

SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM: THE SSSP NEWSLETTER

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Social Capital as a Tool for Community and Economic Development in the Ozarks

Mike Stout, Ph.D.

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The sociology program at Missouri State University, where I am currently employed, places a strong emphasis on public sociology. According to Burawoy (2005), public sociology examines what issues sociology *should* be focused on, and its intended audience is extra-academic. It involves a discussion or dialogue between sociologists and the “publics” or “communities” they work with. Missouri State University is located in Springfield, Missouri, and it is the largest metro area in the Missouri Ozarks. Throughout my experience as a public sociologist living in the Ozarks, I regularly collaborate with regional civic leaders to identify, define, and solve public issues. The main contribution that my colleagues and I have made as public sociologists in our community has been to introduce regional civic leaders to two important sociological concepts, *social capital* and *civic engagement*. An increased understanding of these concepts has been useful for informing community and economic development efforts in Southwest Missouri.

Social Capital

Social capital refers to networks of social relationships characterized by norms of trust and reciprocity (e.g., Coleman, 1988; Putnam, 2000). The central premise of social capital theory is that social networks have value because they provide people with access to important resources. Like physical capital (investment in the physical tools of the means of production) and human capital (investment in education, knowledge, and skills), social capital enhances the productivity of individuals and groups. Unlike physical capital, however, social capital doesn't wear-out or depreciate with use. In fact, it appreciates as it is used. Also, unlike physical capital, social capital is non-exclusive and can be accessed by many people at once. In this sense social capital has many attributes of a “public good.”

Theoretically speaking, social capital has two dimensions: a structural dimension and an attitudinal dimension.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Happy summer! I hope that this column finds you enjoying vacations and dedicated time for reading and writing. In the midst of a busy summer, I hope that you have made or will make reservations to stay at the Grand Hyatt in Denver, for the SSSP meetings - August 16-18. I am looking forward to meeting many of you this year. Please take a look at all of the meeting-related information in this issue (pgs. 17-28). If you have not already done so, please consider attending the SWS meetings (see pg. 4). Also in this issue, check out the engaging work on social capital and community development being done at Missouri State (beginning on pg. 1). As always, if you have any suggestions for feature articles or would like to conduct a book review, please contact me. Finally, check out the winners of our elections (pg. 8) and welcome our new members when you meet them in Denver (see pgs. 9-11).

Happy Reading,
Brent Teasdale, Ph.D.
Editor - Social Problems Forum

*** **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 are preferred. For a list of books available for review, see <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/274>.

The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is September 14, 2012.

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From the Executive Officer—Héctor L. Delgado

Annual Meeting

Another year, another annual meeting, and as always, I'm looking forward to it. This year we will be in Denver, August 16-18, and the theme, selected by our President, Wendy Simonds, is [The Art of Activism](#). Please take a moment to read Wendy's remarks on the theme and the program, which contains the following: "This year, let us celebrate a crucial part of what initially brought the SSSP into existence in 1951: the art of activism. By focusing on the myriad intersections between art and activism, I mean to encourage the sharing of work that explores the creative spirit in activism as well as the sociopolitical power of art." (I might add that Wendy collaborated in the art work for the program cover with her son, Jake Simonds-Malamud.) With regard to the meeting, let me also take this opportunity to exhort you to stay at our hotel, [The Grand Hyatt Denver](#). In addition to numerous advantages garnered by staying at the site of the meeting, the financial solvency of the association rests substantially on our ability to fill the room block we contracted to fill. So, please, stay at the Grand Hyatt, a win-win for you and the SSSP.

Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for our [new officers and committee members](#). BUT, I also want to thank those of you who were not elected very much for running. A number of the "races" were hotly contested, but it appears that the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision had little impact on our elections. It would be nice to say the same about the presidential and congressional races, and recall elections, but I think we know better. Congratulations as well to the [finalists of the C. Wright Mills book award](#). They are Julie Guthman, Shamus Rahman Khan, Mignon Monroe, Shehzad Nadeem, Victor M. Rios, Steven J. Tepper, and Karolyn Tyson. Prior to becoming the Executive Officer, I served on this committee three times, once as chair, so I know how much work it entails. We are thankful for everyone's contributions to the SSSP, but always extend a special thank you to the members of this committee – perhaps the most labor-intensive of all of our committees. And because I served on this committee, I also know from experience how little often separates the winner from the others. This is not to take anything away from the award's recipient, but rather to congratulate the others for their hard work and contribution to the discipline and to the work of so many other scholars. In fact, the quality of their work makes the award that much more special to its ultimate recipient.

Michigan Appropriations Bill

Finally, the Board and I drafted a letter and we signed another one with numerous other organizations sent to Michigan legislators, urging them to strike from a higher education appropriations bill, the following section (273a): "*It is the intent of the legislature that a public university that receives funds in section 236 shall not collaborate in any manner with a nonprofit worker center whose documented activities include coercion through protest, demonstration, or organization against a Michigan business.*" This language appears to have resulted from a field placement of a University of Michigan social work student with a non-profit organization that advocates for, among others and other things, fair treatment of restaurant workers. This language is believed to be in retaliation to the advocacy work of this organization. Our letter emphasizes two things. First, as a non-profit, tax exempt organization, the University of Michigan is, as we are, already constrained in the activities in which it can engage, so that this language is unnecessary. Second, our letter emphasizes that this section interferes with students' learning and faculty's pedagogy and undermines academic freedom. Both letters are [posted on our website](#).

As always, if there is an issue that you believe the SSSP should address, please let us know. If you have [a resolution that you'd like the SSSP to consider](#) in Denver, the deadline is July 1 and it must be submitted to the appropriate Division Chairperson(s) (see http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/464/The_Special_Problems_Divisions/ for current contact information) and submit it as well to SSSP Vice-President Wendy Chapkis at chapkis@usm.maine.edu.

SEE YOU ALL IN DENVER, AUGUST 16-18.



FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

August 9 – 11, 2013
The Westin New York at Times Square
New York, NY

August 15 – 17, 2014
The San Francisco Marriott Marquis
San Francisco, CA

August 21 – 23, 2015
The Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel
Chicago, IL



Attend the SWS summer meeting! For an oasis within ASA (or instead!), register for SWS's low cost conference and **enjoy** feminist networking, activism, and scholarship. See www.socwomen.org for more information.

Social Capital as a Tool for Community and Economic Development in the Ozarks

Mike Stout, Ph.D.

Continued from page 1

The structural dimension involves the characteristics of social networks that arise from attachment to different groups and organizations, while the attitudinal dimension refers to the norms of trust and reciprocity that shape attachment. These structural and attitudinal dimensions intersect, creating either weak or strong ties in people's social networks. Social capital is an indicator of the civic health of communities, and social scientists have developed surveys to measure levels of social capital and its relationship to other important community indicators, such as education, crime, public health, political participation, and civic engagement.

Social Capital and Civic Engagement in the Ozarks

A growing body of scholarly literature over the last twenty five years shows that social capital facilitates many important individual and social goods. A prominent feature of the literature on social capital is its relationship to civic engagement, which can be broadly defined as voluntary participation in organized political (e.g., voting, protesting, or membership in a political party) and non-political activities (e.g., volunteering, serving on community committees, or membership in clubs and other non-political voluntary groups). For example, research has found that civic engagement is more common in places with higher levels of social capital, because it is easier to mobilize citizens to address public issues, such as establishing a hazardous waste disposal facility, reducing a crime problem, or building a community park. Research has also revealed that social capital makes it easier to arrange for things that benefit the community as a whole, such as a child-care cooperative among welfare mothers, a micro-lending group that enables poor people to start businesses, or farmers banding together to share expensive tools and machinery. In 2008, I began coordinating a regional research project measuring levels of social capital and civic engagement in the Ozarks. This project, which is called the Ozarks Regional Social Capital Study (ORSCS), is an ongoing public sociology initiative to systematically gather and share information on levels of social capital and civic engagement in the Ozarks region. The data obtained through the study is a regional resource that has been used to help local civic leaders make more effective decisions regarding community and economic development.

