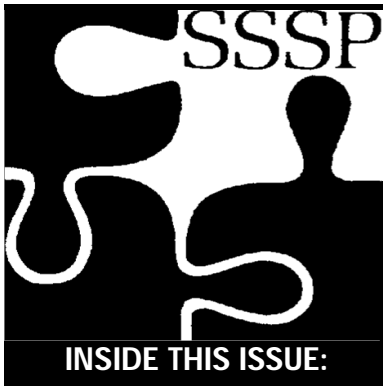


# Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter

Editor, Ken Kyle

Public Affairs & Administration

California State University, East Bay



## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I am proud to present this issue of *SPF* for your reading pleasure. It includes regular features such as a From the Executive Office column—the first by our new EO, Héctor L. Delgado—the 2010 call for conference paper submissions announcement, the availability of the annual auditor’s report online announcement, and calls for applications and award nominations. In keeping with editorial decisions announced earlier and approved by the Board of Directors, it does not include the annual budget and approved meeting minutes. As a cost saving measure, these will be posted online. However, an announcement including the appropriate web address for these items will be included in a future issue of *SPF* when available.

In addition to these business matters, this issue is chock full of interesting items. Janeith Glenn -Davis offers a thoughtful review essay in response to Linda Stout’s work, *Bridging the Class Divide*. Vanna Gonzales presents an op/ed essay on the importance of a Public Option in health care reform efforts. Hephzibah V. Strmic-Pawl shares amusing yet provocative reflections on the Oprah phenomena, and Otis B. Grant offers insightful reflections on yet another cultural icon, Michael Jackson. Finally, after too long an absence, I am pleased to present a new installment of the Student Column, this one by Anne L. Larsen, on surviving that somewhat intimidating first conference presentation.

Enjoy!  
Ken Kyle, Editor

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# FUTURE SSSP ANNUAL MEETINGS

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

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

**August 16-19, 2012**  
**The Grand Hyatt Denver Hotel**  
**Denver, CO, USA**

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

## Submission Information:

.....  
 We welcome essays, commentaries, letters to the editor, book review proposals, photo essays, 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 January 31, 2010.**

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## From the Executive Office — Héctor L. Delgado

This is my first column as the Executive Officer of the Society. It came up on me suddenly, despite being told it was coming. I'm reminded of the guy who wondered why the ball was getting bigger and then it hit him in the face. For years I read Tom Hood's columns and now it is my turn. First, I'm sure that I speak for the entire membership in thanking Tom for his nearly two decades of service to the SSSP as its Executive Officer. Luckily, Michele, Sharon, and Sarah decided to stay, with the added responsibility of keeping an eye on me. They have their work cut out for them, but I'm sure they're up to the task. We are indeed fortunate to have them.

Let me begin with the San Francisco meeting. We're pleased to report that our 59<sup>th</sup> meeting was the fourth most highly attended in the history of the SSSP. Only New York in 2007 (788), D.C. in 1985 (777), and Boston in 2008 (757) surpassed this year's meeting (688) in attendance. Congratulations to Steve Barkan, A. Javier Treviño and the Program Committee, Division Chairs, session organizers, and others for a job well done. We also want to thank you, the members, for a substantial spike in the number of responses to the post-meeting survey. I and others have not had a chance to study it carefully, but I can give you a taste. Clearly, respondents were pleased with the ease of accessing the schedule and pre-registering online. Almost 75% of you felt that the sessions were excellent or above average. Attendees were happy for the most part with the hotel and the services it provided. Responses to a question on accessibility were very helpful, as were responses to the question on how we can improve the annual meeting. Many of you were very complimentary, and we appreciate that; and no one was nasty, which we appreciate even more. Shortcomings reported by respondents included proximity to the ASA meeting (too far), the climbing (which will be easier to correct in cities other than San Francisco), poor attendance at sessions (noted by several respondents), the rooms and meals were too expensive (but we assure you that this is one of the most important criterion when we negotiate with a hotel), and a desire to have free wireless included in the price of the room (which is difficult to reconcile with keeping the cost of the room down, but we will try). The "complaint" about the number of attendees in sessions is one of special concern to me. I, for example, attended a session where there were more panelists than audience members. We take responses to the survey and suggestions in informal conversations to heart. We will certainly take them into account when we visit New York in November to find a hotel for the 2013 meeting.

I'd like to shift focus now to *Social Problems*. We

rely heavily on the revenue generated by this prestigious journal (roughly 60% of the Society's income) and the visibility the journal provides the SSSP. We have been fortunate over the years to have excellent editors, as we do now. (*And, by the way, we have started the search for a new editor and need your help. Please visit our website for more information on the search.*) *Social Problems* continues to be ranked as one of the leading journals in the discipline with an impact factor of 2.059 and overall ranking of five. Only *ASR*, *AJS*, *Annual Review*, and *Social Networks* have a higher impact factor (and we trail *Social Networks* by only .009). This past year the journal saw a 20% increase in citations. I am bringing this to your attention principally to ask a favor of each of you. Libraries across the country are cutting back and journals often are among the first targeted. Instead of waiting to see if *Social Problems* falls prey to cutbacks in your institution, please visit the library and make a strong case for retaining the journal. The fact that the journal is ranked as highly as it is should make it much easier for you to make the case. Once the decision is made to drop a journal, it is difficult to reverse. Please do what you can to prevent this decision from being made in the first place.

I would like to shift gears, again, this time to discuss briefly one to the resolutions we passed. In a separate column, one I hope will be a permanent fixture in future newsletters, I will discuss the remaining resolutions. The resolution I wish to discuss here is the one in which we thanked individuals for their service to the Society. The individuals that we select to serve on the Board and committees cannot be thanked enough for what they do for the Society. I've never been a member of an organization in which committees, and especially the chairs, take their responsibilities as seriously as they do in the SSSP. What I find especially gratifying about this is the degree to which members take ownership of the organization. The future of the Society rests considerably on its ability to get this kind of commitment from its members. As I reminded you in my brief remarks at the annual meeting, *you* are the organization. In my research on labor unions I observed that one of the most difficult tasks facing organizers was getting workers to understand that *they*, the workers, were the union. It existed because of them, just as the SSSP exists because of you. Still, workers, time and time again, believed that once they voted for the union, their work was done. The paid union officials would take it from there. In some cases, this mistake was fatal. Sometimes union officials, intoxicated

(continued on page 26)

## Thank You!

I want to say a special thank you to all those who contributed to the celebration of my retirement as Executive Officer for the Society for the Study of Social Problems. The reception sponsored by the University of California Press-Journals Division was wonderful. Thank you to Rebecca Simon and Rebekah Darksmith. I want to express my thanks to everyone who said kind words at the reception, with a special thank you to the two members of the Executive Office staff who were able to attend, Michele Smith Koontz and Sharon Shumaker.

Thank you to Steven Barkan, 2008-09, President for his steady hand in all of this. Special thanks to Barbara Katz Rothman who managed to get 25 Past Presidents of the Society to contribute quilt squares and surprised me with a beautiful quilt that will remind me of the many delightful moments I have had with the leaders and members of SSSP.

Many people contributed to the travel money given to support a railroad trip across Canada for Ginger and me. It is gratefully received—special thanks to all who contributed. I don't know whose idea it was to name the Social Action Award (defined during my time as Executive Officer) in my honor. Thank you for doing that too. Most of all thank you to all the members who worked hard during my nineteen years as Executive Officer to make SSSP such a fine professional society, dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge to create a more just social order.

— Tom Hood

**If I am not for myself, then who will be for me?  
And if I am only for myself, what am I?  
And if not now, when?**

—Hillel the Elder

# **THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS**



**congratulates**

**JOHN F. GALLIHER**  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

**winner of the**

## **2009 LEE FOUNDERS AWARD**

Established in 1981, this award is made in recognition of significant achievements that, over a distinguished career, have demonstrated continuing devotion to the ideas of the founders of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and especially to the humanistic tradition of Alfred McClung Lee and Betty Briant Lee.

# *Social Problems*

## **Editorial Search — Call for Applications**

The Editorial and Publications Committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems is seeking applications for the position of Editor of the Society's journal, *Social Problems*.

The Editor's three-year term will begin with the operation of the new editorial office at mid-year 2011. The new editor will be responsible for editing Volumes 59-61 (years 2012-14). Members of the SSSP are encouraged to apply for the position and/or nominate colleagues who are (or will become) members.

The Editor is responsible for managing the peer review process for approximately 300-400 submitted manuscripts per year, and preparing four issues of the journal (approximately 650 printed pages) annually. The editorial office manages the review process using the on-line services of ScholarOne/Manuscript Central and also has responsibility for copy editing and proofreading in accordance with customary publishing standards.

The committee seeks editorial candidates with distinguished scholarly records, previous editorial experience (e.g., service as journal editor or associate editor, editor of scholarly editions, etc.), strong organizational and management skills, and the ability to work and communicate well with others. A familiarity with, and commitment to, *Social Problems* and the SSSP are essential.

The SSSP supports the operation of the editorial office with an annual budget and provides a modest stipend and travel expenses for the Editor. Support is also expected from the host institution. This may include office space, utilities, the use of computers and other office equipment, tuition waivers for office personnel (if appropriate), faculty release time, and other basic expenses. Each year the Editor will be expected to submit a budget to the SSSP to cover operating expenses that the host institution does not support.

Individuals interested in applying for the editorship should submit their curriculum vitae with a cover letter detailing their relevant experience along with the support their institution is willing to provide. Letters from the applicant's department chair, dean, or other authorized university administrator confirming specific institutional support should also be included. Guidance in the preparation of applications is available from the Editorial and Publications Committee Chair as well as the current *Social Problems* Editor, the Executive Officer, and the Administrative Officer, if necessary.

Please direct all questions, inquiries, nominations, expressions of interest, and application materials to: Claire Renzetti, Chair, SSSP Editorial and Publications Committee, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton, OH 45469-1442. (937) 229-2428. Email: [Claire.Renzetti@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:Claire.Renzetti@notes.udayton.edu).

Deadline for applications is February 12, 2010.

## Oprah, Our Lady of Liberty?

Hephzibah V. Strmic-Pawl, University of Virginia

Oprah has done it again. Upon a recent visit to Chicago, I learned that on September 7<sup>th</sup> Oprah planned to shut down three blocks of Chicago's Michigan Ave, known as the Magnificent Mile, to film her first show of the 24<sup>th</sup> season of *Oprah*. Yes, Oprah, shut down three blocks of one of the busiest neighborhoods of Chicago, and she shut it down for over two days. When I learned that the taping was open and free to the public, I decided I had to see the spectacle for myself. I don't know what I expected to see, but what I saw was a multicultural love fest all in the name of the "O."

We are all aware of the power and influence of Oprah, particularly since she helped get the first black man elected to the presidency, but being among a group of thousands who are waiting for hours in anticipation of seeing Oprah is like experiencing a cultural Mecca in the United States. It is surreal.

I arrived at the Michigan Ave taping area at 2 pm, some twelve hours later than many other visitors. I, along with a huge crowd, was ushered, like cattle into a fenced area where I received a stamped number on my hand and was told that Oprah would start her show at 5 pm. Oprah's team, however, made sure that those three hours were well spent. There were "shabby-chic" and "hipster" like people walking around, wearing large, fancy, glossy name tags that said "Oprah's 24<sup>th</sup> Season Kickoff Party: Crew" on them. The crew members told us we were to learn a dance that was to be performed in unison as Black Eyed Peas played the opening song for the show. This dance was not simple; it had several moves including but not limited to "bow and arrow," "mashed potato," and "lean, lean, lean." The amazing thing is, everybody, thousands of people, participated in this choreography: women with diamonds and Gucci bags, burly and awkward men, women in tattoos and women in their Sunday best, evidently stoned men in Fubu baggy pants, toddlers, everyone. At one point, the dancing became a bit disorganized as people got tired and hot. Then, an Oprah Crew member came by and said "Come on guys, you gotta do this. This is for Oprah – it's a surprise for Oprah." This message was received like an infusion of energy drink right into the people's very bloodstream and psyche.

When Oprah finally arrived on stage there were elated cries and some pushing to get closer to the stage, but generally people were happy just to catch a glimpse. The woman behind me said to no one in particular, "I can finally say I've seen Oprah," which was returned by several soft, content, un huh's and yes, ma'ams. After waiting for hours all day and watching four bands perform live, I did not notice any screaming, shoving, or stealing. It was like everybody was on his best behavior – people apparently don't do wrong when Oprah is around. The night ended around 7:30 pm. The man behind me, in a full Cub's baseball outfit, shouted with all of his soul, "Go, Oprah; Go, Oprah" over and over again, even past the

point when his voice went hoarse. A few minutes later Oprah ended the evening by thanking everyone for coming. As I walked to the bus stop, I looked back now and then to see people reluctantly leaving their positions that they had cherished all day. I got on the bus to return home and felt like I had just left an alternate reality where people of all shades and sizes would wait all day together, side by side, without outward trouble.

It is seductively simple to describe Oprah as a positive celebrity and be appreciative that at least sometimes people from varying incomes and races can congregate. But, what lies underneath the facade of an *Oprah* show? What can we grasp about the power of O?

For one, Oprah is worth well over a billion dollars, and the Associated Press reported that to the City of Chicago alone Oprah paid \$54,000 for her "free" party. Moreover, it is presumed that the party had the support of Mayor Daley (who, with his wife, was present at the show) because it would bring increased spending in a time of economic downturn to

the Magnificent Mile. The event catered to those with money and tourists; the shopping and restaurants participated in the special atmosphere with open doors and Oprah welcome signs. On the other hand, the homeless people whom one normally sees on Michigan Avenue were oddly missing – strategically displaced for the day perhaps. The jubilee was efficiently controlled by the Chicago police and Oprah's private security and staff who, upon keen observation, were present in the background. The event was well orchestrated with money and used to generate more money.

The apparent "multicultural love fest" sentiment also deflates if you take off the rose-tinted glasses. Oprah is a black woman from a poor, rural Mississippi area, yet she has attained the number one spot on *Forbes'* 20 Richest Women in Entertainment list. To those born to fortunate positions, Oprah reaffirms their beliefs in "earned" social standing and in the idea of meritocratic rule. To those born less fortunate, Oprah shines as a beacon of hope that is so undeniably glorious it cannot be discounted. Oprah's messages, by and large, are about self help and individual motivation to be better, faster, stronger. In fact, the cover of September's *O Magazine* has the slogan of: "You're Stronger Than You Think." Oprah effectively hails people from both sides of the economic divide. Perhaps what we can learn about Oprah's reign is that people still believe, or desperately want to believe, in the twin ideological pillars of capitalism and individual success. It is as though Oprah herself now relays our Lady Liberty's famous words: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Since this event, I have pondered the implications of Oprah fans getting their wish, as many signs read, "Oprah should get to light the torch in 2016."



## News of Note

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

**Editors Tonia St.Germain, J.D., and Susan Dewey, Ph.D., seek chapter proposals for a new book, *The Body of the Nation: International Efforts to Address Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Zones***

President Obama has vowed to put women's issues at the core of American foreign policy. His decision to institute an Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues is unprecedented and reflects the elevated importance of global women's issues to the State Department. Secretary of State Clinton has drawn attention to women at nearly every stop in her travels, most recently on a visit to eastern Congo to speak out against mass rape. Clearly Obama's Administration recognizes the urgency of this crisis surrounding the use of rape as a tool in armed conflict in worldwide. Feminists have an opportunity to shape the questions leaders will answer as they formulate addressing: (1) sexual violence as a weapon of war; (2) sex trafficking as a by-product of war; (3) services to help victims of these atrocities. In this spirit, we invite papers for an anthology on international efforts to address sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict zones.

The twentieth and twenty-first centuries have witnessed historically unprecedented levels of violence against non-combatants as well as a concomitant rise in international and local efforts to assist survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Our co-edited volume will employ case studies from research on such global and local initiatives and institutions, thereby arriving at a deeper understanding of the various ways in which communities respond to this issue cross-culturally. As we would like to specifically target our volume toward undergraduates and a general audience, we seek accessibly written chapters from a variety of methodological, theoretical and disciplinary standpoints, with a particular focus on the following areas: [1] the ability of international criminal tribunals to prosecute wartime sexual violence without further victimization of witnesses; [2] analyses of culture-specific practices and institutions, including NGOs and state initiatives that address gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations; [3] efforts toward integrating men into the discourse of sexual violence as both victims and agents of power, including judges, prosecutors and state agency leaders; [4] the impact of military regulations and military culture in constructing accountability for soldiers, border guards, police, aid workers, and United Nations peacekeepers.

This compilation seeks to challenge the limited scope of current published research by encouraging contributions from outside North America and Europe. We are looking for submissions that advance knowledge on the relationship between the state and its response to sexual violence during violent conflict and post-conflict situations. Papers that use gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation as a category of analysis within different conflicts are encouraged. Only original work will be accepted.

Papers should be approximately 8,000 words excluding notes and bibliography. Fifteen papers will be selected for publication. Please send abstracts (250 words maximum) by **December 31, 2009**. Completed papers submission date is

May 1, 2010.

### **Call for chapters: *Research in The Sociology of Health Care Volume 28*, edited by Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld**

The major theme for this volume is "Racial/ethnic, geographic, gender, and other social factors leading to differences in health and health care: issues for patients and providers". Papers dealing with macrolevel system issues and micro-level issues involving racial/ethnic, geographic, gender and other social factors leading to differences in health and health care issues for patients and providers are sought. This includes examination of racial/ethnic, social, demographic and structural sources of differences in health and health care. This also includes papers that try to link an understanding of the causal processes between disadvantages, whether due to race/ethnicity, gender, geography or structure and health and health care outcome differences. This includes a consideration of social sources of differences across the life course. Papers that focus on linkages to policy, population concerns and either patients or providers of care as ways to meet health care needs of people both in the USA and in other countries would be welcome.

The focus can be from a consumer side or a provider or policy perspective. Papers that raise issues of the availability of services, access to those services, quality of services and the role of government in services provision are appropriate. For papers examining social sources of differences in health and health care delivery systems in other countries, the focus could be on issues of delivery systems in those countries and ways in which revisions and changes impact health or health care, especially if those are then also related to broader concerns in health care in the USA or other countries as well.

The volume will contain ten to 14 papers, generally between 20 and 40. Send completed manuscripts or detailed outlines for review by **February 1, 2010**, to:

Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld, Sociology Program,  
School of Social and Family Dynamics, Box 873701,  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-3701, USA  
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Initial inquiries can be by e-mail.

### **Contributions sought for a special issue of the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* on "Crime and the Life-course"**

The *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, the official journal of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, invites submissions for a special issue, "New Directions in Research Examining Crime over the Life-Course," edited by Dr. Wesley G. Jennings. We seek manuscripts on a variety of topics within the broad area of developmental criminology and crime over the life-course. The goal of this special issue is to disseminate theoretically grounded and empirically sound research that investigates the complex nature of studying crime over the life-course going beyond merely stating that prior offending is related to future offending. We welcome manuscripts from diverse methodological approaches that utilize advanced statistical techniques and longitudinal data to explore offending over time. Manuscripts should also focus on the implications of the research for criminal justice policy and practice. Inquiries about the appropriateness of topics can be directed to the special issue editor. All of the manuscripts will undergo blind peer review. Manuscripts should not exceed



20 pages double-spaced including tables, figures, and references. The page limit is a strict guideline in order to allow for a number of high quality manuscripts to be included in the special issue. Manuscripts should be received no later than **February 15, 2010**. Please send two electronic copies (one complete version and one blind copy with all author/s identifying information removed) to Dr. Wesley G. Jennings at [wjenn01@louisville.edu](mailto:wjenn01@louisville.edu). Style and formatting guidelines for authors and additional information are available at: <http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/criminology/journal/12103>.

