



Society for the Study of Social Problems

Sociology and Social Welfare Division

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Newsletter Editor:
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Message from the Division Chair

Heather MacIndoe

University of Massachusetts, Boston



Greetings,

First of all, thank you to all who contributed content to this newsletter edition. This is meant to be a resource for SSW division members to learn about your colleagues' activities, publicize events and job postings, and celebrate recent publications and other member accomplishments.

Directly below this message is the information for the SSW Division 2015 graduate student paper competition. Make sure to see the new information about the competition prize. Please encourage your students to submit their work!

Also included in this newsletter is the list of SSW paper sessions for the 2015 conference. Submission deadline is 1/31/15! Please review the sessions, publicize to colleagues, and consider submitting your work.

Best wishes for the rest of the semester!

Questions or comments? Please email me at Heather.MacIndoe@umb.edu.

2015 Graduate Student Paper Competition

The Sociology and Social Welfare Division announces its 2015 Graduate Student Paper Competition for papers that advance our understanding of issues related to sociology and social welfare. Papers may explore and analyze any social welfare policy or institution along any dimension of interest. Qualitative and quantitative empirical analyses and theoretical papers are welcome.

To be eligible, papers must be: 1) written between January 1, 2014 and January 31, 2015 and not yet published or submitted for scholarly review; 2) authored by one or more graduate students and not co-authored by any faculty or non-student colleagues; 3) 25 pages or less, including references and tables; and 4) accompanied by a letter/email from a faculty member at the student's university nominating the paper for the competition.

In addition to submitting the above materials, to be considered for the award, students are required to submit their papers to the 2015 SSSP conference, preferably to a Sociology & Social Welfare Division sponsored paper session, through the annual meeting Call for Papers by 1/31/15. The author must make a commitment to present the paper during SSSP annual meeting in August 2015 in Chicago, IL. ***Double submission to other SSSP award competitions will disqualify the submission.***

Send a copy of your paper and the faculty nomination letter as email attachments to: Dr. Keith Kilty (kilty.1@osu.edu), Chair, SSWD Student Paper Competition, College of Social Work, The Ohio State University. The 2015 competition winner will receive a cash prize of \$250 from the division, an honorary plaque, payment of their 2015 SSSP membership dues, and payment of 2015 SSSP conference registration. **Deadline January 31, 2015.**

2015 Sociology and Social Welfare Paper Sessions

Sole Sponsored Sessions

(1) “The Changing Nature of the Welfare State: Race, Class and Gender”

(*THEMATIC*)

Organizer: Linda Houser

(2) “Chicago/Regional Spotlight: The Plight of the Urban Metropolis in the Midwest”

Organizer: Kasey Hendricks

(3) “Nonprofits and the Welfare State”

Organizer: Heather MacIndoe

Co-sponsored sessions

(1) “The Impact of Social Welfare Policy on Race, Class, and Gender Disparities”

(*THEMATIC*)

Sponsor: Sociology & Social Welfare; Poverty, Class & Inequality Division

Organizer: Joyce Bialik

(2) “Personal, Institutional, and Professional Resistance: Gender, Race and Poverty”

(*THEMATIC*)

Sponsor: Sociology & Social Welfare; Poverty, Class & Inequality Division; Institutional Ethnography

Organizer: Sobia Shaik

(3) “What Happened to Voting Rights?”

Sponsor: Sociology & Social Welfare; Poverty, Class & Inequality

Organizer: William Cabin

(4) “Poverty and Access to Health and Human Services”

Sponsor: Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; Sociology of Social Work and Welfare; Poverty, Class & Inequality

Organizer: Shannon Monnat

(5) “Comparative Approaches to Social Welfare and Well-being”

Sponsor: Global, Sociology of Social Work and Welfare

Organizer: Matthew Eddy

(6) “Conflict and Social Welfare in the 21st Century: Neighborhoods, Cities, and Nations”

Sponsor: Sociology & Social Welfare; Conflict, Social Action and Change; Community Research & Development

Organizer: Alissa Klein

(7) “Homelessness in the U.S.”

Sponsor: Community Research & Development Division, Sociology & Social Welfare

Organizer: Beth Merenstein

*Sociology and Social
Welfare Division*

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We're on the Web!

*Visit us at:
http://www.sssp1.org*

Thank you to the 2015 Student
Paper Competition Committee:

Keith Kilty (Chair)
Ohio State University

Linda Houser
Widener University

Kasey Hendricks
(2014 Award Winner)
Loyola University

From the Blogosphere

A selection of interesting finds...