The Ozarks Regional Social Capital Study

The work that my colleagues and I have done on the ORSCS serves as a good example of how sociology can have a "real-world" impact in communities. The study has benefited the local community in three important ways. First, it has brought the sociological concepts of social capital and civic engagement to the forefront of policy discussions and has introduced community leaders in the Ozarks to a new way of thinking about addressing public issues. For example, according to Brian Fogle, the President of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, the largest community foundation in Southwest Missouri, the ORSCS "has done a remarkable job in changing our vernacular and dialogue in the community." Similarly, Greg Burris the City Manager of Springfield, Missouri, the largest city in Southwest Missouri commented, "the [ORSCS has] proved to be extremely valuable to the City of Springfield and others interested in re-establishing civic engagement in our community."

Second, measuring social capital in the Ozarks has allowed us to identify where social capital is strong

and where it is weak in the region, and it has led to the identification of civic engagement as a public issue. This is crucial information for regional civic leaders who are focused on community and economic development. The ORSCS found that the Ozarks has higher levels of trust than the national average, and that Ozarkers have more social connections than the average US citizen. However, the study has also revealed that people were much less trusting of the local and national government than the nation at large. Additionally, a higher proportion of Ozarks' citizens feel alienated from their local leadership compared to the national population, and that the problem is especially pronounced among groups with lower levels of education and income. In the Ozarks, the respondents with lower levels of education and income also expressed a notably lower sense of efficacy and empowerment than their counterparts nationwide. For example, a lower proportion of Ozarks residents reported that they cooperated with neighbors to fix something in their neighborhood, or have worked on a community project, than the national average. As a result of the ORSCS, broadening the base of civic engagement by establishing programs to increase levels of trust and social capital among low-socioeconomic groups in the Ozarks has increasingly become a central focus of policy makers.

Third, studying how social capital is related to civic engagement in the Ozarks has allowed us to mobilize existing groups and organizations, and to develop targeted programs in an effort to increase citizen participation in the region. To facilitate this process, my colleagues and I have called attention to the characteristics of social networks in the Ozarks, and in attempting to address the lack of civic engagement that was identified in the ORSCS, we introduced community leaders to two key concepts: *bonding* social capital and *bridging* social capital.

Bridging social networks bring individuals together with others who are different from them in terms of their race, social class, ethnicity, education, religion, age, or gender. Bridging networks sustain *generalized* trust and reciprocity. Bonding social networks bring individuals together with others like them and sustain *particularized*, in-group, trust and reciprocity. One possible explanation for the lack of civic engagement in the Ozarks was that citizens had high levels of bonding social capital but low levels of bridging social capital. Certainly, civic engagement and political participation require working with different people and diverse groups.

So, the idea of a relative lack of bridging social capital in the Ozarks became part of the community dialogue. Social capital theory encouraged community leaders to think of community as more than geographic entities; as mosaics of social networks. In 2010 we administered a follow-up survey in order to test the hypothesis that the lack of civic engagement among people with low levels of education and income was related to a lack of bridging social capital. Using new measures of social capital we were able to confirm that levels of bridging social capital were much lower among those with low prestige occupations, with a high school education or less, and with household incomes lower than \$25,000. Armed with this new information, my colleagues and I began working with community leaders to develop programs to increase bridging social capital among disadvantaged Ozarkers. So far, there have been at least two ways that our study has had an impact on public policy in the Ozarks.

Policy Outcomes

First, in 2012 the City of Springfield, MO hired its first Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement. The position was created in direct response to the ORSCS survey, which revealed a lack of trust in local government, and overall low levels of civic engagement in the city, especially among citizens living in

high-poverty neighborhoods. The impact of the ORSCS is clearly illustrated in the job description for the new position, which states that in addition to the more traditional responsibilities of a city PIO, the Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement “designs, develops, and implements civic engagement strategies and programs to increase citizen participation and, ultimately, trust in City government.” The Director also “develops mechanisms to measure and track levels of civic engagement over time.” This new position illustrates an effort on the part of the City to build social capital and increase civic engagement between the local government and its constituents.

Second, the ORSCS has informed efforts to address the issue of civic engagement in high-poverty neighborhoods in the Ozarks. The finding that the least well off citizens are also the least civically engaged has led to the Neighbor for Neighbor (N4N) project, a local initiative which kicked off in spring 2012. The N4N project is an effort to increase social capital and civic engagement in two high poverty neighborhoods in Springfield. It is a collaborative community effort to minimize poverty by bringing together diverse groups of people and having them go through a process of deliberative dialogue and community action. The project is a grassroots effort to revitalize high-poverty neighborhoods, sponsored by more than twenty community partners representing diverse interests from the public, private, philanthropic, faith-based, and education sectors of the region. If Neighbor for Neighbor is successful, it will increase social capital and civic engagement in high-poverty areas of our community.

In conclusion, by using sociological theories and methods, my colleagues and I have been working as public sociologists, collaborating with local community leaders to identify, define, and solve pressing issues in the Ozarks. We’ve come to the realization that in the process of studying social capital and sharing our findings with regional community leaders we’ve begun building new types of social capital. Ultimately, we’ve come to realize that positive change is possible when we step out of the ivory tower into the “real world” to work with civic leaders on issues related to the quality of life in our community.

Dr. Mike Stout is an assistant professor of Sociology at Missouri State University. His research interests are in the area of social capital and civic engagement. In 2010, Dr. Stout and two other MSU sociologists collaborated with the National Conference on Citizenship to produce the first ever Missouri Civic Health Index,"a report summarizing the empirical indicators of civic health for the state of Missouri. Dr. Stout is also the coordinator of the Ozarks Regional Social Capital Study (ORSCS), an ongoing project that tracks levels of social capital and civic engagement in Southwest Missouri. Funded by a local coalition of private, philanthropic, and public contributions the ORSCS is a valuable source of information for community and civic leaders in the Ozarks.

RESULTS OF THE 2012 GENERAL ELECTION

President Elect (2012-2013); President (2013-2014)	Anna Maria Santiago
Vice-President Elect (2012-2013); Vice-President (2013-2014)	Luis Fernandez
Secretary (2012-2013)	Glenn W. Muschert
Treasurer (2012-2013)	Susan M. Carlson
Board of Directors (2012-2015)	Lara J. Foley, Antwan Jones, and Phoebe Morgan
Board of Directors: Student Representative (2012-2014)	Sarah Hendricks
Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (2012-2015)	Claire M. Renzetti
Committee on Committees (2012-2015)	Lloyd Klein and Junpeng Li
Editorial and Publications Committee (2012-2015)	Mary C. Bernstein and Paul C. Luken
Membership and Outreach Committee (2012-2015)	Kendra Jason and Karen M. McCormack
Membership and Outreach Committee: Student Representative (2012-2015)	Ryon Cobb
By-Laws Amendment: Article IV, Section 2. Qualifications for Holding Society Positions	Approved
By-Laws Amendment: Article VI, Section 6. Committee on Committees	Approved
By-Laws Amendment: Article VIII, Section 5. Nomination for More than One Position	Approved
By-Laws Amendment: Article VI, Section 11A. Nominations Committee	Approved



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Society for the Study of Social Problems would like to welcome the 453 members who joined since May 17, 2011 (prepared 5/20/12):