**The editors of *Contemporary Justice Review* announce a special issue on “Policing and Justice: Exploring Alternatives and Furthering Old Debates”**

It has become somewhat axiomatic to refer to the police as the “gatekeepers” of the criminal justice system and a mechanism for the provision of “justice”. And yet, when we conceptualize the police thusly, we take for granted the actual empirical nature of the ‘gatekeeping’ role and its larger social meaning. A number of scholars have argued that democratic policing systems are necessary for the delivery of justice within liberal regimes, but just exactly how and if the various symbolic and operational functions of the police serve the goal of justice remains a question of empirical research and debate. Certainly, we have also witnessed a wealth of critical scholarship that contests the view that public policing serves all citizens equally or serves as a mechanism for accessing justice. The latter perspective raises another series of questions on possible alternatives to existing structures and processes that could make justice more widely accessible. For example, scholarship in this area has been near-exclusively focused on public policing, neglecting the plethora of private or community-based policing forms that operate beyond, below, outside, or parallel to the state. Whether or to what extent such forms assist in providing access to justice (through the state, private, or community means) remains ill-understood.

This special issue will address this deficit by collecting and publishing papers that foreground questions on the role and/or possibilities offered by public, private, or community-based policing forms as they seek justice for various populations. Generally, papers should explore alternative configurations of policing that go beyond the narrowly understood “gatekeeping” role. To this end, we seek papers from various disciplines and theoretical standpoints that explore the following areas:

- The role of the public police in fostering or limiting access to justice for individuals and/or groups;
- Public policing policies, programs or practices that aim to increase access to justice for marginalized groups or citizens;
- Forms of non-state policing (or policing ‘below the state’) with the potential to widen citizens’ ability to access justice through formal or informal means;
- Community-based and/or activist forms of policing or social control that replace the need for state-based initiatives;
- The general relationship between public or private policing and social justice.

We are also open to other subjects not outlined above that speak to the relationship between policing and justice as a

special theme of scholarship. Please contact the guest-editors (Luis Fernandez, Northern Arizona University at [luis.fernandez@nau.edu](mailto:luis.fernandez@nau.edu) or Laura Huey, University of Western Ontario at [lhuey@uwo.ca](mailto:lhuey@uwo.ca)) in advance to discuss proposed topics. All papers must be completed and submitted electronically no later than **February 15, 2010**. Please use standard formatting and submit the papers in a Word file format.

**Contributors sought for a special issue of *NmediaC, The Journal of New Media and Culture* on “New Media, Sex, and Culture in the 21st Century”**

Special issue editor Jonathan Lillie of Loyola University invites submissions of research articles, essays, and web-based art. Sex has a long history of being subjected to technologies of observation, regulation, enhancement, and representation. Many of the discourses and technologies of the Internet have been preoccupied with it, even though the U.S. government and other groups have tried to make it harder for people to find sex online. One of the messages of the “cyberporn scare” of the mid to late 1990s in the U.S. was: It’s here, and it’s bad! But in the drawn-out process of letting everybody know about it, online porn became somewhat normalized. As van Doorn (2009) argues: “pornography has been involved in a ‘mainstreaming’ process over the past decade... simultaneously, the public discourse on sex and sexuality has grown exponentially.” Foucault observes how sundry discourses of sexuality espouse a veil of silence and prudishness towards sex while at the same time positioning people to seek knowledge about it, observe it and talk about it. The rhetoric of the cyberporn scare asked society to wall up and hide pornography, but ended up forcing people to accept it and engage it more directly, whether it is to talk about it, joke about it, actively seek it, or actively avoid it. Web2.0 publishing tools and social media networks have made it easier for people to publically talk about sex and to publish their own sex online for anyone to see. Scholars and artists who explore any aspects of online pornography, NetPorn, the sexualization of Web2.0, sexual identities in postmodern society, and many other subject areas are invited to submit their work.

This special issue of *NmediaC* will be launched in collaboration with a juried art exhibit in Detroit, Michigan set for the summer of 2010. The articles and web-art from the special issue will be featured in the show. Submissions and inquiries about the on-site art show in Detroit should be directed to Steve Coy at: [loucoy@hotmail.com](mailto:loucoy@hotmail.com). Submission Deadline: **April 15, 2010**. Please send Email submissions in Word, HTML or PDF to [jlillie@loyola.edu](mailto:jlillie@loyola.edu). Visit the website at <http://www.ibiblio.org/nmediac> for more information.

**Calls for Presentations—Other Conferences**

(by submission deadline)

**The Association of Black Sociologists invites conference proposals for its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference August 11-14, 2010, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza, in Atlanta, GA**

ABS President-Elect, Dr. Sandar L. Barnes invites your participation for this years conference. The conference theme is “Re-Positioning Race Through Prophetic Research, Teaching, and Service.” It has been said that we now live in a post-racial society. The Black middle- and upper-classes are

noteworthy. But most people who espouse a post-racial perspective point to the election of Barack Obama, the first Black President of the United States, as the linchpin in their argument. It is true — few people could have possibly imagined that, in light of the legacy of chattel slavery and Jim Crow, a Black man would be elected leader of the Western world. Such dramatic changes have resulted in a new understanding of race for many Blacks and non-Blacks alike. Yet segments of the Black populace continue to experience poverty, health inequities, and social injustices. The HIV/AIDS pandemic rages. The chasm between the “haves” and “have nots” grows. And racism continues. We are compelled to examine what race means anew as well as how it is framed in academic discourses and in the lives of everyday citizens. Responding to this challenge will require us to think in prophetic ways. Appropriating aspects of Lincoln and Mamiya’s Black Church dialectic will inform our efforts. A prophetic mode of inquiry is inherently inquisitive, proactive, culturally sensitive, introspective, collaborative, and creative. A prophetic posture is not necessarily religious, but is invariably radical. Prophetic research is framed by sound sociological approaches. Yet it is not afraid to venture into other disciplines and thought processes. Most importantly, re-positioning race based on a prophetic stance means recognizing that rigorous academic research is impotent without applied efforts and social policy that empower the Black community and other disenfranchised people worldwide. One is not required to be Black or a sociologist to participate, but one must be willing to center the experiences of the historically oppressed. Where injustices are concerned, prophetic supporters talk less and do more. Does race as we have known it still matter? How is it being reconstructed at both institutional and individual levels? How must we re-position race to do justice to the many triumphs and continued trials in the Black community?

Those persons interested in submitting papers and/or organizing a session should complete and submit the 2010 Proposal Submission Form via email to Dr. Sandra L. Barnes ([sbarnes@blacksociologists.org](mailto:sbarnes@blacksociologists.org)), 2010 Program Chair. Complete details about organizing program sessions and organizer responsibilities will be e-mailed to those whose requests have been granted. ALL Presenters, Discussants, and Session Organizers must be members of ABS and must register by the early registration deadline in order to be included in the final printed program. The deadline for abstracts is **December 1, 2009**. Direct all inquiries to

Dr. Sandra L. Barnes  
 ABS 2010 Program Chairperson  
 Vanderbilt University  
 Department of Human and Organizational  
 Development and the Divinity School, Peabody #90  
 230 Appleton Place  
 Nashville, TN 37203-5721, USA  
 615-322-8714 (telephone); 615-322-1141 (fax)  
[sbarnes@blacksociologists.org](mailto:sbarnes@blacksociologists.org)

**The Sixth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (QI2010) will be held May 26-29, 2010, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in Champaign, Illinois.**

The theme of the 2010 Congress is “Qualitative Inquiry for a Global Community in Crisis.” It is clear that in these troubling

political times qualitative researchers are called upon to become human rights advocates, to honor the sanctity of life, and the core values of privacy, human dignity, peace, justice, freedom from fear and violence.

The 2010 Congress will offer scholars the opportunity to form coalitions, to engage in debate, and dialogue on how qualitative research can be used to advance the causes of social justice, while addressing racial, ethnic, gender and environmental disparities in education, welfare and healthcare. Delegates will show how critical inquiry can be used to bridge gaps in cultural and linguistic understandings.

Sessions will take up such topics as: the politics of evidence; alternatives to evidence-based models; mixed-methods; public policy discourse; social justice; human subject research; indigenous research ethics; decolonizing inquiry; standpoint epistemologies. Contributors are invited to experiment with traditional and new methodologies, with new presentational formats (drama, performance, poetry, autoethnography, fiction). Such work will offer guidelines and exemplars showing how qualitative research can be used in the human rights and policy-making arenas.

We invite your submission of paper, poster and session proposals. Submissions will be accepted online only until **December 1 2009**. Conference and workshop registration will begin December 1, 2009. To submit a paper or poster abstract or a panel, please visit the [www.icqi.org](http://www.icqi.org)

**The third annual Teachers, Teaching and the Movies (TTM III) conference will be held at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, April 8-10, 2010.**

This multi-disciplinary conference focuses on four burgeoning areas in the fields of education, sociology, media studies and communication; (1) Representations of Schools and Schooling in Old and New Media; 2) Use of Media as Pedagogical Tools; (3) Youth Media-Making as a Means of Social Transformation; and (4) The Teaching of Critical Media Literacy

TTM III provides a space for educators who teach critical media literacy in their classrooms. Youth interact with media and the representations proliferated through media in ways that are often not problematized or complicated. We invite papers that describe how teachers work with youth to think critically about the images and texts that confront them daily.

We support paper submissions by youth, K12 teachers, youth organizations, researchers and professors. It is our hope to bring together a community of folks interested in engaging in lively discussions about the myriad roles that media plays in shaping educational experiences.

Paper Proposals:

The conference organizers invite paper proposals from a range of disciplines (education, film studies, media and cultural studies, sociology, anthropology, psychology, history, English, American studies, communication, etc.). We are open to a wide variety of topics and approaches. Submitted papers will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary committee comprised of scholars from relevant fields.

Please submit proposals of at least 250 words and no more than 500 words to <http://www.teachingandthemovies.com>. The deadline for submissions is **December, 1, 2009**.

**The International Academic Forum in conjunction with its global partners announces the inaugural Asian Conference on the Social Sciences, to be held from June 18-21 2010 at the Ramada Osaka Hotel, Osaka, Japan.** The conference theme is “East Meets West in Pursuit of a Sustainable World.” For more than a decade, sustainability has emerged as a global issue for business and industry, government, and academia. Historically, sustainability has been associated with environmental concerns such as the energy crisis and global warming. Today, however, it is recognized that social/economic justice is equally important to achieving a sustainable future. Thus, issues such as poverty, hunger, education, health care, and access to markets should be a part of the evolution of any comprehensive sustainability paradigm. This conference will address these various dimensions of human sustainability. The organizers encourage submissions that approach this topic from a variety of perspectives and disciplines including: Sociology, Geography, Humanities, Anthropology, Archaeology, Cultural Studies, Psychology, Economics and Management, Media and Communications, Politics, Education and Social Welfare, etc.

Abstracts should be 250-500 words in length and will be reviewed by a voluntary team of peer reviewers. Authors are limited to one abstract submission, whether as lead or secondary author. The deadline for abstracts/proposals is **January 15, 2010**. The conference is sponsored by: The International Academic Forum, Auburn University, California Lutheran University, University of Glasgow, and Cordoba University

Enquiries: [acss@iafor.org](mailto:acss@iafor.org); Web address: <http://acss.iafor.org/>.

**The Canadian Sociological Association (La Société Canadienne de Sociologie) is holding its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting May 31 through June 4, 2010 at Concordia University, Montréal, Québec.**

The Canadian Sociological Association Annual conference is held as part of the annual Congress of the Humanities & Social Sciences organized by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (the Federation). Information on traveling to or accommodation in Montréal is posted on the Federation's website [www.fedcan.ca](http://www.fedcan.ca) under Congress and Registration Guide. The theme for the 2010 Congress is *Connected Understanding / Le savoir branché*. While we encourage paper proposals that address this theme, the CSA also invites proposals for sessions and papers that address the entire range of sociological research. The deadline for conference proposals is **December 18, 2009**.

Individuals will be notified whether their paper or session proposal has been accepted by February 19, 2010. For more information, please visit <http://www.csa.ca/AnnualMeeting/AnnualMeeting2010/2010Index.htm>, ou dans le Français, la visite: <http://www.csa.ca/AnnualMeeting/AnnualMeeting2010/2010IndexFr.htm>.

### **Congratulations!**

**Member's work merits Emerging Scholars award**

**Jeremy Brunson**, graduate student at Gallaudet University, received the 2009 Irving K. Zola Award for Emerging Scholars in Disability Studies for his paper titled “Visually

Experiencing a Call: The Calculated Consumer Labor Deaf People Perform to Gain Access Through Video Relay Service.”

**Member awarded significant fellowship**

Assistant Professor **Lauren Eastwood** (Sociology and Criminal Justice, SUNY Plattsburgh) received a fellowship from the Social Science Research Council to study global environmental governance through three United Nations-based policy-making bodies (the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Forum on Forests).

**Member makes professional career advances**

**Brian J. Gareau**, who received his PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2008, assumed an Assistant Professor of Sociology and International Studies position at Boston College this fall

**Member awarded prestigious research grant**

**Celeste Watkins-Hayes**, assistant professor of African American Studies and Sociology at Northwestern University, received a Robert Wood Johnson Investigator Award in Health Policy Research in the amount of \$323,566. The project, “Health, Hardship, and Renewal: Economic Survival Strategies among Black Women Living With HIV” will be funded from July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2014. The project is an ethnographic study exploring how living with HIV shapes the processes related to economic self-sufficiency and mobility for black women.

**Member awarded dissertation research grant**

University of Michigan student and SSSP member **Zakiya Luna** was recently awarded a \$12,000 National Science Foundation Dissertation Research Improvement Grant from its Law and Social Science Program. Luna's dissertation title is *Domesticating Human Rights: Women of Color Building Consciousness through the Reproductive Justice Movement*.

**Member starts postdoctoral fellowship**

**Tyson Smith** began a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Health at Rutgers University. He is beginning a new project on the mental health of American veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Member's teaching excellence acknowledged**

**Elroi Windsor** received the designation of Excellence in Teaching in Higher Education from Georgia State University's Center for Teaching and Learning.

**Member elected VP and President-elect of Congressional sponsored Crime Research Consortium**

Sociologist **Peter Cleary Yeager** of Boston University was elected vice president and president-elect of the White Collar Crime Research Consortium, the research arm of the National White Collar Crime Center, a Congressionally-funded organization.

*Congratulations one and all!*

### Fellowships & Summer Institutes

#### **Crime & Justice Summer Research Institute: Broadening Perspectives & Participation, sponsored by the Ohio State University, is being held July 12 – 30, 2010**

Faculty pursuing tenure and career success in research-intensive institutions, academics transitioning from teaching to research institutions, and faculty members carrying out research in teaching contexts will be interested in this Summer Research Institute. Organized by Lauren J. Krivo and Ruth D. Peterson and funded by the National Science Foundation and Ohio State University, the institute is designed to promote successful research projects and careers among faculty from underrepresented groups working in areas of crime and criminal justice. During the institute, each participant will complete an ongoing project in preparation for journal submission or agency funding review. The Summer Research Institute will provide participants with:

- Resources for completing their research projects;
- Senior faculty mentors in their areas of study;
- Opportunities to network with junior and senior scholars;
- Workshops addressing topics related to publishing, professionalization, and career planning;
- Travel expenses to Ohio, housing in a trendy Columbus neighborhood, and living expenses.

The institute will culminate in a research symposium where participants present their completed research before a scholarly audience.

Completed applications must be postmarked by **February 5, 2010**. To download the application form, please visit (<http://cjrc.osu.edu/rdcj-n/summerinstitute>). Applicants must hold regular tenure-track positions in U.S. institutions and demonstrate how their participation broadens participation of underrepresented groups in crime and justice research. For more information: [cjrcinstitute@osu.edu](mailto:cjrcinstitute@osu.edu).

### Job Announcements

**The following institutions are accepting applications for positions that may be of interest.**

Pennsylvania State University, Schuylkill (Sociology position, assistant rank) [see page 26 for announcement]  
 Purdue University (Sociology, Chairperson)  
 Siena College (Sociology position, assistant rank)  
 University of Cincinnati (Sociology position, assistant rank)

**Position announcements and application instructions are available at the SSSP website. Go to <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/320>**

### New Programs of Interest

#### **UC Santa Cruz has established a new Ph.D. program in Visual Studies; first cohort to begin Fall 2010**

The University of California at Santa Cruz announces a new graduate program leading to the Ph.D. in Visual Studies. This interdisciplinary program is designed for students who wish to pursue a graduate degree focused on the social and cultural production of human vision and the distinctive roles played by art and artifacts in societies from around the globe.

The program is designed with maximum flexibility. Students work closely with their advisor and the program director to craft a personalized course of study that advances their intellectual and professional goals. Students receive a minimum of four years of financial support, including tuition waivers, fellowships and Teaching and Research Assistant positions. Core Faculty are:

Martin Berger, gender, race and representation in U.S. culture  
 Raoul Birnbaum, Buddhist approaches to human vision, especially Chinese Buddhist representations and practices  
 Elisabeth Cameron, gender, performance, play and iconoclasm in Central Africa  
 Carolyn Dean, performance, costume and nonresemblant artifacts in Pre-Hispanic and Colonial Spanish America

### **Attention:**

## **Annual Auditor's Report Now Published Online and Available for Your Review**

**Independent Auditors LATTIMORE BLACK MORGAN & CAIN, PC, have prepared the 2008 annual audit of the SSSP's finances. The December 31, 2008 and 2007 report is available online for your review. To review the report, visit:**

<http://www.sssp1.org/file/2009AnnualMeeting/2008%20AUDIT%20REPORT%20LBMC.pdf>

Maria Evangelatou, gender, politics and religion in ancient Greek and Byzantine art and visual culture  
 Jennifer González, installation and activist art, theories of race and representation, digital art  
 Donna Hunter, European art and culture between the world wars  
 Stacy Kamehiro, identity politics and colonial histories in Oceania  
 Boreth Ly, trauma, gender and sexuality in Southeast Asia and its Diaspora  
 Daniela Sandler, modern and contemporary architecture and urbanism in Latin America and Europe  
 Catherine M. Sousloff, aesthetics, art and cultural theory, historiography of art and performance studies

Applications are welcome through **January 11, 2010** for our inaugural class, entering in September 2010. Address questions to graduate program coordinator, Abby Young, at [visualstudies@ucsc.edu](mailto:visualstudies@ucsc.edu). For additional information on our program, faculty and application requirements, please visit our website at <http://www.visualstudies.ucsc.edu>.

**Other Conferences/Workshops of Interest**  
 (by conference date)

**The 28th Annual International Labour Process Conference (ILPC) is being held March 15-17, 2010, at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.** The primary focus of the ILPC conference is work and employment relations in the context of the broader political economy, with an emphasis on employee perspectives and theory-led empirical research. visit: <http://www.ilpc.org.uk/Home.aspx> for more information.

**Recent Books Published by Members**

**Andrzejewski, Julie**, Marta P. Baltodano & Linda Symcox (Eds.) 2009. *Social Justice, Peace, and Environmental Education: Transformative Standards*. New York: Routledge.

