



# SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION

of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

*SUMMER 2016-2017 NEWSLETTER*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings, Social Problems Theory Division Members!

In this newsletter, we have some exciting news and announcements. To begin, in just two months, the annual meetings will occur in Montreal! If you are planning on attending, then I look forward to seeing you there. Please keep in mind the **division's annual business meeting is on Friday, August 11, at 12:30 pm in the Outremont Room**, and you are welcome to contribute. We will have a full agenda, including soliciting nominations for a Division Chair to be elected after the annual meetings and a continuation of our efforts to develop a division-sponsored workshop.

This year's meetings look to be quite exciting for our division. Pages four and five of this newsletter include a list of all the sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by our division. Please note that Michael Adorjan, working with the program committee, has organized two special critical dialogue sessions about the origins and future of social constructionism. This year, we also have two co-sponsored sessions with the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction about fear, rumors, and public perception.

Hadi Khoshnevis has suggested that some of our colleagues may not attend the meetings this summer due to the possibility that they will be denied entry upon return to the United States. This concern is reflected in his recent research, which has examined airports as liminal spaces for Iranian students. Hadi was invited to write a short piece about the construction of the Other, in particular, how definitions of the Other are used to restrict mobility (see page two).

On page three, you will find the announcement of our 2017 award winners. This year, we were pleased to receive many strong papers in both categories. These award winners are exceptional for producing strong work. Finally, recent publications and general announcements are included at the end of the newsletter.

See you in Montreal!

**David C. Lane**  
University of South Dakota  
Social Problems Theory Division Chair (2016-2018)



**THEORY DIVISION  
CHAIR**  
2016-2018

**DAVID C. LANE**  
Anthropology and Sociology  
University of South Dakota  
Vermillion, SD

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Editors: Margaret McGladrey and  
David C. Lane

# The Mobility Paradigm: Securitized Borders, Racialized Boundaries, and the Travel Ban

By Hadi Khoshnevis



The Muslim travel ban, also dubbed the “Muslim ban,” is one example of many historical measures and socio-political processes that have something in common: they aim to control the movement of the constructed Other. The “ghettos” that confined the Jews in Europe, the reservations that have restrained first nations in the Americas, Jim Crow laws that restricted the movement of black bodies, the “bathroom bills” that demonize and confine those with non-heteronormative identities, the wall between Mexico and the U.S., and the travel ban are instances that reveal the interdependency of physical borders and ideological boundaries. These historical instances show how those in power have historically attempted to protect their monopoly over the mobility of the Other and control movement across borders and boundaries. Through “the mobility paradigm,” the late John Urry and his colleagues argue for a “movement driven” social science. This is a social science that adopts a dynamic his-

torical perspective and studies how and why certain movements become associated with progress, freedom, civilization, and modernity, while the movement of Others are constructed to summon feelings of terror and undesirability. Those deemed under the categorical figure of the Other, constructed and construed as history-less, backward, or frozen in time, must navigate these representational discourses.

Whilst romanticized talks about globalization and “compression of space and time” can fetishize the de-territorialization of movement and processes of identity formation, sociology needs to recognize the politics of difference and politico-social processes by which one group constructs a discourse designed to control the movement of the Other(s). A movement-driven sociology recognizes that the mere act of movement and increase in its frequency does not herald the emergence of a qualitatively accessible world for all. The paradigm of mobility, by inviting a historicity, demonstrates how colonial history—in which the “enlightened” white man embarks on its “moral” civilizational journey—has evolved into neoliberal ideologies of globalization and the universal exploitation of the Other, both at home and in the farthest corners of the world. Mobilities are always situated in a hierarchy that grants some people control over their movement while others’ movement is either revoked, restricted, or forced. While some movements are marked as modern and welcomed, the movement of certain groups, like refugees and immigrants, carries notions of crisis and fear.

One of the implications of limiting the entry of othered bodies and minds into historically white and privileged spaces (like academia) and processes (like knowledge production) is that alternative modes of thinking are banned from entering the “Western” intersubjective world. As a corollary, theorizing and scientific production remains the “moral” responsibility and normative territory of Western bodies and minds. A sociology that prioritizes historical study of mobility across and within borders and boundaries, at individual and collective as well as socio-political and legal levels, can reveal these larger patterns of inequality—it can contribute to the study of social problems from which our larger world is suffering.

