

2012 Conference
August 16-18
Denver, CO, USA

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Help Needed

Run for Sociology & Social Welfare Division Chair Elect

(If interested email bialik@yu.edu)

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

The other day I woke up from a good dream. I dreamed that I was living in the 21st Century USA, that an African American man with an exotic name had been elected President, that he enacted an (almost) universal health care law -- and that the Supreme Court declared the law constitutional.

I usually am much more negative than this about my country, looking jealously over my shoulder at more comprehensive social welfare systems in Canada, England, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and yes, Cuba. But hey, let's stop and smell the roses of a decent Supreme Court decision, and look ahead to that time in August when we will be together in Denver, hopping from session to session, greeting old friends, and getting to know new ones. I look forward to meeting those of you in this division with whom I have shared emails and Facebook in the last year.

In this newsletter you will see the range of sessions that were developed by the

division alone and in concert with others. In a session with Conflict, Social, Action and Change, entitled Grassroots Women Activists, Mimi Abramovitz will give a historical perspective about Black and White women activists. In addition, Jill B. Jones will talk about casino women organizers, Jennifer Heineman and Crystal Jackson, about sex worker organizers, and I will present my research and travels to understand gender in Sub-Saharan Africa. The discussant for this session will be Nancy Naples.

To complement a session honoring women activists we will honor two women who were selected at the division's last business meeting for the division's 2012 activist scholar award, Mimi Abramovitz and Nancy Naples. A full list of our division's sessions begins on page 3 of the newsletter, and bios of our two activist scholars on page 9.



**World Social Welfare
SSWD**



Pictures of Social Welfare
(direct from Google)



"First, I'm going to wipe out poverty."

My Message Continued

The activist scholar awards will be presented at the division's business meeting in Denver on Thursday, Aug. 16 at 4:30. In addition, we will recognize the three authors of the winning 2011 article in the Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare (JSSW). The authors are Thomas Vartanian, Linda Houser, and Joseph Harkness. I want to thank members of the JSSW editorial board for making this competition happen. Finally (in the category of awards) we have the winner of this year's student paper competition, Najwa Safadi. Thank you, Richard Caputo and Sondra Fogel for your assistance here. This newsletter includes a brief bio of our student winner on page 10.

After our business meeting we will have a memorial for a much loved colleague who had an intimate relationship with SSSP and this division, Alfred Joseph. Keith Kilty's moving description of Alfred appears on page 8 of this newsletter.

I hope to see you this August in Denver Colorado.

Yours,
Joyce Bialik

Update: Members' Achievements



Richard Caputo recently returned from an international sociology conference in Athens, Greece. His recent article is "Patterns and predictors of debt: a panel study, 1985-2008" in the Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, June 2012, pp. 7-29.

From **Michael D. Gillespie** (2011). "Capital Accumulation and Family Economic Deterioration: Historical Contingencies and the "Great Recession" of the United States." The World Review of Political Economy 2(3): 406-40.

Gillespie, Michael D. (2013). "The Economic Deterioration of the Family: Historical Contingencies Preceding the Great Recession." American Journal of Economics and Sociology. 73(2)

More Update

One other forthcoming publication, in a student reader:

Gillespie, Michael D. (2012). "The Criminalization of Welfare: A Historical and Contemporary Analysis of Social Control for the Crime of Poverty" in K. Bell & R. H. McNamara, eds., Dimensions of Crime as a Social Problem. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press.

David Wagner has a new book coming out in August at:

https://www.rienner.com/title/Confronting_Homelessness_Poverty_Politics_and_the_Failure_of_Social_Policy

Also, he will be on a thematic panel at our conference called "The Art and Activism of Research"

And from a very enthusiastic **Leandra Mae Smollin**: "I wanted to let you know about an event I was involved with. I am a Commissioner and member of the Exec. Board for the Massachusetts Commission on GLBT Youth, and the events described below happened last week to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first public hearings on GLBT youth issues in the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth held two Public Hearings in June to gather information and raise awareness about the experiences of GLBT adolescents. The personal testimonies of over 100 youth and their allies, along with research data, will be used to generate policy and program recommendations that are issued annually to various Departments in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Governor Patrick attended one of the hearings and committed the state to working to create a safe environment, as well as work to provide support and health services for GLBT youth. It was actually pretty amazing. I've attached a link to two of the media stories about the hearing" http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/blogs/bostonspirit/2012/06/massachusetts_commission_on_glbt_youth_12.html and <http://hcc.edu/news/glbt-youth>