ISBN: 10: 0415965578

**Berger, Ronald J.**, Marvin D. Free, Jr., & Patricia Searles. 2009. *Crime, Justice, and Society: An Introduction to Criminology, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. ISBN: 10: 1588266850

**Berger, Ronald J.** & Paul D. Gregory (Eds.) 2009. *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency: Sociological Perspectives*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. ISBN: 10: 1588266311

**Casper, Monica** & Lisa Moore. 2009. *Missing Bodies: The Politics of Visibility*. New York: NYU Press. ISBN: 10: 0814716784

**DeKeseredy, Walter S.** & Martin D. Schwartz. 2009. *Dangerous Exits: Escaping Abusive Relationships in Rural America (Critical Issues in Society)*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press. ISBN: 10: 0813545196

**Lindio-McGovern, Ligaya** & Isidor Wallimann. (Eds.) 2009. *Globalization and Third World Women: Exploitation, Coping and Resistance*. London: Ashgate Publishing Company. ISBN: 10: 0754674630

**Perrone, Dina**. 2009. *The High Life (Qualitative Studies in Crime and Justice)*. Monsey, NY: Criminal Justice Press. ISBN: 10: 1881798461

**Perrucci, Robert & Carolyn C. Perrucci**. 2009. *America at Risk: The Crisis in Hope, Trust and Caring*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. ISBN: 10: 0742563693

Phillips, Brenda, Deborah Thomas, Alice Fothergill & **Lynn Blinn-Pike**. 2009. *Social Vulnerability to Disasters*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC. ISBN: 10: 1420078569

**Pogrebin, Mark**, N. Prabha Unnithan, & **Paul Stretesky**. 2009. *Guns, Violence, and Criminal Behavior: The Offender's Perspective*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. ISBN: 10: 1588266656

**Please Note:**

**The 2009 Board of Directors Minutes & 2009 Business Meeting Minutes will be available online for your review soon. A formal announcement of their availability and the web address where they may be found will appear in a future issue of *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*. However, as soon as the materials are posted online, they may be reviewed. Check the SSSP website, <http://www.sssp1.org>, periodically for more information.**

**Thank you.**

## BOOK REVIEW ESSAY:

**Stout, Linda. *Bridging the Class Divide and Other Lessons for Grassroots Organizing*  
Boston: Beacon Press, 1996, Pp. 192. \$18.00 (paperback) Reviewed by  
Janeith Glenn-Davis, California State University, East Bay\***

Linda Stout's *Bridging the Class Divide* is an interesting and provocative tale which chronicles the author's experiences in her fight for social change and her journey toward self-discovery and acceptance. The autobiographical work begins with the story of Stout's humble upbringing and evolves into her fight, including her successes, trials, and tribulations, to overcome oppression and attain social and economic equity/justice for the underserved. Though poignant, there are both truths and contradictions, and I found myself torn between admiration and disdain for Stout and her "story." At times I was offended by Stout's actions and assertions, while at other times I applauded her courage, tenacity and acumen. Given that her work may provoke similar reactions among students, community organizers, public administrators and political activists, Stout's work merits thoughtful review, analysis, and reflection.

### REVIEW

In her work, Stout notes that her childhood formed the foundation of her activism and prominently shaped her beliefs and values. Raised as a Quaker, Stout poignantly describes key experiences that include a serious auto collision that left her family members hospitalized for months, and her mother with only one leg. She identifies this experience as one of her first "brushes" with inequity and oppression. Stout writes that both she and her mother received substandard medical care, and her parents did not receive any monetary compensation for damages from the at-fault driver or their insurance company. She attributes both issues to the fact that her family was poor and, thus, deprived of opportunities and services that persons of greater wealth would have garnered (1996, pp. 16–17).

Stout details an incident in which her best friend shunned her and another where a teacher humiliated her. She attributes the occurrence of both incidents to fact that her family was poor (Stout, p. 19). Stout reports that she experienced discrimination by teachers and professors who continuously attempted to relegate her to "traditional" female classes (none of which were eligible for college credit) and marginalize her for selecting a non-traditional major. She identifies these experiences as her first with "sexism" (Stout, pp. 21–23).

Stout describes a brief college career that was marred by a significant struggle between self-confidence and self-doubt (the doubt prevailed). Although she recalls several incidents in which she was the victim of discrimination, it was her subsequent personal experiences and tribulations with housing and employment that made her "... acutely aware of sexism, racism, and homophobia" (Stout, p. 26). These tribulations laid the foundation for what was to become Stout's principle-driven fight to bridge the class divide between low-income and middle-class people by demanding equality and justice for all.

In the late 1970's, Stout embarked on her journey to become a social justice activist. She dabbled with membership in existing organizations committed to seeing passage of the

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and she helped form a peace movement group. Stout's affiliation with these groups was short lived because she became discouraged due to feelings of marginalization and oppression she experienced at the hands of fellow activists. Stout believes that the women's group did not "value" her attempts to reach out to low-income women. Stout interprets their lack of support as the result of pre-conceived notions and attitudes about low-income women including, but not limited to, the belief that low-income women would not support a feminist agenda. According to Stout, the group's attitude caused her to become discouraged and withdraw her membership (1996, p. 32).

Stout outlined similar experiences with the peace group. Although Stout was a founding member of the group, she reports that her role soon became that of note taker, organizer, and behind-the-scenes worker because she was not as educated, articulate, or accomplished as some of the men in the group. Stout wrote that this resulted in a renewed lack of self confidence and insecurity (1996, pp. 37–39). It also, however, resulted in what Stout says were her first lessons about group dynamics, people, and change; lessons that would serve her well in her future endeavors (1996, p. 35).

Shortly thereafter, Stout and others established the Piedmont Peace Project (PPP), an organization committed to economic and social change with a focus on military and peace issues. The PPP attracted mostly low-income (and some middle-class) blacks and whites. The group recruited mostly through word-of-mouth via church, door-to-door, voter registration, and other community outreach efforts. The PPP developed as a grassroots organization in the truest sense. The group went on to become a powerful, influential public policy force to be reckoned with (1996, p. 53).

The PPP began to impact economic and social change by exerting political pressure on elected representatives (1996, pp. 54–55). However according to Stout, along with power, influence, and high visibility came intense opposition to, and inner turmoil within, the group; this caused the PPP to go "underground" for a period of time (1996, p. 56). Approximately two years later, the PPP reemerged with increased power, influence, and notoriety. The PPP garnered national support and press coverage by leading the charge to develop and revitalize a dilapidated North Carolina community. This experience further shaped the social activism path of the PPP (1996, pp. 61–64).

Conversely, Stout also identifies less "successful" reform efforts that, while not necessarily considered victories, served to shape the future of PPP just as much as the "successful" PPP efforts. As an example, Stout points to the group's failed attempt to win protections for employees of Proctor-Silex. She identifies the lesson learned as recognizing that it does little to work for change at the local level, if one fails to work at the federal level to change the laws that affect local issues (1996, pp. 64–66).

Stout outlines various PPP successes and failures, all of which contributed to her development of seven “Principles” for bridging the class divide and building grassroots organizations (1996, pp. 105–116). Stout also offers a new spin on a vision for the optimal leadership model. The PPP built its name and prided itself on the notion of “shared leadership;” a model that enshrines sharing power, authority and leadership responsibility (1996, pg. 141). The PPP leadership motto might be, “The more, the merrier,” as opposed to the traditional model of leadership that touts a minimal number of leaders at the top. In addition, the traditional adage “...leaders are born, not made,” held no credibility in the PPP organization. PPP leaders prided themselves on training, developing, and fostering new leaders... believing that every member had innate leadership potential (1996, pp. 142–144).

Nevertheless, Stout discusses (with clarity and common sense) how the PPP chose not to discard all of the aforementioned principles and practices. Instead of “throwing out the baby with the bathwater,” the PPP capitalized (no pun intended) on success by tailoring some of the typical business principles and practices to meet the needs of the PPP. Stout cautions other grassroots organizations against engaging in the practice of prejudging business principles/methods without cause or justification; she warns that doing so could be problematic to building an organization (1996, p. 156).

Finally, Stout offers recommendations on how to survive the “blessings” of success by preplanning how to handle the intense opposition, rejection, criticism, suppression (and other significant backlash) that is sure to occur when success knocks at a social change organization’s door. Stout concludes her work by reflecting on her social change journey and reiterating what is required of grassroots organizations in their quest to achieve economic and social justice (1996, pp. 171-176).

On a more personal note, Stout wrote in depth about often feeling like an outsider as she dabbled in the leadership arena early on in the establishment of the PPP. She discussed how men, especially white men, came into the organization and, simply by virtue of the fact that they were male and/or because of the professional title they held, immediately became the “heir-apparent” leaders while she was relegated to the planning/scheduling role. Stout indicates that members of the group never implicitly stated that she was not the appropriate choice for the leadership role. Instead, Stout shares several instances where she was made to “feel” as though she should remain in the background and not attempt to take on a leadership role (1996, pp. 37–39). In this way, these and some of her other confessions offer insight not only into her personal experiences, but also point to problems and concerns that may challenge future community organizers and change agents both personally and professionally.

## ANALYSIS and PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

In conducting a critical review of Stout’s work, I contemplated a number of dichotomous thoughts and feelings I had about Stout and her story. I noted that many of her experiences were

similar to those of other leaders/pioneers in the social change arena; especially to those of women in leadership roles. This was one of the story’s moments of “truth” in which I empathized with Stout and admired her “never say die” tenacity in her struggle for social justice and equity.

Accordingly, her work resonated with me and is likely to resonate with other women and people of color. For example, many of the contributors to Deborah L. Rhode’s *“The Difference ‘Difference’ Makes”* (2003) seem to confirm Stout’s experiences and observations. Rhodes writes, “Women’s opportunities for leadership are constrained by traditional gender stereotypes, inadequate access to mentors and informal networks of support, and inflexible workplace structures” (2003, p. 7). Ruth B. Mandel acknowledges the very same subtle process that the inequitable leadership pattern often takes. She explains, “... external barriers, although diminishing in strength and becoming more subtle than overt, continue to carry the blame for the slow pace of progress in increasing women’s representation in top leadership” (2003, p. 68). And Mary B. Cranston offers insight from her personal experiences. She confides, “I have dealt with subtle bias ... at different times in my career... bias was such an engrained part of the world... I just took it as the way things were meant to be” (2003, p. 177).

**Though poignant, there are both truths and contradictions, and I found myself torn between admiration and disdain . . . .  
At times I was offended by Stout’s actions and assertions, while at other times I applauded her courage, tenacity and acumen.**

Similarly, my own experiences parallel many of Stout’s. As a law enforcement chief executive officer, I along with many of my female colleagues, have experienced (and continue to experience) the subtle, and sometimes not so subtle, double-standard phenomenon. This bias and double-standard is manifest in many ways, ranging from being labeled a “bitch,” (as opposed to a strong leader) simply for demonstrating a strong, focused, command presence and ability to lead and direct (attributes typically honored in law enforcement), to being forced to “prove” you are worthy of a promotion or position by means above and beyond the typical standards for male counterparts.

Collectively, evidence suggests that Stout’s belief that she was often the victim of gender bias was, in all probability, more than just a belief. Stout’s acknowledgement, as well as that in Rhode’s manuscript is extremely useful in examining the issue of underrepresented women leaders by reminding us that the noted leadership biases are not always overt, “in-your-face,” acts.

Stout’s talk about “talk” is also one of the book’s major highlights. She recounts numerous occasions in which she believes she was marginalized, disregarded, and even disrespected simply because of the way she talked. The manner in which Stout spoke was simply a manifestation of the real underlying issues of marginalization and oppression based on her socio-economic status (“class”). This concept was extremely interesting and thought provoking for two reasons: First, because it highlighted the divisive power of language, and second, because it is a concept that many minorities, especially African Americans, are acutely aware of and have personally experienced for many years.

Stout raises the possibility that “non-standard” verbal communication (i.e., spoken language inconsistent with that

typical of middle and upper class, white Mid Westerners) may serve as a mark prompting derision, disrespect and lowered expectation by others, and that it may become the basis for a self-fulfilling prophecy. Stout reports that there were many instances in which people assumed that she could not speak effectively because she was a working-class woman without a college degree. She began to believe the myth and accepted it as a truth. Stout recalls that her feelings of inadequacy caused her to become voiceless and feel invisible (1996, pp. 37, 38).

In addition, Stout's discussion of the word "articulate" resonated with me personally (1996, p. 38). Unbeknownst to the masses, many African Americans cringe when we hear this word used, specifically when it is used to describe an African American male who demonstrates mastery of the use of mainstream communication methods and language styles (or who simply does not speak "Ebonics"). Stout's work clearly communicates that how one speaks should not be a primary factor in judging the level of his/her intelligence, commitment, and/or ability to serve. In addition, it should not be the primary factor in determining the level of attention or credibility a person is worthy of.

Following Habermas (1970), many scholars hold out the ideal of a forum in which all participants may speak freely in an unbiased, open venue in which no individual is advantaged by virtue of gendered, racist, sexist, or regionalist speech or communication rules (e.g., Dryzek 1990; Friere 1970; Morrell 1999). Especially noteworthy in light of Stout's reflections is Paulo Freire's work, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1970). His work both champions an idealized manner of humane, human interaction, and it sketches a means of sustainable self-development and self-empowerment (a means Stout's life seems to validate in important ways). He contends: "Dialogue with the people is neither a concession nor a gift, much less a tactic to be used for domination... Dialogue is a fundamental precondition for man's true humanization."

Stout reiterates this concept and identifies "language" as one of the "invisible walls" that jeopardizes work toward social change. She writes, "Language creates probably the biggest barrier to building an inclusive movement." Further, she argues that overcoming the divisiveness of language is critical to the success of any organization, be it the PPP itself, a local city council, a school board or municipal board or a community group (1996, pp. 117, 118).

Absent a non-coercive situation in which all participants engage as equals, we have what Iris Young refers to as "cultural imperialism" (1990, p. 58-61). That is, the "leaders" (whether they be the white, males of the PPP or educated, dominant class, city council leaders) use the *Others'* failure to master the "king's language" to stereotype the group and render its members invisible; thereby keeping the traditional power structures intact.

Again, Stout's talk about "talk" was provocative and resonated with me based, in part, on my experiences (and those I have observed involving others within my culture). I never considered that a "prominent," white female social activist

leader might have experiences with bias that closely mirror those of many African Americans (especially males). However, the use of language to marginalize and oppress is real but it is promising that Others are electing to "beat the drum" of enlightenment.

In contrast, I struggled with (even doubted to a great degree) the emphasis Stout placed on the impact of "class." Stout (for obvious reasons) cannot provide a first-hand account of the impact racism has on perception and acceptance. She was, however, able to provide her opinions, based on her first-hand experiences, about the effects of classism and sexism. Stout asserts that "class" typically has a greater impact on perception than gender (1996, p. 17, 19, 22). I failed to fathom how this could be true.

For other readers who might be similarly perplexed, Young's discussion of "powerlessness" (as it relates to classism, racism, and sexism) provided the clarity I needed to better understand the impact of each "ism" on the issues of respect, perception, and privilege – and it may do so for you too. Young's example of a white male, who is given respect until his class status is exposed, versus a woman or ethnic minority man who is not given respect until his or her class standing is revealed, helped me grasp the magnitude and meaning of the impact of each "ism" (1990, pp. 56-58). My

Stout's talk about 'talk' was provocative and resonated with me based, in part, on my experiences (and those I have observed involving others within my culture). I never considered that a 'prominent,' white female social activist leader might have experiences with bias that closely mirror those of many African Americans (especially males).

conclusion is that none is better or worse, and all are painful and oppressive. Stout's work is valuable for prompting such concerns and playing a role in making this realization a possibility.

Nevertheless, despite such noteworthy contributions, I was initially "turned off," offended, and sometimes disturbed by

many of Stout's assertions and the obvious contradictions they presented. However, my second "read" through Stout's book (actually, a review of highlighted passages and notes I recorded) rendered a much more forgiving "I."

For example, Stout began by writing about the virtues of the Quaker Meeting and how the pedagogy of the Quakers, a praxis in which the students selected what they wanted to learn about, inspired her to explore and learn. Stout described the experience as "empowering" (Stout, p. 13). The Quaker learning practice seems similar to that espoused by Friere where the student is a partner in determining curriculum (1970, pp. 80-81). Yet, under Stout's leadership there was little to no negotiation concerning the curriculum in the PPP's newly developed literacy program. PPP leaders rejected the opportunity to "empower" the group and instead hand selected the curriculum. In doing so, they effectively dictated "the pedagogy of the oppressed" members of the PPP simply because Stout feared that the (mostly African American) community would go straight for their Bibles if she "allowed" them input into the curriculum (1996 pp. 80, 81). Stout's actions wreaked of hypocrisy, cultural imperialism, and oppression ... issues she claimed to oppose.

There are other examples of Stout's behavior and/or attitude that struck me as contradictory and hypocritical. In one instance, Stout was quick to discount a potential woman leader due to the woman's appearance (her "wild hair and hippie



clothes”). Stout attributed her “lack of confidence” that the women could effectively lead the group, to her assumption that the woman would not be trusted by the local community (Stout, p. 36). In yet another example, Stout discussed how she was discouraged from speaking to certain groups because leaders of the organizations (e.g., the pro-ERA group and an unnamed national peace group) did not feel that Stout could effectively relate to the groups (1996, pp. 32, 38, 72).

Stout describes, in detail, how these experiences (in which others assumed she was not good enough to speak and prejudged her based on her socio-economic status and lack of higher education) resulted in feelings of self-consciousness, self-doubt, hurt, and anger (Stout, p.73). However, she expressed little-to-no remorse for the many assumptions and resulting decisions she made based on individuals’ appearance, race, or faith orientations, as chronicled throughout the book (Stout, pp. 36, 81).

Stout’s experiences and discussions regarding the issue of “trust” were equally thought-provoking. First, for matter of discussion, is the issue of how our personal experiences significantly influence our sphere of trust. Similar to many in minority, working-class, or underserved communities, Stout has experienced significant emotional events that have colored her perspective.

She describes an incident where she witnessed a black man being continuously beaten by several white police officers, despite the fact that the man was apparently submitting to the arrest. Stout adds that she often saw people (come into the law office in which she once worked) who had been beaten by the police. She also discussed witnessing the courts and justice system overall failing to meet out justice (1996, p. 31).

It should be noted that individuals who have not witnessed police misconduct often view police from a completely different perspective. The result is that they often “paint” the police and the people who police arrest with a wide stroke; thereby rendering all police as “good guys” and all detainees/arrestees as “bad guys.” The converse is also a reality. Individuals who have witnessed, or simply heard about, police misconduct (usually those from underserved communities) often label all police as “bad guys” and all detainees/arrestees as “victims.” Even more problematic, however, is the tendency to marginalize the underserved community’s distrust of the police and label it as mere “paranoia” or “unreasonable.”

Following Stout’s efforts and recommendations, a deeper understanding and collaboration between the two groups would occur if there was open discussion and acknowledgement regarding the roots of the mistrust issue. Evidence for this is found in the epiphany that occurred when a Klansman and a black woman began to communicate and then found that although they were very different, they shared many similar experiences (1996, p. 95), and in the understanding that evolved in working-class people (who lost their jobs when their companies relocated to El Salvador) as they began to understand that the plight of the El Salvadorian worker was very much like their own (1996, p. 51).

In addition, Stout described a period in the PPP’s history when, after a violent attack, nearly all middle-class members left the organization. Stout described feelings of anger, hurt, and abandonment. The incident led to her distrust of middle-class people (she believed that, “... they would remain committed to social change only as long as it was safe and easy,”) and significant changes in PPP’s outreach and

organizing efforts (1996, p. 56).

Stout also described an incident in which a religious organization, hoping to conduct outreach to the African American community, held an educational conference at a church where one of the church leaders was a leader within the Ku Klux Klan. Stout said that the religious group did not understand why the black community did not attend the conference. The outcome was “hurt feelings and mistrust on both sides” (1996, p.130). It is incidents such as the aforementioned ones that color our perceptions, fuel mistrust, and inhibit “building unity for real democracy” (1996, p. 181).

