular, resonate with echoes from our nation's colonial and antebellum past. Consider that before emancipation, it was illegal for slaves to learn how to read. Indeed, teaching a slave to read was a serious transgression. As a specific example, Higginbotham, Jr. (1978) reports that in Georgia, "the penalty for teaching a slave was 50 percent greater than that for willfully castrating or cutting off the limb of a slave" (p. 258). If we fast forward to the present and look at NCLB's apparent impact on Blacks in this country, there appears to be a link

**Table 1: Steps in NCLB Program Improvement Process with Explanations**

Years School Does Not Make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)\*

**Status\*\***

## Mandatory Local Educational Agency (LEA) Responses

1. (First year out of compliance, No Mandatory Response)
2. (Second year out of compliance, No Mandatory Response)
3. **School Improvement**  
Provides technical assistance to Program Improvement (PI) school; Notifies parents of PI status of school and school choice; Sets aside minimum 5% for professional development to meet highly qualified staff requirements; Provides choice to attend another public school in the LEA that is not PI (LEA is responsible for transportation costs); Establishes peer review process to review revised school plan.
4. **School Improvement**  
All of the above plus provide supplemental educational services to all eligible students.
5. **Corrective Action**  
All of the above plus LEA identifies school for corrective action and does *at least one of the following*: **Replaces school staff; Implements new curriculum; Decreases management authority at school level; Appoints outside expert; Extends school year or day; structures internal organizational structure of school.**
6. **Restructuring**  
All of the above plus further refine school's Year 4 plan for alternative governance of school. Select *one of the following*: **Reopen school as a charter; Replace all or most staff including principal; Contract with outside entity to manage school; State takeover; Any other major restructuring.**
7. **Restructuring**  
Implement alternative governance plan developed in Year 4.  
  
Subsequent Years: Schools continue in PI, and LEA offers choice and supplemental services until school makes AYP for two consecutive years, at which point they exit PI status.  
  
LEA provides notice to parents and teachers and allows comment.

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\*Once a school or LEA in PI status fails to make its AYP, it advances further in PI status.

\*\*PI schools or LEAs that make AYP for one year maintain the same PI status for an additional year and are required to continue implementing the applicable NCLB requirements. To exit PI, a school or LEA must make its AYP for two consecutive years.

Sources: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ti/nclbpireq.asp> and <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ti/programimprov.asp>

between the current situation and our pre-emancipation past. While this link may seem a tenuous one to some, to others it is quite real.

For example, some allege that policy planners involved in extrapolating future demands for prisons base their forecasts on the performance of students at the fourth grade (e.g., Rivens 2008). Considered in light of statistical evidence and calls to drastically increase U.S. prison capacity, this seems a possibility. "Just 12 percent of African-American 4th graders have reached proficient or advanced readings levels, while 61 percent have yet to reach the basic level" (Smiley 2006, p. 32).

Unfortunately, it is not difficult to connect this fact with recent minority incarceration rates.

Of the 2.1 million inmates today, 910,000 are African American. Blacks make up 43.9 percent of the state and federal prison populations but only 12.3 percent of the U.S. population. Latinos constitute 12.6 percent of the country's population, and yet they are 18.3 percent of the prison population. Whites account for 69 percent of the U.S. population and 34.7 percent of those incarcerated (Smiley 2006, p. 53).

Further, we acknowledge that social-economic variables that effect communities, and thus schools, should be considered in the equation. Use of illicit drugs such as crack cocaine and methamphetamines in particular effect families and neighborhoods, and of course the students themselves. Perhaps these issues represent the elephant in the room that proponents of NCLB prefer not to acknowledge or discuss in a serious fashion. In fact, when the multitude of problems related to the drug epidemic such as family fragmentation or destruction, domestic violence, homelessness, and the proliferation of gangs and gang-related violence is acknowledged, it appears more as a herd of elephants rather than a single one standing in the room. Not only could the situation be characterized as one with a herd of elephants standing about, but as one in which the herd is stampeding society, with the youth, ailing educational system, and other vulnerable segments of society trampled under foot. In this analogy, one could ask, is NCLB one of the elephants in the herd or is it a screen directing our attention away from the herd?

Moreover, educational and social trends are particularly disturbing when considering the parallels that exist between Nazi Germany's treatment and perception of Jews and contemporary media projections of Blacks as criminals. Whereas it cannot be disputed that increasing numbers of Black youth are becoming entangled in the criminal justice system; it is quite another matter for the media to frequently focus upon this element in Black communities. Doing so reinforces stereotypical perceptions that Blacks are inferior and criminal-minded. Such depictions also engender, if not inflame prejudicial attitudes akin to what preceded the Holocaust (see Adams and Balfour 1998). In essence, such portrayals subtly — and not so subtly — communicate that Black people are “vermin” needing to be removed from society via incarceration, segregation, and even more sinister means.

