

SUMMER  
2013

# Social Problems Theory Division Newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

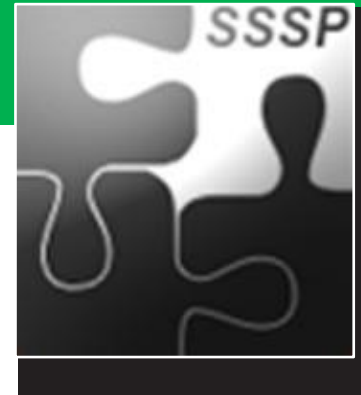
Greetings! I hope this finds you well. The Social Problems Theory has been very active this year in preparation for the upcoming meetings in New York City in 2013. This newsletter highlights key division issues and events.

In this issue of Social Problems Theory News you will find several items of note, including:

- The winner of the division's Outstanding Article Award
- Information about how you can become a "Meeting Mentor"
- Information about panels sponsored and co-sponsored by the Social Problems Theory Division

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## Theory Division Chair, 2012-2014

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## Kudos and Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jared Del Rosso for winning the 2013 Outstanding Article Award! Jared won for the paper “The Textual Mediation of Official Denial: Congress, Abu Gharib, and the Construction of an Isolated Incident,” which appeared in *Social Problems* in Volume 58 (2), on pages 165 – 188.



### DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SSSP!

As we get to the close of the program period all that remains is for almost 100 people who have roles in the conference, but who have yet to register, to either notify us that they will be not coming to SSSP, or to get their registrations as soon as possible. Soon, SSSP will begin removing folks from the program and begin the process of merging to get it sent off to the printer.

Once that happens, some may suddenly realize they need to be on the program to get reimbursed by their institutions, but it will be too late. Sadly, even some among you have yet to register.

Now is the time to register! If you have not done so, please visit:

<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/483/fuseaction/ssspconf.portal>

To view the preliminary program, please visit:

[http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/544/Preliminary\\_Program/](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/544/Preliminary_Program/)

# INTERESTED IN BEING A MENTOR?

The Meeting Mentor Program seeks experienced mentors who can spend a few minutes at the annual meetings speaking with a student or newcomer, making them feel welcome, and offering suggestions to help newer members get the most out of their conference experience. While meeting times and locations are set by each individual pair, it is recommended that pairs communicate prior to or early in the meeting, so mentees can get the most out of this program. We received a high response from students and new members seeking mentors. Unfortunately, we have a low response from members volunteering to serve in this role. We know you are very busy at the meeting and have little spare time. But if you are willing to spend a few minutes speaking with a student or newcomer, making them feel welcome, and offering suggestions for making the most of our conference, that would be great. Online pre-registration ends on July 8.

Visit <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/926/fuseaction/ssspconf.portal>

## TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN DIVISION AFFAIRS

We are always interested in identifying division members who are willing to participate in the administrative operation of the division and help to shape its future directions. There are a variety of ways to become more actively involved including:

### **Attend the division business meeting**

This is a great way to have a direct voice in division affairs. The meeting provides an opportunity to suggest sessions for next year, volunteer to serve on an awards committee, or network with other scholars who share your interest in social problems theory.

### **Volunteer or nominate a colleague to serve on a committee or in an administrative position**

This can be done by attending the division business meeting or by sending me an e-mail with nominating information ([john.barnshaw@gmail.com](mailto:john.barnshaw@gmail.com)). We have two annual award committees: one for graduate student papers and one for published journal articles/books. Please do not hesitate to contact me or a former Division Chair if you have any questions about these roles.

### **Submit content for future newsletters**

Submissions of all sorts are welcome! From comments and calls for papers, to brief analyses and critiques related to Social Problems Theory. Let us know your reactions to this newsletter, the events at the annual meetings, or inform us of your new work so we can help spread the word. Send submissions to: John Barnshaw at [john.barnshaw@gmail.com](mailto:john.barnshaw@gmail.com)

## 2013 SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION SESSIONS and CO-SPONSORED SESSIONS

### **Moving Beyond Ignoring Social Constructionism: What is Critical?**

Organizer:  
Mitch Berbrier  
Time: August 9<sup>th</sup>  
8:30AM  
Room: Gershwin I

### **Critical Dialogue in Social Problems Theory**

Organizer:  
Joel Best  
Time: August 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:30PM  
Room: Gershwin I

### **Theorizing Scandal in Social Problems**

Organizer:  
John Barnshaw  
Time: August 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30AM  
Room: Imperial

### **The Social Construction of Educational Merit: Linking Theory and Practice**

Co-Sponsored with Educational Problems

Organizer:  
Margaret A. Austin Smith  
Time: August 11<sup>th</sup> 12:30PM  
Room: New Amsterdam

### **Papers in the Round: Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to Studying Health and Inequality**

Co-Sponsored with Health, Health Policy, and  
Health Services and Poverty, Class, and Inequality

Organizer:  
Shannon M. Monnat  
Time: August 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30AM  
Room: Gershwin II

### **Knowledge, Power and the Politics of Reality**

Co-Sponsored with Institutional Ethnography

Organizer:  
Jared Del Rosso  
Time: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30AM  
Room: New Amsterdam

# 2013 SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION SPONSORED AND CO- SPONSORED SESSIONS

## Re-Imagining Social Constructionism: Moving Beyond Western, Capitalist, Individualist Biases

Co-Sponsored with Conflict, Social Action and Change

Organizer:  
Donileen Loseke  
Time: August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:30PM  
Room: Booth

## Teaching Theory in Social Problems

Co-Sponsored with Teaching Social Problems

Organizer:  
Kathleen Lowney  
Time: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30AM  
Room: Nederlander

## Drugs, Addiction, and Social Constructionism

Co-Sponsored with Drinking and Drugs

Organizer:  
Rebecca Tiger  
Time: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30AM  
Room: Gramercy

## New Strategies in Online Constructionism

Co-Sponsored with Environment and Technology

Organizer:  
R.J. Maratea  
Time: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30PM  
Room: Palace

## Media, Social Problems and Social Change

Co-Sponsored with Conflict, Social Action, and  
Change

Organizer:  
Lynn Letukas  
Time: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30AM  
Room: Ambassador III