Hadi Khoshnevis is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology, University of South Florida. Hadi’s latest publication, [\*Accountability in a State of Liminality: The Experience of Iranian Students at American Airports\*](#), is an attempt to show how airports as liminal spaces have determining effect on one’s transition into a new society.



## 2017 AWARD WINNERS

### Graduate Student Paper Award Winner



Each year, the Social Problems Theory Division recognizes graduate student research with the Graduate Student Paper Award. This year the award will be presented to **Elizabeth Korver-Glenn**, for her manuscript, **How Racial Formation and Inequality Happen in Urban Housing Markets**. Research worthy of this honor must “make an original and innovative contribution to the theoretical understanding of social problems.”

As Professor Korver-Glenn’s work illustrates, racial formation is tied to the housing market, where stakeholders engage in various race-making practices. These race-making practices are embedded within the everyday activities occurring in the field of the housing market, ultimately shaping economic outcomes. Through this research she demonstrates how racial formation is tied to inequities of the housing market.

**Elizabeth Korver-Glenn**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
University of New Mexico

I would like to thank Brian Monahan, who served as the Chair, and the other members, of this committee, who worked diligently on this honor.

### Outstanding Article Award

Every other year, the Social Problems Theory Division presents the Outstanding Article Award. Winners of this award have produced work “that critiques or advances the ongoing scholarly dialogue about social problems theorizing.” This year, we are proud to announce that **Jennifer Carlson** has received the Outstanding Article Award for her work entitled, **Moral Panic, Moral Breach: Bernhard Goetz, George Zimmerman, and Racialized News Reporting in Contested Cases of Self-Defense**, which appeared in the 63rd volume of *Social Problems* (2016).

Professor Carlson’s article contributes to the field by introducing the concept of the moral breach to challenge the more broad concept of moral panic. The moral breach addresses complexities of competing value systems in response to problems claims among various groups. Specifically, it addresses the ways in which competing narratives are framed to emphasize harm to particular communities, rather than a uniform public morality.

I would like to thank Keith Johnson (independent scholar) for serving as the Chair of this award committee. Additionally, Joseph Cabrera (LaVerne University) and Josh Stout (University of Delaware) deserve recognition for serving as committee members.



**Jennifer Carlson**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Sociology and School of  
Government and Public Policy  
University of Arizona



# 2017 ANNUAL MEETINGS PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE: SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION SESSIONS

Session #	Session Title	Sponsor(s)	Time and Place
3	<b>CRITICAL DIALOGUE:</b> Social Constructions of Policing and Violence— <b>THEMATIC</b>	1. Crime and Juvenile Delinquency 2. Social Problems Theory	Friday, August 11, 8:30 am Room: Hampstead
24	Critical Studies of Social Control	1. Law and Society 2. Social Problems Theory	Friday, August 11, 10:30 am Room: Verdun
<b>Social Problems Theory Division Business Meeting</b>			Friday, August 11, 12:30 pm Room: Outremont
50	New Work in Social Problems Theory	1. Social Problems Theory	Friday, August 11, 2:30 pm Room: Verdun
53	Navigating the Process of Publishing Books	1. Social Problems Theory	Friday, August 11, 4:30 pm Room: Hampstead
62	Problematizing Bodies	1. Social Problems Theory 2. Sport, Leisure, and the Body	Saturday, August 12, 8:30 am Room: Côte-St-Luc
88	<b>CRITICAL DIALOGUE:</b> Social Constructionism: Its Origins and Futures, Part I— <b>SPECIAL</b>	1. Program Committee 2. Social Problems Theory	Saturday, August 12, 10:30 am Room: Verdun