In this context, the failing public education system certainly plays a role in contributing to the creation of a functionally illiterate population which happens to be disproportionately poor and Black. In as much as NCLB fails to adequately address the needs of urban and minority schools and misdirects national attention and debate concerning our failing schools, it helps to reinforce those media depictions of Blacks as ignorant, uneducated, and crime prone.

If we could reduce issues surround NCLB to one common factor, perhaps it would be rigidity. In its current form, NCLB heavily emphasizes standardized tests as a measuring stick to assess school district performance. Great performance is also placed on reading and math curriculum, a feature that many feel “squeezes out” opportunity for a more rounded educational experience that includes the social sciences and the arts.

One could argue that reading is fundamental and math is linked to progression in the technical fields, and therefore NCLB's heavy emphasis on student performance in those areas is correctly placed. Could this narrowing of the curriculum and teaching to the test practices be undermining the development of students' intrinsic motivation for learning? Or quite to the

contrary, is this a necessary sacrifice that must be paid in order to provide students with the fundamental skills they need to eventually graduate from high school, and ultimately attend college? After all, as Greenspan has pointed out, American Colleges and Universities are still sound, quality institutions of learning, and are where students can receive the training they need to compete with today's more globally competitive, tech-savvy, immigrant students. But if this is really true, wouldn't the U.S. institutions of higher learning also be able to produce educators who could turn the failing public education system around?

### Conclusion

Clearly we are at a crossroads. Whether the focus is on youth of color or students in general, education remains a fundamental avenue through which people can prepare themselves to lead productive and hopefully fulfilling lives. It is imperative that this country make education a priority and revamp legislation such as NCLB in order to make it truly an instrument for just reforms. Failure to do so will not only undermine our youth, and dim their prospects for a bright future, but it will darken the future of the entire country as well.

If NCLB is to positively address the multitude of problems in public education, it must be revised in ways that allow for some flexibility. For instance, when the superintendents had the breakfast discussion in November, one of the recommendations offered to make NCLB more plausible was to factor in longitudinal academic data rather than relying solely on standardized tests. In a broader national context, it has been suggested that the States be allowed to have more latitude and discretion in applying their own standards and assessments to insure compliance, rather than having rigid Federal mandates imposed (cf. CSBA 2007).

A teacher once reflected, “if most or all of the class is failing,” you have to revisit your methods for teaching, because they are obviously deficient. Likewise, NCLB has created a growing trend of failure for many schools and districts. Thus, it should be re-examined and revised for any reauthorization so that it actually does what NCLB's proponents claim it would. In the meantime, law makers and public servants charged with safeguarding the public's interest should be mindful of the inconsistencies that exist between the stated purpose of NCLB and its actual impact. When teachers in some public schools are confronted with waves of students who are overwhelmed by psychological and social-economic problems, and lack the resources to provide interventions to address those problems, disparities in the public sector are likely to continue, if not worsen.

Penalizing schools — and ultimately students — for not meeting rigid academic performance mandates within inflexible timelines as exemplified by NCLB in its current state will only add fuel to the fire. That fire will continue to burn into cinders the human potential and hope for our children and future. In his book, *A Long Way Gone*, former child soldier Ishmael Beah recounts what his father told him, “If you are

*Downward educational trends are particularly disturbing when race and ethnicity are factored into the discussion. Declining graduation rates for Blacks in particular, resonate with echoes from our nation's colonial and antebellum past. Consider that before emancipation, it was illegal for slaves to learn how to read.*

alive, there is hope for a better day and something good to happen (Beah 2007, p. 54). In a broader context, there may still be hope for the life of this country's public education system, if it survives.

## END NOTE

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Ward left after three years. He was replaced by Kimberly Statham who left in September 2007 to be replaced by Vincent Mathews. Interestingly, all three were graduates of a superintendent training program run by the Board Foundation, a major corporate think tank promoting charter schools, other forms of school privatization, and the application of the business model and its rhetoric to public education (see <http://www.broadacademy.org/>). Among its mottos is "Wanted: The nation's most talented executives to run the business of urban education." Perhaps not surprisingly, the Board Foundation helped pick Ward for the position.

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# Support Scholarship in the Pursuit of Social Justice



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So ... please stay ...

by Thomas C. Hood, Executive Officer



## Job Talk...

### Is a Career as a Litigation/Forensic Sociology Consultant a Career Path for You?

#### A conversation with Stephen Morewitz

Stephen J. Morewitz, Ph.D., & Associates, IL & CA

Over the course of a week and a half in late April and early May, 2008, Steve Morewitz and I engaged in an e-mail conversation about his work. This edition of Job Talk presents that conversation – with some slight edits – in the hope that it may spark an interest among some readers to consider a career as an applied social science consultant. Or failing that, that it satisfies the curiosity of readers who have heard tale of such careers, but not been fortunate enough to meet someone on this career path personally.