I did, however, recognize what I reference as, instances of “redemption” for Stout. In addition to actually sharing powerful lessons learned and offering useful recommendations, Stout’s most meaningful messages were shared as she provided insight about personal lessons learned regarding her own shortcomings as a person and leader.

The first of these insights is chronicled on page 41. Stout attended a meeting comprised of “black folks” and was surprised by the fact that she was not immediately welcomed with open arms. As Stout reflected on the totality of circumstances surrounding the meeting and her response to the occurrences, she realized that she would forever struggle to “unlearn” racism. She wrote, “I began to understand that I still had attitudes and ways of being that were racist even though I did not mean to be.”

In another poignant reflection, Stout pondered the many ways that she has benefitted from “white privilege.” Stout writes that it is an “... ongoing process for [her] to see all the ways that [she has benefitted] from white privilege.” Stout shares how it is often difficult for white people to recognize this fact. Stout admits that despite her awareness, there is still much that she does not see; thus, she is often “surprised by it [white privilege].” Consequently, Stout defines herself as a “racist who works constantly against racism” (Stout, pp. 100, 101). These self-reflection lessons are as noteworthy, informative, and meaningful as the “formal” lessons presented by Stout.

Indeed, the lessons learned are the heart and soul of Stout’s offering. The “lessons” are summarized in the seven Principles, the four “invisible walls,” and the business adaptation recommendations outlined in the final chapters of the book.

Overall I enjoyed Stout’s book; this despite the fact that some of her views seemed condescending and a number of her assertions appeared hypocritical and contradictory. Still, Stout’s courage and honesty (even when it did not paint her in the most favorable light) was refreshing, and her personal experiences proved interesting. Stout’s work, without a doubt, presents very useful information for grassroots organizing and for bridging class, race, gender, and social divides. And for this reason, Stout’s work is recommended for formal and informal students of grassroots organizing, community development, public administration and social change, as well as for anyone interested in bridging divides.

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\*Janeith Glenn-Davis is a University Chief of Police. She is working on her Master of Public Administration degree in California State University, East Bay’s Public Affairs and Administration program.

Continued on page 42

## OPINION/EDITORIAL:

### Why the Public Option is so Difficult to Achieve, but too Important to Let Die Vanna Gonzales, Arizona State University\*

While Americans are fond of idealizing the “will of the people” rarely do we enact policy that is focused at its core on the notion of the public good. Consequently, it is not particularly surprising that we have failed to debate either a national health care delivery system or single-payer plan, despite the relative success of these options in countries as diverse as Sweden, Italy and England . More puzzling perhaps is the question of why, in the midst of a perfect storm of economic need, favorable public opinion (see latest *Washington Post*/ABC poll),<sup>1</sup> and rigorous support by Democratic activists, has the public option been so difficult to achieve?

While a comprehensive answer to this question would need to consider a variety of cultural and structural forces that obstruct comprehensive public solutions to common socio-economic problems in the United States, the considerable resistance to comprehensive national reform induced by American political institutions, more specifically the unique combination of a majoritarian electoral system, decentralized federalism, and an elaborate array of constitutionally guaranteed checks and balances, is important to consider. Unlike most other advanced industrial democracies, in the United States individual candidates acquire legislative seats according to a winner-take all principle rather than proportional representation, an electoral system in which parties allocate seats according to the number of votes their platform can attract. The result is a two-party system in which politicians are not particularly loyal to their party, causing them to float programs and vote legislation calculated mainly on the basis of getting them through their next election cycle and politics is pulled to the center, thus significantly restricting the range of policy options available at the national level. Add to this an extremely decentralized form of federalism in which states rights trump national responsibility in all areas not directly delegated to the federal government, and you have a situation in which states tend to obstruct and/or dismantle policy proposals that threaten their legal and regulatory authority. This creates a powerful centripetal force away from coherent, comprehensive efforts to generate public protections at the federal level, a process which is further exacerbated by the elaborate system of constitutionally mandated checks and balances that occurs between the formulation of reform proposals and their enactment into legislation. Unlike many other countries, the United States has a bicameral legislature, which means that both a majority in the U.S. Senate and House must be on board with any proposal that has a chance of passing through the executive branch. Moreover, because the U.S. presidency is independent of the legislature, fissures between them are more common, thus creating additional opportunities for conflict and greater pressure for centrist compromises. Finally, absent an institutionalized form of coordinated, collective bargaining and negotiation at the national level, the decision making power to hammer out important policy details lies with a select cadre of politicians (think the so-called gang of six on the Senate budget committee), who, often lacking substantive expertise, rely

heavily on the advice of a relatively small inner circle of corporate lobbyists and party operatives. In short, the institutional underpinnings of the American political system promotes a particular brand of politics—a politics that is intrinsically centrist yet profoundly adversarial, personality driven, and heavily influenced by those with deep pockets.

These factors provide an important backdrop for understanding why, despite the obvious advantages of the Consumer Choice Health Plan proposals, including, broad access, stringent consumer safeguards, and a robust mechanism for making extended coverage more affordable, the Senate Finance Committee bill, America’s Healthy Future Act, may appear to represent the “art of the possible” in 21st Century American politics. While ultimately, America’s middle class, and even many of its 30 million currently uninsured citizens could live with some moderately altered version of this proposal, without a significant reform of the reform, including but not limited to a public health care insurance option, federal guarantees of essential benefits, and a more robust health insurance exchange, it will fall far short of providing American citizens with publicly guaranteed access to high quality health care—one of the three social rights famously identified by British Sociologist T.H. Marshall as necessary for providing an equal opportunity to a civilized standard of life. In the face of significant opposition, economic crisis combined with tenacious political strategizing has led to the creation of some of America ’s most enduring tributes to the public good, among them such esteemed institutions as the Federal Reserve and the National Forest Service. The time has come once again for Democrats to exert all of their collective political capital to promote the public good, this time in service of the social innovations necessary for health care reform to truly represent the interests of the American people. The cost of failing at this endeavor will be measured not only in terms of continued escalating economic costs coupled with declining health care quality, but also by the magnitude of the political casualties found among the Democratic party’s base—young activists and cautious though hopeful progressives like myself who wanted so badly to believe that somehow, this time, with this president, it would be different!

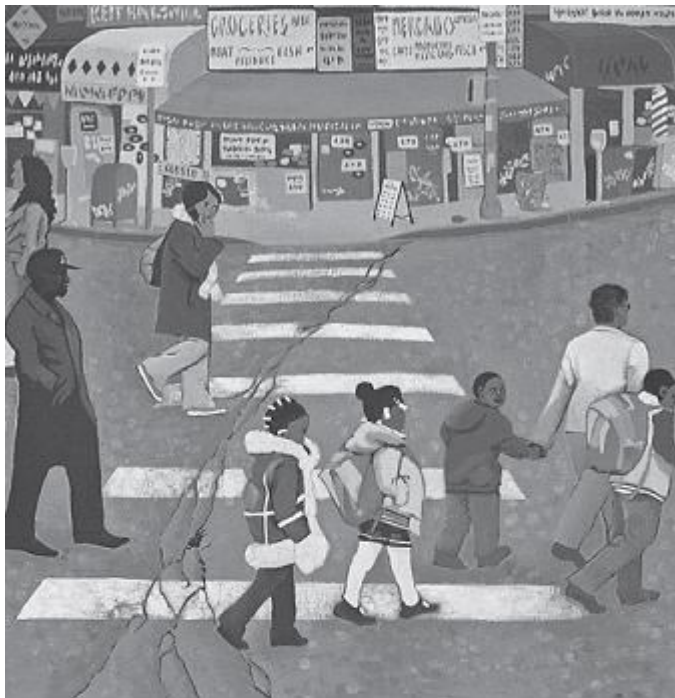
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\*Vanna Gonzales is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University . She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley . Her research and teaching interests focus on social and economic justice, welfare state development and social enterprises in the United States and Europe.

#### Note

<sup>1</sup>The *Washington Post* /ABC news poll was conducted October 15-18th, 2009. “*Washington Post*-ABC News Poll,” can be accessed at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/postpoll\\_101909.html?sid=ST2009101902502](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/postpoll_101909.html?sid=ST2009101902502).

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## CRACKS IN THE PAVEMENT

Social Change and Resilience in Poor Neighborhoods

MARTÍN SÁNCHEZ-JANKOWSKI

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## **2009 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS AND OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

*Sponsored by the Special Problems Divisions  
of the Society for the Study Social Problems*

The Special Problems Divisions are pleased to announce the 2010 Student Paper Competitions and Outstanding Scholarship Awards. Please note each division has a unique deadline and submission process.

### **COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

**Deadline: 4/1/10**

**The Community Research and Development Division** announces its 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. The goal is to encourage scholarly endeavors which enhance our understanding of issues affecting the community. Paper topics can focus on various aspects of the community including its capacity (i.e., social capital), development, renewal, and its relationship with other social issues or problems. Qualitative and quantitative empirical analyses and theoretical papers are welcome. To be eligible for submission, a paper must not be published or accepted for publication. Papers must be student-authored; they may be authored by a single student or co-authored by more than one student, but may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student. Papers must not exceed 30 pages including all notes, references, and tables. To be considered for the award, the author must make a commitment to present the paper at a Community Research and Development Division session during the 2010 SSSP meeting. Send two copies of the paper and a cover letter specifying that the paper is to be considered in the Community Research and Development Division Graduate Student Paper Competition to: Dr. Kimberly Kennard, Department of Human Services, Modesto Junior College, 435 College Avenue, Modesto, CA 95350, [kennard@mjc.edu](mailto:kennard@mjc.edu). A brief letter from each author's advisor should be included. This letter should certify the person's status as a student and include some comments about the research. Papers may be sent beginning on January 1, 2010 but no later than April 1, 2010. The winner will be announced no later than May 31, 2010 and will receive a \$300 cash award at the SSSP 2010 Annual Meeting August 13-15, registration for the meetings, a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet, and the opportunity to present her/his paper at the SSSP meetings in Atlanta, GA.

### **CONFLICT, SOCIAL ACTION, AND CHANGE DIVISION**

**Deadline: 5/1/10**

**The Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division** announces its 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Students are encouraged to submit theoretical or empirical papers that address some aspect of the interrelation of conflict, social action, and change. The winner of the competition will receive a \$150 cash award, conference registration fees to the 2010 SSSP meeting in Atlanta, GA, and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet. To be eligible for submission, a paper must not be published or accepted for publication. Also, papers must be authored by a current graduate student (either solely or co-authored by more than one student) and may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student. The winning author is required to present the paper at a Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division session during the 2010 SSSP meeting in Atlanta, GA, August 13-15. Papers must not

exceed 30 pages including all notes, references, and tables. Please send an electronic copy of the paper and a cover letter to Debbie Perkins at [dperkins@coastal.edu](mailto:dperkins@coastal.edu) with the subject line: SSSP-CSAC Student Paper Competition.

### **CRIME AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DIVISION**

**Deadline: 3/15/10**

**The Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division** announces its 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers may be empirical or theoretical, and they may be on any aspect of crime, deviance, and/or social control. To be eligible, a paper must have been written during 2009, and at the time of submission, it may not be published, accepted for publication, or under review for publication. Papers which have been presented at a professional meeting or accepted for presentation at a professional meeting are eligible. Papers must be student-authored; they can be single-authored or co-authored by students, but may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student. Please submit in MS Word 2007. There is a 25-page limit, including all notes, references, and tables. Submissions should use 12-size font, one inch margins, and double spacing throughout. Send papers and a cover letter specifying that the paper is to be considered in the SSSP Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division Graduate Student Paper Competition to: Dr. Robert Garot, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 899 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10019. Submissions may also be submitted electronically to: [rgarot@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:rgarot@jjay.cuny.edu). The winner(s) will be announced in Spring 2010, will receive a \$200 stipend, and is eligible to present the paper at the 2010 annual meeting in Atlanta.

### **CRIME AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Deadline: 10/15/09**

**The Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division** announces a new Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is intended to honor individuals for their distinguished scholarship in the field of crime and delinquency and/or for the positive impact of their actions/activism to address problems of crime and delinquency and achieve justice. The award will be given at the 2010 SSSP meeting in Atlanta during a special division session. In submitting your nomination, please provide the following supporting materials: a letter or statement evaluating the nominee's contribution and its relevance to this award; and the nominee's vitae (short version preferred). Please submit your nomination and supporting materials electronically to: [sburns@lmu.edu](mailto:sburns@lmu.edu).

### **DISABILITIES DIVISION**

**Deadline: 5/1/10**

**The Disabilities Division** is pleased to announce its 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers may be empirical or theoretical and may concern any social aspect of disability.

Papers should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages and should be prepared for anonymous review. Current graduate students and recent graduates (who received their degrees after December 2009) may submit a paper if it was written while still a student. Papers based on theses or dissertations are acceptable. (Please do not submit the thesis or dissertation itself.) Co-authored papers are acceptable as long as all the listed authors are current graduate students. Double submission to other SSSP award competitions will be disqualified. The award recipient will be required to present the winning paper at the 2010 SSSP Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Thus it is strongly recommended that an abstract of the paper be submitted to any Disability Division session organizer by the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. The recipient will receive a monetary prize of \$100, student membership in SSSP, SSSP conference registration, and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet. Send an electronic copy of the paper (in Word format) and a cover letter identifying your graduate program to: Professor Valerie Leiter at [valerie.leiter@simmons.edu](mailto:valerie.leiter@simmons.edu).

### **DRINKING AND DRUGS**

**Deadline: 3/31/10**

The **Drinking and Drugs Division** is holding its 2010 Student Paper Competition. The First Place Winner will receive a \$100 stipend and be recognized at the 2010 meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Papers under consideration must present original research (empirical and/or theoretical) related to drinking and/or drugs. To be eligible, entrants must be currently enrolled in a graduate degree program and have not yet received a Ph.D., J.D., or M.D. degree at the time of submission. Participants must have had sole responsibility for preparation of the paper. Self-nominations are permitted. The paper should be no longer than 30 pages. The division reserves the right to identify additional prizes or to not award a first place winner at its discretion. Applicants should send an electronic copy of the paper and a cover letter identifying the matriculated graduate program by 3/31/10 to: Alice Cepeda, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, University of Houston, [aacepeda@central.uh.edu](mailto:aacepeda@central.uh.edu).

### **EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS**

**Deadline: 5/14/10**

The **Educational Problems Division** announces its 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers must address a contemporary educational problem and may be empirical or theoretical in nature. Authors must be current graduate students or recent graduates with conferral dates no earlier than January 2010. Only unpublished, single-author papers will be considered. Papers must not exceed 30 double-spaced pages (excluding notes, references, tables and figures). All papers must include a 150-200 word abstract and be prepared for anonymous review with the author's name and institutional affiliation appearing only on the title page. Winners will receive a \$300 stipend, student membership in the SSSP, conference registration to the 2010 SSSP annual meeting, and a complimentary ticket to the awards banquet at which all winners will be recognized. The recipient will also have the opportunity to present the paper at the 2010 SSSP conference held in Atlanta, GA. All papers must be submitted electronically (as an attachment) to the Division Chair, Dr. Pamela Anne Quiroz at [paquiroz@uic.edu](mailto:paquiroz@uic.edu), by the above deadline. Please include your name, institutional affiliation and contact information in the body of your e-mail.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS: FACULTY PAPER COMPETITION**

**Deadline: 5/14/10**

The **Educational Problems Division** announces its inaugural 2010 Faculty Paper Competition. Papers must address a contemporary educational problem and may be empirical or theoretical in nature. Eligible articles must be unpublished and single-author papers. Authors must be members of SSSP. Papers must not exceed 30 double-spaced pages (excluding notes, references, tables and figures). All papers must include a 150-200 word abstract and be prepared for anonymous review with the author's name and institutional affiliation appearing only on the title page. Winners will receive a small stipend, a plaque, and recognition at the awards banquet of the Society of the Study of Social Problems in August 2010 in Atlanta, GA. All papers must be submitted electronically (as an attachment) to the Division Chair, Dr. Pamela Anne Quiroz at [paquiroz@uic.edu](mailto:paquiroz@uic.edu), by the above deadline. Please include your name, institutional affiliation and contact information in the body of your e-mail.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Deadline: 3/15/10**

The **Environment and Technology Division** is pleased to announce its 2010 Brent K. Marshall Graduate Student Paper Award. This award honors the late Brent Marshall's (1965-2008) personal and professional commitment to the Division and encouragement of student engagement in academic scholarship and research. In keeping with previous years, papers may be theoretical and/or empirical and may be on a topic relevant to environment and technology, including environmental movements, technology and risk, political economy and the environment, or environmental justice, among others. The winner will receive a \$150 cash award, membership dues, annual meeting registration, and a ticket to the annual SSSP awards banquet. The winner will also be offered the opportunity to present this paper at one of the Environment and Technology sessions held at the 2010 SSSP meeting. To be eligible, the paper must meet the following criteria: 1) the paper must have been written between January 2009 and March 2010; 2) the paper may not have been submitted for publication (papers presented at other professional meetings or that have been submitted for presentation at other meetings are eligible); 3) the paper must be authored by one or more students and not co-authored by faculty or a colleague who is not a student; 4) the paper must be 25 pages or less, including notes, references, and tables; and, 5) the paper must be accompanied by a letter from a faculty member at the student's university nominating the work for The Brent K. Marshall Graduate Student Paper Award (formerly the Environment and Technology Division Graduate Student Paper Competition). Students should send one copy of the paper accompanied by a letter of support via snail mail or e-mail with attachment to: Lisa Anne Zilney, Ph.D., Montclair State University, Justice Studies Department, 349 Dickson Hall Montclair, NJ, 07043, [lisa.zilney@montclair.edu](mailto:lisa.zilney@montclair.edu). Submissions must be received no later than midnight on March 15, 2010.

### **FAMILY DIVISION**

**Deadline: 1/15/10**

The **Family Division** announces its 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers should be of professional quality and may relate to any aspect of sociology of the family. Authors should be currently enrolled as graduate students, or individuals who received their Ph.D.'s May 2009 or later. To be eligible, a paper may not be published, accepted, or under review for publication. Papers that have been presented at a professional meeting or submitted for presentation at a

professional conference are eligible. Papers must be student authored; they can be authored by one or more students, but may not be co-authored with a faculty member or non-student. Papers should be no more than 35 pages in length, including all notes, references, and tables. Please e-mail papers and a cover letter specifying that the paper is to be considered for the Family Division Graduate Student Paper Competition to: Dr. Joanna M. Badagliacco, [jmb@uky.edu](mailto:jmb@uky.edu). Alternatively, papers may be sent via snail mail to Dr. Joanna M. Badagliacco, Sociology, University of Kentucky, 1501 Patterson Office Tower, Lexington, KY 40506-0027. The winner and any runners-up will be announced in Spring 2010. The winner(s) will receive a modest cash stipend, registration fees, and an opportunity to present her/his paper at the SSSP conference, held August 13-15, 2010 in Atlanta, GA.