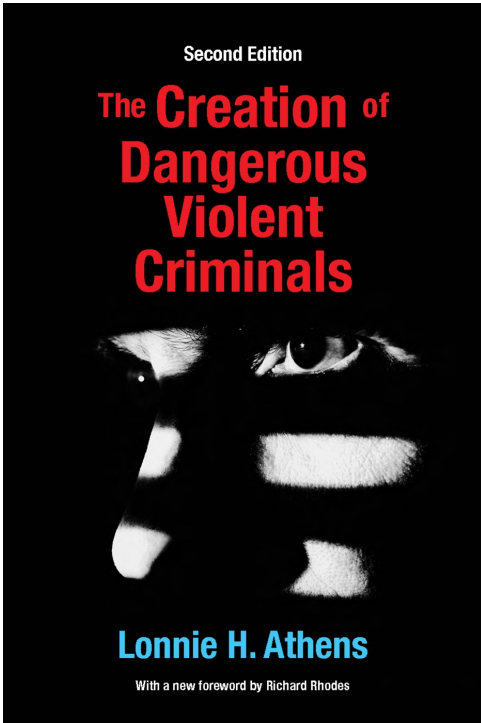


# 2017 ANNUAL MEETINGS PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE: SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION SESSIONS

Session #	Session Title	Sponsor(s)	Time and Place
101	<b>CRITICAL DIALOGUE:</b> Social Constructionism: Its Origins, Its Futures, Part II— <b>SPECIAL</b>	1. Program Committee 2. Social Problems Theory	Saturday, August 12, 12:30 pm Room: Verdun
107	<b>CRITICAL DIALOGUE:</b> Reflexivity, Research and Institutional Ethnography: How Analysis Changes Thinking	1. Institutional Ethnography 2. Social Problems Theory	Saturday, August 12, 2:30 pm Room: Lachine
120	Narratives of Fear in Popular Culture— <b>THEMATIC</b>	1. Conflict, Action, and Social Change 2. Social Problems Theory 3. Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction.	Sunday, August 13, 8:30 am Room: Fundy
133	Rumors, Fear, and Public Perception	1. Conflict, Action, and Social Change 2. Social Problems Theory 3. Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction.	Sunday, August 13, 10:30 am Room: Fundy
149	Narratives of Oppression and Resistance in the Context of Substance Use— <b>THEMATIC</b>	1. Drinking and Drugs 2. Social Problems Theory	Sunday, August 13, 12:30 pm Room: Jacques-Cartier
163	<b>Critical Dialogue:</b> Narratives of Exclusion: Constructing Walls— <b>THEMATIC</b>	1. Social Problems Theory	Sunday, August 13, 2:30 pm Room: Lachine
174	Acing the Sociological Imagination: Success Stories Teaching Introduction to Sociology	1. Social Problems Theory 2. Teaching Social Problems	Sunday, August 13, 4:30 pm Room: Hampstead



## RECENT MEMBER PUBLICATIONS



2017 | Routledge Press | 160 pages  
\$35.96 paperback

**Lonnie H. Athens** is a professor of criminal justice at Seton Hall University. He is the author of *Domination and Subjugation in Everyday Life* and *Acts of Actors Revisited*. He received the George Herbert Mead Award from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction for lifetime achievement.

# The Creation of Dangerous Violent Criminals

Second Edition  
Lonnie H. Athens

**Description:**

Lonnie H. Athens’ path-breaking work examines a problem that has baffled experts and the general public alike: How does a person become a predatory violent criminal?

In the original edition, the process that Athens labeled “violentization” encompassed four stages: brutalization, defiance, dominative engagements, and virulency. In this edition, Athens identifies a new final stage, violent predation, as the culmination of the violent criminal’s development. He uses vivid first-person accounts gleaned from in-depth interviews and participant observation of nascent and hardened violent criminals to back up his theory.

In this vastly expanded edition, Athens examines how his thinking and ideas have evolved over the past thirty years and renames and clarifies two stages of development. Athens also addresses, for the first time, criticisms of his original theory. Milestones of this important work are discussed, as well as the paradoxes surrounding its present-day status in the field of criminology. Athens proposes a revised theoretical model that will be useful for classroom use, as well as for interested general readers and professionals.

