

July
2013

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WELFARE (SSW) DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends & Colleagues

2013 Conference
August 9-11
NYC, USA

New York, NY



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It's almost AUGUST. Welcome in advance to a conference in the City of New York, my city where I have lived all but two years of my life (I went to India as a Peace Corps Volunteer). It's a city with a good share of social problems. It has poverty, inequality, and the usual racial and gender disparities. It's a city where the mayor and the City Council President had long resisted legislation requiring paid sick days for workers (a measure finally was passed into law last month), and where stop and frisk police tactics and punitive school discipline, often relying on police presence, may cause students to fall behind, drop out, and enter the prison system.

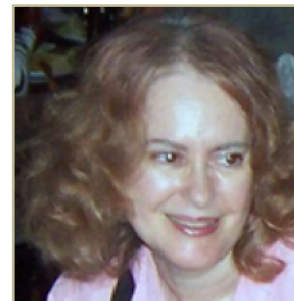
It's a city that awaits the results of the Democratic mayoral primary where six colorful candidates are making their similar points about solving such social problems.

The good news for residents and visitors is that New York City also is a home and cultural haven for countless ethnic, national, and religious groups -- and the museums, concerts, theater, restaurants, and vendors of art and colorful clothes representing them. Want to know where the different groups live? Please see the map of people and places on page 3.

Of course August is not just New York City; it is also the **conference**. Many of us have been working in various capacities to prepare for it, whether organizing panels, submitting presentations for panels, registering for the conference, applying for competitions, judging competitions, preparing resolutions, and organizing our meetings for the conference. One promising effort is creating an ongoing working relationship between SSSP (our Division in particular) and the scholar activists from Aalborg University Denmark whose international conference in May on sociology and social work included some of our members. This August we will be welcoming several Aalborg conference leaders to our conference.

**Don't forget to
register for the
Conference**

Below I list some conference highlights, focusing on our Division.



Joyce Bialik
Chair 2011 – August, 2013



Heather MacIndoe
Chair August 2013-2015

**World Social Welfare
Sociology & Social Welfare**



Conference highlights

1. Division Business Meeting – Friday August 9, 4:30pm-6:10pm Gershwin II.

This is where we will propose topics for the 2014 conference. Please come to pitch your ideas and gain the opportunity to organize a conference panel.

Here we also will honor winners of two Division competitions: (i) Student paper – the winner is Nicole D’Anna, “Revising the Welfare Queen: Calling for a New Approach to Welfare Analysis”. This paper gives the framework under which Nicole will be preparing her dissertation at the State University of New York in Albany. Thank you Richard Caputo and Sondra Fogel for conducting the competition ; (ii) Best 2012 Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare Article won by Karen H. Bancroft. The article appearing in the Journal’s Volume 39, September 2012 issue, is entitled “Zones of Exclusion: Urban Spatial Policies, Social Justice, and Social Services. Thank you Robert Leighninger and the Journal’s Editorial board for conducting the competition.

The meeting will be led by Heather MacIndoe, 2013-2015 Division Chair.

2. Resolution Meeting – Friday August 9, 2:30-4:10. This is an open forum where proposed resolutions will be discussed. This Division submitted two in follow-up to last year’s regarding African American men, the criminal justice system, and education. I was advised to divide the topic into two, one on education and the other on criminal justice, and for this purpose – this year -- I approached two local policy/social action groups. The proposed resolutions appear on page 5. The “School to Prison Pipeline...” was prepared by Cathy Albisa, Executive Director of the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative. “Racial Disparities in Drug Law Enforcement” was prepared by Julie Netherland, Deputy State Director of the Drug Policy Alliance. The Drug Policy Alliance was selected for SSSP’s Thomas Hood Award.

3. Division Sponsored Reception – Friday, August 9, 6:30pm-7:30pm.

4. Division Panels and Critical Dialogue – This year as last year I am very proud of our diverse and exciting panels and panelists. Three are sponsored solely by this Division, and six with other Divisions that include Poverty, Class, & Inequality, Global, Racial, and Ethnic Minorities, Conflict, Social Action, and Change, Environment and Technology, and Community Research and Development.

5. Sunday, August 11. – This is an ALL DAY series of panels presented by our Division and includes one by the Aalborg, Denmark scholars. Please come to all.

8:30 Beyond Budget Cuts: Managing Human Services in the Neoliberal Era

10:30 Organizational Adaptation in the New Service Environment

12:30 Theorizing Social Problems: Linking Research and Social Work Practice (by Aalborg, Denmark group)

2:30 CRITICAL DIALOGUE: How Do You Make Claims for Social Welfare in the Era of Neoliberalism?