This Sociological Life

<http://simplysociology.wordpress.com>

An interdisciplinary blog by sociologist Deborah Lupton (Centenary Research Professor in the Faculty of Arts & Design, University of Canberra, Australia) interested in media, communication and cultural studies. Dr. Lupton examines current cultural issues from a sociological standpoint, often using cutting edge sociological theory to get to the bottom of things.

Understanding Society

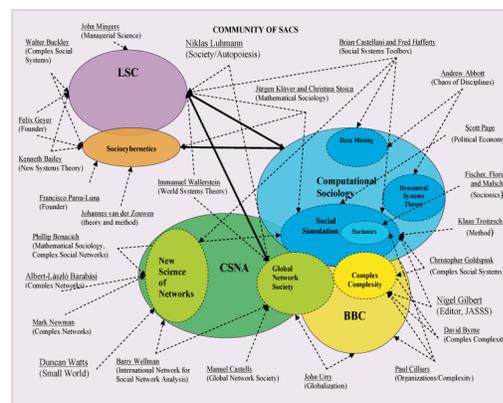
<http://understandingsociety.blogspot.co.uk>

This blog seeks to understand the global place of the individual through examining social agency and structure in innovative ways and examines everything from groups marginalized by society to the gradual change of social institutions and what drives that change. This site addresses a series of topics in the philosophy of social science. What is involved in "understanding society"?

Citings and Sightings

<http://thesocietypages.org/citings/>

A blog that scans the most current journals and tracks the media for the best in cutting edge social science, served up in a concise, snappy style. Students in the undergraduate and graduate sociology programs at the University of Minnesota edit the site.



Sociology and Complexity

<http://sacswebsite.blogspot.com/>

A blog heavily focused on the science side of sociology. This blog takes a hard look at scientific research both in sociology proper and in related sciences, such as economics. Brian Castellani, Associate Professor of Sociology at Kent State University, owns this site.

Socializing Finance

<http://socfinance.wordpress.com/>

A blog that takes a sociological look at the finance industry and tries to find ways to apply sociological principles to finance that will improve the industry as a positive force in society.

Social Watch

<http://www.socialwatch.org/>

A blog that serves as a sociology watchdog that calls attention to pressing sociological issues around the world including human rights abuses, gender based discrimination, and poverty.

About the Sociology and Social Welfare Division

The SSW Division's mission is to provide opportunities for scholars, researchers, students, activists, and others to share and discuss their scholarship and experiences in a supportive setting. In order to further the goal of a just world, the Division seeks to integrate theory, empirical findings, and practice of both researchers and grassroots activists.



Updates from Pennsylvania

Linda Houser, Assistant Professor and Ph.D. Program Director
Center for Social Work Education, Widener University, ldhouser@widener.edu

In the wake of the Harris v. Quinn Supreme Court decision, Karen White (Center for Women and Work, Rutgers University) and I began a research project interviewing Pennsylvania consumers and providers of home health care services about their views on what constitutes quality of care, the training needs and experiences of care providers, and recommendations for public policy. Results should be available, initially in the form of a research brief, by January 2015.

Two papers on the administration of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, both of which I co-authored with Sandy Schram, Joe Soss, and Richard Fording, recently became available – one on the use of child care subsidies as disciplinary tools (*Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*, vol. 35) and the other on the history and current application of the term “barriers” in welfare-to-work services (*Handbook of Poverty*, forthcoming January 2015).

I am also pleased to report that the Center for Social Work Education at Widener is growing and, as a result, is looking to add to its 21-member faculty. We are known as a clinical social work program with a strong social justice commitment. As a “macro” practitioner, I can attest to the Center’s commitment to producing BSW, MSW, and Ph.D. graduates whose clinical expertise includes skills in individual, community, and policy advocacy, administration, community organizing, and social policy analysis. We are looking for four new, full-time colleagues to join us in Chester, PA. Please contact me directly if you would like to learn more.

Recent Member Publications

Privatization, Business Attraction, and Social Services across the United States: Local Governments’ Use of Market-Oriented, Neoliberal Policies in the Post-2000 Period

by Linda Lobao, Lazarus Adua, and Gregory Hooks
Social Problems, Vol. 61, No. 4 (November 2014), pp. 644-672