**SPF:** Yours is not the usual academic career. Would you briefly introduce yourself to our readers? Specifically, tell us about your professional affiliations, how you identify yourself professionally, and the nature of the work you do.

**Steve Morewitz:** You are quite correct. I have had a unique career since I started a full-time litigation/forensic sociology firm, Stephen J. Morewitz, Ph.D., & Associates, in Chicago, IL. I have been a consultant and expert witness with offices in Chicago, and San Francisco and Tarzana, CA, and I have maintained academic affiliations. In addition to my consulting practice, I am a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at San Jose State University, where I teach a wide range of courses, including victimology, prison community, and social problems. I am also a lecturer in the Department of Public Affairs and Administration and in the Department of Sociology at California State University, East Bay. I teach a range of courses in health services administration, medical sociology, alcohol and drug abuse, and juvenile delinquency. I have been a professor and dean of research at the California College of Podiatric Medicine in San Francisco, and I have taught in the Sociology Department at DePaul University in Chicago, and in the Department of Family Practice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In Chicago, I was also a research assistant in the Educational Development Unit at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center and was a faculty member at the Michael Reese Hospital Psychosomatic and Psychiatric Institute. In addition, I was an assistant social scientist at Argonne National Laboratory.

As a consultant, I have testified as an expert witness in the fields of disability, rehabilitation, quality of life losses, wrongful death, sexual harassment, abuse, criminal profiling, and recidivism. I also conduct research for attorneys and law firms in these areas and provide referrals in a range of cases, including personal injury, medical malpractice, product liability, criminal, and commercial cases. My firm also assists attorneys and law firms in preparing witnesses and in all phases of jury selection and trial work.

I earned my A.B. and M.A. degrees in Sociology from the College of William and Mary and my Ph.D. degree in Sociology from the University of Chicago. In addition, I have two certifications in the field of forensics.

**SPF:** What came first, your litigation/forensic sociology consulting firm or your formal academic work?

**Steve Morewitz:** I had been an assistant social scientist in the

Radiobiology Section, Medical and Biological Research Division at Argonne National Laboratory prior to starting my consulting practice. In addition, before launching my practice, I had been teaching in the Sociology Department at DePaul University, and I had also taught in their Graduate Management of Public Service Program. I have continued to maintain academic affiliations ever since. I feel that it is essential for my work as a consultant. In addition, I am able to discuss the theoretical and empirical aspects of my litigation and forensic work with my students, and I think that this adds to their educational experience.

**SPF:** So what takes first priority? Are you an academician with consulting practice, or a sociological and forensic consultant who teaches at colleges?

**Steve Morewitz:** I am loyal to both sides.

**SPF:** Okay. At what point in your educational career did you decide to pursue this path? As a graduate student? While teaching at DePaul? Some other time? And once having made the decision, did this influence your choice of subject matters, the approaches you pursued, etc.? If so, how?

**Steve Morewitz:** After I earned my Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, I found that the most viable career paths for medical sociologists/educators and criminologists were in applied settings. I had grown up with the law since my paternal grandfather and grandmother, father, and uncle had been famous admiralty attorneys so forensic/litigation consulting seemed like a natural fit for me.

After founding my firm, I wanted to continue to develop my expertise in the fields of disability, rehabilitation, quality of life losses, employment discrimination, criminology, juvenile delinquency, and social psychology since I knew that attorneys and law firms needed expert witnesses and consultants in these fields. My experience in academic and applied settings gave me the foundation for launching my consulting firm.

Before starting my company, I had been a research assistant for five years at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center and had acquired experience in assessing newly diagnosed patients with diabetes mellitus and other acute and chronic diseases so I wanted to use that experience in becoming an expert witness in disability, rehabilitation, and quality of life losses.

At the College of William and Mary and the University of Chicago, I was broadly trained in a variety of theories and

quantitative and qualitative research methods. This diverse training allowed me to apply appropriate theories and research methods as an expert witness and consultant for different types of cases. For example, my training in medical sociology and research methods gave me the tools for assessing the impact of an injury on an individual's social, family, occupational, and educational functioning.

**SPF:** Since establishing your firm and practice, do you know if other social scientists have followed suit? If so, what is your sense of how wide-spread these firms are? And how small a community do you think could support such a firm?

**Steve Morewitz:** Yes. I know many social scientists who are expert witnesses and consultants. They testify and consult in many fields, including disability, rehabilitation, health and illness, victimology, criminology, juvenile delinquency, employment discrimination, marriage and the family, childhood socialization, education, race relations, social psychology, environmental studies, wills and estates, research methods, and statistics. When I started my practice and was profiled in the *ASA FOOTNOTES*, a number of social scientists contacted me to share their own experiences. For example, Dr. Jeffrey Rosenfeld, an expert witness and consultant in contested wills and estates, contacted me to tell me about his firm, PlanWise, in Bayside, New York.

Large metropolitan areas are probably the best places to develop forensic and litigation consulting practices since they attract a large number of attorneys and law firms. However, now with the Internet, it is easier to develop successful practices in other communities as well.

**SPF:** Would you say the field is saturated, or do you see opportunities for other social scientists (particularly *SPF* readers in the first stages of their careers) to successfully follow a similar path?

**Steve Morewitz:** No. The field is wide open. Forensic/litigation sociology is a great opportunity for both young and experienced social scientists.

**SPF:** A great opportunity, yes, okay, but can it be the basis of a career in and of itself? Judging from the amount of adjunct teaching you seem to be doing, some might wonder if you aren't living life as an adjunct "road warrior" to support your firm.

**Steve Morewitz:** Yes. I am putting in a lot of hours at both SJSU and CSUEB. I have been a full-time expert witness and consultant for many years so it is time to take a little break. I will be getting more state benefits that way. As a full-time consultant and expert witness, you do not get the same benefits as a state or federal employee.

Another disadvantage of forensic and litigation work is that it can be very stressful because of the adversarial nature of the law. I think that my years as a high school cross-country and track and field athlete prepared me for the stresses of depositions and trial testimony. If you can run 15 miles in cross-country practice, you can cope with the strains of a deposition or trial testimony.

**SPF:** Very good \*laughing\* But I get the sense that you don't regret your career decisions. Would you recommend that graduate students and social scientists early in their careers pursue such work if they've an inclination?

**Steve Morewitz:** You're right. I do not regret my career decisions. I help many clients and find that very rewarding. One of the greatest feelings is to have an attorney or law firm refer a client to me. It shows that my hard work is paying off. I also enjoy using my experience to illustrate concepts and principles in my courses, such as victimology, prison community, and law and ethics in health care administration. I think that the students really benefit from my presentations since I can discuss practical applications of the concepts and principles.

I would recommend forensic and litigation consulting to graduate students and young social scientists if they can build on their previous training and employment. For example, graduate students and young social scientists can get involved in jury selection and trial observation as long as they have had experience in developing questionnaires and protocols and conducting field observations. However, testifying as an expert witness often requires having publications, related teaching experience, and other evidence of expertise.

**SPF:** Do you think starting a consulting firm as you did or perhaps joining an already established firm can be done while on the tenure track? Or would the demands of one tend to outweigh the others.

**Steve Morewitz:** Yes. What is great about consulting is that you can expand or contract your work as needs change. You do not need to be a full-time consultant and expert witness. You can do both consulting and pursue a tenure-track academic career. It may also depend on the views of your department.

**SPF:** Yes, my gut instinct tells me to okay things with your department and university up front. Some universities have policies restricting the amount and kinds of consulting work that full time employees may engage in, if I'm not mistaken. When it comes to questions of tenure, I always advise people to err on the side of too much disclosure and to seek approval in advance. I've seen colleagues suffer in the tenure and promotion process because of miscommunication between the administration and the faculty member. But that aside, let's talk nuts and bolts. Say I'm a recent graduate of a doctoral program with an interest in pursuing your path rather than pursuing the more traditional tenure track position or full time position in a think tank or applied social science research firm, what should I be doing now?

**Steve Morewitz:** The key is to develop your expertise in different areas related to litigation consulting and expert witness work. To do that you have to engage in typically academic activities, e.g., publishing articles and books, and presenting your research findings at conferences. Obtaining additional certifications and continuing education credits is also very helpful. In addition, it helps to develop expertise in applied settings. With these qualifications and additional experience, you can then begin to market your expertise.

There are many legal periodicals where you can advertise your qualifications as an expert witness and consultant. You should also contact attorneys and law firms directly to find out about their needs.

**SPF:** What about approaching an already established firm directly? You said you are cutting back now. Are you hiring? \*laughing\* But seriously, since you and others have already established firms, do you think joining an established firm is possible? For instance, would your firm accept partners as a law firm might?

**Steve Morewitz:** I am always referring clients to other expert witnesses and consultants. However, I do not have any employees. Bigger trial consulting firms are hiring college graduates and those with graduate degrees.

**SPF:** Okay. You said that one of the disadvantages of this type of work is that you don't have the benefits that come with working for a university, applied social science firm or think tank. If some of our readers decide to go it alone and establish their own practices, what advice would you have for them? Are there resources that you would recommend? Books? An *Opening Your Own Social Science/Litigation Consulting Firm for Dummies*-type work or works?