August 2012 SSSP Conference Sociology and Social Welfare Division Sessions

Date: Thursday, August 16

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM

Session 7: Homelessness and the Art of Advocacy

Room: Mount Evans A (AT)

Sponsor: Sociology and Social Welfare

Organizer, Presider &

Discussant: Tracy Lee Peressini, Renison University College, University of Waterloo

Papers:

"Neighborhood Quality, Satisfaction, and Accessibility: Neighborhood Factors and Mobility Patterns among the Homeless and Formerly Homeless in Chicago," Julie F. Hilvers, Loyola University Chicago

"The Educational Goals of Homeless Youth and Barriers in Reaching these Goals,"

Rachel Peterson, Jamison Fargo and Camille J. Odell, Utah State University, Kathleen Moore, University of Washington and Jayme Day, State of Utah

"Hungry and Homeless in River City: Empowering the Face of the Hungry In the South," Jeffry Will, Candace Tschirki and Tracy A. Milligan, UNF Center for Community Initiatives

"U.S. Foster-Care Placements Following the 2005 Hurricanes," Mary Ann Davis and Lee M. Miller, Sam Houston State University

SSWD Sessions Continued

Date: Thursday, August 16

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM

THEMATIC

Session 16: Use of Art for Advocacy and Social Welfare

Room: Mount Evans A (AT)

Sponsors: Law and Society

Sociology and Social Welfare

Organizer &

Presider: Lisa Frohmann, University of Illinois at Chicago

Papers:

“(Re)Inventing Social Work: Arts-based Approaches Across the Practice Spectrum,”

Kim M. Coleman, McGill University - Centre for Research on Children and Families

“Disrupting Violence Frames: Using Photo-Narratives by Women Who have Been Battered for Individual and Social Change,” Lisa Frohmann, University of Illinois at Chicago

“Graphic Human Rights: Communicating Visually with the Public,” Nancy A. Matthews, Northeastern Illinois University

“Memorials and Reconciliation in Post Genocide Rwanda,” Nicole Fox, Brandeis University

“Personal Healing and Social Change through Art and Activism: Learning from the Girl/Friends Program,” Christine George, Loyola University Chicago, Scheherazade Tillet, A Long Walk Home and Cesraéa Rumpf, Loyola University Chicago

Date: Thursday, August 16

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM

Session 25: The Deconstruction of the Welfare State

Room: Mount Evans A (AT)

Sponsor: Sociology and Social Welfare

Organizer, Presider &

Discussant: Joyce Bialik, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College

Papers:

“Devolving the Carceral State,” Reuben Jonathan Miller, Loyola University Chicago

“High Stakes Education Finance: How State-Sponsored Policy Reproduces Race and Class Inequality,” Kasey Henricks, Loyola University Chicago

“Mothers’ Employment Trajectories in their Children’s Pre-school Years. A Comparative Analysis of Germany, and the United States,” Irene S. Boeckmann, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

“Working with Nature: A Bottom-Up View of Green Jobs Training,” Matthew Hoffmann, Loyola University Chicago

Time: 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM

Session 46: Jobs, Families, and Communities

Room: Mt. Harvard (GH)

Sponsors: Family

Labor Studies

Sociology and Social Welfare

Organizers: Ted M. Brimeyer, Georgia Southern University

April M. Schueths, Georgia Southern University

Presider: April M. Schueths, Georgia Southern University

Continued Session 46: Jobs, Families, and Communities

Papers:

“Creating a Life and Career Resumption after ‘Opting Out:’ Preliminary Results from a Follow-Up Study,” Pamela Stone, Hunter College & Graduate Center, CUNY, Meg C. Lovejoy, Brandeis University and Erin Maurer, Graduate Center, CUNY

“Dignity among Unsettled Lives: Narratives of Displaced Steelworkers,” Paul Carruth, The Ohio State University

“Problematizing Military Families in Academic Literature,” Kristin M. Atwood, University of Calgary

“Sexual Minorities and Income Inequality,” Maura Kelly, Portland State University

“Runaway and homeless youth transitioning to adulthood: An exploration of the risk factors and outcomes for youth served in Transitional Living Programs,” Annette M. Duranso, Widener University

Date: Saturday, August 18

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM

Session 94: Engaging Youth in Social Action

Room: Mt. Princeton (GH)

Sponsors: Conflict, Social Action, and Change
Sociology and Social Welfare

Organizer: Abbilyn M. Harmon, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Presider: Maralee Mayberry, University of South Florida

Papers:

“A Lost Cause? Student Activist Perspectives on Ethical Labeling in the United States,” Joe Curnow, University Toronto and Bradley Wilson, West Virginia University

“Creating Public Value in Schools through Student Engagement,” Phomdaen Souvanna and Jodi Benenson, Brandeis University

“Jouissance and Social Movements,” William Paul Simmons, Arizona State University

“Queers in the Line of Fire: Everyday Activism and Intergroup Dialogue,” Jason Orne, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“The Activism that Never Happened: A Case Study of Youth Volunteerism Following the BP Spill,” Brandi R. Gilbert, University of Colorado at Boulder

Date: Saturday, August 18

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM

Session 106: Grassroots Women Activists

Room: Mt. Princeton (GH)

Sponsors: Conflict, Social Action, and Change
Sociology and Social Welfare

Organizer: Joyce Bialik, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College

Discussant: Nancy Naples, University of Connecticut

Grassroots Women Activists Continued

Papers:

“Casino Women Organizing,” Jill B. Jones, Emeritus, University of Nevada, Reno

“Gendered Obligations: The History of Black and White Low Income Women Activists in US Since 1900,” Mimi Abramovitz, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College and The Graduate Center, CUNY

“Sex Worker Organizers,” Jennifer Heineman and Crystal A. Jackson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

“Sub-Saharan African Women Activists,” Joyce Bialik, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College

Date: Saturday, August 18

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM

Session 129: Radicalism in the 21st Century: Networking and Social Activism

Room: Mt. Princeton (GH)

Sponsors: Conflict, Social Action, and Change

Poverty, Class, and Inequality

Sociology and Social Welfare

Organizer &

President: Tracy Lee Peressini, Renison University College, University of Waterloo

Papers:

“Differences in Social Media Use Among American and Arab Young Adults,” Julie B. Wiest and Nahed Eltantawy, High Point University

“I Can’t Buy a Politician, So I Made This Sign’: A Frame Analysis of Protest Signs from Occupy Wall Street,” Chris Hardnack, University of Oregon

“Democratic immanence: space, body, ritual solidarities, and new forms of governance in the Occupy Wall Street movement,” Paul C. Fuller, St. John Fisher College and Timothy McCorry, Medaille College

“Analyzing new perspectives on Internet participation and mobilization: the case of the Grillini movement in Italy,” Eric Turner, University of New Mexico

“Can New Forms of Social Media Enhance Collaborations Among Health Care Professionals, Researchers, and Advocates?: An Examination of the Popular Twitter Tweetchat, Breast Cancer Social Media (#BCSM),” Melissa Travis, Georgia State University and Gayle Sulik, SUNY Albany

Date: Saturday, August 18

Time: 4:30 PM - 6:10 PM

THEMATIC

Session 137: Global Families and the Art of Research and Activism

Room: Mt. Columbia (GH)

Sponsors: Family

Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Sociology and Social Welfare

Organizer &

President: Nancy J. Mezey, Monmouth University

Global Families and the Art of Research and Activism Continued

Papers:

“Domestic and Global Long-Distance Romantic Relationships and Marriages,”

Orsolya Kolozsvari, Georgia State University

“Negotiating the Cultural Landscape: Fatherhood in the Indian American Community,”

Cynthia B. Sinha, Georgia State University

“Ties That Bind: Family Biography, the U.S. Military, and Multiraciality in Contemporary Filipino America,” Matthew T. M. Andrews, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

“‘It’s Almost Like White Supremacy’: Mixed-Status Couples Resisting Racist Nativism,”

April M. Schueths, Georgia Southern University

“Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIPs) and Their Caregivers: Their Stories and Implications for a Restorative, Inclusive Systemic Response,” Rebecca L. Maniglia, Northern Arizona University

Sociology and Social Welfare

Schedule of Division Sessions and Other Relevant Events

August 15-18 2012, Denver Colorado

Wednesday, August 15

2-6 PM Registration Begins

Thursday, August 16

7:15 AM – 8:15 AM, **New Member Breakfast**

8:30 AM - 10:10 AM, **Homelessness and the Art of Advocacy**, Tracy Lee Peressini

10:30 AM - 12:10 PM, **Use of Art for Advocacy and Social Welfare**, Lisa Frohmann (with Law and Society Division)

12:30 PM - 2:10 PM, **The Deconstruction of the Welfare State**, Joyce Bialik

12:30 PM - 2:10 PM, **Student Paper Session**, Najwa Safadi (SSWD Winner)

2:30 PM - 4:10 PM, **Discussion of Resolutions**, Wendy Chapkis

4:30 PM - 6:10 PM, **Sociology & Social Welfare Division Business Meeting**, ending with **Alfred Joseph Memorial**

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, **Division Sponsored Reception**



Friday , August 17

8:00 AM – 9:40 AM, **Jobs, Family, & Communities**, April Schueths, with Family & Law and Society Divisions.