Privatization, business attraction incentives, and limited social service provision are market-oriented policies that broadly concern social scientists. These policies are conventionally assumed to be widely implemented across the United States, the nation a world-model of neoliberal development. This study takes a new look at these policies, providing a first view of how they unfold across the nation at a geographic scale that drills down to the local state. We document the extent to which localities privatized their public services, used business attraction, and limited social service delivery in the last decade. Extending national-level theories of the welfare state, we focus on two sets of factors to explain where these policies are most likely to be utilized. The first, derived from the class-politics approach emphasizes class-interests such as business and unions and political-ideological context, anticipating these policies are utilized most in Republican leaning, pro-business and distressed contexts. The second, derived from the political institutional approach emphasizes state-capacity and path dependency as determinants. The analyses are based on over 1,700 localities, the majority of county governments, using unique policy data. Class-politics variables have modest relationship to neoliberal policies and show that business sector influence and public-sector unions matter. The findings strongly support the importance of state-capacity and path dependency. Overall our study challenges assumptions that acquiescence to neoliberal policies is widespread. Rather we find evidence of resilience to these policies among communities across the United States.



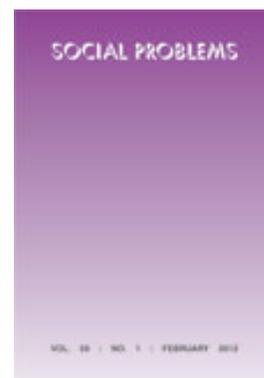
Get Engaged with Social Problems Journal

One of the most respected and widely read professional journals in the social sciences, *Social Problems* is an excellent avenue for research publications. Please consider submitting work to this highly respected journal. *Social Problems* is also looking for reviewers. If you are a faculty member, please consider serving as a reviewer.

Social Problems brings to the fore influential sociological findings and theories that have the ability to help us both better understand--and better deal with--our complex social environment.

Some of the areas covered by the journal include:

- Conflict, Social Action, and Change
- Crime and Juvenile Delinquency
- Drinking and Drugs
- Health, Health Policy, and Health Services
- Mental Health
- Poverty, Class, and Inequality
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities
- Youth, Aging, and the Life Course



Interested in submitting work or serving as a reviewer? Contact Pamela Quiroz, pquiroz@uic.edu.

Calling all Feminists!

**It's Time to Submit Proposals for the 2015 SWS Winter Meeting:
FEMINISM IN THEORY, PRACTICE, AND POLICY**

Thursday, February 19 – Sunday, February 22 , Washington Marriott Georgetown
Washington, DC

In keeping with SWS's historic mission to contribute to positive change for women in both the academy and society, this year's meeting will focus on assessing the current state of gender inequality – nationally and globally – and exploring future possibilities and challenges for melding sociological insight with real-world activism to achieve a more equal world.

Workshops – Panels – Papers – Roundtable Presentation – Posters

Please submit your requests by clicking on this link and following the instructions:
<http://www.mymeetingsavvy.com/sws-winter/login.aspx>

We look forward to a lively meeting and hope to see you in Washington in February!

-Kathleen Gerson and Jerry A. Jacobs, *Co-Presidents Elect*

Want to get involved?

- Write a book review for our next newsletter
- Tell us about your dissertation project, new article or new grant
- Write a paragraph publicizing your latest research
- Advertise a job opening or upcoming conference

Contact Heather MacIndoe
at Heather.MacIndoe@umb.edu



Explore Responses to Poverty Conference Website

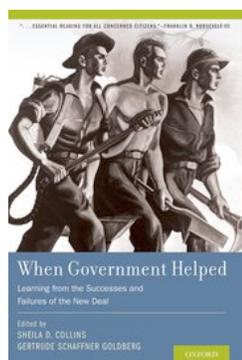
Five decades after President Lyndon Johnson declared an unconditional war on poverty, we have evidence of growing poverty locally, nationally and globally. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, the ranks of the new poor encompass the college educated, former middle class workers, suburbanites and homeowners. Today, we are witnessing the unraveling of anti-poverty programs and the erosion of the social safety net for millions of poor families in the United States and elsewhere. Yet, there is a vacuum of scholarly critique and public discourse over the roles social institutions play in aggravating or alleviating poverty.

The purpose of this one-day conference was to bring together policy makers, government officials, nonprofit organization leaders, local experts, practitioners, activists, educators and researchers to examine innovative programmatic and policy responses aimed at reducing poverty in this post-Great Recession period. The conference included experts from many disciplines providing the opportunity for cross-disciplinary exchange about innovations in practice, policy and research; reflection on current challenges and opportunities in addressing poverty; and visioning about what further is needed.

Explore conference details and papers at the Innovative Programmatic and Policy Responses to Poverty Conference Website: <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1803>.

Recent Book Reviews

By: Robert D. Leighninger, Jr., University of California, Berkeley



When Government Helped: Learning from the Successes and Failures of the New Deal

Sheila D. Collins and Gertrude Schaffner Goldberg. Eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. \$39.95 paperback.