**Steve Morewitz:** Learn to market your consulting and expert witness services effectively. If you are marketing your expert witness services, do not over-advertise. This way you avoid being seen as just a hired gun. I also recommend that you attend forensic social sciences-related conferences, such as the National Association of Forensic Counselors Annual Conference, and read forensic and litigation-related journals and magazines. These publications discuss practice management-related issues. Like any professional career, you need to network with experienced expert witnesses and consultants and learn from them how to develop and maintain a successful practice.

**SPF:** You said something about not having benefits when you work for yourself. I'm guessing that as a self-employed consultant, you are responsible for your own health insurance, retirement planning and the like. How onerous a task is arranging for those kinds of things, and maintaining them?

**Steve Morewitz:** Yes. I am in charge of retirement planning, etc. It is important to charge fees that are competitive, while at the same time cover your expenses such as insurance. You need to think about the long term. I have health insurance, but others may have difficulty obtaining insurance that is not through an employer.

An advantage of consulting that I have not mentioned is that you may get involved in high-profile cases. I have been asked to participate in cases involving a former Nazi war criminal, sex offenders, death row inmates, and other high-profile cases.

**SPF:** Sounds intriguing. Should we look for your "tell-all" book sometime in the near future? But seriously, any last suggestions or thoughts for our readers who might be looking for this kind of work?

**Steve Morewitz:** No tell-all books on the horizon. However, my 7th book, *DEATH THREATS AND VIOLENCE: NEW RESEARCH AND CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES* (Springer Science+Business Media, LLC) will be in print in June. I have two more books with Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, *KIDNAPPING: NEW RESEARCH AND CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES* and *CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT CHRONIC DISORDERS* (with Mark L. Goldstein) in print this year as well. I also have more books down the road and that should help with my expert witness and consulting practice.

As for advice, those interested should obtain information on how to start and maintain a consulting and expert witness practice from different sources. For example, social scientists can attend conferences like the National Expert Witness Conference, which is organized by SEAK ([www.seak.com](http://www.seak.com)) and other conferences for expert witnesses and consultants. Social scientists can also learn a lot from attorneys themselves. Good luck to those who are pursuing this important career path.

## POTENTIAL RESOURCES\*

- Hamilton, Rosalie. 2003. *The Expert Witness Marketing Book: How To Promote Your Forensic Practice In a Professional And Cost-Effective Manner*. Expert Communications.
- Iutovich, Joyce Miller and Mark Iutovich (Eds). 1987. *The Sociologist as Consultant*. Praeger Publishers.
- Jenkins, Pamela J. and Steve Kroll-Smith (Eds). 1996. *Witnessing for Sociology: Sociologists in Court*. Praeger Publishers.
- Stern, Paul. 1997. *Preparing and Presenting Expert Testimony in Child Abuse Litigation: A Guide for Expert Witnesses and Attorneys* (Interpersonal Violence: The Practice Series). Sage Publications.

\*SPF cannot vouch for these works as it has not formally reviewed them. However, they appear to be on-topic and potentially a good place to begin further exploration of this career option.

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"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



# The Society for the Study of Social Problems

## 58th Annual Meeting Registration

July 31-August 2, 2008

The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers, 64 Arlington Street, Boston, MA

(Program Participant Deadline: Program participants must preregister by May 31.)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First/Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Affiliation(s) for name badge: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you would like to be identified as working outside academia so that you may meet other engaged non-academics.

Preferred Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work #: \_\_\_\_\_ Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Website: \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION FEES + (US DOLLARS): Check one

### Preregistration (until June 30)

### On-Site

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Registration <b>Including</b> Banquet*  | \$170 | \$185 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Registration  | \$105 | \$120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Unemployed/Emeritus Member Registration <b>Including</b> Banquet*                                | \$90  | \$110 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Unemployed/Emeritus Member Registration  | \$25  | \$45  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Registration<br>(for non-exempt presenters who do not wish to become members)                 | \$155 | \$170 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Student Registration<br>(for non-exempt student presenters who do not wish to become members) | \$75  | \$95  |

**GUEST REGISTRATION:** One guest registration is permitted with each full registration category above. Guest registration provides a name badge (name only, no affiliation). Any guest who wants full access to the program, including special events and a program packet, must register individually and pay the full registration fee and membership dues. Program participants are not eligible for the guest registration fee.

|  |      |      |
|--|------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guest (name badge only) | \$10 | \$20 |
|--|------|------|

Guest Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

First Name

**ADDITIONAL BANQUET TICKET/S:** Friday, August 1, 8:00pm - 10:00pm, tickets \$65 each\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* A banquet ticket costs \$74. Thanks to the generosity of the University of Connecticut, a ticket will cost each attendee \$65.