### **GLOBAL: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COMPETITION**

**Deadline: 5/3/10**

The Global Division announces its 2010 Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. The goal is to encourage critical scholarship in the area of social problems that contains a global perspective. Suggested paper topics include but are not limited to the following themes being featured at the 2010 SSSP Annual Meeting: Engaging the Hegemonic Aspects of International Human Rights Norms: Progressive Practices for Fighting Secondary Marginalization; Globalization and Rights to the City; Global Justice after "the Market Crisis": Identifying New Opportunities for Alternative Globalizations; Gender Issues in Globalization, Resistance, and Social Change; Global Intersections: Inequalities, Conflict, and Environmental Justice; Cross-Border Organizing: Labor's Global Alternatives; Transnational Families; Global Health and Social Justice; The Global Sex Industry and Social Justice; and Globalization's Impact on Mental Health: Policy and Practice. Jointly-authored papers are accepted, but all contributing authors must be current undergraduate students or have graduated not prior to January 1, 2010. The award recipient will receive student membership in the SSSP, conference registration at the 2010 SSSP Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet and a \$100 prize (this award has been made possible in part by support from the Sage Journal *Critical Sociology*). Award recipients are expected to present their paper at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Papers must be submitted electronically in a format compatible with MS WORD and authors should ensure that they receive a confirmation of receipt for their submission. Undergraduates may receive the award for this competition only once. Papers of up to a maximum length of 30 double-spaced pages may be sent beginning on January 31, 2010 but no later than May 3, 2010 to both Co-Chairs of the 2010 SSSP Global Division Undergraduate Student Award Committee: Dr. Tony Samara, [tsamara@gmu.edu](mailto:tsamara@gmu.edu), and Dr. Ricardo Alan Dello Buono, [ricardo.dellobuono@manhattan.edu](mailto:ricardo.dellobuono@manhattan.edu).

### **GLOBAL/CRITICAL SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT COMPETITION**

**Deadline: 5/5/10**

The Global Division in cooperation with the Sage journal *Critical Sociology* announces its 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. The goal is to encourage critical scholarship in the areas of global studies and social problems. Suggested paper topics include but are not limited to the following themes being featured at the 2010 SSSP Annual meetings: Engaging the Hegemonic Aspects of International Human Rights Norms: Progressive Practices for Fighting Secondary Marginalization; Globalization and Rights to the City; Global Justice after "the Market Crisis": Identifying New Opportunities for Alternative

Globalizations; Gender Issues in Globalization, Resistance, and Social Change; Global Intersections: Inequalities, Conflict, and Environmental Justice; Cross-Border Organizing: Labor's Global Alternatives; Transnational Families; Global Health and Social Justice; The Global Sex Industry and Social Justice; and Globalization's Impact on Mental Health: Policy and Practice. Jointly-authored papers are accepted, but all contributing authors must be current graduate students or have graduated not prior to January 1, 2010. The award recipient will receive a monetary prize of \$460, student membership in the SSSP, conference registration at the 2010 SSSP Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet. Award recipients will be expected to present their paper at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Papers must be submitted electronically in a format compatible with MS WORD and authors should ensure that they receive a confirmation of receipt for their submission. Although faculty sponsorship is not formally required to enter the competition, participants are invited to request a note from a faculty member or independent scholar that speaks to the academic quality of the submission and they should be e-mailed directly to the addresses below. Note: Previous winners of this award are ineligible to compete. Papers of up to a maximum length of 30 double-spaced pages may be sent beginning on January 31, 2010 but no later than May 5, 2010 to both Co-Chairs of the 2010 Global Division Graduate Student Award Committee: Dr. Tony Samara, [tsamara@gmu.edu](mailto:tsamara@gmu.edu), and Dr. John G. Dale, [jdale@gmu.edu](mailto:jdale@gmu.edu). Winning papers will be invited to submit their paper for publication in *Critical Sociology*.

### **GLOBAL: DIVISION OUTSTANDING BOOK AWARD**

**Deadline: 4/5/09**

The Global Division is pleased to announce its 2010 Outstanding Book Award. Given the massive growth of interest and research in the areas of global studies and social problems over the last decade, the Award is intended to recognize published work of exceptional quality in these areas and to encourage further critical scholarship about them. Accordingly, books on a variety of topics and themes will be considered for the Award, including but not limited to: alternative models of globalization; global dynamics and forms of resistance to neoliberalism (including the post-Washington Consensus era in Latin America, Asia, Africa, or the Middle East); transnational social movements; human rights struggles and global activism (around gender, indigeneity, migration, peace, social justice, etc.); transnational communities and cultural politics; global cities. We are particularly interested in books that link critical politics and activism with analytical and theoretical rigor.

To be eligible for consideration, books must have been published within 3 years of the meeting (2007-2010 for this year's award). Single or multiple-authored books will be accepted. At least one of the authors must be a member of the SSSP in order to qualify for the Award, although they will not be not required to present a paper at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The award recipient(s) will receive one or two tickets to the SSSP awards banquet, at which the Award will be announced. Nominations can be made by members of the Global Division as well as from publishers; self-nominations are also welcomed.

Nominees should send full publication information and a paragraph explaining why this book is recommended. If available, contact information for the author should be included. Authors will be requested to facilitate with their

publishers that copies of the nominated book be sent to each of the Award Committee Co-Chairs. Nominations must be received no later than April 5, 2010. To nominate a book for this award, please send your message to all three Co-Chairs of the 2010 Global Division Outstanding Book Award Committee: Howard Lune, Department of Sociology, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, 1601HW, New York, NY 10065; Fuyuki Kurasawa, Department of Sociology, York University, 2088 Vari Hall, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3 Canada; Jon Shefner, Department of Sociology, 901 McClung Tower, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996. *For further information*, contact Howard Lune at [hlune@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:hlune@hunter.cuny.edu).

#### **HEALTH, HEALTH POLICY, AND HEALTH SERVICES**

**Deadline: 5/1/10**

**The Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division** invites all graduate students to apply for this annual paper award competition. The paper should be related to the broad Division interest, including health and illness, health policy, and health services. The paper submission should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages and should be prepared for anonymous review (with the author specified on a title page but not referred to in other parts of the text). Current graduate students and recent graduates (who received their degrees after January 2009) may submit a paper if it was written while still a student. Papers based on theses or dissertations are acceptable. (Please do not submit the thesis or dissertation itself.) Co-authored papers are acceptable as long as all the listed authors are current graduate students. Double submission to other SSSP award competitions will be disqualified. The award recipient will be required to present the winning paper at the 2010 SSSP Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Thus it is strongly recommended that an abstract of the paper be submitted to any Health Division session organizer or the roundtable organizer by the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. The recipient will receive a monetary prize of \$100, student membership to SSSP, SSSP conference registration, and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet. Send an electronic copy of the paper (in Word format) and a cover letter identifying your graduate program to: Professor Elizabeth Ettore, [e.ettore@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:e.ettore@liverpool.ac.uk).

#### **INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPHY: GRADUATE STUDENT COMPETITION**

**Deadline: 5/1/10**

**The Institutional Ethnography Division** solicits papers for its 2010 George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers should advance institutional ethnography scholarship either methodologically or through a substantive contribution. Authors must be currently enrolled graduate students or have completed their degree since September 2009. Prizes include a \$100 cash award, registration fees and an opportunity to present the paper at the 2010 SSSP meetings, and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet. Students who submit papers should be prepared to attend the conference. Send one copy each to: Liza McCoy ([mccoy@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mccoy@ucalgary.ca)) and Ali Gabriel ([aligabriel@asu.edu](mailto:aligabriel@asu.edu)). (For an overview of institutional ethnography and the purposes of the IE Division, see <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1236>.)

#### **INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPHY: DOROTHY E. SMITH AWARD FOR SCHOLAR-ACTIVISM**

**Deadline: 5/1/10**

**The Institutional Ethnography Division** is pleased to solicit nominations for the 2010 Dorothy E. Smith Award for Scholar-Activism. This award recognizes the activities of an individual

or group who has made substantial contributions to institutional ethnographic scholar-activism in either a single project or some longer trajectory of work. The contributions may involve IE research conducted and used for activist ends, or it may involve activist efforts which have drawn upon or contributed to IE scholarship. The award committee invites members of the division to send one-page statements describing the contributions of nominees to Tim Diamond ([tdiamond@ryerson.ca](mailto:tdiamond@ryerson.ca)). The honoree will be recognized with a certificate at the Institutional Ethnography business meeting during the Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

#### **LABOR STUDIES**

**Deadline: 5/1/10**

One of the most important activities of the **Labor Studies Division** is to recognize the work of graduate students. As in the past, the division is soliciting graduate student papers that build on the legacy of the late Harry Braverman. The Award consists of a \$200 cash prize and a ticket to the annual SSSP awards banquet. The Braverman tradition includes work in a variety of areas, including (but not limited to): labor process studies, critical organization studies, research on the intersections of gender, race, and class at work, technical and organizational change and its impact on work culture, labor movements and resistance in the workplace, critical perspectives on labor markets and occupational transformation. Papers co-authored with faculty members will not be accepted. Single authored papers by graduate students and papers co-authored by graduate students are welcome. All papers will be evaluated by a committee composed of at least three Labor Studies Division faculty scholars. E-mail your paper and a short letter of submission identifying your graduate program to: Kendra Jason, [kjjason@ncsu.edu](mailto:kjjason@ncsu.edu).

#### **LAW AND SOCIETY**

**Deadline: 4/1/10**

**The Law and Society Division** annually gives the Alfred R. Lindesmith Award to the best paper that is law-related and written by one or more untenured faculty and/or graduate students(s) and has not been accepted for publication prior to the April 1 deadline. We welcome nominations, including self-nominations for papers that meet these criteria. Please e-mail papers to: Dr. Reza Hasmath, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, [reza.hasmath@utoronto.ca](mailto:reza.hasmath@utoronto.ca). The winner will receive a plaque and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH**

**Deadline: 5/15/10**

**The Mental Health Division** announces the 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers should involve an empirical analysis, either qualitative or quantitative, dealing with any aspect of the sociology of mental health. To be eligible, a paper must have been written during 2009 or 2010, and it may not be published or accepted for publication. Papers that have been presented at a professional meeting, submitted for presentation at a professional conference, or are under review for publication are eligible. Papers must be student-authored. They may be single-authored by the student or co-authored by more than one student, but may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student. Paper must not exceed 28 pages including all notes, references, and tables. To submit your paper for consideration, send two paper copies to: Teresa L. Scheid, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28223. Please include 1) a cover letter indicating that you are submitting your paper for the

competition; and 2) a letter from your advisor that certifies your graduate-student status and offers some brief comments about your work. The winner will be announced at the 2010 Annual Meeting and will receive a \$150 cash award, plus a ticket to the SSSP banquet where the award will be presented, conference registration and student membership.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH: JAMES R. GREENLEY AWARD**

**Deadline: 5/1/10**

**The Mental Health Division** of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) invites nominations for the 2010 James R. Greenley Award for distinguished contributions to the sociology of mental health. With this award, the Division seeks to recognize individuals who have distinguished careers and made a significant impact on the field through their scholarship, teaching, and community involvement. Previous award winners include Bruce Link, Thomas Scheff, Walter Gove, R. Jay Turner, Bruce Dohrenwend, and Bill Avison. Nominations, including a letter of nomination and a copy of the nominees CV, should be sent via snail mail by May 1, 2010 to: Teresa L. Scheid, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28223. The winner of the 2010 award will be notified in June and the award will be presented at the Mental Health Division's Business Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

#### **POVERTY, CLASS, AND INEQUALITY**

**Deadline: 2/1/10**

**The Poverty, Class and Inequality Division** of the Society for the Study of Social Problems announces its 2010 Student Paper Competition. The PCI division would like to reward student work that addresses issues related to poverty, class, and inequality. Papers should be original empirical works of professional quality completed during students' graduate or undergraduate studies. Papers must be student authored; they can be authored by one or more students, but may not be co-authored with faculty or non-students. The winner of the competition will receive: a small cash award, complimentary annual dues for SSSP, and registration and a banquet ticket for the annual meeting. Papers should be no more than 30 pages in length, including notes, references, and tables. Send papers electronically, to: Yvonne Luna, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Northern Arizona University, [yvonne.luna@nau.edu](mailto:yvonne.luna@nau.edu). Please specify that you are submitting a paper for the Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division Student Paper Competition.

#### **POVERTY, CLASS, AND INEQUALITY: COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD**

**Deadline: 2/1/10**

**The Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division** of the Society for the Study of Social Problems invites nominations for the 2010 Michael Harrington Award for Community Action. This award can be granted to an individual or an organization. Work that is done in the spirit of Harrington's commitment to social change is particularly appropriate. The 2010 Community Action Award recognizes the contribution that progressive organizations and/or individuals make in challenging the structures that foster class polarization and poverty. Attention will also be paid to efforts to alter institutional practices and/or provide social services that empower disenfranchised populations. Self-nomination is acceptable. The award will be presented at the 2010 SSSP meetings in Atlanta, GA. The winner will receive a plaque at a special session honoring the work of Michael Harrington. One-page nomination letters

should be sent electronically to Yvonne Luna, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Northern Arizona University, [yvonne.luna@nau.edu](mailto:yvonne.luna@nau.edu). Supplemental materials may be requested.

#### **RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES**

**Deadline: 3/30/10**

**The Racial and Ethnic Minorities Division** invites graduate student papers that cover any aspect within the field of race and ethnic relations to be submitted for consideration for our Graduate Student paper award. Papers may be empirical or theoretical. To be eligible, a paper must have been written in 2009, may not have been accepted for publication, or currently under review. Papers which have been presented at previous meetings or conferences are eligible. Papers must be single authored by the student. Papers must not exceed 25 pages, including notes, tables, and references. Papers should be accompanied by a cover letter specifying their submission as consideration for the graduate student paper competition to: Erica Chito Childs at [echitoch@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:echitoch@hunter.cuny.edu). The winner will be announced in early summer 2010 and will receive a \$100 stipend and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet.

#### **SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, POLITICS, AND COMMUNITIES**

**Deadline: 4/1/10**

**The Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division** announces the 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers may be empirical and/or theoretical, and they may be on any aspect of sexuality, including sexual behavior, sexual identity, sexual politics, sex law, political activism, or sexual communities. The winner will receive a stipend of \$100, payment of the winner's SSSP registration fee for the 2010 SSSP meeting (to help the winner attend the meeting), and a ticket to the awards banquet. The winner will be expected to present their winning paper at one of the SBPC sessions being held as part of the 2010 SSSP meeting. To be eligible, a paper must meet the following criteria: 1) The paper must have been written between January 2009 and March 2010; 2) The paper may not have been submitted or accepted for publication (papers that have been presented at a professional meeting or that have been submitted for presentation at a professional meeting are eligible); 3) The paper must be authored by one or more students, and not co-authored with a faculty member or colleague who is not a student; 4) The paper must not exceed 35 pages including notes, references, and tables; 5) The paper must be typed using 12 point font in either Times New Roman or Courier; and 6) The paper must be accompanied by a letter from a faculty member at the student's college or university nominating the paper for the SBPC Division Student Paper Competition. Students should send their paper via e-mail, with no identifying information on any part of the paper; and a letter of nomination from a faculty member to: Corie Hammers, Ph.D., [chammers@macalester.edu](mailto:chammers@macalester.edu), Macalester College, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, 1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105, 651-696-6542.

#### **SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY**

**Deadline: 3/31/10**

**The Social Problems Theory Division** invites papers for its annual Student Paper Award Competition. To be eligible, papers must be authored or co-authored by students, have relevance to social problems theory, and cannot have been accepted for publication. Papers co-authored with faculty are not eligible. Self-nominations are welcome. Please limit



manuscripts to 10,000 words (not including references). Subject to budgetary approval, we anticipate that the winner will receive a cash prize, membership dues, meeting registration fees, and a banquet ticket for the 2010 annual meeting. The winner will also be invited to present her or his paper at the 2010 SSSP meetings. Please send submissions as e-mail attachments to the Student Paper Competition Committee Chair, Scott Harris (Saint Louis University), [harriss3@slu.edu](mailto:harriss3@slu.edu).

#### **SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY: OUTSTANDING BOOK AWARD**

##### **Deadline: 2/15/10**

The Social Problems Theory Division announces its inaugural Outstanding Book Award. The goal of this award is to encourage and recognize scholarship in the area of social problems theory. Eligible books must have been published between 2007 and 2009. Single or multiple-authored books will be accepted. Authors are encouraged to nominate their own work. Nominees must be members of SSSP. Please send a 1 page nomination letter and a copy of the book to each of the committee members listed below: 1) Wayne Brekhus (committee chair), Department of Sociology, University of Missouri, 312 Middlebush Hall, Columbia, MO 65211-6100; 2) Donileen Loseke, Department of Sociology CPR 107, University of South Florida, 4202 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL 33620; and 3) Lara Foley, Department of Sociology, University of Tulsa, 800 S. Tucker Drive, Tulsa, OK 74104.

#### **SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

##### **Deadline: 4/1/10**

The Sociology and Social Welfare Division announces its 2010 Student Paper Competition. The goal is to encourage scholastic endeavors that enhance our understanding of issues related to sociology and social welfare. Relevant papers might focus on social activism, social justice, empowerment, policy or any welfare-related issues. Qualitative and quantitative empirical analyses and theoretical papers are welcome. To be eligible for submission, papers must be: 1) written between January 2009 and April 2010 and not published or submitted for scholarly review; 2) authored by one or more students and not co-authored by faculty or a colleague who is not a student; 3) 25 pages or fewer, including references and tables; 4) accompanied by a letter from a faculty member at the student's university nominating the paper for the competition. To be considered for the award, the author must make a commitment to present the paper at a SSWD session during the 2010 SSSP meeting. Send two copies of the paper along with the letter of support to either Richard K. Caputo, Wurzweller School of Social Work, Yeshiva University, Wilf Campus, 2495 Amsterdam Ave., Belfer Hall, Rm 907, New York, NY 10033, [caputo@yu.edu](mailto:caputo@yu.edu); or Sondra Fogel, School of Social Work, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL 33620, [sfogel@cas.usf.edu](mailto:sfogel@cas.usf.edu). The SSWD competition winner receives a cash prize of \$150 plus 2010 SSSP conference registration and a banquet ticket.

#### **SPORT, LEISURE, AND THE BODY**

##### **Deadline: 4/1/10**

The Sport, Leisure, and the Body Division announces the 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers may be empirical and/or theoretical, and they may be on any aspect of sport or sporting culture, leisure, and/or sporting bodies broadly defined. The winner will receive a stipend of \$100,

student membership in SSSP, complimentary registration fee for the 2010 annual meeting (to help the winner attend the meeting), and a complimentary ticket to the 2010 awards banquet. The winner may also be invited to present the winning paper at one of the Sport, Leisure, and the Body sessions being at the 2010 annual meeting. To be eligible, a paper must meet the following criteria: 1) The paper must be authored by one or more students, and not co-authored with a faculty member or colleague who is not a student; 2) The paper must have been written between January 2009 and March 2010; 3) The paper may not have been submitted or accepted for publication (papers that have been presented at a professional meeting or that have been submitted for presentation at a professional meeting are eligible); 4) The paper must not exceed 30 pages including notes, references, and tables; 5) The paper must be typed using 12 point font in either Times New Roman or Courier; and 6) The paper must be accompanied by a nominating letter from a faculty member at the student's college or university. Papers must be submitted in BOTH electronic (Word-compatible) and hard copy format. Please send electronic submissions to [pjmcgann@umich.edu](mailto:pjmcgann@umich.edu). Send the faculty letter of nomination and FOUR copies of the paper with all identifying information removed to: Dr. PJ McGann, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan, 3212 LSA Building, 500 So. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 -1382. Submission must be dated (via electronic time/date stamp and post-mark) on or before March 31, 2010.