Issa Abdulcadir	Jessica A. Braimoh	Lyn Craig	James Falconer
Shweta Majumdar Adur	Jill Niebrugge Brantley	Karin Creutz-Kamppi	James Anthony Farley
Gbemisola Bolanle	Patricia Brock	Bryant Crubaugh	Olive Fast
Akinboyo	Evrick Brown	Roberta Cucca	Folakemi Titilayo Fatoki
Ilhom Akobirshoev	Heather M. Brown	Emma Cunliffe	Lori Fazzino
Sharla N. Alegria	Angela Bruns	Joe Curnow	Lisa Fein
Sigal Alon	Rose Buckelew	Harry F. Dahms	David A. Feingold
Lydia M. Andrade	Nathaniel Burke	Margot Dainowski	Marc V. Felizzi
Oludare Olakitan Anuodo	Amanda J. Burnam	Carrie Nicole Danielson	April Fernandes
Elizabeth Marie Armstrong	Nicole Butkovich Kraus	Jennifer Darrah	Ann Finan
Brandon Kyle Attell	Stuart William Buxton	Mary Davis	Alison L. Fisher
Kristin M. Atwood	Bill Byrnes	Erwin de Leon	Karl Flaming
Margaret A. Austin Smith	Wendy Cadge	Paul Dean	Shawn T. Flanigan
Clay Michael Awsumb	Ryan Ashley Caldwell	Daniel Justino Delgado	Rebekah L. Fox
Sarah Babb	Carlos Manuel Camacho	Allison Demeritt	Linda E. Francis
Sharon Barnartt	Sara Louise Camp	Patrick A. Denice	Kelly Frazier
Anthony Barnum	Ann Campbell	James Densley	Lindsey Freeman
Gary RS Barron	Mary Caplan	Ashlie D. Denton	Bonnie E. French
Carrie Bauer	Annie Carrier	Rebecca DiBennardo	Hélène Frohard-Dourlent
Tim E. Bauer	Melanie Carroll	Sarah Diefendorf	Melissa Fugiero
Erin L. Baugher	Courtney Myrtle Carter	Darryn A. DiFrancesco	Brad Fulton
Susan J. Bearns	Alma Y. Castro	Yaron Dishon	Chris Galvan
Marcus Bell	Corinne Castro	Beidi Dong	Grace A. Gámez
Jodi Benenson	Michael J. Cermak	Jeffrey K. Dowd	Tom Garcia
Dionne Bensonsmith	Brice Champetier	Bernadette Doykos	Alma Nidia Garza
Tiffany Bergin	Cheris S.C. Chan	Christopher Dum	Izabela Gawronska
Max Besbris	Anjanette M. Chan Tack	Annette M. Duranso	Yolanda Gelo
Eric Best	Tyrone C. Cheng	Laura Dzwigalski	Crystal George-Moses
Carl Bevelhymmer	Valerie Chepp	Lisa East	Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi
David Bidwell	Chandra Chandra Childers	Kim Ebert	Tim Goddard
Shawn Bingham	Cecilia Chung	Joanna Eisele	Roberto G. Gonzales
Katie B. Birdsall	Phillip H. Chung	Tamela Eitle	Stacy Gorman
Elizabeth Paula Bittel	Jessica A. Church	Opeyemi Oyewunmi Ekundayo	Lynn J. Gransee
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Godfred Odei Boateng	Crystal Clay	Ray Elling	Mary L. Gray
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Cissie Bonini	Nakia V. Collins	Amon S. Emeka	Gloria A. Gutierrez
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Paul Bowdre	Christopher T. Conner	Jill Eshelman	Lori Ann Hale
Christie Lynne Bowles	Katie Cooper	Chris Esselmont	Jennifer Hall
Heather Bowles	Krystal Lynne Cooper	Joseph J. Fahey	Taylor L. Hall
	Bridget M. Costello		Lindsay Hamm

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Shola Jhanji	Julia Loughlin	Guðmundur Oddsson	Diane McDaniel Rhodes
Sarah L. Jirek	Elizabeth CW Lyman	Samuel Abiola Oni	Cathy Ringham
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John Wesley Johnson	Erin Fanning Madden	Yasmin Ortiga	Joel M. Ritsema
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Katharine Jones	Michelle Lee Maroto	Aaron M. Pallas	Desiree Rozen
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Jennifer Jordan	Elisa Martinez	Evelyn J. Patterson	Jens Rydgren
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Karpilow	Merrill Andrea Mayer	Michelle Peria	Ulluminair M. Salim
Ben J. Keane	Alissa Anne Mazar	Rachel Peterson	Natalie R. Sampson
Kristin Kelly	Alicia McCraw	Leslie H. Picca	Aliya Saperstein
Ivy Ken	James McRitchie	Georgia Piggot	Brian J. Sargent
Kimberly Kiesewetter	Tey Meadow	Katy M. Pinto	Dr. Sayeeda Amber Sayed

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April M. Schueths	Alex I. Thompson
Brittany L. Scott	Daniel K. Thompson
Alicia Serpa	Chauntelle Anne Tibbals
Krista D. Shackelford	Stephen Monroe Tomczak
Renee Shelby	Alvin Tran
Samantha Shepard- Guerinoni	Teresa Kay Tucker- Trainum
Solee Shin	Eric Turner
Eric J. Shircliff	Susan J. Tyburski
Peter Shrock	Darrell Tyler
Jessica T. Simes	Christopher Uggen
Joseph M. Simpson	Annmarie S. van Altena
Erin Sirett	Frank van Tubergen
Rachel Small	Burrel J. Vann Jr.
Chris M. Smith	Sarah VanZoeren
Darrick Smith	Victoria Velding
Dena T. Smith	Matt Vogel
Heather Anita Smith	Julie A. Voigt
Mona A. Smith	Jasmine Waddell
Nicole Snow	Brooke M. Wagner
Qian Song	James R. Walker
Phomdaen Souvanna	Michael Walker
Terrie Spetalnick	Margaret M. Walsh
Gina Spitz	Tobin N. Walton
Sarah A. St. John	Nesa E. Wasarhaley
Gina Mattivi Stango	Lars Erik Watkins
Justin P. Steil	Megan B. Welsh
Andrew L. Stewart	Brooke S. West
Mahala Stewart	Jonathan M. White
Quincy Thomas Stewart	Shelley K. White
Joseph Stincer	Ellen Griggs Whiteman
Kayla Stover	Cameron Whitley
Elizabeth Straley	Christopher Wildeman
Gayle A. Sulik	Aaron James Williams
Yu-Hsien Sung	Beth Williford
Deborah Svoboda	Shane Montgomery Will- son
Jeffrey Sweat	Catherine M. Wilson
Jennifer Swift-Kramer	Charlotte Winston
Tiffany K. Swiggart	Mi-Yeet Wong
Bryan L. Sykes	David William Woods
Catherine D. Tan	Bonnie Wright
Abby Irene Templer	Jessica JB Wyse
Steven J. Tepper	David D. Yang
Elizabeth Jefferis Terrien	Jock Young
Eric A. Tesdahl	Jane Zavisca
Jonel Thaller	
Megan Thiele	

Call for Participation AHS Annual Meeting November 7 – 11, 2012

When Race and Class Still Matters

“After climbing a great hill, one finds there are many more hills to climb” (Nelson Mandela)

**Doubletree Hotel
315 4th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee**

The keynote address of the Association for Humanist Sociology 2012 annual meetings will be delivered by Michelle Alexander the author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness*. Professor Alexander’s book was the co-winner of the 2010 AHS book award.

Thursday activist luncheon speaker will be Professor Emeritus of Africana Studies at Tennessee State University, Amiri Al-Hadid.

Friday activist Luncheon speaker will be Tim Wise who is an author, lecturer, public intellectual, and one of the most prominent anti-racist activists in the United States. His most recent publication is *The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity*.

We invite our members—and all people of good will inclined toward peace and justice—to join us for our 2012 meeting. We invite proposals for papers or sessions that feature scholarly work, reflections on teaching and activism for social change, book discussions, film screenings, music or other forms of creative expression. Papers should try to fit the conference theme, but that is not a requirement

Proposal DEADLINE: July 15

For more information or to submit a proposal, contact Kathleen Fitzgerald, Program Chair (kfitzger@loyno.edu; 504-865-2574) or Deborah Burriss-Kitchen, AHS President (dburriskitchen@tnstate.edu; 615-963-7648).

Book Review: *The Modern Firm: Organizational Design for Performance and Growth*

Cynthia Baiqing Zhang
University of Kentucky

John Roberts' *The Modern Firm* (2004) attempts to provide an understanding of the basic principles of the economics of organization and its application to business enterprise by mixing case studies and examples with conceptual and theoretical material. The book specifically tackles the issue of organizational design from the perspective of structural contingency theory. Roberts gives many interesting real life examples to make his point, which is a great strength of this book. The language of the book is easy to follow and appropriate for readers of different levels.

The Modern Firm is focused on individual organizations. This is a much needed remedy to the neglect of specific organizations in the sociology of organizations. The current field of organizational studies has shifted its attention from organizations to more grand-level theorizing, with new institutionalism as the most promising development. Although theoretical construction at the grand levels is necessary and potentially idea generating, studies with individual organizations are important for the construction and application of theories. Roberts' book is such a work that "puts organization back in the study of organizations" (Hirsch & Lounsbury 1997:88).