Number of vegan entrees needed. \_\_\_\_\_

### DONATE A BANQUET TICKET PROGRAM:

Donate a banquet ticket to a deserving graduate student, foreign scholar or scholar-activist, tickets \$65 each \_\_\_\_\_

**8th ANNUAL AIDS FUNDRAISER:** (students and new members will receive a complimentary ticket)

Thursday, July 31, 9:00pm - 11:00pm, tickets \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_

**AIDS FUNDRAISER RAFFLE TICKET/S:** tickets \$5 each \_\_\_\_\_

There will be a raffle for a **two-night hotel stay at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers**, the 2008 SSSP conference hotel. The voucher can be applied to your 2008 conference stay. You do not have to be present to win. The winner will be announced at the AIDS Fundraiser.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:** You must be a current member to attend the Annual Meeting unless you pay non-member registration. **If you are already a 2008 member, skip this section.**

|  |       |  |         |
|--|-------|--|---------|
| ___ Life Members, Emeriti before 1989                  | \$0   | ___ \$45,000-\$54,999  | \$120   |
| ___ Students   | \$30  | ___ \$55,000-\$64,999  | \$150   |
| ___ Unemployed   | \$30  | ___ \$65,000-\$74,999  | \$170   |
| ___ New Emeriti/Retired Sociologist, beginning in 1989 | \$45  | ___ \$75,000-\$84,999  | \$190   |
| ___ First Time Professional Member                     | \$45  | ___ \$85,000 and up  | \$210   |
| ___ \$24,999 and under                                 | \$70  | ___ Sustaining Membership  | \$1,700 |
| ___ \$25,000-\$34,999                                  | \$90  | ___ Departmental Membership  | \$85    |
| ___ \$35,000-\$44,999                                  | \$100 | ___ Mail Fee (\$3 Canada and Mexico; \$15 all others outside the U.S.) |         |

**WALKING TOUR OF BAY VILLAGE AND THE SOUTH END (limit 25):**

Thursday, July 31, 4:00pm - 6:00pm, tickets \$15 each

Bay Village, tucked into a triangular area near the SSSP hotel, is a small, quaint neighborhood that was built on reclaimed land at the edge of the Back Bay former tidal marsh in the 1820s and 1830s. Most of the small brick rowhouses were built by and for the workmen who were building Beacon Hill mansions. In the 1860s the entire neighborhood was raised about 15 feet because water backed up from newly filled areas to the west; hundreds of homes were jacked up and land was filled around them. The South End was developed after about 1850 on both sides of the narrow "Neck" of land that originally connected Boston to the mainland in Roxbury. Wealthy Protestants bought houselots on "park streets" and built elegant townhouses between 1850 and 1870. In the 1870s conditions changed because a depression and the availability of more attractive land led families to move to the Back Bay and to the suburbs. For nearly 100 years the South End was a slum neighborhood with many ethnic groups, having thousands of rooming houses. In the 1960's "urban pioneers" sought out some of the elegant old buildings and renovated them, and starting in the 1970s gentrification followed with its condominium conversions and upscale businesses. Today the young professionals and gay community share the South End with a large Latino housing development, a hospital complex, and homeless shelters. The tour will begin at the Columbus Avenue entrance of The Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers.

**TOUR OF DUDLEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE AREA (limit 15):**

Friday, August 1, 1:00pm - 4:00pm, tickets \$20 each

DSNI is well known for its successful development of housing and social services in one of Boston's poorest neighborhoods where many multifamily buildings had been burned down in the 1970s by their owners for the insurance money. Many participants will know the book about DSNI, *Streets of Hope*, and the video, "Holding Ground." Professor Will Holton of Northeastern University will drive a van from the conference site and lead a walking tour in the DSNI development area in Roxbury and Dorchester. A DSNI staff member will host the group, presenting on its successes and answering questions. The tour will begin at the Columbus Avenue entrance to The Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers.

**WALKING TOUR OF THE FILLING OF BOSTON'S BACK BAY (limit 25):**

Saturday, August 2, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, tickets \$15 each

A recent book has explored the social class motivations behind the planning of the massive urban development project that transformed a horribly polluted former tidal marsh into the wealthiest neighborhood in America. The tour covers the social motivations, powerful personalities, and technological innovations that made the project possible. Learn about the unique neighborhood where the conference is located. The tour guide, Will Holton, is an Associate Professor at Northeastern University and co-author of *Boston's Back Bay: The Story of America's Greatest 19th Century Landfill Project* (University Press of New England, 2006). The tour will begin at the front entrance to The Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers on Park Square at Arlington Street.