#### **TEACHING SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

##### **Deadline: 3/15/10**

The Teaching Social Problems Division announces its 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers may be on any aspect of teaching about social problems. Topics for papers can include "best practices" in the classroom, service-learning courses, using technology, using media, assessment of learning, and other areas. The winner will receive a stipend of \$100 plus a ticket to the 2010 SSSP awards banquet, and a one year membership to SSSP. The winner will be offered an opportunity to present this paper at one of the Teaching Social Problems Division sessions being held as part of the 2010 SSSP meeting. To be eligible, a paper must meet the following criteria: 1) The paper must have been written between January 2009 and February 2010; 2) The paper may not have been submitted or accepted for publication (papers that have been presented at a professional meeting or that have been submitted for presentation at a professional meeting are eligible); 3) The paper must be authored by one or more students, and not co-authored with a faculty member or colleague who is not a student; 4) The paper must be 25 pages or less, including notes, references, and tables; and, 5) The paper must be accompanied by a letter from a faculty member at the student's college/university nominating the paper for the Teaching Social Problems Division Student Paper Competition. Students should send three copies of their paper, accompanied by a letter of nomination from a faculty member to the Student Paper Competition Chair: Dr. Brian Monohan Department of Sociology, 203C East Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, 515-294-8379, [bmonahan@iastate.edu](mailto:bmonahan@iastate.edu). The winner will be announced prior to the 2010 SSSP Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

**YOUTH, AGING, AND THE LIFE COURSE****Deadline: 5/15/10**

All graduate students are encouraged to apply for the annual **Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Division** Graduate Student Paper Award Competition. Papers should be able to contribute broadly to the sociology of youth, the sociology of aging, or the sociology of the life course. One award will be made, and the winner will receive a monetary prize, student membership in SSSP for one year, 2010 conference registration, and a complimentary ticket to the 2010 SSSP awards banquet in Atlanta, GA, where the award will be made. To be eligible, the paper must meet the following criteria: 1) the paper must have been completed between January 2009 and May 2010; 2) the paper must not have been accepted for publication (papers submitted for publication are eligible, as long as they are not already accepted; papers based on theses and dissertations are eligible as well); 3) all authors of the paper must be graduate students and the student who submits the paper must be first

author; 4) the paper must be no longer than 30 double-spaced pages, including all notes, references, and tables; and 5) the author of the winning paper must be ready to present this paper at the SSSP meetings in Atlanta, GA in August of 2010. To be considered for this award, graduate students should submit their papers electronically to the Chair of the Division. E-mail two copies of the paper (i.e., one blind copy and one copy that includes a title page with all contact information), along with a brief letter of submission confirming your graduate student status, to Chris Wellin, [cwellin@ilstu.edu](mailto:cwellin@ilstu.edu). Mailings can be directed to Wellin at the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Illinois State University, Campus Box 4660, Normal, IL 61791-4660.

**For additional information, contact:  
Michele Smith Koontz  
Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager  
901 McClung Tower, University of Tennessee**

# PENNSTATE



**Penn State Schuylkill** invites applications for an Assistant Professor of Sociology starting August 2010. **Responsibilities:** Teach three courses each semester using traditional and hybrid delivery modes. Courses will include introductory sociology, social problems, and areas of research specializations. Research and service expected. To learn more about the campus and Penn State University, visit <http://www.psu.edu/ur/cmpcoll.html>.

**Qualifications:** Ph.D. in Sociology or related discipline preferred; ABD considered. To learn more about the position and how to apply, visit <http://www.psu.jobs/Search/Opportunities.html> and follow the "Faculty" link. AA/EOE.

**From the Executive Office** (continued):

by their positions and power, contributed to the problem. I will try not to make that mistake. While I will never hesitate to express my own views, I am here, as is the rest of the administrative office, *principally* to serve you. Please do not hesitate to let us know how you think we can do that more effectively.

I welcome comments on this column and ideas for future columns. It is not easy to hurt my feelings, so please be as candid as you need to be. I'm looking forward to my stint as Executive Officer. A stint that will not be nearly as long as Tom's, but certainly one long enough, if you allow it, for us to

get to know one another much better. In closing, please renew your membership, please find at least one other person to join the Society (perhaps sponsor a student member), and please think *very* seriously about changing your preference for *Social Problems* and *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter* from paper copy to email link, if you have not done so already. This would be a boost for our budget and the environment. Thank you. I hope this year is a safe, enjoyable, and productive one for you.

Héctor L. Delgado  
Executive Officer

## RESOLUTIONS UPDATE

Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer

Every year we pass resolutions and this year was no different. In addition to a resolution thanking members for their contributions to the Society, we passed three other resolutions and voted to send a letter to a District Attorney on a death penalty case. I will discuss each in turn and provide you with an update. But, first, let me say that I decided to discuss the resolutions in a separate column because I would like to make sure that we track the issues addressed in the resolutions. After all, the resolutions we pass are public expressions of what we care about as a *social justice* organization. I trust that you want to know what is going on with each of these. Each of these resolutions and a copy of the letter sent to a District Attorney can be found on our website.

A second resolution was submitted by the labor division and expressed support for the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). Action on the bill is not likely to be taken soon because of the healthcare debate, but we will continue to track the EFCA and do what we can to encourage its passage. A short piece on the SSSP's endorsement of the EFCA, entitled "Society for the Study of Social Problems Supports Employee Free Choice," appeared on a widely-distributed AFL-CIO news blog, quoting portions of the resolution and providing readers with a link to our website for a copy of the resolution. If you are interested in reading the piece, here is the link: <http://blog.aflcio.org/2009/08/28/society-for-the-study-of-social-problems-supports-employee-free-choice/>. This gives the Society tremendous visibility as a social justice organization. Furthermore, I am a founding member of a committee of California labor/work scholars that drafted a letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein, which has been signed by over 200 scholars in California, urging her to vote for EFCA and requesting a meeting with her or a member of her staff. The ASA passed a similar resolution, modeled on our own, and we are working with them to coordinate our efforts in support of this critical legislation for workers and the economy.

Another resolution, submitted by the global division, condemned human rights abuses in Burma. The resolution required us to send a letter and a copy of the resolution to U.N. Ambassador Rice, urging our government to call for a United Nations investigation of possible human rights abuses in Burma. *U.S. Campaign for Burma*, an important and well-connected organization based in Washington, D.C., expressed its gratitude to the SSSP for the resolution and assured me that the resolution would be posted on its website and "blasted" to their list of 50,000 supporters. John Dale, the Chair of the Global Division, has played an indispensable role in all of this, first, by introducing the resolution in San Francisco and, second, by putting me in touch with *U.S. Campaign for Burma*. John has informed me that this organization commands the respect of many members of Congress and human rights organizations around the world. Here, once more, the SSSP is likely get the kind of exposure we should want as a social justice organization. We're in good company with many human rights organizations that have been critical

of the regime in Burma and have called for action. Recently the United States attended a high level meeting at the United Nations on Burma, and we hear through the grapevine that Senator Jim Webb may hold congressional hearings on Burma in the near future. We will keep you posted.

We adopted a fourth resolution on gender-neutral pronouns and have written to the editorial boards of journals, newspapers, and other periodicals to urge them to respect the right of writers to employ gender-neutral pronouns in their work. What prompted this resolution, principally, was the recognition that the pronouns we use when referring to a person whose gender is unknown are inadequate, and in fact inaccurate. Using gender-dyadic pronouns to refer to individuals whose gender is not known can lead to gender bias and, furthermore, there are individuals who do not identify as either male or female. Cary Gabriel Costello's assistance with this resolution has been invaluable.

Finally, the membership voted to send a letter to Chatham County, Georgia District Attorney Larry Chisolm, urging him to re-examine the case of Troy Davis, a black man sentenced to death for the murder of a police officer. He was found guilty almost exclusively on the testimony of nine eyewitnesses, who, with the exception of two, one of whom is believed by some to be the actual murderer, recanted. No physical evidence tied Mr. Davis to the crime. Shortly after our meeting, the Supreme Court of the United States, unexpectedly, asked a federal judge to review the case. We modified the letter to ask D.A. Chisolm to reopen the case if the hearing judge fails to find sufficient evidence to prove Mr. Davis's innocence and to try Mr. Davis under the less stringent "reasonable doubt" criterion. The fact that the Supreme Court decided to send the case back to a federal judge serves to reinforce our belief that the case needs further deliberation to ensure that an innocent man is not put to death. I wish to thank Jane Hood for bringing the case to the attention of the Society and for helping me to draft the letter to the District Attorney. Jane just informed me that she received a note from Troy Davis thanking the SSSP for its interest in his case and justice. On September 27, Mr. Davis was visited by a British delegation, which included a Member of Parliament. Clearly this case is receiving international attention.

It has been a pleasure to work with Jane, John, and Cary. Their passion is contagious. With the help of these individuals and the divisions who submitted these resolutions, we will provide occasional updates on all of the resolutions. I think it is critical for us to remain abreast of new developments and to be prepared to act again in support of each to the degree that we are able. It is not enough to just simply pass resolutions. In fact, I have some ideas on the "resolutions" process that I will share with the appropriate individuals and groups. Stay tuned.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK

## Call for Papers



### Call for Student Paper Competitions and Outstanding Scholarship Awards

Community Research and Development; Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; Disabilities; Drinking and Drugs; Educational Problems; Environment and Technology; Family; Global; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; Institutional Ethnography; Labor Studies; Law and Society; Mental Health; Poverty, Class, and Inequality; Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities; Social Problems Theory; Sociology and Social Welfare; Sport, Leisure, and the Body; Teaching Social Problems; and Youth, Aging, and the Life Course

SSSP members engage in social justice work. The interdisciplinary perspectives and methods that activist scholars use to pursue social justice is the theme of the 2010 annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Social justice work is problem-driven scholarship that employs rigorous theory and research methods. Examples include work on human rights and civil rights; action research focused on injustices on the factory floor or in the courtroom; and the study of discrimination or violence which is directed at groups or individuals in local communities in the United States and throughout the wider world.

Explanation and understanding are the starting points, not the results, of social justice work. The most urgent and persistent social problems—war and violence, economic distress and poverty, inequalities, and unfair treatment of social groups—infringe social justice work, which changes the value or utility attributed to mainstream scholarship within the social sciences. Practitioners, all types of scholar activists, are not blinded by a favorite framework or the desire to produce papers directed only to academic specialists. Social justice and ways to achieve it, rather than intellectual struggles, are deemed to be the worthy battles.

Social justice workers are engaged within the community, whether local or global, yet they bring new ideas and new perspectives into the academy. Theory and practice are linked. The linkage occurs when scholars decide to understand why immigrant workers are forced to do 'dirty work' to care for their families, or when they struggle to understand militarism, or how diplomacy gone wrong can provoke a nuclear threat or interpersonal violence.

The 2010 meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems will feature presentations and thematic sessions on the work of social justice practitioners—those who organize or study social movements, those who look within and across organizations to see how community problems can be ameliorated, those who talk to persons who fight wars in other nations or wars within themselves. A number of workshops and panels on the scholarship of engagement and the classroom practices introducing students to social justice work are planned.

The many forms of social justice work will be featured. Protest movements, community studies, social change projects from within organizations, social action research, institutional ethnographies, comparative studies, and policy studies are examples. We will challenge social science dogma and celebrate the possibilities of a just world.

JoAnn L. Miller, SSSP President, Purdue University

*For information on how to submit a paper proposal, visit: [www.sssp1.org](http://www.sssp1.org)*



*The Society for the Study of Social Problems  
60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
August 13-15, 2010*

*The Sheraton Atlanta Hotel  
165 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, GA*

## Reflections of the Man in the Mirror: Religion, Masculinity and the Post Modernization of Michael Jackson

Otis B. Grant, Indiana University South Bend

Michael Joseph Jackson was born on August 29, 1958 in Gary, Indiana. When Michael was born, the decline of American manufacturing was already evident. Gary, an industrial city known for its factories, was an entrenched part of the American rust belt. The Gary landscape of abandoned factories and boarded up homes stood as a reminder of lost jobs, dashed hopes, and the overall helplessness of those who work in the opportunistic, profit driven capitalistic economy. Many of the African Americans who had come to Gary during the great Negro Migration had given up hope of finding gainful employment and had returned to the South.

Dubbed the “King of Pop,” Michael was elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997 as a member of the Jacksons, and in 2001 as a solo performer. Michael is arguably one of the world’s most well-known entertainers. When the media first reported his death there was so much traffic on Twitter that it caused the site to crash.

Despite having icon status, the media often portrayed Michael as clownish and the punch line of many derogatory jokes. Like Elvis Presley and James Brown, Michael will probably be worth more dead than he was alive. Michael deserves our acknowledgement for what we did to him. For the life he lived and the impact he continues to have on society, Michael warrants our praise and admiration.

Over the years Michael’s numerous plastic surgeries had affected him. Before his death from an overdose of Propofol, Michael suffered from many ailments including insomnia, lupus, vitiligo and the general physical deterioration that affects a dancer’s body as it ages (Taraborrelli 2009). Though his autopsy indicated that he was “healthy” and did not have any illegal drugs in his system, at the time of his death Michael was psychologically hurt, physically ill, and tired. He needed to rest.

Instead of telling us about his pain, Michael wanted us to become more giving. His songs and experiences, taken collectively, reveal the complexity of being African American in contemporary society. Much to his chagrin, Michael was very much part of [the] post modern consumer society. He understood the manipulative inclinations of the media, and the entrenched power of the entertainment industry. As an entertainer and entrepreneur, Michael struggled against the many forms of hierarchies which sought to reinforce forms of domination.

### ***Religion and the Knowledge of Culture***

As part of his struggle, Michael (re)constructed conventional ideologies and foundational truths vis-à-vis the social institutions that help form his identity. In this regard he was not alone. Historically, many Black entertainers professed a religious-based liberation ideology that framed their worldview. Michael was no different. The classic works of Durkheim (1912), Weber (1922), and Marx (1947), show widespread

agreement that religious and spiritual values have an impact on a person’s worldview and subsequent behavior (Peck 1982:155). Michael accepted the tenets of disparate religions, but his own spiritual sense was grounded in Black Christian ideology. His mother Katherine was a practicing Jehovah’s Witness and considered her duty to impart the precepts of the faith to her children.

In post modern society knowledge is culture and culture is knowledge. Michael’s construal of God was shaped by the paradox of being Black in America. For many in the black community this does not come as a surprise. African Americans are accustomed to contradictions and living a “double life.” Indeed, more than a hundred years ago W.E.B. DuBois wrote about the paradox of black dual consciousness in his monumental book *The Souls of Black Folk* (DuBois 1903).

### ***Concepts of Manhood***

During his late twenties, Michael had backed away from the Jehovah’s Witnesses, however, his spirituality continued to be influenced by Christian ideology, and as such, Michael’s concept of black manhood included four distinguishable but interrelated aspects of black Christian thought: (1) self-assertion; (2) independence; (3) vocation; and (4) black identity (Becker 1972:316).

Michael was self asserted when he became the lead singer of the Jackson 5. Though his older brother Jermaine was also a gifted singer and dancer, Michael was undoubtedly the leader of the group. Michael had charisma, a strong personal magnetism, and an extraordinary ability which enabled people to follow him. Those around Michael experienced an intense emotional attraction to him. This often made Michael stand out when the brothers were together. Though Michael attracted the most attention, he was usually uncomfortable when being singled out. During these times he began to show signs of a deep insecurity, a manifestation of childhood trauma.

Michael was committed to independence. In the entertainment industry independence requires courage and conviction. Michael demonstrated both by leaving the Jackson 5 and Berry Gordy’s Motown record label. Neither of which was an easy feat. Berry Gordy was more than Michael’s employer he was also a father figure. Leaving Berry required Michael to psychologically separate from someone who had been a dynamic figure in his life, and as such, Michael experienced separation anxiety, but Michael never lost confidence in his abilities to entertain.

Michael’s vocation was complex and multileveled. His career in show business started at the age of five, when he was the youngest member of his family singing group, the Jackson 5. As part of Motown records, Michael was often under the direct supervision of Berry Gordy, the founder of Motown and the person responsible for some of the biggest names in black

music including Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, the Temptations, and the Four Tops.

### ***Darwinism, Capitalism and the Psychology of Fear***

Berry Gordy was known for his ability to spot and develop talent, but he was also known for his ruthless business ethics. Motown, the legendary “hit factory” and home to some of the biggest names in entertainment, was also openly Darwinistic; entertainers were required to compete with each other. Motown was essentially the “survival of the fittest.”

During the 1960s the Jackson 5 had four consecutive number one singles, each record selling more than a million copies. In the late 1970s Michael left Motown and the Jackson 5 to begin a solo career. In 1979 he recorded *Off the Wall* with legendary producer Quincy Jones. The album quickly became the standard in popular music. Michael’s 1982 album *Thriller* was the top album on *Billboard* magazine for 37 weeks. Three music videos based on the *Thriller* album – “Billie Jean,” “Beat It,” and “Thriller,” became the top rated videos on cable, and are credited with legitimizing the cable television network MTV, and opening the way for other African American artists to appear on the network. Michael’s third collaboration with Quincy Jones was *Bad* (1987), which became the first album to yield five number one singles. In short, Michael was one of the world’s most famous entertainers.

Michael was also an entrepreneur and generous philanthropist. As an entrepreneur Michael was problematic for the music industry. Though he cared about money, like many of the black entertainers in the generations before him, he cared more about being liked than about being rich. The problem of course is that he lived in a capitalistic society. Thus, Michael operated in an industry that is implicitly functionalist within a hierarchal structure which (pre)supposes that success can only be achieved within a “free-market” archetype (Peck 1982:156). In short, Michael’s decision to challenge the music industry made him a deviant to the corporate power structure and would come back to haunt him throughout the rest of his life.

The media does not often highlight the structural problems affecting black men. Instead, the focus is on Black pathology. Like most black men in America, Michael did not have a well cultivated media image. When Michael went on trial for child molestation charges in California he was one of the wealthiest men in America. Notwithstanding, he was also a personification of the greatest fears in the country.

Americans have always had a pervading fear of black men (Russell 1998). News reports tend to highlight instances of black men committing violent crimes, which in turn feed public anxieties that African American men pose grave dangers to the rest of society. Though Michael was found innocent of the charges, he never truly recovered from the psychological thrashing he took in the American court system.

### ***The Symbolic Interaction of Black Masculinity***

Symbolic interaction is a sociological theory that views society as consisting of the patterns common to a group of people. For symbolic interaction theorists, societal quandaries are not considered objective conditions but rather the issues that people have decided to call (i.e., socially constructed) social problems.

Critical to the symbolic interaction paradigm is the (pre) supposition that human behavior is not simply a response to external stimuli; rather a person is “self-reflective” and subsequently “minded” (see e.g., Snyder and Spreitzer 1984). Accordingly, the interactions perspective is an appropriate framework for examining Michael Jackson and the concept of masculinity.

Before and after the trial, Michael’s masculinity was often disparaged. In America, we still have a problem with concepts of sex and gender. Whereas sex refers to the biological difference between females and males, gender is the culturally and socially constructed differences between females and males. Gender is based on meaning, beliefs, and practices that a group or society associates with “femininity” or “masculinity.” In the black community Michael was known to be male, yet he was chastised as being “feminine.” To many of his detractors Michael was considered a closeted homosexual.



Image by Kevin Murphy\*

Would Michael’s accomplishments be any less significant if he was gay? We in America are often restricted by categorizing people by gender and roles. One of the most significant lessons young children learn is “expected” gender roles, which in reality refers to learning masculine versus feminine behavior. Whereas these lessons are usually taught by parents and teachers, the media continues to be a significant source of cultured gendered messages (Powell and Abels 2002). These messages are symbolic as well as cultured and “designed to evoke, activate, and reference mainstream beliefs concerning gender” (Vande Berg 1991:106).