**Reviews:**

“The most far-reaching, provocative, and profound analysis of violent conduct to be found in the criminological literature.”—Norman K. Denzin, author of *The Research Act*

“Represents a profoundly creative and original theoretical contribution, on a par with any other criminological development this century. It is more empirically, methodologically, and theoretically sophisticated than most of the erstwhile ‘famous’ researches of the ‘big names’ in the criminological field.”—John M. Johnson, *Symbolic Interaction*



## RECENT MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

### Articles:

Khoshnevis, Hadi. 2017. "[Accountability in a State of Liminality: Iranian Students' Experiences in American Airports.](#)" *Mobilities* doi:10.1080/17450101.2017.1292028.

Kwon, Ronald, and Curran, Michaela. 2016. "Immigration and Support for Redistributive Policy: Does Multiculturalism Matter?". *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 57: 375-400.

Mathers, Lain A. B. 2017. "Bathrooms, Boundaries, and Emotional Burdens: Cisgendering Interactions Through the Interpretation of Transgender Experience." *Symbolic Interaction* doi:10.1002/symb.295. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/symb.295/abstract>

Menard, Jean-Patrick. 2017. "Otero, Marcelo, Les fous dans la cité. Sociologie de la folie contemporaine." *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 42(1):135-38. (In English) <https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/cjs/index.php/CJS/article/view/29193/21291>

Menard, Jean-Patrick. 2015. "Entrevue: « Conversations avec Prof. Marcel Fournier »." *McGill Sociological Review* 5:57-62. <https://www.mcgill.ca/msr/msr-volume-5/entrevue-marcel-fournier>

Robinson, John N., III. 2017. "Welfare as Wrecking Ball: Constructing Public Responsibility in Legal Encounters Over Public Housing Demolition." *Law and Social Inquiry* 41:670-700.

Savelsberg, Joachim J. 2017. "Formal and Substantive Rationality in Max Weber's Sociology of Law: Tensions in International Criminal Law." Pp. 493-510 in *Law as Culture: Max Weber's Comparative Sociology of Law*, edited by Werner Gephart. Frankfurt: Vittorio Klostermann.

Savelsberg, Joachim J. 2017. "International Criminal Law as One Response to World Suffering: General Observations and the Case of Darfur." Pp. 361-74 in *Alleviating World Suffering*, edited by Ronald E. Anderson. New York: Springer.

### Books

Joachim J. Savelsberg. 2017. *Repräsentationen von Massengewalt: Strafrechtliche, humanitäre, diplomatische und journalistische Perspektiven auf den Darfurkonflikt*. Frankfurt: Vittorio Klostermann Publ. (translation of *Representing Mass Violence*, University of California Press, which is also available open access online: <<http://www.luminosa.org/site/books/10.1525/luminos.4/>>).

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## Other Announcements

Khoshnevis, Hadi: Student Paper Award. SSSP's Section on Conflict, Social Action, and Change. Paper: "Political Opportunity Structures and Frame Contraction in Non-Receptive Contexts: Insights from Anti-Execution Movement in Iran"

Khoshnevis, Hadi: Distinguished Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, University of South Florida.

Savelsberg, Joachim J. is the 2017 recipient of the William J. Chambliss Lifetime Achievement Award, Law and Society Division, SSSP



## Other Announcements

### Media Review Submissions

Recognizing the multiple modalities of communication and how presentations enhance our sociological understanding of the complex realities of the 21st century, the journal *Humanity & Society* (<http://has.sagepub.com/>) seeks authors for Media Reviews. We invite reviewers of critical messages in popular films, television shows, documentaries, multi-media presentations, video games, and other forms of media. Written submissions should be approximately 1,000 words and are accepted on a rolling basis. The journal welcomes reviewers from diverse backgrounds and with diverse perspectives, including activists, graduate students, and practitioners in fields other than sociology.

To review for *Humanity & Society*, please contact the Media Review Editor, Bhoomi K. Thakore, at [bhoomi.thakore@elmhurst.edu](mailto:bhoomi.thakore@elmhurst.edu) with your background information and suggested review topic.

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## REFERENCES & CREDITS

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### PHOTOGRAPH OF JENNIFER CARLSON (PAGE 3)

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### COVER OF THE CREATION OF DANGEROUS VIOLENT CRIMINALS (PAGE 6)

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