In 2008 did we elect another Franklin Roosevelt or another Herbert Hoover? This wonderfully comprehensive analysis of the New Deal's responses to the Great Depression and the responses of the Obama Administration to the Great Recession addresses that question. It offers detailed comparisons of the two administrations on banking, jobs, agriculture, the environment, labor, social movements, welfare, culture, and general political economy. It documents the similarities and differences in the contexts each had to operate in: the political skills of the president, the available channels of

communication and his ability to use them, the strength and composition of his party, the interest groups and social movements aiding and opposing him, and other environmental, cultural, and international factors that each faced.

Several common themes emerge. One was Roosevelt's superior ability to explain to the electorate what was happening to them, what his policies were intended to accomplish, and to do so with language that identified with traditional American values. Sheila Collins concludes that the most important difference between the two presidents was that Roosevelt had a broader vision of a new age that required the redefinition of old American ideals like "liberty," "security," and "freedom." Obama's "soaring rhetoric" was no substitute for the ability to articulate policy in ways that would "forge alliances and win over adversaries."

Another was Roosevelt's crucial vision of the interrelationships of problems, another point made by Collins, which allowed him to devise policies to combat economic, social, and ecological disasters

Continued on page 7

simultaneously. The Civilian Conservation Corps rescued a hoard of desperate, aimless young men by putting them to work rescuing a ravaged landscape and turning it into splendid recreational opportunities all the while supporting their starving families back home. The Tennessee Valley Authority similarly stopped deforestation and erosion, prevented disastrous flooding, improved commercial navigation, and electrified vast rural areas. Obama's Affordable Care Act may one day come close to matching the multiple impacts of these policies, but his stimulus effort fell far short.

A third was the utility of radical movements to Roosevelt's left. Gertrude Goldberg shows how these multiple groups of dissenters: jobless veterans, unemployed workers, blacks, tenant farmers, elders, and "levelers" like Huey Long and Father Coughlin struck enough fear in the hearts of New Deal opponents that if they did not accept Roosevelt's "slightly-left-of-center" programs they might get something far worse. Richard McIntyre argues that Roosevelt not only used the militants and radicals to further his agenda but controlled their influence within the collective bargaining process that his legislation had made legal. McIntyre sees the Communist-led unions as the most effective at resisting management, and sees the current sorry state of unions as beginning with the purge of the radicals from the New Deal "system." Obama, of course, cannot be blamed for not having enough enemies on the left to frighten the right into compromise. He might, however, have gotten farther by paying more attention to advocates of "the public option" in health reform and less to placating Republicans.

The greatest contrast between presidents is in the area of job creation. The New Deal spawned a dozen programs that created public jobs: huge infrastructure projects; small repair projects; programs for artists, archeologists, draftsmen, totem-pole carvers, and all sorts for white-collar workers. Roosevelt ignored the Republican mantra of supply-side economics and put large amounts of money into the demand side. Investors invest and businesses hire when people buy their goods and services, not when they are offered tax breaks. And it worked. The effects of these public works programs on the economy could be seen both when they were initiated and when they were, twice, temporarily cut back. The second withdrawal in 1937 triggered a recession that set back recovery several years. Philip Harvey tells this story very well. He shows how direct job creation is cheaper and more efficient than stimulating or cajoling the private sector. In contrast, Obama, as Timothy Canova notes, did not believe that the private sector could create jobs. In this he is clearly a Hooverite. And his pitiful stimulus effort showed it. Canova connects this failure of jobs creation to the backlash of the 2010 mid-term elections.

Had he attacked and defeated unemployment first, argues Goldberg, his reform of health care might have had more enthusiastic support. Though I have emphasized Roosevelt's successes, this book is no hagiography. It is as alert to the failures of the New Deal as to Obama's missed opportunities. There is still time to learn from both.

Job Opportunity

The Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston invites applications for a tenure-track mid-level assistant or associate professor, to begin September 1, 2015.

We are looking for candidates who have completed their doctoral degree in political science, public policy or related fields. We seek candidates with policy expertise that is complementary to existing departmental strengths; in particular, we would look favorably on scholars whose research areas are in health policy, immigration policy, or urban

environmental policy. Successful candidates should have a demonstrated track record in conducting high quality, policy-relevant research, strong quantitative methodological skills, possess teaching experience in core curricular areas including offering quantitative methodological course(s), have demonstrated experience in advising and mentoring, and engaging in professional service inside and outside the university.

Review of applications will begin November 15 and continue until filled. Learn more and apply here: <http://bit.ly/1xGFUth>.

UMass Boston provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment.