



Society for the Study of Social Problems

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2006

Message from the Chair



Greetings to members and friends of the Sociology and Social Welfare Division. My name is Deirdre Oakley. I am the new S&SW Division Chair. I would like to acknowledge Anne Broussard, the outgoing Chair for doing such a wonderful job. I hope I can fill her shoes!

I am pleased to announce that Antwan Jones, a doctoral student in the Sociology Department at Bowling Green State University is our new newsletter editor. Antwan won the Graduate Student Paper award last year. Please consider submitting a brief essay describing current research projects, lectures, publications, advocacy, protests etc to Antwan for our spring 2007

newsletter. Antwan can be contacted at antwani@bgsu.edu.

The theme of the 57th annual meeting to be held in New York City next August is "Research Matters: Creating Knowledge, Policy, and Justice" and we will be sponsoring three exciting sessions. These include *Social Welfare Theory for Today's World* chaired by Richard Caputo of Yeshiva University; *Coping with Poverty: The Policy and Research Implications of the Lived Experience* chaired by Andy Golub of the University of Vermont; and *Social Welfare and the World Community* chaired by Mona Bata of Binghamton University.

We are also co-sponsoring a session with the Division of Youth, Aging and the Life Course called *Will the Elderly be Able to Retire? The Social and Policy Implications of Dissolving Pension Plan* chaired by Robin Moremen of Northern Illinois University. In addition, we are co-sponsoring *Ethnographically Examining Welfare State Knowledge*

Creation and Use with the Division of Institutional Ethnography. This session will be chaired by Frank Ridzim of Le Moyne College. For more information on any of these sessions, visit the Call for Papers page on the SSSP website at <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/267>.

We will also be holding the student paper competition this year (see p. 2 for complete information). I am currently looking for readers so if you are interested please contact me at doakley@niu.edu.

Sincerely,
Deirdre Oakley

Social Problems—Editorial Search

The Editorial and Publications Committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is searching for the next Editor of *Social Problems*. The three-year term of the new Editor will begin at mid-year 2008 with responsibility for editing Volumes 56-58 (years 2009-2011). All members of the SSSP are encouraged to apply or nominate colleagues.

The Editor is responsible for soliciting, reviewing, and making final decisions on manuscripts, and for preparing four issues of the journal for publication annually. The editorial office is responsible for managing the review process and for copy editing and proofreading in

accordance with customary publishing standards.

The SSSP seeks an individual with a distinguished scholarly record, previous editorial experience (e.g., service as a journal editor or associate editor), strong organizational and management skills, an ability to work well with others, and a familiarity with and commitment to *Social Problems*.

The SSSP supports the editorial office with an annual budget and provides a modest stipend and travel expenses for the Editor. Support is also expected from the host institution. This support may include office space, utilities, the use of computers and other

office equipment, stipends and tuition waivers for office personnel, faculty release time, and other basic expenses. Each year the Editor will be expected to submit a budget to the SSSP to cover operating expenses that the host institution does not support.

Applications, requests for further information, or names of potential nominees should be sent to: James D. Orcutt, Chair, SSSP Editorial and Publications Committee, Department of Sociology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2270; [850] 644-6416 (Office); [850] 644-6208 (FAX); email: jorcutt@fsu.edu.

Deadline: January 31, 2007.

2005 ISI Ranking Puts Social Problems in Top Five

The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) annually compiles listings of journal titles in the social sciences, and ranks them according to the number of citations that each receives in other journals that year. Researchers, tenure committees, and other scholarly outlets use these ISI rankings to determine a journal's standing within the scholarly community.

Social Problems continues to be among top five serial publications in Sociology, *American Journal of Sociology* (1), *American Sociological Review* (2), *Annual Review of Sociology* (3), and *Sociology of Health & Illness* (4).



2007 S&SW Student Paper Competition

The goal is to encourage scholastic endeavors that enhance our understanding of issues related to sociology and social welfare. Relevant papers might focus on social activism, social justice, empowerment, policy or any welfare-related issues. Qualitative, quantitative and theoretical papers are welcome. To be eligible, submissions must be: 1) written between January 2006

and April 2007 and not published or submitted for scholarly review; 2) authored by one or more students and not coauthored by faculty or a colleague who is not a student; 2) 25 pages or fewer, including references and tables; 3) accompanied by a letter from a faculty member at the student's university nominating the paper for the competition. Send two copies of the paper

along with the letter of support to Deirdre Oakley, Department of Sociology, Northern Illinois University, De Kalb, IL 60115 (doakley@niu.edu). The deadline is Monday, April 2, 2007. The S&SW competition winner receives a cash prize of \$150 plus 2007 SSSP conference and banquet registration. Two additional students will receive honorable mentions.

Project in the Spotlight

Katrina and the Built Environment: Spatial and Social Impacts

An interdisciplinary group of scholars, led by Brown University Professor John R. Logan, has received support from NSF's Human and Social Dynamics program to study the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the built environment through 2009. Below is an excerpt from the project's first report. The complete report and other project information can be found at <http://www.s4.brown.edu/katrina/index.html>.

The Impact of Katrina: Race and Class in Storm-Damaged Neighborhoods

By John R. Logan, Brown University

Early media reports about the wind damage and flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina focused on New Orleans, and especially on the people who had been unable to escape the city before it flooded. Images of poor and predominantly black people crowded into the Superdome and Convention Center supported the impression that Katrina had disproportionately affected poor, black neighborhoods. The purpose of this report is to evaluate more precisely what neighborhoods were heavily damaged, including not only New Orleans but also the coastal communities in Mississippi that bore the brunt of hurricane-force winds.

In brief an analysis of FEMA storm damage data shows that the storm's impact was disproportionately borne by the region's African American community, by people who rented their homes, and by the poor and unemployed.

More than a third of the region's 1.7 million residents lived in areas that suffered flooding or moderate to catastrophic storm damage, according to FEMA. The majority of people living in damaged areas were in the City of New Orleans (over 350,000), with additional concentrations in suburban Jefferson Parish (175,000) and St. Bernard Parish (53,000) and along the Mississippi Coast (54,000).

In the region as a whole, the disparities in storm damage are shown in the following comparisons (arranged in order of the degree of disparity):

- By race: Damaged areas were 45.8% black, compared to 26.4% in undamaged areas.
- By housing tenure: 45.7% of homes in damaged areas were occupied by renters, compared to 30.9% in undamaged communities.
- By poverty and employment status: 20.9% of households had incomes below the poverty line in damaged areas, compared to 15.3% in undamaged areas. 7.6% of persons in the labor force were unemployed in damaged areas (before the storm), compared to 6.0% in undamaged areas.

These comparisons are heavily influenced by the experience of the City of New Orleans. Outside the city, there were

actually smaller shares of African American, poor, and unemployed residents in the damaged areas.

Closer inspection of neighborhoods within New Orleans shows that some affluent white neighborhoods were hard hit, while some poor minority neighborhoods were spared. Yet if the post-Katrina city were limited to the population previously living in areas that were undamaged by the storm – that is, if nobody were able to return to damaged neighborhoods – New Orleans is at risk of losing more than 80% of its black population. This means that policy choices affecting who can return, to which neighborhoods, and with what forms of public and private assistance, will greatly affect the future character of the city.

News You Can Use

Free Social Problems Journal Article

The University of California Press is offering the article "Standardizing Childrearing Through Housing" by Paul Luken and Suzanne Vaughan as a complimentary downloadable PDF file. [Click here](#) for the article. (PDF, 2,135 KB).

SSSP Forum Fall 2006 Newsletter

The Fall 2006 Newsletter is now available. [Click here](#) for the PDF. If you have missed issues and want to rediscover *The Forum* or you are a new member and are exploring *The Forum* for the first time [click here](#) for PDFs of past issues.

Movie Spotlight

DisLocation

In February 2002, families living in a high-rise in the Robert Taylor Homes public housing development in Chicago were given a 180-day notice of eviction. In six months, the community that had been their home for generations would be demolished. Columbia University professor Sudhir Venkatesh's new documentary, *DisLocation*, chronicles the lives of families about to relocate from the 4525 South Federal high-rise as they prepare themselves for a period of change.

Contact Eva Rosen at (212)854-2072 or er2009@columbia.edu for information about how to purchase a copy of the film.

**SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF
SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**Division Chair Contact
Information**

Deirdre Oakley
Zulauf Hall, 806
Department of Sociology,
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115-2854
815.753.6429
815.753.0365 (f)
doakley@niu.edu

**Newsletter Editor Contact
Information**

Antwan Jones
205 Williams Hall
Department of Sociology,
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403
419.372.2294
419.372.8306 (f)
antwanj@bgsu.edu



S&SW Members in Brief

Luke Shaefer, a fourth-year doctoral student at the University of Chicago, has an upcoming publication. The citation follows: Shaefer, H.L. (forthcoming). "State Minimum Wage Laws: Examining the Case of Illinois." *Journal of Poverty: Innovations on Social, Political & Economic Inequalities*.

Abstract

As of August 2005, seventeen states have raised their minimum wages above the federal level of \$5.15. Using Kingdon's agenda setting model, this paper analyzes lessons from a case study of Illinois, the first Midwestern state to raise its minimum, up to \$6.50 in January 2005. This legislative success was a result of a mix of factors including a change in the State's political environment with the election of a new governor, and collaboration between advocates and researchers who provided a rigorous analysis of the potential effects of raising the minimum wage. The paper makes recommendations for future research, as efforts are underway in multiple states to consider wage raises through open referendums and traditional legislative channels in 2006.

From the Editor



**ANTWAN JONES—NEWSLETTER
EDITOR**

I wanted to use this space to call for future submissions to the Sociology and Social Welfare Division newsletter. Particularly, I wanted to ask for submissions for the Winter edition. I will accept submissions until March 1, 2007. Submissions have a wide range, from new publications to pertinent division information, awards, job openings, etc. You may send any material directly to me. My contact information is on the top left of this page.

Thank you in advance for your submissions and I look forward to serving this division. For more information about my research and scholarship, I direct you to my website, <http://personal.bgsu.edu/~antwanj>.