Roberts' approach to organizational design is unconventional and creative. He subsumes some important organizational theories (such as transaction cost economics) usually considered to be equals to structural contingency under the umbrella of structural contingency. He argues that the book focuses on the predominant role of managers in organizational design. Therefore, the economic calculation weaves all the underlying theories and concepts into the fabric of organizational design, or structural contingency theory.

To highlight the crucial role played by the managers, Roberts states that: achieving high performance in a business results from establishing and maintaining a fit among three elements - the strategy of the firm, its organizational design (structure), and the environment in which it operates (p.12). He cites Alfred Chandler's dictum that "structure follows strategy" to illustrate the central position of strategy which is under the control of the managers. This is a version of structural contingency theory with the strategy separated as an independent factor in the interaction of organizational design and the environment. There are three types of contingency theory: contingency determinism (i.e. changes in contingencies/environment lead to changes in organizational structure), SARFIT (i.e. changes in contingencies cause mismatch between structure and context which in turn causes decreases in organizational effectiveness and eventual structural change), and strategic choice (i.e. a model similar to SARFIT with the additional insight that managers can manipulate contingencies/environment) (Penning 1992). Among these three contingency theories, Robert's depiction of the triangle among strategy, organizational design, and the environment is closest to the strategic choice paradigm. Therefore, in general, Robert's theoretical starting point is the management's strategic importance writ large against the remote backdrop of contingency theory although he did sometimes balance this with the perception that strategy is dependent on organizational structure.

The major concepts Roberts illustrates for organizational design are complementarity, non-convexity, and non-concavity (pp.34-62). "The two choice variables are complements when doing (more of) one of them increases the returns to doing (more of) the other." Roberts points out that the mathematical models of "non-convexity" and "non-concavity" are not appropriate for strategic and organizational choice. Although he is right in his elaboration of the concepts and he does provide some interesting examples such as lean production, Roberts waits till later chapters to clarify the concepts in sections of motivation. Roberts also touches on the concepts of tight coupling and decoupling at the end the chapter on organizational design.

Consistent with the focus on management, Roberts uses transaction cost economics from the perspective of motivation and motivating employers with different policies to assist strategies is the manager's call. Citing Smith, Roberts states that "markets are one very prominent mechanism for solving the problems of

coordination and motivation that arise with the interdependencies of specialization and the division of labor." The fundamental question asked by transaction cost economics "why some economic activity is carried out through market transactions while others are organized under hierarchic authority relations within firms", therefore, becomes a problem that could be addressed by the management. He also reiterates the nature of transaction costs by emphasizing the role of the management: transaction costs are the costs of finding and qualifying trading partners, of establishing specifications and prices, of negotiating and drafting contracts, and of monitoring and enforcing agreements.

Roberts appropriately extends the theme of motivation to cover agency theory which focuses on bringing a closer alignment of interests between the organization and its members and thereby increasing the efficiency of the choices they make (p. 118-9). Motivation or incentive problems arise when individuals' organizational decisions and actions affect others in ways that the individual does not fully take into account (p. 119). Roberts touches on the risk aversion problem of the agents but focuses mainly on the issue of performance measures: better performance measures are the key to aligning the interests of the organization and its members. However, since performance measures are manipulable and evaluations are subjective, there are limitations to the effectiveness of performance measures. Corresponding to the earlier concept of complementarity, Roberts very wisely suggests that in the context of multitasking, the principal needs both to motivate the overall provision of effort and to shape its allocation among tasks (pp.140-141). The major consideration is that the increase in one task through incentives should lead to the increase of the other. The management also has reputation and job design at their disposal to enhance motivation.

The last three chapters of the book are dedicated to the unique development trajectories of American companies since the 1980s with a profusion of interesting examples. Roberts looks back at the disaggregation process of American firms after the merging trend in the 1960s and 1970s and credited the increase of strategic focus for its agreement with efficiency. He believes that clarity about strategy and the meanings of performance are easier when the firm is more focused. A narrower scope also means that there is less room for the interdependence among units. In addition, a small top executive team makes a narrower scope more attractive, as the overload problem is lessened (p.240). On the other hand, growth by buying other companies is difficult (p. 253). Roberts foresees that those companies that could combine exploring new opportunities and exploiting current efficiencies are the future in the business world. The creation of such a company is pretty much in the hands of management with vision.

In general, Roberts does a very good job in using structural contingency framework to hold multiple traditionally independent organizational theories: transaction cost economics and agency theory. The human agency is highlighted through the central position of the management in this eclectic theoretical paradigm. The rich real life examples from the business world contribute to the appeal of the book and make it a worthwhile work to read.

Bibliography:

- Hirsch, P.M. and Lounsbury, M. 1997. "Putting the Organization back into Organization Theory." *Journal of Management Inquiry*. 6(1):79-88.
- Pennings, J.M. 1992. "Structural Contingency Theory: A Reappraisal." In B.M. Straw and L.L. Cummings (eds.), *Research in Organizational Behavior*. 14:267-309.
- Roberts, J. 2004. *The Modern Firm: Organizational Design for Performance and Growth*. New York: Oxford University Press.

2012 CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

SSSP resolutions constitute an important opportunity for our scholar-activist membership to publicly declare their sentiments, thereby creating a channel for greater visibility and more direct influence upon a variety of “publics,” i.e., fellow activists, scholars, students, decision-makers, social action groups, voters, and others. Thus, as Vice-President this year, I am calling on the membership to submit resolutions for discussion, debate, and in some cases, passage. Keep in mind, that proposed resolutions serve as useful discussion points for SSSP members, helping to increase and enhance communication and activities during the long period between annual meetings. To submit a resolution, simply forward your resolution or your idea for a resolution to the Vice-President and the appropriate SSSP Division Chair(s) by **July 1, 2012** in order to give members ample time to read and give serious consideration to your resolution. (If you submit your resolution to more than one chair, please inform all involved of this fact.) The only exception to the deadline is if the issue in question occurs after July 1st. Proposed resolutions will be available for review prior to the Annual Meeting via posting on the SSSP website in the “members-only” area and under “Annual Meeting,” and as an e-mail blast sent to members who want to receive announcements from the Administrative Office.

Resolutions submitted to Division Chairs should contain a concise position statement concerning a social problem of urgent concern to the Division. In most cases, the resolution should include some sort of call for viable action on the part of the SSSP. This typically has involved a letter from the Board directed to some public entity expressing concern, support, or protest. Feel free, however, to propose other forms of appropriate action. If the resolution is in support of or in opposition to a piece of legislation, a copy of the legislation or a place where members can access it *must* be provided.

It is the SSSP Vice-President’s responsibility to serve as the facilitator for resolutions being sponsored by the Divisions as well as from individual Society members, making the resolutions available to the membership prior to and at the annual business meeting. This year in Denver, the resolutions process will be organized in a manner that promotes wider discussion prior to formal consideration at the 2012 Annual Business Meeting. The process is as follows:

- On the first day of the meetings an open forum will be held, designed to encourage a political discussion by concerned members. At this meeting, each proposed resolution should be presented for membership discussion by the sponsoring Division’s Chairperson (or designated representative) and adequate time for discussion will be properly allotted to each. To facilitate this process, all proposed resolutions, as noted above, must be made available to the SSSP Vice-President and Division Chair(s) by July 1, such that the membership has ample time to consider resolutions and can be provided a print copy with their registration packet.
- Modifications and revisions will be considered during the open discussion forum on the first day of the meetings; the open forum will be held in place of the annual meeting of the Resolutions Committee. Sponsors of resolutions or a surrogate must be present at this forum to present and respond to questions concerning their resolution. It is *imperative* that someone be present who can speak to the substance of the proposed resolution.
- During the 2012 Annual Business Meeting, the resolutions will be presented (including any modifications or revisions) by the Vice-President as a package for approval for action by the attending membership. The membership will vote on proposed resolutions that were discussed and revised on the first day of the meeting. Experience shows that the Annual Business Meeting fails to provide sufficient time for a detailed discussion of resolutions. If objections from the floor are raised to any specific resolution at this year’s Business Meeting, that resolution can, by majority vote of those present, be separated from the package, and voted on separately. Those present can either vote to support the resolution as proposed or decide to table the resolution for further discussion at the subsequent year’s annual meeting.
- If the resolution requires letters or e-mails to be sent, the sponsor of the resolution must provide the addresses to the Administrative Office and, if necessary, be prepared to assist the Administrative Office in getting the resolution to the appropriate individuals or agencies. Furthermore, sponsors are responsible for keeping the Society apprised of developments pertaining to the resolution they sponsored.
- We will attempt to make approved resolutions immediately available to the press. In addition, all approved resolutions will be submitted for publication in the fall issue of the *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter* and posted on the SSSP website.