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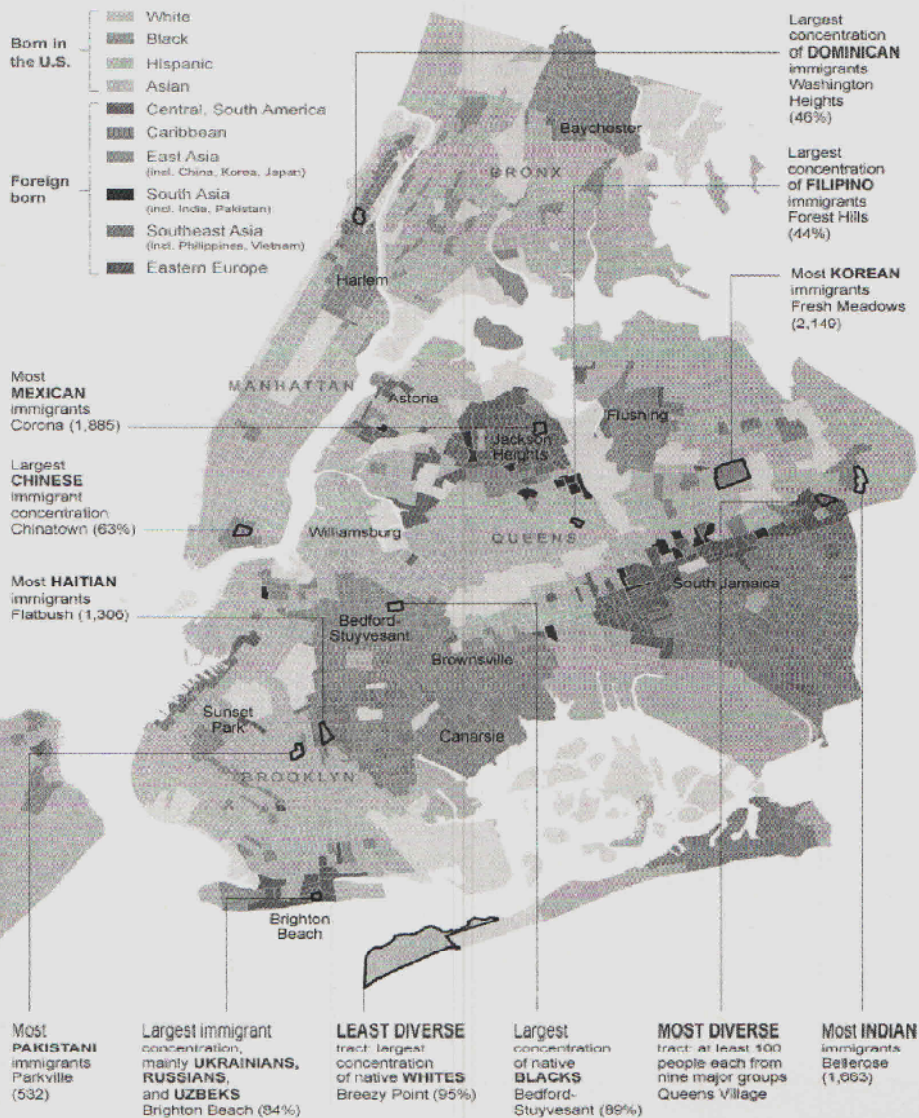
Published: January 22, 2011

Then as Now — New York's Shifting Ethnic Mosaic

By FORD FESSENDEN and SAM ROBERTS

A century ago, Israel Zangwill popularized the term in his play, "The Melting Pot." New York has evolved into a greater crucible of race and ethnicity today than it was back then, but the city also remains very much a mosaic — a variegated montage of neighborhoods in which certain groups predominate.

In a month or so, the 2010 census will most likely confirm a record high in the city's foreign-born population. American Community Survey data released last month revealed a striking metamorphosis during the last decade. Traditional ethnic enclaves sprawled amoeba-like into adjacent communities. Once monolithic tracts of white and black and native-born residents have become bespeckled with newcomers.


www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/01/23/nyregion/20110123-nyc-ethnic-neighborhoods-map.html

1/2

Jackson Heights, Queens, is one of the most diverse neighborhoods. See iwantmorefood.com for interesting food options in that neighborhood.

Member News

Mark R. Warren would like you to know about URBAN and to participate in URBAN activities at the ASA conference.