**BASEBALL – RED SOX VS. OAKLAND A'S: SOLD OUT****GRAND TOTAL (FROM ALL ABOVE SELECTIONS)**Make check or money order payable, in **US DOLLARS** to SSSP or provide credit card authorization below.Credit Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number

Exp. Date

Signature (mandatory)

Office Use Only: Date

Initials

**DEADLINE: Forms and payments must be postmarked by/faxed no later than June 30 to be eligible for the preregistration discount.** Preregistration ends on June 30. Any forms received after June 30 will be processed at the on-site rate. **All program participants must preregister by May 31 in order to have their names listed in the online and final programs.**

**REFUND POLICY:** Registration fees will be refunded to persons who notify us prior to June 30. Once the final program is printed and participant packets have been prepared, the cost of processing the participant has occurred. Unfortunately, under no circumstances will SSSP issue refunds for no-shows.

**ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES:** Registrants with disabilities may request accessibility services such as sign language interpreters, sighted guides, accessible accommodations, etc., to facilitate their full participation in the Annual Meeting. If you need accessibility services, check the box below. The Administrative Officer will contact you about service arrangements.

☐ Accessible Services Request:

**DONATE A BANQUET TICKET PROGRAM:** Some members purchase extra banquet tickets for graduate students, foreign scholars and scholar-activists.

Check the box below if you are interested in applying for a complimentary ticket. Donated tickets will be distributed on a first come/first served basis. SSSP will notify all recipients no later than July 11.

☐ Consider me for a complimentary banquet ticket. Indicate your classification. Q Graduate Student Q Foreign Scholar Q Scholar-Activist

**MEETING MENTOR PROGRAM:** Would you like to participate in the meeting mentor program? If yes, submit your mentoring request no later than June 2. The Lee Student Support Fund Committee will pair you with a mentor and provide you with his/her contact information no later than June 30.

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, list your areas of interest

WE NEED MENTORS. Would you be willing to serve as a mentor for a graduate student or new faculty member?

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, list your areas of interest

**ROOMMATE MATCHING SERVICE:** Would you like to participate in the roommate matching service? If yes, the Executive Office will send you a list with contact information for those who are interested in sharing a room no later than June 30. Indicate your smoking preference.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Smoking ☐ Non-smoking**RETURN FORM WITH PAYMENT IN US DOLLARS TO:**

SSSP, University of Tennessee, 901 McClung Tower  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0490  
or fax to 865-689-1534 or register online at <http://www.sssp1.org>

**GENERAL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager  
W: 865-689-1531; F: 865-689-1534; E-mail: [mkoontz3@utk.edu](mailto:mkoontz3@utk.edu)

+ Requests for exemption from meeting registration and membership dues must be approved by Program Committee Co-Chairs: Héctor Delgado, [delgadoh@ulv.edu](mailto:delgadoh@ulv.edu) and Wendy Simonds, [wsimonds@gsu.edu](mailto:wsimonds@gsu.edu). When sending an email, place SSSP in the subject line.





**MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION TODAY!**  
**CALL TOLL-FREE: 1.800.225.2008**

**GROUP:** THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

**DATE:** July 28 - August 4, 2008

**RATES:** \$199.00 per night, Run of House  
\$299.00 per night, Towers Level Concierge  
(Rates are exclusive of tax, which is presently 12.45% and subject to change without notice).

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**Hotel:**

*Located in the heart of historic Back Bay, The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers is one of Boston's most recognized and renowned landmarks. The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers, a member of Historic Hotels of America, was constructed in March, 1927, a monument to its creator, E.M. Statler.*

**Guestrooms:**

The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers provides 941 guestrooms, Towers Level Concierge Floor and 65,000 square feet of flexible function space. Services available in all guestrooms include cable channels, high speed Internet service, in-room movies, climate control, black out curtains, in-room hairdryers, irons and ironing boards and more.

**Reservations:**

Please go to <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/SOC0725> to learn more about the event and to book, modify, or cancel a reservation from October 09, 2007 to July 31, 2008. You can also call 1.800.225.2008 to make your reservation; be sure to request **The Society for the Social Problems** room rate. Kindly note, guestrooms reservation must be guaranteed with a credit card. Check-in is 3:00pm and Check-out is noon. Cancellation policy is by 6:00pm the day prior to arrival.

**Cut-off Date:**

*Reservations must be confirmed by Monday, July 7, 2008 to guarantee our negotiated group rate. Reservations received after or if the room block is filled prior to that date, are subject to availability.*

**50 Park Plaza at Arlington Street  
Boston, MA 02116-3912  
Telephone 617.426.2000/ Fax 617.426.5545  
[www.bostonparkplaza.com](http://www.bostonparkplaza.com)**

## Questions that you may have about the SSSP Annual Meeting . . . but are too embarrassed to ask.

*(Original piece written by Deborah Thorne, 2007 Program Committee)*

→ **Who chooses the “theme” of the SSSP annual meeting?**

The president of SSSP gets to select the theme of the annual meeting — that’s one of the benefits of being president!

→ **What are all of the “divisions” within SSSP?**

Within the SSSP, there are many subgroups organized around specific topics and interests—these are called special problems divisions. For example, for folks interested in issues of race and ethnicity, there is the Racial and Ethnic Minorities division. If you are interested in environmental issues, you might want to join the Environment and Technology division. Are you a budding theorist (or any kind of theorist for that matter!)? If so, you might want to check out the Social Problems Theory division. These divisions provide a great opportunity to meet others who share your academic interests.

→ **The program lists many different types of sessions: plenary, thematic, and special. What do all of these mean?**

**Plenary Sessions:** Essentially, “plenary” just means everyone. Thus, the plenary sessions are sessions to which everyone attending the meeting is invited. At SSSP, there are two plenary sessions: the business meeting and the Presidential Address. Typically, the business meeting is held on the second day and the Presidential Address immediately follows. The plenary sessions are so important that there are never any other sessions planned at the same time.

**Thematic Sessions:** Topics covered in the thematic sessions reflect the theme of the annual meeting.

**Special Sessions:** Topics for the special sessions are typically generated by members of the Program Committee (this is the committee that helps the president organize the program for the annual meeting). Sometimes the Program Committee members organize the sessions but arrange for others to be the discussants; other times, the Program Committee members lead the sessions themselves. Special sessions typically include things like talks with high-profile sociologists, meet-the-author events, teaching workshops, speed mentoring sessions, presentations of student award-winning papers, and panels on particularly timely topics.

→ **The program lists an entire page of “committee” and “divisional” meetings. Which ones can I attend? All of them? Or are some just for the committee members?**

Committee Meetings are only open to members of that particular committee. However, Divisional Meetings are open to anyone who is interested. These are the business meetings associated with all the different divisions within SSSP – for example, Law and Society, Teaching Social Problems, and Poverty, Class and Inequality (to name just a very few). If you want to get involved in one of these divisions, these are great meetings to attend!

→ **What if I want to serve on an “appointed committee”? How do I get appointed?**

When you pay your annual dues, the form asks if you want to serve on any of the appointed committees—if you do, just check the respective box! The Executive Office will give your name to the Committee on Committees. In addition, it never hurts to make your desires known to a few folks on the committee!

→ **What if I want to serve on an “elected committee”? How do I get appointed?**

Nominations are open for candidates to run in the 2009 General Election (President-Elect, a Vice-President Elect, regular and student members of the Board of Directors, members of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, Committee on Committee, and the Editorial and Publications Committee). Please consider nominating a colleague or yourself for one of these offices by completing the [online nomination form](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1082/) [http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1082/] by July 15, 2008. The Nominations Committee will meet at the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors will approve the slate of candidates for the 2009 General Election on August 2, 2008.



### **STILL AVAILABLE!!!**

*(but not for long)*

*The SSSP has a number of 2002 and 2003 Annual Meeting canvas bags on sale for only \$5.00 each.*

*They are ideal to serve as environmentally friendly, reusable grocery sacks or on-the-go-grab-bags. Get them while they last!*

*If you are interested, mail the SSSP Executive Office a check and note which bag(s) you would like.*

## **Announcing: New (and not-so-new) Books Available to Review**

*Social Problems Forum* recently received a shipment of books from Routledge Press available for members to review. These include:

Agar, Jolyon. 2006. *Rethinking Marxism: From Kant and Hegel to Marx and Engels*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-41119-6

Back, Les & John Solomos (Eds). 2000. *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 0-415-15672-6

Harding, Sandra (Ed). 2004. *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader: Intellectual & Political Controversies*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 0-415-94501-1

Pawlett, William. 2007. *Jean Baudrillard*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-1-415-38645-6

Whimster, Sam. 2007. *Understanding Weber*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-37076-9

Other works still available to review include:

Chamberline, Ann. 2006. *A History of Women's Seclusion in the Middle East: The Veil in the Glass*. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press, Inc. ISBN: 0-7890-2983-9

Kilty, Keith M. and Elizebeth A. Segal (Eds). 2006. *The Promise of Welfare Reform: Political Rhetoric and the Reality of Poverty in the Twenty-First Century*. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press, Inc. ISBN: 0-7890-2922-7

Roberts, John. 2007. *The Modern Firm: Organizational Design for Performance and Growth*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-019-829375

Please contact the editor via email([sssp\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:sssp_editor@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in reviewing any of these works or if you have another book you would like to review.

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