Members who wish to propose resolutions for consideration of the SSSP, should submit them to the appropriate Division Chairperson(s) (see www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/464/The_Special%20Problems_Divisions/) for current contact information) and directly to the SSSP Vice-President at chapkis@usm.maine.edu by **July 1, 2012**.

Wendy L. Chapkis, SSSP Vice-President, 2011-2012

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Here are some suggestions that may help enhance resolutions submitted for consideration by the Society:

Local awareness: A resolution which addresses an issue of urgent concern for the city or region where the annual meeting is taking place is highly desirable. Thus, a more general or globally-oriented resolution can be strengthened if it makes the extra effort to cite any local aspect or manifestation of the problem which can help dovetail with the larger concern. Clearly, matters of local concern are more likely to be of interest to the local media.

Urgency: Resolutions that embody some urgent or timely matter involving some current manifestation of a larger social problem are highly desirable. This can relate, for example, to pending legislation, policies and programs, a recently released report, and so on. Resolutions that address urgent matters are much more likely to be picked up by the press.

Action-oriented: All resolutions should attempt to incorporate a call for action, be it on the part of the SSSP Board, or for concerned individuals. If action is requested on the part of the SSSP, it should be as specific as possible, e.g., to whom should a letter be directed, etc. In the past, other proposed actions have included calls for boycotts, participation in public demonstrations, collecting donations, and so on.

Resource pointer: A resolution which is accompanied by a specific resource or resource list is extremely useful for those who wish to learn more about the issue at hand. The resource supplement can be a specific document or scholarly paper, website(s), or some other useful repository of information. This can be very helpful in increasing the impact of the resolution by assisting teachers, students, the press and others who wish to have further background information in engaging the issue for their own specific purposes.



Film Exhibit Schedule

The film exhibit is scheduled for **Friday, August 17** at the Grand Hyatt Denver Hotel (room: Mt. Yale). It is organized by Program Committee member Nancy Michaels, Roosevelt University.

8:00am – 9:40am

***Juvies*, <http://www.juvies.net/index.php>, length: 66 minutes**

From award-winning documentary filmmaker Leslie Neale (*Road to Return*) comes this riveting look at a world most of us will never see: the world of juvenile offenders who are serving incredible prison sentences for crimes they either did not commit or were only marginally involved in. For two years, Neale taught a video production class at Los Angeles Central Juvenile Hall to 12 juveniles who were all being tried as adults. *Juvies* is the product of that class, which was a learning experience for both students and teacher—and becomes a learning experience for all of us, as we witness the heartbreaking stories of children abandoned by families and a system that has disintegrated into a kind of vending machine justice. Narrated by actor Mark Wahlberg, himself a former juvenile offender, *Juvies* follows the lives of a group of young people who will serve most, if not all, of their lives behind bars. The kids talk about the mistakes they made and what they would do if they had the chance to do things differently. They exhibit courage in the midst of the most despairing conditions. And they force us to ask, “Why is this happening? Why have we allowed it to happen? And what can we do now to change laws that are nothing less than draconian, that we as a citizenry have allowed to be enacted?” Interspersed with the kids’ stories are interviews with experts in juvenile justice and gangs, and with well-known faces, like former Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti, who, in an incredible scene, admits that sentences like the one Michael Duc Ta received—during Garcetti’s own tenure as D.A.—are unfair and should never have happened. What has gone wrong with our juvenile justice system? And can it be changed before more young lives are destroyed forever? *Juvies* offers no easy answers, but it will make you think long and hard about what democracy and justice really mean.

12:30pm – 2:10pm

***Waste Land*, <http://www.wastelandmovie.com/synopsis.html>, length: 99 minutes**

Filmed over nearly three years, *Waste Land* follows renowned artist Vik Muniz as he journeys from his home base in Brooklyn to his native Brazil and the world’s largest garbage dump, Jardim Gramacho, located on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. There he photographs an eclectic band of “catadores”—self-designated pickers of recyclable materials. Muniz’s initial objective was to “paint” the catadores with garbage. However, his collaboration with these inspiring characters as they recreate photographic images of themselves out of garbage reveals both the dignity and despair of the catadores as they begin to re-imagine their lives. Director Lucy Walker (*DEVIL’S PLAYGROUND*, *BLINDSIGHT* and *COUNTDOWN TO ZERO*) and co-directors João Jardim and Karen Harley have great access to the entire process and, in the end, offer stirring evidence of the transformative power of art and the alchemy of the human spirit.

2:30pm – 4:10pm

***Precious Knowledge*, length: 70 minutes**

Arizona lawmakers believe Tucson High School teachers are teaching victimization, racism, and revolution in their Ethnic Studies classes. Meanwhile Tucson Unified School District’s Mexican American Studies Department have data showing that almost 93% of their students, on average, graduate from high school and 82% attend college. The Dos Vatos Productions team filmed a year in the classroom to find out why the Mexican American Studies program is so popular with students, so misunderstood by the public, and discover what actually happens in the classroom. *Precious Knowledge* illustrates an epic civil rights battle as brave students and teacher’s battle with lawmakers and public opinion in an effort to keep their classes alive. From the Huffington Post: Rarely has a film been so timely and downright revelatory. Casting aside the inflammatory rhetoric and national headlines of the anti-ethnic-studies instigators, *Precious Knowledge* provides a clear-eyed portrait of students, teachers and their community struggling to deal with the nation’s most unnerving campus witch hunt in recent memory. Tracing the political roots of the legislative ban -- and the program’s own mandate and success to alleviate the long-time achievement gaps among Latino students -- *Precious Knowledge*’s riveting pacing and compelling portraits will astonish, infuriate and inspire viewers. In truth, *Precious Knowledge* is the type of unique and powerful film that could ultimately shift public perception and policy on one of the most misunderstood education programs in the country. In a balanced but unabashedly passionate film directed by Ari Luis Palos and produced by Eren Isabel McGinnis, *Precious Knowledge* serves as a remarkable and seemingly more honest counter argument to last year’s widely acclaimed *Waiting for Superman*, the documentary film on charter schools and the failure of public instruction. The stakes in *Precious Knowledge* are somehow even higher: We meet students who emerge as their own advocates to not only defend their right to a decent education, but their very existence and cultural heritage.

4:30pm – 6:10pm

***The Interrupters*: <http://interrupters.kartemquin.com/about>, length 125 minutes**

The Interrupters tells the moving and surprising stories of three Violence Interrupters who try to protect their Chicago communities from the violence they once employed. From acclaimed director Steve James and bestselling author Alex Kotlowitz, this film is an unusually intimate journey into the stubborn persistence of violence in our cities. Shot over the course of a year out of Kartemquin Films, *The Interrupters* captures a period in Chicago when it became a national symbol for the violence in our cities. During that period, the city was besieged by high-profile incidents, most notably the brutal beating of Derrion Albert, a Chicago High School student, whose death was caught on videotape. The film’s main subjects work for an innovative organization, CeaseFire. It was founded by an epidemiologist, Gary Slutkin, who believes that the spread of violence mimics the spread of infectious diseases, and so the treatment should be similar: go after the most infected, and stop the infection at its source. One of the cornerstones of the organization is the “Violence Interrupters” program, created by Tio Hardiman, who heads the program. *The Interrupters* — who have credibility on the streets because of their own personal histories — intervene in conflicts before they explode into violence.

CALL FOR SSSP NOMINATIONS



Nominations are open for candidates to run in the 2013 General Election. We will be electing a President-Elect, a Vice-President Elect, regular and student members of the Board of Directors, members of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, Committee on Committees, Editorial and Publications Committee, and the Membership and Outreach Committee. Please consider nominating a colleague or yourself for one of these offices by completing the [online nomination form](#). Self-nominations are welcome.