About URBAN

URBAN is an emerging multidisciplinary network of scholars and community activists created to foster collaborative, community-based research that is relevant to pressing issues facing communities and that can support action initiatives. URBAN seeks to support and advance this type of engaged scholarship within academia. It has local nodes in Boston, New York, Los Angeles and Northern California. It has national, disciplinary nodes in sociology, among education researchers and an emerging node among community psychologists.

More information on URBAN at: <http://web.mit.edu/colab/work-project-urban.html>

To sign up for the ASA URBAN email list: please email: urban_ASA@lists.brandeis.edu

Organizational meeting

Saturday, August 10th 6:30-7:30pm Conference Room D Sheraton Hotel & Towers

Please join colleagues for a discussion of how to promote and support community-based research among sociologists. This will be a chance to meet and connect with like-minded colleagues and plan concrete activities that the ASA URBAN node can do in the coming year.

Heather MacIndoe has a new article in the June issue of the *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* (vol XL(2):119-149) entitled "Specialists, Generalists and Policy Advocacy by Charitable Nonprofit Organizations."

Abstract:

Previous research finds modest levels of engagement in policy advocacy by charitable nonprofits, despite legal regulations permitting nonprofit advocacy and the significance of public policy to nonprofit constituencies. This paper examines nonprofit involvement in policy advocacy using survey data from Boston, Massachusetts. Nonprofit participation in policy advocacy is associated with professionalization, resource dependence, features of the institutional environment, and organizational characteristics such as size and mission. Drawing from population ecology theory, we examine an additional aspect of organizational mission: whether a nonprofit serves a specialized or general population. We find that nonprofits serving specialized populations are more likely to participate in policy advocacy than nonprofits serving the general population.

Division 2013 Resolutions

Racial Disparities in Drug Law Enforcement

Whereas racial disparities in incarceration have been documented for decades, the most problematic being for Black men currently imprisoned 6.4 times the rate of White men;

Whereas drug offending and discriminatory police and sentencing practices have been major factors in this racial disparity, while particular issues in New York City and State are police-stop-and-frisk practices and a loophole in state law that in 1977 decriminalized possession of marijuana;

Whereas this loophole criminalizes possession when marijuana is “open to public view”. When someone complies with a police officer’s directive to “empty your pockets,” during a stop-and-frisk encounter (even though one is not legally required to do so), the individual is then charged with the crime of possessing marijuana “open to public view;”

Whereas because of this loophole and police stop-and-frisk practices more than 600,000 New Yorkers have been arrested for marijuana possession since 1996, including more than 45,000 people in 2012 alone;

Whereas these arrests predominantly affect young people with no prior criminal involvement;

Whereas more than 84 percent of those arrested for possession were people of color – even though young whites use marijuana at higher rates;

Whereas these arrests and imprisonments have significant consequences, such as creating barriers to employment, financial aid, and housing; and

Whereas these arrests cost NYC taxpayers \$75 million last year and over \$600 million dollars during the last decade;

Whereas NYC’s Mayor Bloomberg, NYC Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, and all five NY District Attorneys have supported legislation to fix the marijuana possession laws;

And be it resolved that Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) opposes the practice of “stop, question, and frisk” which affects more than a half a million New Yorkers each year and unfairly targets Black and Latino youth;

And it be further resolved that SSSP supports the Community Safety Act, a police reform legislative package aimed at ending discriminatory policing and bringing accountability to the NYC Police Department;

And be it further resolved that SSSP supports efforts to standardize the penalties for possessing a small amount of marijuana in New York so that possession in public view would be a violation punishable by a summons and fine, not arrest and jail;

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution with a cover letter be forwarded to the governor, legislative leaders in Albany, the Mayor of NYC, and members of the NYC Council and any other individual or body that the Executive Officers of the SSSP determine.

Resources

Communities United Police Reform. Community Safety Act.

<http://changethenypd.org/community-safety-act>

Drug Policy Alliance. Ending the Marijuana Arrest Crusade in NYC.

<http://www.drugpolicy.org/departments-and-state-offices/new-york/ending-marijuana-arrest-crusade-nyc>

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Harcourt, B.E. and Ludwig, J. (2007). "Reefer Madness: Broken Windows Policing and Misdemeanor Marijuana Arrests in New York City, 1989-2000," *Criminology and Public Policy* 6:1 pp. 165-182.

Levine, H and Peterson Small, D. (2008). *Marijuana Arrest Crusade: Racial Bias and Police Policy in New York City, 1997 – 2007*, (New York: New York Civil Liberties Union), pp 38 – 45.

Levine, H.G. and Siegel, L. (2011). *\$75 Million A Year*, New York: Drug Policy Alliance. *Marihuana Reform Act of 1977*, Public Law 360, 1977-1978 Legislature, Regular Session (29 June 1977).

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Adult Arrests in 2012, Computerized Criminal History System, February 2013.

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. (February 2013). *New York City Arrests for PL 221.10 in 2012*, Computerized Criminal History System,.

Ruderman, W. (8 February 2013). "Number of Frisks Fell in '12, Police Data Show." The New York Times. <<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/09/nyregion/number-of-frisks-fell-in-12-police-data-show.html>>;

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2008). *2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, Washington D.C.: United States Government Office of Applied Studies.

Resolution: School to Prison Pipeline, Affecting Low Income Students of Color, Especially Black Males

Whereas more than one-half of Black men in low-income urban areas do not finish high school, which studies show greatly increases their risk of incarceration.

Whereas by the end of the 1990s a Black male high school dropout, born 1965-69, had nearly a 60 percent chance of serving time in prison.

Whereas research shows that current school discipline policies which rely on suspensions, widespread police presence, and other punitive practices do not reduce conflict, and instead increase the likelihood that students will fall behind, drop out and/or become incarcerated.

Whereas punitive policies disproportionately affect low-income students of color and students with disabilities, with Black male students impacted more than any other group.

Whereas these practices have a negative impact on school climate by undermining positive relationships between students and trusted adults and contributing to conflict on school campuses.

Be it resolved that the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) calls for New York City supports reducing suspensions and school-based arrests and implementing positive alternatives to protect students' human rights to education and dignity.

Be it further resolved that SSSP supports the creation of safe and supportive school climates in all New York City public schools without the need for school police or metal detectors, where young people are not suspended and removed from class, and where teachers and students have training and support to prevent and resolve conflicts in positive ways.

Be it further resolved that SSSP calls on the Mayor, the New York City Department of Education, the New York State Education Department, and City and State legislators to:

1. Implement and fund positive school-wide discipline policies in all schools by incorporating approaches such as restorative practices, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and peer mediation.
2. Begin implementation in the highest need schools by providing resources, training and technical assistance for schools. Highest need schools include schools that are heavily policed, schools with metal detectors, cameras, and large numbers of School Safety Officers, schools with high suspension, expulsion, and arrest rates, schools with a population of students at risk of dropping out, and Impact Schools. They also include schools in low income communities of color, where we see a correlation between the criminalization of students inside and outside of schools.
3. Fund, designate, and train a staff person in each school, beginning with the highest need schools, to serve as a Restorative Discipline Coordinator who will help develop and oversee implementation of a school-wide plan, and provide ongoing support and coordination for teachers and students.

4. Require training for all teachers, principals, counselors, school aides, and other support staff on how to implement positive interventions, and engage students, parents and educators to help design and lead the trainings.
5. Consult regularly with students, parents, and other community members about the development of school discipline, climate, and safety practices to involve the entire school community.
6. Create and train a Restorative Discipline Team at the NYC Department of Education to ensure that schools are implementing and sustaining positive school-wide discipline policies, and to provide technical assistance and support.
7. Reduce suspensions by no less than 50% by the 2013 – 2014 school year, eliminate suspensions of more than 10 days, and reduce school-based arrests by revising the Discipline Code, Chancellor's Regulations, and other policies.
8. Require the use of positive interventions, such as mediation, counseling, restorative circles or fairness committees, instead of suspensions except where suspensions are required by law.
9. Adopt a policy that schools must take certain steps before they can suspend a student, such as using positive interventions, or meeting with the student and/or the student's guardian to discuss disciplinary options.
10. When a student returns from a suspension, require that schools provide academic support and implement positive interventions to reintegrate the student into the school community.
11. Require schools to strictly uphold students' due process rights and provide remedies for violations of those rights.
12. Decriminalize students by minimizing police presence and arrests, eliminating use of metal detectors in schools, and giving schools control over school safety.
13. Monitor the use of suspensions, removals, arrests and positive interventions in all schools.
14. Hold schools accountable for reducing high suspension and arrest rates, not through punitive measures, but by providing technical assistance and support to implement positive approaches.
15. Ensure that schools do not use suspensions in cases prohibited by the Discipline Code, such as wearing a hat and other infractions under Level 1 of the Discipline Code.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution and cover letter shall be forwarded to the Mayor, the New York City Department of Education, the New York State Education Department, and City and State legislators

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