### ***Identity and the Social Construction of Michael Jackson***

Michael raised his children as a single parent. Despite some public faux pas, for all intents and purposes Michael was a good and loving father. At the end of his life Michael wanted to perform on stage, not for the money but to show his children what their father does for a living, and as a sign of love for music and devotion to his fans. At the public memorials, Michael’s fans demonstrated that he was loved because he was loving.

Michael’s physical appearance changed radically during the course of his life. Among other things, his skin lightened, his hair changed from Afro to straight, and his nose was surgically transformed. Michael’s change in appearance brought questions about his racial identity. Some claimed that he bleached his skin in order to appear more white. But skin color and racial identity are not one in the same.

Race is both a social construct and a psychological perspective.

Racial identity refers to a sense of group or collective identity based on one's perception that he or she shares a common racial heritage with a particular racial group (Helms 1990). Thus, when we see Michael as a racial entity, our primary task is the (re)construction of Michael in light of a historical, social and political understanding of the conditions under which he developed.

Structurally, identity is important because it shapes how humans make sense of the world and their experiences in it. Psychologists and philosophers have delineated the (un)conscious links between identity, self and society. For example, Mead (1934) developed a fairly detailed psycho-cultural explanation of how identity, self, and society are constructed and interact in relationship to one another. Vygotsky (1978) argues that as individuals interact in society, their mind and the self develop knowledge of, and beliefs about, the world and their place in it.

At the micro level, the mind and (un)consciousness are linked and because selfhood and identity are socially constructed and are an important part of the learning process, we can argue that identity and learning are imperatively connected. People are understood by others in particular ways; consequently, identity is important because people act towards one another depending on such understanding (McCarthy & Birr Moje 2002:228-229). Implicit though not always (un)conscious in this post analytical paradigm is race and identity.

### **The Postmodern Michael Jackson**

From a sociopolitical perspective, when it comes to race in America, the more obvious the pattern the more obscure it seems. Michael knew he was black, he identified with being black, and he was proud to be black. Indeed, it is within the stream of liberation theology that Michael implored his fellow human beings to "feed the hungry" people of the world. Michael's affirmation of being a "man" and "looking in the mirror" is a reformation of black manhood. His insistence that we "care for the living," while acknowledging that "people are dying," is a testimonial to his [black] Christian beliefs.

Michael asked that we all look in the mirror. For all his faults, Michael was not afraid to look at himself. Self analysis is only meaningful if it liberates us to choose our own destiny. Michael transcended race, and in so doing he invoked a cultural anesthesia that protects us from the abyss and uncertainty that underlies society. Michael knew that we collectively dull our senses because underneath it all, it hurts too much.

So we look at Michael Jackson simultaneously hurting him and adoring him. Was the public outpouring deserved? A better question would be: Was the public outpouring genuine? Many of us wrestle with the man in the mirror. Michael's songs were in the spiritual tradition, designed to inspire responsibility not avoidance, love not hate. Many people in the global community got the message. At the end of his life Michael knew exactly who he was. Michael lived what he sung, and we love him for it.

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\*Special thanks to Kevin Murphy for permission to reproduce his work, "Michael Jackson Tribute." Correspondence should

be sent to [kevindanielmurphy@hotmail.com](mailto:kevindanielmurphy@hotmail.com). To view more of his works, visit *The Graphic Designs of Kevin Murphy* online at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=22178372744&ref=ts>

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**STUDENT COLUMN:****Taming the Beast: Surviving Your First Conference Presentation**

Anne K. Larsen, California State University, East Bay\*

First, an annual meeting might be viewed as the scariest thing in the world. However, in actuality, the beast really is not that scary and you can, and should, have fun! The problem is that nerves and excitement sometimes get in the way. If this is the case, then nerves and excitement must be tamed in order to execute an excellent presentation! At least that is the tact I took to keep the beast at bay when I presented at this year's conference.

It seemed natural to participate in the 2009 SSSP annual meetings for me. It had been three years since I attended my first SSSP annual meeting, held in Montréal. Now Montréal was a blast, and not because I attended without presenting. By the way, it is OK to go to an annual meeting and not present. You can interact with professors and students, observe, and most importantly get to share in the process of learning and developing ideas about research findings. But beyond being a wonderful opportunity for scholarly growth, Montréal was particularly exciting because Cubanos attended and many other nationalities were represented, with Canadians being there en masse obviously. French came in handy especially if you stepped outside the hotel confines, making it romantic, if that is your thing. In general, unless you are in a foreign country, I recommend staying close to the hotel so you do not miss the real action! However, most SSSP meetings are held here in the US. If English is your first language, communication is not a problem. Better yet, if the meeting is being held in your own city, or close to it, cultural norms and geography are on your side. Thus I was fortunate that this past summer the SSSP conference was held in my chosen hometown of San Francisco.

To get ahead of the beast, weeks before the meeting I went to the conference hotel and had a soda pop in their bar! After asking, I was escorted to the meeting site downstairs and even shown the locked area where my particular session was to be held. That put one beastly concern to rest.

About six weeks before the meeting, you are expected to submit your entire presentation, not the abstract that was sent in the winter and accepted. This goes to the organizer, i.e., the original person who accepted your work. Typically during your session, there will be a presider keeping time. A discussant will ask you questions and/or offer critique of the session papers. Thus, you have about six months to fully prepare. I was notified about three weeks after my submission of its acceptance. You choose two groups to read your presentation proposal abstract. Officially you have two chances to be a participant, though rumor – and practice – has it that session organizers will pass your proposal on to a different group should they feel it might have a better fit elsewhere. The program is updated two or three times in this period and I checked way more times than was necessary to see if anything had changed; i.e., had they changed their minds and I was not going to read my paper after all? Ah, the beast. Instead of wasting time worrying, read the rest of the program if you are going to the trouble of getting to the website. Every presenter, and they are students, professors and sometimes even individuals from community groups, deserves as much

respect as you want (and deserve) for yourself. Understand that it is a level playing field with all participants contributing to the knowledge base. Be proud to be a part of the SSSP. So if the beast has you obsessing about your session and looking at the preliminary program, why not check out the other presenters on the program and get a head start on deciding which sessions to attend.

Channeling beastly concerns in this way, you will notice that there are thematic sessions, which differ from regular sessions by focusing on the problem suggested by the annual meeting's title. You will notice that in addition to the hundred or more sessions, there are business meetings. There are both divisional, which are open to everyone, and committee meetings. So while you are at it, why not seriously think about attending one or more of the open divisional meetings to get a better sense of how things work.

My presentation this year lacked handouts and visuals. I left it until the last minute to print out my presentation. This is where nerves and excitement come in. Believe me, there is nothing more boring than editing. Editing repeatedly puts you

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to sleep. There is no way around this. But that is another beast to confront elsewhere perhaps.

It is very important to know your work so well that you can use an outline and speak from it while using slides via PowerPoint. Ideally, it would be great to know that your audience has copies of your work with citations included in their hands as you present. But I had no printer at home and the printer in the hotel was very pricey – not an unusual phenomenon with conference hotels I've come to find out. So I was left with reading from my laptop! Yikes! I do not think it is a good idea to read verbatim from a script, but I do not think it is fair to your audience to speak extemporaneously as I had to do at times since I couldn't print out my outline and was organizing thoughts from my paper on my laptop as I went along. When you are speaking your nerves, I believe, give you that extra boost to get you through it. On the other hand, it is not a great idea to be forced to think on your feet. That beast can throw you. As it was for me, I am a political activist and I enjoyed discussing my topic, so speaking extemporaneously on the matter came naturally – it felt like I was making a "call to



action.” I have learned my lesson and I am trying to not dwell on the trivial aspects of life. I’m working not let the beast get the best of me.

Second, besides the thrill of “becoming recognized” in your field for doing research – on Monsanto in my case – the annual meeting is just for you. It is a giant laboratory whose only purpose is to make you a better scholar. The only thing that matters is giving a presentation that has very clear points to make. You can offer your sources in handouts and discuss them during the question and answer period. I have attended many presentations both with SSSP and the ASA. Some speak from a hard copy (paper). Some have very detailed (and sometimes confusing) slides via PowerPoint; others use pictures (photographs) to go along with the reading. Some people speak very fast, some speak too fast – evidence of their own beasts perhaps? Technical problems happen to the best professors. Not surprisingly, they can happen to you too. If they do, remember to be gentle with yourself.

Some presentations are forgettable and others, because you listened intently or were just fascinated with the handling of an issue, are very interesting, and you’ll look forward to reading anything the presenter has to take home! In some ways, the subject does not matter so much as the delivery. My own presentation was confusing because I saw many people nodding (in agreement) with nearly everything I said. I thought, “This audience knows all of this anyway!” However, upon seeing this behavior at other sessions, I found it distracting and disliked too much audience response while the speaker was reading their paper. On the other hand, I was so frightened, that the human reaction of yes, we understand, kept me going! After it is over you get to sit down! Oh glory be. The most interesting period is at the very end when all papers have been read and either synthesis of them will be attempted or direct questions will be posed about a paper.

It is all over very quickly and you must present a lot of information in this short time. This is the tricky part. Do you summarize to the point where you gloss over important details?

How do you convey the results of your research in such a way that people who have no familiarity with it become interested and informed enough to use your findings as scholars? The answer is to pique their interest, to provide additional information with your handouts, perhaps keep them awake with a slide show, and accept the fact that every member of the SSSP is worthy of listening to. Get your own presentation in order so you can enjoy what others have been wracking their brains about. Presenting is a coming-of-age. You must go through it, but once it is over you can look your colleagues in the eye and know that you share a special relationship to research, scholarship, and consciousness within academia. In order to enjoy the awards banquet, which I paid for but missed because of last-minute work on my presentation, to network, and to enjoy others’ presentations guilt-free, please finish working on your session in advance.

Finally, remember universal guidelines. Consider people with different abilities than your own. How will a hearing or visually impaired person be fully engaged with your research presentation? What about the needs of audience members whose native language isn’t English? You should think about these things as you contemplate putting your presentation together, and you might bring up such matters with your session organizer in advance. Doing so will likely see your audience get more from your presentation, thus making your research more effective overall.

In short, it is possible to contain, if not tame, debilitating nervousness and over-excitement about your first conference presentation. With forethought and planning, your presentation can go smoothly (barring unforeseen technical problems) and you can get the most out of your first SSSP conference. So have at it, and have fun!

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\*Anne K. Larsen graduated in 2008 with an MA in Sociology from California State University, East Bay.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 2009 SSSP Budget Available Online\*

The approved 2009 annual budget has been posted on the web for your review. Visit

[http://www.sssp1.org/file/2009%20Approved%20Budget \(1\) .pdf](http://www.sssp1.org/file/2009%20Approved%20Budget%20(1).pdf)

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\* The SSSP Board of Directors agreed to allow the newsletter editor to discontinue printing the annual budget in the newsletter as a cost savings so long as it is available to members online. For more information on this decision, see August 2, 2008, Minutes appearing in *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter* 40 (1):35.

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

## 2010 JOSEPH B. GITTLER AWARD

***Members of the Society are urged to submit the names of nominees for the 2010 Joseph B. Gittler Award.***

Established in 2007 at the bequest of Joseph B. Gittler, this award is made in recognition of the significant scholarly achievements that a SSSP member has made in contributing to the ethical resolution of social problems.

### PREVIOUS WINNER

2009 **Gregory Squires**, George Washington University  
2008 **Valerie Jenness**, University of California, Irvine

### NOMINATION PROCEDURE

The 2010 award will be presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, August 13-15, 2010. Nominations and supporting documents should be sent no later than April 15, 2010 to:

**Dr. Rose Brewer, Co-Chair**  
**Department of African American & African Studies**  
**University of Minnesota**  
**810 Social Science Bldg., 267 19th Ave South**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA**  
**Work: (612) 624-9305**  
**Email: [brewe001@umn.edu](mailto:brewe001@umn.edu)**

and

**Dr. Kathleen Ferraro, Co-Chair**  
**Sociology & Social Work, Box 15300**  
**Northern Arizona University**  
**Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5300**  
**Work: (928) 523-9412**  
**E-mail: [Kathleen.Ferraro@nau.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Ferraro@nau.edu)**

### NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Any member of the Society may nominate one or more persons for the award. Members of the Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee are encouraged to nominate.

All nominations must be accompanied by supporting evidence sufficiently detailed for the committee to render a decision (e.g., a resume; media accounts of activist activities inspired by the nominee's scholarly efforts, testimonials from grass roots organizations or advocacy agencies; or additional supporting description of the nominee's work, demonstrating that the contributions meet the criteria for nomination). Please include supporting information not covered in a resume. List names of colleagues who would be willing and able to write supporting letters upon the request.

### CRITERIA FOR THE JOSEPH B. GITTLER AWARD for the most scholarly contributions in the area of "Ethical Components in the Resolution of Social Problems"

1. The nominee must have been an active member of the Society for the Study of Social Problems for at least three years prior to receiving the award.
2. The nominee must have produced and disseminated scholarship promoting ethical solutions to social problems over the preceding three or more calendar years. *Ethical solutions* entail scholarship that promotes awareness and/or activism to increase public recognition that social problems and social injustices are ethical issues; and/or scholarship that identifies and promotes societal level responses to social problems and injustices. *Scholarship* may be undertaken from a wide variety of perspectives, including both applied research (qualitative or quantitative research) and normative work (e.g., argumentative, historical, philosophical, textual or theoretical analyses).

## **THE 2010 BETH B. HESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a continuing graduate student who began her or his study in a community college or technical school. A student in an accredited PhD program in sociology in the United States is eligible to apply if she or he studied for at least one full academic year at a two-year college in the US before transferring to complete a BA.

The Scholarship carries a stipend of \$3500 from Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) to be used to support the pursuit of graduate studies as well as a one-year membership in SWS (including a subscription to *Gender & Society*). The Scholarship will be awarded at the Summer Meeting of SWS. Recognizing Beth Hess's significant contributions to SSSP and ASA as well, these organizations join SWS in supporting and celebrating the awardee at their Annual Meetings, August 13-17, 2010 in Atlanta, GA. The awardee's economy class airfare, train fare or driving mileage/tolls will be paid jointly by SSSP and SWS. ASA also supports applicants for this award via their student travel award program (more than one such award may be given, but students must apply to ASA separately). Each association will also waive its meeting registration and provide complementary banquet and/or reception tickets for the awardee.

To honor Beth Hess's career, the committee will be looking for:

- Commitment to teaching, especially at a community college or other institution serving less-privileged students.
- Research and/or activism in social inequality, social justice, or social problems, with a focus on gender and/or gerontology being especially positive.
- Service to the academic and/or local community, including mentoring.
- High quality research and writing in the proposal and letter of application.

***An application for the award should contain:***

1. a letter of application (no more than 2 pages) that describes the student's decision to study sociology, career goals, research, activism and service that would help the committee to see how the Scholarship would be a fitting honor
2. a letter confirming enrollment in or admission to a sociology Ph.D. program (and aid award if any)
3. a letter of recommendation from a sociologist (original and five copies in a sealed envelope, signed on the seal)
4. full curriculum vitae, including all schools, degrees awarded, years of study, and full or part-time in each
5. (Optional) a one-page letter describing a community college faculty member who particularly contributed in a significant way to the decision to study sociology or pursue higher education
6. A cover sheet with:
  - Name and full contact information, including phone and email
  - Current academic or organizational affiliation, with years
  - If not currently enrolled, future Ph.D. program and date of entry
  - Community college attended, with years and credits taken OR transcript
  - Name and contact information for graduate faculty reference
  - If included, name of honored faculty member

***Six complete copies of the application should be submitted to:***

Dr. Denise Copelton  
 Department of Sociology  
 The College at Brockport, State University of NY  
 350 New Campus Dr.  
 Brockport, NY 14420, USA

***To be considered applications must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2010***

For further information contact Denise Copelton at: [dcopelto@brockport.edu](mailto:dcopelto@brockport.edu)

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### 2009 C. WRIGHT MILLS AWARD

Nominations are now open for the 2009 C. Wright Mills Award. **Members of the Society are encouraged to submit letters of nomination for this prestigious annual award.** Edited volumes, textbooks, fiction and self-published works are not eligible.

The C. Wright Mills Award, established in 1964, is made annually and carries with it a stipend of \$500 for the author(s) of the winning book. **The deadline for the 2009 award nominations is January 15, 2010.** The 2009 award will be presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, August 13-15, 2010.

C. Wright Mills wrote in *The Power Elite* that: “Only when mind has an autonomous basis, independent of power, but powerfully related to it, can mind exert its force in the shaping of human affairs. This is democratically possible only when there exists a free and knowledgeable public, to which [people] of knowledge may address themselves, and to which [people] of power are truly responsible.” Consistent with Mills’ dedication to a search for a sophisticated understanding of the individual and society, the award will be given for that book published in 2009 that most effectively:

- 1) critically addresses an issue of contemporary public importance,
- 2) brings to the topic a fresh, imaginative perspective,
- 3) advances social scientific understanding of the topic,
- 4) displays a theoretically informed view and empirical orientation,
- 5) evinces quality in style of writing,
- 6) explicitly or implicitly contains implications for courses of action.

**Please submit nominations to:**

Professor Debra Street, Chair  
C. Wright Mills Award Committee  
Department of Sociology  
University of Buffalo, SUNY  
430 Park Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260-4140, USA  
Work: (716) 645-8475; Email: [dastreet@buffalo.edu](mailto:dastreet@buffalo.edu)

**For further information, contact:**

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager  
Work: (865) 689-1531; Fax: (865) 689-1534; Email: [mkoontz3@utk.edu](mailto:mkoontz3@utk.edu)

## **TRAVEL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

**The Lee Scholar Support Fund Committee announces  
funds available for Foreign Scholars to participate  
in the 2010 Annual Meeting, August 13-15, Atlanta, GA.**

The Society for the Study Social Problems established the Lee Scholar Support Fund to help bring foreign scholars to the Annual Meeting. The specific purpose is to facilitate scholarly participation by persons engaged in research related to labor, gender, race-ethnicity, less advantaged countries, and other struggles. More generally, the purpose of this fund is to foster cooperative relations among persons and organizations engaged in applying sociological findings to confront social problems and create social change. Consistent with past practice, preference may be given to applicants from economically disadvantaged countries where access to foreign exchange is often more limited.

**Application (see next page) should be sent no later than March 15, 2010 to:**

**Richard A. Dello Buono**  
**Chair, Department of Sociology**  
**Manhattan College**  
**4513 Manhattan College Parkway**  
**Bronx, NY 10471-4004**  
**W: (718) 862-3861; E-mail: [ricardo.dellobuono@manhattan.edu](mailto:ricardo.dellobuono@manhattan.edu)**

**Other Committee Members:**

*Hoan N. Bui, Chair-Elect, University of Tennessee*

*W. Ryan Wishart, University of Oregon*

*Rebekah M. Zinzavage, Brandeis University*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**The Lee Student Support Fund Committee announces funds available for  
Undergraduate and Graduate Students  
to participate in the 2010 Annual Meeting, August 13-15, Atlanta, GA.**

In recognition of Al Lee's commitment to social justice and his history of critical contributions to the Society for the Study of Social Problems, SSSP established the Lee Student Support Fund. The fund provides up to \$500 in travel support for undergraduate and graduate student conference participants. Awards are allocated by the committee. In addition to need, the committee may recognize among other factors, the Society's commitment to diversity, as well as consider the applicant's commitment to scholar-activism, and interdisciplinary work. Only complete applications will be reviewed, and there is only one award per applicant.