Nominations should include a brief description of the nominee's SSSP involvement and other relevant experiences. The Nominations Committee will meet at the Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. All nominations should be submitted prior to June 15, 2012. The Board of Directors will approve the slate of candidates for the 2013 General Election on August 18, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact [Stephani Williams](#), Chairperson, Council of the Special Problems Divisions.

Announcing the



2011 C. Wright Mills Award Finalists (in alphabetical order)

Julie Guthman, *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism*, University of California Press

Shamus Rahman Khan, *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School*, Princeton University Press

Mignon Moore, *Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships, and Motherhood among Black Women*, University of California Press

Shehzad Nadeem, *Dead Ringers: How Outsourcing is Changing the Way Indians Understand Themselves*, Princeton University Press

Victor M. Rios, *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*, New York University Press

Steven J. Tepper, *Not Here, Not Now, Not That! Protest Over Art and Culture*, University of Chicago Press

Karolyn Tyson, *Integration Interrupted: Tracking, Black Students, and Acting White after Brown*, Oxford University Press

**The C. Wright Mills Award will be presented on
Friday, August 17 at the awards banquet.**

C. WRIGHT MILLS AWARD COMMITTEE

Karyn Lacy, *Chair*, University of Michigan

Raymond J. Michalowski, *Chair-Elect*, Northern Arizona University

Monica J. Casper, Arizona State University

John G. Dale, George Mason University

Lara J. Foley, University of Tulsa

Shirley A. Jackson, Southern Connecticut State University

Wilson R. Palacios, University of South Florida

Suzanne Staggenborg, University of Pittsburgh

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
A RECEPTION HONORING MICHELE KOONTZ AND OUR PAST PRESIDENTS
and the
AWARDS BANQUET**

**at the
Grand Hyatt Denver Hotel
Atrium Tower – Hyatt Conference Center
1750 Welton Street**

Friday, August 17

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

AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED

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

Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship: This \$15,000 scholarship will be awarded to a new or continuing graduate student who began her or his study in a community college or technical school.

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

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

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

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

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

Join us for a catered reception with a cash bar honoring Michele Koontz, for her 20 years of service to SSSP, and our past presidents. The reception is *complimentary* to SSSP members and will be hosted in the Pyramid Peak Foyer. The awards banquet will be held in the Pyramid Peak Ballroom.

The buffet will feature Roasted Corn, Roasted Poblano, Tomato and Black Bean Salad; Mixed Greens, Caramelized Cashews, Fresh Blueberries and Mandarin Orange Segments with Raspberry Vinaigrette; Lemon-Pepper Grilled Fish with Yukon Gold, Artichoke and Pepper Sauté; Roasted Chicken with Mushroom-Tomato Ragu and Whole Grain Pilaf; Whole-Wheat Penne Pasta with Goat Cheese, Haricot Vert, Citrus Zest; Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter; Chef's Choice of Dessert; Freshly Brewed Coffee, Hot Tea and Ice Tea. A vegan dish will be available for those who request one. Come celebrate with your friends and colleagues and enjoy the evening!

**The reception is *complimentary* to SSSP members.
The cost of a banquet ticket is \$60 per person.**

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



**The Society for the Study of Social Problems
62nd Annual Meeting Registration
August 16-18, 2012
The Grand Hyatt Denver, 1750 Welton Street
Denver, CO 80202**

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

Last Name: _____ First/Middle Name: _____

Work Affiliation(s) for name badge: _____

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

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

Work #: _____ Home #: _____ Mobile #: _____

E-mail: _____ Personal Website: _____

REGISTRATION FEES + (US DOLLARS): <i>Check one</i>	<u>Preregistration (until July 15)</u>	<u>On-Site</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Member Registration Including Banquet*	\$195	\$230
<input type="checkbox"/> Member Registration	\$135	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Unemployed/Emeritus Member Registration Including Banquet*	\$110	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Unemployed/Emeritus Member Registration	\$50	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Registration (for non-exempt presenters who do not wish to become members)	\$210	\$245
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Student Registration (for non-exempt student presenters who do not wish to become members)	\$125	\$135

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Guest (name badge only)	\$20	\$25
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Guest Badge: _____

Last Name First/Middle Name

ADDITIONAL BANQUET TICKET/S: Friday, August 17, 8:00pm - 10:00pm, tickets \$60 each* _____
Number of vegan entrees needed. _____

DONATE A BANQUET TICKET PROGRAM:
Donate a banquet ticket to a deserving graduate student, foreign scholar, or scholar-activist, tickets \$60 each _____

THOMAS C. HOOD SOCIAL ACTION AWARD FUNDRAISER RAFFLE TICKET/S: tickets \$5 each _____
There will be a raffle for a two-night hotel stay at the SSSP conference hotel. The winner will be announced at the awards banquet.
You do not have to be present to win.

MEMBERSHIP DUES+: You must be a current member to attend the Annual Meeting unless you pay non-member registration. **If you are already a 2012 member, skip this section.**

___ Life Members, Emeriti	\$0	___ \$45,000-\$54,999	\$120
___ Students	\$30	___ \$55,000-\$64,999	\$150
___ Unemployed	\$30	___ \$65,000-\$74,999	\$170
___ Retired Member	\$45	___ \$75,000-\$84,999	\$190
___ First Time Professional Member	\$45	___ \$85,000 and up	\$210
___ \$24,999 and under	\$70	___ Sustaining Membership	\$1,700
___ \$25,000-\$34,999	\$90	___ Departmental Membership	\$85
___ \$35,000-\$44,999	\$100		

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES: Registrants with disabilities may request accessibility services such as sign language interpreters, sighted guides, etc., to facilitate their full participation in the Annual Meeting. If you need accessible accommodations or other services, please alert us to your needs no later than June 30. The Administrative Officer will contact you about service arrangements.

Accessible Services Request: _____

DONATE TO THE ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FUND: Arrangements for accessibility services can become quite costly, and funds are limited. The SSSP has established an Accessibility Services Fund in order for members to be able to contribute directly to making the Annual Meeting accessibility services more affordable for attendees with disabilities.

Accessible Services Donation: _____

WALKING TOUR OF 16TH STREET AND FIVE POINTS NEIGHBORHOOD (limit 25):

Saturday, August 18, 3:00pm - 5:30pm, tickets \$20 each

This tour will focus on urban renewal, downtown reinvestment, and gentrification in two Denver neighborhoods. The tour will start at the D&F clock tower at 16th Street and Arapahoe where participants will see a blending of old and new architecture that has transformed this area. On the way to the Light Rail stop on California Street, participants will see examples of buildings (mostly old banks) that have been turned into hotels and department stores as a way to lure commerce back downtown. Participants will then make their way to Five Points via Light Rail. After a short break at an area coffee shop (cost borne by participant), the tour will go through Five Points, one of Denver's oldest neighborhoods. Once known as the Harlem of the West because it attracted some of the most celebrated jazz musicians of the 20th century, the changes taking place in Five Points provide several examples of the opportunities and challenges of urban renewal projects. The tour will leave promptly at 3:00pm from the lobby of the Grand Hyatt Denver (lobby of the main tower). A representative from the Colorado Historical Society will serve as tour guide. The cost includes the tour as well as a round-trip Light Rail ticket to Five Points from downtown, which will be provided by the guide. Participants are encouraged to wear a hat and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a bottle of water.

INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPHY WORKSHOP (limit 50):

Sunday, August 19, 8:30am - 6:00pm, \$100 for employed registrants and \$70 for unemployed/activist and student registrants

This workshop will be designed to support the thinking of IE researchers who are familiar with the method, who may be teaching IE and/or supporting graduate students to conduct IE research, and who may have encountered challenges in their own program of IE research (for example: the challenges of collaborating or publishing). It is hoped that those new to IE will also gain something from the workshop design. Novice IE'ers are encouraged to register too. The workshop will be interactive. Participants in the workshop will be invited to describe their "IE problems". These will provide some of the format for the day. Workshop topics may include: advanced textual analysis and mapping; issues in teaching/supporting IE analysis; shaping an IE paper for publication; formulating an IE dissertation for publication as a book. The workshop will provide opportunity to work in small groups and also to work with all registrants during panel discussions.

GRAND TOTAL

Make check or money order payable, in US DOLLARS to SSSP or provide credit card authorization below.

Credit Card Type: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number _____ / _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature (mandatory) _____

DEADLINE: Forms and payments must be postmarked by/faxed no later than July 15 to be eligible for the preregistration discount. Preregistration ends on July 15. Any forms postmarked/faxed after July 15 will be processed at the on-site rate. All program participants must preregister by May 31 in order to have their names listed in the preliminary online and final programs.

REFUND POLICY: Registration fees will be refunded to persons who notify us prior to July 15. Once the final program is printed and participant packets have been prepared, the cost of processing the participant has occurred. Unfortunately, under no circumstances will SSSP issue refunds for no-shows.

PERMISSION TO USE PHOTO POLICY: By registering for the SSSP conference, attendees hereby agree to allow SSSP and affiliates to use any photos taken of them during the conference in news media, web site, publications, promotions, articles, marketing pieces, etc.

DONATE A BANQUET TICKET PROGRAM: Some members purchase extra banquet tickets for graduate students, foreign scholars, and scholar-activists. Check the box below if you are interested in applying for a complimentary ticket. Donated tickets will be distributed on a first come/first served basis. SSSP will notify all recipients no later than July 15.

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

MEETING MENTOR PROGRAM: The Meeting Mentor Program is designed to facilitate interaction between new members or graduate students and meeting veterans at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in serving as a mentor or being matched with a mentor, please complete the online application (<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageId/1092>). The application deadline is June 30.

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

Yes Smoking Non-smoking No preference

CHILDCARE MATCHING SERVICE: Would you like to participate in the childcare matching service? If yes, the Administrative Office will send you a list with contact information for those who are bringing children to the Annual Meeting no later than June 30. That way, you can coordinate childcare/outings/etc., if desired. Please indicate the number, gender, and ages of your child (ren).

Yes Number of Children: _____ Gender: _____ Ages: _____

RETURN FORM WITH PAYMENT IN US DOLLARS TO:
SSSP, University of Tennessee, 901 McClung Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996-0490
or fax to 865-689-1534 or register online at <http://www.sssp1.org>

GENERAL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:
Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager
W: 865-689-1531; F: 865-689-1534; E-mail: mkoontz3@utk.edu

+ Requests for exemption from meeting registration and membership dues must be approved by Program Committee Co-Chairs Heather Dalmage and Tanya Saunders. hdalmage@roosevelt.edu and saundersanya@gmail.com. When sending an e-mail, place SSSP in the subject line. Eligibility requirements for exemptions are posted on our web site.

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

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

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

The SSSP president selects the theme of the annual meeting—that’s one of the benefits of being president! This year’s theme is *The Art of Activism*, selected by SSSP President Wendy Simonds.

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

Within the SSSP, there are twenty-two subgroups organized around specific topics and interests—these are called Special Problems Divisions. For example, for folks interested in issues of race and ethnicity, there is the Racial and Ethnic Minorities division. If you are interested in environmental issues, you might want to join the Environment and Technology division. Are you a budding theorist (or any kind of theorist for that matter!)? If so, you might want to check out the Social Problems Theory division. These divisions provide a great opportunity to meet others who share your academic interests. Many of the sessions for the Annual Meeting are generated through the divisions, and the divisional meetings occur during the Annual Meeting.

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

Regular Sessions: These sessions consist of presentations of four to five research papers that relate to the theme of the session, and time for feedback and discussion.

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

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

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

Roundtable Sessions: Roundtable sessions are usually comprised of several tables, each with a different theme. Discussion proceeds simultaneously at all tables listed on each session. At each table the discussion leader(s) will introduce the topic and facilitate discussion among all the participants at the table.

Critical Dialogue Sessions: SSSP has created a new format for paper presentations called Critical Dialogues. This format includes 5 minute presentations by 8 authors followed by an engaged dialogue that will critically explore connections among the papers. The audience will have an opportunity to participate in the dialogue as well. The emphasis is placed on exploring interesting connections between papers with a broadly similar theme. The hope is that presenters and the audience will have an opportunity to make new and deeper connections in their own unique insights and presented ideas. The presider of the Critical Dialogue sessions has an important role of moderating and facilitating the dialogue, while being sure that presentation times are followed.

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

Committee Meetings are only open to members of that particular committee unless stated otherwise. However, Divisional Meetings are open to anyone who is interested. These are divisional meetings associated with all twenty-two special problems divisions – for example, Crime and Juvenile Delinquency, Disabilities, Drinking and Drugs, Law and Society, Poverty, Class and Inequality, Sport, Leisure, and the Body, and Teaching Social Problems (to name just a few). If you want to get involved in one of these divisions, these are great meetings to attend!

→ **How do I Organize or Participate in Sessions at the SSSP Annual Meeting?**

At the Annual Meeting, members can present their research and serve as organizer, presider, and discussant in sessions. To present your research at the meeting, respond to the Call for Papers by submitting an abstract or paper online. The Call for Papers is posted in the fall before the annual meeting. The SSSP accepts submissions through January 31. The session organizers and the Program Committee work collaboratively to place submissions in appropriate sessions.

Although presenting an academic paper can invoke anxiety in even the most seasoned scholar, you will find the SSSP Annual Meeting to be a very hospitable environment and an *excellent* opportunity to obtain feedback from colleagues and experts in the field.

If you would like to organize a session, the brainstorming process usually begins in the Divisional meetings during the Annual Meeting. These meetings are open and welcome members. You may also submit your proposed session theme to the chair of a Special Problems Division in the weeks following the Annual Meeting.

Why should I stay at the SSSP convention hotel during the Annual Meeting?

This is a frequently asked question by our members. Please consider these reasons.

- Staying at the convention hotel provides many advantages. The banquet takes place at the convention hotel, as do the receptions and most special events. You have the opportunity to renew acquaintances with other members and meet newcomers. Informal gatherings are easy to arrange because the largest proportion of our members will stay at the convention hotel.

And by staying with us, you can help the organization financially! Let us explain.

- Booking your reservation outside of the SSSP block of rooms via internet travel sites or by not mentioning to the reservationists that you are with SSSP has a long-term negative impact on the SSSP meeting. The amount of rooms that SSSP can attribute as reserved by SSSP attendees helps us to negotiate rates with the city's meeting facilities. With fewer rooms directly attributable to SSSP, convention rental rates will rise which may impact the rates SSSP can charge for meeting registration. Additionally, hotels have started to place financial penalties on associations for each room not used by our attendees. We appreciate you supporting SSSP by booking hotel rooms within our official block.
- In order to secure a favorable sleeping room rate and to avoid paying high meeting room rental costs, SSSP must guarantee with the hotel that our members will occupy a certain number of room nights. To honor our contract, we must utilize 760 sleeping room nights over our meeting dates (SSSP reservation deadline: July 23, 2012).
- In the event that we do not meet our sleeping room guarantee, the hotel will charge the Society an additional fee for using the meeting space in which we hold our sessions.
- The 'room pick-up' actual rooms occupied, during the days of our contract, by SSSP members has implications for the final hotel bill. Terms of the contract grant the Society a number of complimentary rooms used to house officers and other volunteers who give their time to the organization. In the event that our 'room pick-up' is low, we must pay for these rooms.
- Hotels review our 'room pick-up' history when we request a bid for a future annual meeting. A favorable record (meeting or exceeding our room block) helps the hotel feel assured of a certain level of income. Hotels make their money by having as full occupancy as possible. Saving rooms for convention goers who do not occupy them means that they may have an empty room that could have been sold to someone not attending the convention.
- Members attending the convention should reserve a room for the nights they will attend and honor their reservation. This action helps save the Society money and improves the experience.

So . . . please stay with us. We and the Society would appreciate it immensely and we think you will be glad you did!

Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager



GROUP: THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

GROUP CODE: SSSP

DATE: AUGUST 15-20, 2012

DELUXE ROOM RATE:
\$189 / Night (includes complimentary high-speed wired internet access)
***Rate is exclusive of 14.85% tax and subject to change without notice**

HOTEL:

Treat yourself to an exceptional experience at Grand Hyatt Denver. Our AAA Four Diamond hotel welcomes you with unparalleled services and gracious amenities.