**Application (see next page) should be sent no later than March 15, 2010 to:**

**Tracy L. Dietz**  
**University of North Texas**  
**College of Business Dean's Office**  
**1155 Union Circle, #311160**  
**Denton, TX 76203-5017**  
**W: (940) 565-3534; E-mail: [tracy.dietz@unt.edu](mailto:tracy.dietz@unt.edu)**

**Other Committee Members:**

*Patrick Donnelly, Chair-Elect, University of Dayton*

*Junpeng Li, Columbia University*



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2010 THOMAS C. HOOD SOCIAL ACTION AWARD

Nominations are open for the 2010 Social Action Award. **Members of the Society are urged to submit names of organizations as nominees for this award.**

The Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award, established in 1991, is awarded to a not-for-profit organization in the city/area hosting the annual meeting. The award carries a stipend of \$1,000.

The award is a fitting expression of the overall purpose of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, which is concerned with applying scientific methods and theories to the study of social problems. SSSP aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, and advocates to examine and understand social problems in order to further solutions and develop social policy based on knowledge.

When this award was established, SSSP described its purpose as follows:

The organization selected for this recognition should have a history of challenging social inequalities, promoting social change, and/or working toward the empowerment of marginalized peoples. Its work must demonstrate sensitivity to and respect for cultural diversity.

Preference is given to small, local agencies in the **Atlanta area** rather than large organizations or chapters of nationally-based organizations. The main criterion is the extent to which the organization reaches out to the disadvantaged in the community and uses innovative means for dealing with local social conditions.

The award will be presented on August 14, 2010 at the SSSP Awards Banquet in Atlanta, GA. **Deadline for nominations is April 1, 2010.**

### PREVIOUS WINNERS INCLUDE:

2009	San Francisco, CA	Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM)
2008	Boston, MA	We're All in This Together (WAITT House) Haley House
2007	New York, NY	CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities
2006	Montréal, Québec, Canada	Action Réfugiés Montréal
2005	Philadelphia, PA	Alliance for a Clean Environment (ACE)
2004	San Francisco, CA	Free Battered Women
2003	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta Harm Reduction Center
2002	Chicago, IL	Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM)
2001	Anaheim, CA	Innercity Struggle
2000	Washington, DC	Council of Latino Agencies
1999	Chicago, IL	Rogers Park Community Action Network
1998	San Francisco, CA	People Organized to Win Employment Rights
1997	Toronto, Canada	Heritage Skills Development Center
1996	New York, NY	SAKHI
1995	Washington, DC	Foundation for Youth at Risk Friends and Jr. Friends of the Southwest Branch Library
1994	Los Angeles, CA	Coalition for Human Immigration Rights of Los Angeles
1993	Miami, FL	Women Will Rebuild P.A.C.E Center for Girls Haitian Refugee Center
1992	Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh Jobs with Peace Campaign
1991	Cincinnati, OH	Ohio Welfare Rights Organization ReSTOC Inc.

**2010 THOMAS C. HOOD SOCIAL ACTION AWARD NOMINATION FORM****(Please include the following information when making a nomination.)****Your name, address, phone number, and email address.****The name and address of the organization you wish to nominate.****The name, address, phone number, and email address of the organizational contact person.****Give an overview of the organization's work.****Indicate why you believe that the nominee merits the award.****Please submit any supportive materials in electronic form (as attachments) you believe would be helpful to the committee.****Nominations should be sent no later than April 1, 2010 to:****Wendy Simonds, Co-Chair & Chair-Elect  
Department of Sociology, PO Box 5020  
Georgia State University  
Atlanta, GA 30302-5020****W: 404-213-6512; F: 404-213-6505; Email: [wsimonds@gsu.edu](mailto:wsimonds@gsu.edu)****Other Committee Members:***Heather Dalmage, Chair-Elect, Roosevelt University**J. Lloyd Allen, Georgia State University**Glenn Johnson, Clark Atlanta University**Deborah G. Perkins, Coastal Carolina University**Laire Sterk, Emory University**Elroi J. Windsor, Georgia State University**Kristin J. Wilson*



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### **2010 LEE FOUNDERS AWARD**

Nominations are now open for the 2010 Lee Founders Award. **Members of the Society are urged to submit the names of nominees.**

Established in 1981, this award is made in recognition of significant achievements that, over a distinguished career, have demonstrated continuing devotion to the ideals of the founders of the Society and especially to the humanist tradition of Alfred McClung Lee and Elizabeth Briant Lee.

#### **PREVIOUS WINNERS INCLUDE**

- 2009 John F. Galliher, University of Missouri  
 2008 David A. Snow, University of California, Irvine  
 2007 Peter Conrad, Brandeis University  
 2006 Barbara Katz Rothman, Baruch College, CUNY Graduate Center  
 2005 Robert Perrucci, Purdue University  
 2004 Mary A. Romero, Arizona State University  
 2003 Walda Katz-Fishman, Howard University and Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide  
 Jerome Scott, Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide  
 2002 Thomas J. Scheff, University of California, Santa Barbara  
 2001 Valerie Jenness, University of California, Irvine  
 2000 Beth B. Hess, County College of Morris & Norma Williams, University of Texas at Arlington  
 1999 Gary L. Albrecht, University of Illinois, Chicago  
 1998 John I. Kitsuse, University of California, Santa Cruz  
 1997 Irwin Deutscher, University of Akron  
 1996 No Winner Chosen  
 1995 Gideon Sjoberg, University of Texas  
 1994 Joyce A. Ladner, Howard University  
 1993 Irving Kenneth Zola, Brandeis University  
 1992 Marvin B. Sussman, University of Delaware  
 1991 Richard Cloward, Columbia University & Francis Fox Piven, CUNY, Graduate Center  
 1990 Louis Kriesberg, Syracuse University  
 1989 Arlene Kaplan Daniels, Northwestern University  
 1988 James E. Blackwell, University of Massachusetts, Boston  
 1987 John Useem, SSSP Life Member & Ruth Hill Useem, SSSP Life Member  
 1986 Jessie Bernard, Pennsylvania State University  
 1985 Butler Jones, Cleveland State University  
 1984 Elliot Liebow, National Institute of Mental Health  
 1983 Charles V. Willie, Harvard University  
 1982 S. M. Miller, Boston University & Joan Moore, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

The 2010 award will be presented at the 60th Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, August 13-15, 2010. Nominations and supporting documents should be sent no later than April 15, 2010 to:

**Dr. Claire M. Renzetti**  
**Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work**  
**University of Dayton, 300 College Park**  
**Dayton, OH 45469**  
**Work: (937) 229-2428**  
**Email: [Claire.renzetti@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:Claire.renzetti@notes.udayton.edu)**

#### **CRITERIA FOR THE LEE FOUNDERS AWARD**

1. The nominee must have been an active member of the Society for some years prior to receiving the award.
2. The nominee must have made significant achievements embodying the ideals of the founders of the Society. These achievements may be in the areas of scholarly research, teaching, or service leading to the betterment of human life. Nominees for the award must have demonstrated a commitment to social action programs that promote social justice.
3. The nominee's achievements should reflect the humanistic tradition of sociology, as exemplified in the contributions of Alfred McClung Lee and Elizabeth Briant Lee, for whom the award is named.
4. The nominee's achievements may be expressed in a body of work that provides understanding and insight for practical application and the development of social conflict, including one or more of the following.
  - a. Studies of peace and war, ethnic and/or racial conflict and social movements.
  - b. The role of mass media as related to social problems.
  - c. The role of propaganda in the creation of and the persistence of social problems.
  - d. The systematic study of social inequality (for example, problems of poverty, discrimination, racism, sexism and unequal distribution of wealth).
5. The achievements should include substantial community service at the local, state and/or national level.
6. It is assumed that the above achievements will have been accomplished by the nominees over a distinguished career and that they will reflect a long-term commitment to the ideals of the Lees.

#### **GUIDELINES**

1. Any member of the Society may nominate one or more persons for the award. Members of the Lee Founders Award Committee are encouraged to nominate.
2. All nominations must be accompanied by supporting evidence sufficiently detailed for the committee to render a decision (e.g., a resume; additional supporting description of the nominee's work, demonstrating that the contributions meet the criteria for nomination). Please include supporting information not covered in a resume. List names of colleagues who would be willing and able to write supporting letters upon the request of the committee or include letters of support with your nomination.

## TRAVEL FUNDS AVAILABLE

### The Erwin O. Smigel Award Committee announces funds available for Unemployed and Underemployed Sociologists to participate in the 2010 Annual Meeting, August 13-15, Atlanta, GA.

The Erwin O. Smigel Award was established in 1975 to provide assistance to unemployed and underemployed sociologists. Applicants should be sociologists with an advanced degree who are not full-time students and who are not fully employed. Erwin O. Smigel was a professor and Chair of Sociology at New York University, and the author of *The Wall Street Lawyer* as well as other works. He was the second editor of *Social Problems*; serving from 1958-61. He was also a friendly and good humored man who supported colleagues exceptionally well. The fund was established in Erwin's honor the year he passed away.

Erwin O. Smigel Award Guidelines: 1) the Smigel Fund monies are to be used to help pay for three or four unemployed or severely underemployed sociologists' transportation and registration fees for the SSSP meeting; 2) applicants must be SSSP members who are presenting a paper at the main SSSP meeting (rather than at an adjacent workshop or meeting) or participating as a SSSP elected or appointed officer or committee member; 3) a maximum of \$500 dollars is to be granted to any one recipient. **Application (see next page) should be sent no later than March 15, 2010 to:**

**Julie Mikles-Schluterman**  
**Behavioral Sciences, Arkansas Tech University**  
**Witherspoon # 356, 407 West Q Street**  
**Russellville, AR 72801-2222**  
**W: (479) 498-6050; Email: [jmiklesschluterman@atu.edu](mailto:jmiklesschluterman@atu.edu)**

#### Other Committee Members:

*Tamara Mix, Chair-Elect, Oklahoma State University*  
*Sally Serena Ramage, United Nations Institute of Peace*  
*Ruth Thompson-Miller, Texas A & M University*

Continued from page 17

#### REFERENCES

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## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### 2010 RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are being accepted for the 2010 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship. Members of the Society should urge qualified candidates to apply for this award. **Applications are due by and must be received on February 2, 2010.** Applicants will be notified of the results by July 15, 2010. **All applicants must be current SSSP members when applying.**

#### SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSE

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), in keeping with its philosophy of active engagement with social problems, participation in social problem solutions, and advancement of knowledge through study, service and critical analysis, established the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship at its annual meeting in August 1993. The purpose of the scholarship is:

- To identify and support developing minority scholars who exemplify and give fresh voice to the SSSP history and commitment to scholar activism
- To give renewed energy and wider lenses to diversity in scholarship
- To increase the pool of minority social and behavioral scientists
- To establish a formal commitment to diversity through support of a minority doctoral student in the social and/or behavioral sciences inclusive of course work or dissertation research support who demonstrates a commitment, through his or her scholarly examination, of any aspect of inequality, injustice and oppression.

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

- A person identified as either Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Asian-American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or American Indian or Alaska Native accepted into an accredited doctoral program in any one of the social and/or behavioral sciences so as to expand their perspectives in the pursuit and investigations into social problems
- Submission of a dissertation proposal of 15 or more pages. The student's dissertation advisor's letter should note that s/he expects the student to have defended the dissertation proposal and have achieved advanced status in the doctoral program (completed course work, examinations, and approval of their dissertation prospectus) by the end of the Spring 2010 academic year
- A grade point average or equivalent of at least 3.25 in one's current graduate program [of study]
- Evidence, through scholarly work and/or commitment to a career of scholar activism as demonstrated by: course work and research, activism in school and/or community, and career plans
- Statement of financial need as expressed by the applicant and Graduate Program Director or Advisor
- Applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States

#### FUNDING

A \$12,000 scholarship will be funded to one student with an additional \$500 awarded for attendance at the annual meeting. Payments will be made in equal installments in September 2010 and January 2011. SSSP believes that the support of students will foster the commitment required to enable the student to fund living arrangements as well as academic or research costs.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF RECIPIENT

- Attend the annual meeting to receive the award. A \$500 stipend will be available to the winner for this purpose.
- Submit a brief final report (three pages maximum) on the work sponsored through the award, at the end of the award year.
- Following year, present work (described above) at an appropriate division session. A \$500 stipend will be available to the winner for this purpose.
- Following year, serve on the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee and attend the scheduled meeting of the committee.

#### STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete application packets should be sent to the SSSP Executive Office. **Incomplete packets will not be reviewed.** Each packet must include the following:

- 1) Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Application (**complete and print the application and send it in with the rest of your application**);
- 2) An Official Transcript with seal from the student's Graduate Program Registrar;
- 3) Resume or Curriculum Vitae;
- 4) Three letters of recommendation addressing the student's work and progress in program, including one from the student's dissertation Advisor. The letter from the Advisor should address the financial need of the applicant, and should also note that the student will have defended the dissertation proposal and have achieved advanced status in the doctoral program (completed course work, examinations, and approval of their dissertation prospectus) by the end of the Spring 2010 academic year. Each letter should be placed in a sealed envelope with author's signature over the seal. **Letters not included in the packet will not be accepted.**);
- 5) Personal statement of commitment to a career of scholar activism;
- 6) Submit 15 or more pages of your dissertation proposal

**Contact Sandra L. Barnes, Chair, Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee with all questions (W: 615-322-8714 or e-mail [sandra.l.barnes@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sandra.l.barnes@vanderbilt.edu)).**

**Visit [www.sssp1.org](http://www.sssp1.org) to download an application. Complete application packets should be sent to:**

**The Society for the Study of Social Problems  
University of Tennessee, 901 McClung Tower  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0490  
W: 865-689-1531; F: 865-689-1534; [sssp@utk.edu](mailto:sssp@utk.edu)**



Please explain how receiving this scholarship would assist you in completing your program. (A very detailed budget would assist the committee in its deliberation; it is appropriate for the award to be used to support dissertation writing.)

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What is your parents' highest educational level? \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete application packets should be sent to the SSSP Executive Office. **Incomplete packets will not be reviewed.** Each packet must include the following:

- 1) Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Application (**complete and print this application and send it in with the rest of your application**);
- 2) an Official Transcript with seal from the student's Graduate Program Registrar;
- 3) Resume or Curriculum Vitae;
- 4) Three letters of recommendation addressing the student's work and progress in program, including one from the student's dissertation Advisor. The letter from the Advisor should address the financial need of the applicant, and should also note that the student will have defended the dissertation proposal and have achieved advanced status in the doctoral program (completed course work, examinations, and approval of their dissertation prospectus) by the end of the Spring 2010 academic year. Each letter should be placed in a sealed envelope with author's signature over the seal. Letters not included in the packet will not be accepted.;
- 5) Personal statement of commitment to a career of scholar activism;
- 6) Submit 15 or more pages of your dissertation proposal

Contact **Sandra L. Barnes, Chair, Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee with all questions (W: 615-322-8714; e-mail: [sandra.l.barnes@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sandra.l.barnes@vanderbilt.edu)).**

Visit [www.sssp1.org](http://www.sssp1.org) to download an application. Complete application packets should be sent to:

**The Society for the Study of Social Problems  
University of Tennessee, 901 McClung Tower  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0490  
W: 865-689-1531; F: 865-689-1534; [sssp@utk.edu](mailto:sssp@utk.edu)**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How can I find more information about the SSSP's Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship?**

You can download an application and find out more information by visiting [www.sssp1.org](http://www.sssp1.org). (Follow the link to "Awards and Scholarships." If the information there does not answer your questions, you may contact the 2010 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee Chair, Sandra L. Barnes, 615-322-8714 or [sandra.l.barnes@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sandra.l.barnes@vanderbilt.edu)).

### **Do you have to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to apply for the SSSP Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship?**

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident at the time that you apply for the scholarship.

### **How many students apply for the scholarship each year?**

About 40 students apply each year; however, 12 students applied in 2009, 16 applied in 2008 and 56 students applied in 2007). Only 1 fellowship is awarded each year.

### **How far along in a graduate program should applicants be?**

By the time of the award (September 1, 2010), the student should have defended the dissertation proposal and have achieved advanced status in the doctoral program (completed course work, examinations, and approval of the dissertation prospectus). Masters level students are not eligible for this scholarship.

### **Can the award be used to support the dissertation writing process after the research stage is completed?**

Yes, the scholarship may be used to support the dissertation writing process after the research stage is completed. The ideal candidate is a student who is in the process of completing a dissertation, whether that be data collection, data analysis, or writing.

### **Does an applicant need to be a student throughout the entire time for which the scholarship applies (2009-2010 academic year)?**

Yes, the distribution of the award occurs twice during the academic year (September 2010 and January 2009). Applicants enrolled in their respective graduate programs during this period may receive the scholarship.

### **How formal should the dissertation proposal be? How long does it need to be? Does it need to be the official prospectus approved by the graduate program?**

The dissertation proposal should be as formal as possible. The length of this document will vary dependent upon the protocol of an applicant's graduate program; however dissertation proposals are usually at least 15 pages in length. A document approved by a doctoral committee or graduate program is appropriate. While the proposal need not be formally approved by the time of application, it should be approved by the time of the award (September 1, 2010).

**Is there a requirement to the length of the personal statement?**

There is no requirement for the length of the personal statement. It should be long enough to convey an applicant's commitment to a career in scholar activism. The average personal statement is around 3-6 pages.

**Is there a specific form for the letters of recommendation or does it have to be on letterhead?**

There is not a specific form for the references. References written on letterhead are standard. The letter of recommendation from the advisor should note either that the student already has or should have defended the dissertation proposal and have achieved advanced status in the doctoral program (completed course work, examinations, and approval of the dissertation prospectus) by the end of the Spring 2010 academic year.

**Should letters of recommendation be sent along with or separate from other application materials?**

All letters must be included within the application packet. They must be in sealed envelopes and signed over the flap by the authors of the letters.

**How many copies of the application does SSSP require?**

One copy is required.

**Do application materials need to be sent all together in one packet?**

Yes, all components of an application must be received together in one package. A complete application includes:

- the application form (obtained online, completed, and then printed out),
- three sealed reference letters,
- personal statement,
- resume or curriculum vitae,
- graduate transcript from doctoral program, and dissertation proposal (if completed).

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

**Where should an application be sent?**

Completed applications must be sent to: The Society for the Study of Social Problems, University of Tennessee, 901 McClung Tower, Knoxville, TN, 37996-0490. The Executive Office will forward applications to the Scholarship Committee.

**Do applications need to be received by the due date or just post-marked by the due date?**

Applications must be received by the due date. Applications post-marked before or on the due date that do not reach the Executive Office by February 1, 2010 will not be considered. It is advised the applicants mail their packets no later than mid-January to ensure a timely submission.

**When will applicants learn of the Scholarship Committee's decision?**

Applicants will learn whether they were selected for the scholarship by July 15, 2010.

**Is membership in SSSP required to receive the scholarship?**

Yes, membership in SSSP is required in order to be eligible for the scholarship.

**Is conference participation required at the SSSP annual meetings?**

Yes. The award recipient should plan on attending both the 2010 and 2011 SSSP annual meetings (normally scheduled in early to mid August) as the award will be formally given at the SSSP awards banquet in 2010 (award recipient will be provided two complimentary banquet tickets) and will be required to present work that was supported during the award year at the 2011 meeting (award recipient will be provided \$500 to offset travel expenses for the 2010 and 2011 annual meetings).

**If I am not selected, can I apply next year?**

Yes, applicants not selected are encouraged to re-apply the following year.

**You know it's time.**

**So what are you waiting for?**

**Go on, you know you will do it sooner or later.**

**Why not do it now and cross that "to do" off your list?**

**Renew your Membership! Visit:**

<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/255/fuseaction/ssspmember.portal>

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