- 516 non-smoking guestrooms, including 17 accessible rooms, five dog friendly rooms (subject to availability), and 20 Respire by Hyatt hypo-allergenic rooms;
- All accommodations offer:
 - Hyatt Grand Bed™
 - Flat-screen television with remote control, cable movie channels, in-room pay movies
 - Voice mail, three telephones with message light, computer data port
 - Video messages, video account review, video checkout
 - Individual climate control
 - High-speed Internet access (wired and wireless – complimentary for group)
 - Electronic door lock
 - In-room safety-deposit box
 - Full bath amenities
 - Turndown service upon request
 - Iron / ironing board
 - iHome® alarm clock radio
 - Hair dryer
 - Coffeemaker
 - Bath robes for Regency Club®

RESERVATIONS:

To book, modify or cancel a reservation go to: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/SSSP2012> . If necessary, you can call the Central Reservations department at 888-421-1442 (24hrs). When you call to make your reservation please give the group name (The Society for the Study of Social Problems) to ensure you are given the correct room rate. Each reservation must be guaranteed with a credit card. Check in is at 3:00pm and check-out is at 12:00pm. There must be a 24 hour notice for cancellation prior to arrival. Any cancellation made after this will forfeit one night room and tax.

CUT-OFF DATE:

Reservation must be confirmed by Monday, July 23, 2012 at **12:00am (MST)** to guarantee a room rate of \$189/night. Reservations made after July 23rd or after the room block is filled are subject to non-availability and rate increase.

Grand Hyatt Denver
1750 Welton Street
Denver, Colorado 80202
303-295-1234
www.grandhyattdenver.com

SSSP 2012 Annual Meeting
August 16-18, 2012 – Denver, CO

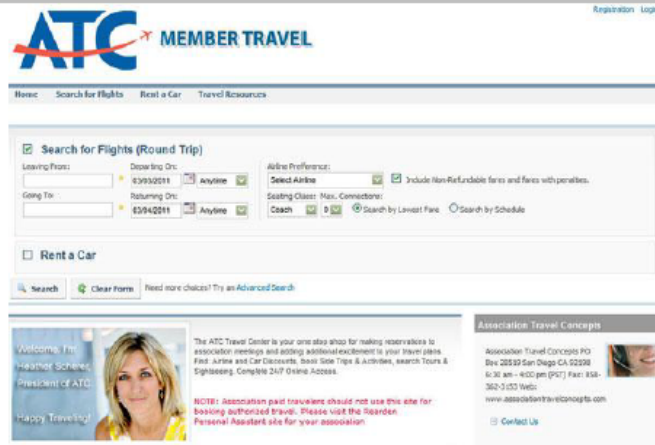
Official Travel Provider – ATC
Association Travel Concepts

FARE QUOTES AND TICKETS		
	Online service fee - \$10* http://www.atcmeetings.com/sssp	

DISCOUNTS & SERVICES

- 5% off applicable classes of service for tickets purchased more than 30 days prior to the meeting. Restrictions apply and not all classes of service apply for the 5% discount. (United Airlines). 5% off applicable classes of service for tickets purchased prior to the meeting. (American Airlines).
- Advanced seat assignment and special meal requests. Frequent flier program updates.
- Low fare options on all airlines.
- 24/7 access with mobile options for itinerary status updates.

ONLINE TRAVEL CENTER – Association Endorsed - <http://www.atcmeetings.com/sssp>



The ATC Travel Center is your one stop for making reservations to association meetings and adding additional excitement to your travel plans.

- Airline Discounts
- Car Discounts
- Side Trips & Activities
- Tours & Sightseeing
- Travel Tools
- 24/7 Online Access
- Low Fare Search Options

The above discounts apply for travel **8/13/12-8/21/12 (DEN)**

Some restrictions may apply. *Service fees apply to ticketed reservations. You may also call your own agency or the vendors directly and refer to the following ID numbers:

United Airlines American Airlines Hertz Rentals Enterprise Dollar Rentals	510CK 9182BG CV#031C0017 32H7476 CM0679	800-521-4041 800-433-1790 800-654-2240 800-593-0505 800-800-3665
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Hertz: http://link.hertz.com/link.html?id=25888&LinkType=HZLK&TargetType=Homepage&ret_url=www.associationtravelconcepts.com

Enterprise: http://www.enterprise.com/car_rental/deeplinkmap.do?bid=002&cust=32H7476

Dollar: www.dollar.com/default.aspx?corpdiscnbr=CM0679

INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPY WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

8:30AM – 6:00PM

GRAND HYATT DENVER HOTEL
Rooms: Mount Evans A and Mount Evans B

Institutional Ethnography Workshop (limit 50):
\$100 for employed registrants and \$70 for unemployed/activist/student registrants

This workshop will be designed to support the thinking of IE researchers who are familiar with the method, who may be teaching IE and/or supporting graduate students to conduct IE research, and who may have encountered challenges in their own program of IE research. It is hoped that those new to IE will also gain something from the workshop design. Novice IE'ers are encouraged to register too. The workshop will be interactive. The morning is focused on doing IE analysis. How to do it. How to teach it. How it takes different forms in different projects. How does one write "analytic chunks"? How does one map for analysis? Marie Campbell is doing the core thinking for this session, but it will be interactive and others have agreed to share exemplars of their analytic processes. After lunch, Dorothy Smith will be talking about her new projects and current thinking. Later in the afternoon we are going to break into four streams. The focus of these streams has not been finalized and will be developed in response to participants' ideas.

To register please use the following link: <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/483/fuseaction/ssspconf.portal>. For more information, contact Janet Rankin at the University of Calgary, jmrankin@ucalgary.ca.

INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPY WORKSHOP AGENDA

8:30am – 12:00pm

Key organizer Marie Campbell

Learning Analysis: Seeing the Forest

Marie Campbell has been noticing problems she has experienced in working with people as they begin the analysis of their research projects. Marie says that she finds it difficult to provide people with practical, concrete suggestions for beginning to do the analysis; she shows them, gives examples, and suggests things to read, but it is still hard for people to feel confident to figure out the institutional ethnographic use of new data. Marie's intent is to show people how to make the (variously organized) world accessible and knowable, that she thinks of as learning "how to see the world as the forest and not just the trees".

In this session Marie is going to elaborate on her thinking and describe how she has begun to pay attention to the explicit junctures when researchers grasp an IE analytic in the data.

During this session there will be 2 – 3 student-teacher dyads who will reflect (empirically) on how their analytic work has proceeded; where they started and how they moved. Other people can add in their ideas and experiences. There seem to be (at least) two approaches to analysis – mapping and writing. We will consider both these approaches during the workshop identifying if and/or how are they actually different, and how each illuminates the analytic work to be done.

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Keynote Session

Dorothy Smith: Dorothy will be discussing her new work and current thinking.

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Small group sessions

Up to four small groups – topics TBA. These will be moderated sessions that will focus on issues participants identify.

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Review the day. Plan for future workshops.

Dear Annual Meeting Presenters and Organizers:

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) has arranged with [The Scholar's Choice](http://www.scholarschoice.com) to manage the book exhibit for our 62nd Annual Meeting taking place August 16-18, 2012, at the Grand Hyatt Denver in Denver, CO. It will be possible for your recently-published books to be included in their display. Please refer to the guidelines below:

Any members interested in having their book displayed at the upcoming SSSP meeting should contact their publisher as soon as possible to say they will be attending the meeting and would like to see their book displayed. Please keep in mind that the publishers pay a fee to display with The Scholar's Choice and may not have the marketing budget necessary to honor all requests, particularly for older titles. Reservations from the publishers will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until their exhibit space is full. Mary Lynn Howe is the contact at The Scholar's Choice, mlh@scholarschoice.com or 1-585-262-2048, ext. 11.

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

Most sincerely,



Wendy Simonds, Georgia State University
SSSP President, 2011-2012

The Scholar's Choice
25 Franklin Street, Suite 1260
Rochester, New York 14604
www.scholarschoice.com