6:45 AM – 7:45 PM, **Reception honoring Michele Koontz and Past SSSP Presidents**

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM, **Awards Banquet**

Saturday, August 18

8:30 AM – 10:10 AM, **Engaging Youth in Social Action**
Maralee Mayberry, with Conflict, Social Action, and Change

10:30 AM – 12:10 PM, **Grassroots Women Activists**, Nancy Naples, with Conflict, Social Action, and Change

2:30 PM – 4:10 PM, **Radicalism in the 21st Century: Networking and Social Activism**, Tracy Lee Peressini, with Conflict, Social Action, and Change & Poverty, Class, and Inequality.

4:30 PM – 6:10 PM, **Global Families and the Art of Research and Activism**, Nancy J. Mezey, with Family & Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Bios of Division Honorees

Alfred Joseph, associate professor of social work and family studies at Miami University, died April 1, 2012. At the end of our business meeting our Division will join the Poverty, Class and Inequality Division for a tribute to Alfred. The description below reminds us of the tremendous loss to his friends and to the cause of progressivism that his death represents. I wish I knew him. Joyce

Alfred L. Joseph, Jr. (1955-2012) was a tireless advocate for social justice, a scholar, a revered teacher and a cherished husband, father and friend. He was a committed and active member of SSSP for many years. Alfred served as the chair of the Sociology & Social Welfare Division from 2002-2004 and was a member of the Board of Directors at the time of his death. He earned his doctorate from Ohio State University in 1995 and joined the faculty in Social Work and Family Studies at Miami University (Ohio) where he also was an Affiliate in Black World Studies. His research focused on poverty, educational policy and the impact of tracking on disadvantaged children. Alfred served as the Co-Editor for the Journal of Poverty since 2007. He was dedicated to raising consciousness regarding issues of social injustice and the importance of action. He was active locally, nationally and internationally. Alfred always had hope that his efforts could make a difference. They did. His optimism was without bounds, his enthusiasm infectious, his commitment from the heart. He will be remembered with love and respect. We will miss him terribly.

Keith Kilty

Mimi Abramovitz and Nancy Naples will each receive a plaque honoring them as 2011 Sociology and Social Welfare Division Scholar Activists.

Mimi Abramovitz is The Bertha Capen Reynolds Professor of Social Policy at Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, The Graduate Center, CUNY, and a member of the Consortial Faculty at Murphy Institute of Labor Studies and Worker Education. She received her MSW and doctorate from Columbia University School of Social Work

She is widely published in the areas of women, poverty and the welfare state, Her books include *Regulating the Lives of Women: Social Welfare Policy From Colonial Times to the Present*, the award-winning *Under Attack, Fighting Back: Women and Welfare in the U S.* as well as *The Dynamics of Social Welfare Policy*, and *Taxes Are A Women's Issue: Reframing the Debate*. She is currently writing a book entitled *Gender Obligations: The History of Low-Income Women's Activism Since 1900*. Dr. Abramovitz's work is widely used in sociology, history and women's studies as well as in social work courses. Her research has appeared in all the major social work journals as well as in the popular press. She is regularly interviewed by the print media, and broadcast media and is a frequent keynote speaker at local, national, and international meetings.

An activist and a scholar, Dr Abramovitz has worked with welfare rights and labor organizations and is the recipient of several prestigious awards from top social work organizations including The Council of Social Work Education and the New York City chapter of the National Association of Social Work and the Columbia University School of Social Work Hall of Fame.

Nancy Naples holds a joint appointment in Sociology and Women's Studies at the University of Connecticut. She has also held faculty appointments at the University of California, Irvine; Iowa State University, and SUNY Purchase. She was President of Sociologists for Women in Society in 2004 and the Society for the Study of Social Problems from 2007 to 2008. She is currently the President of the Eastern Sociological Society. Her research on citizenship, social policy, immigration, and community activism has been published in numerous journals and edited books. Her scholarship includes publication of two sole authored books, four edited books, twenty-five journal articles, twenty seven book chapters, and many book reviews and other publications. Her first book, *Grassroots Warriors: Activist Mothering, Community Work and the War on Poverty*, received Honorable Mention from the Section on Race, Class and Gender of the *American Sociological Association (ASA)* and was a finalist for the C. Wright Mills Award, sponsored by the *Society for the Study of Social Problems*. Her most recent book, *The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossing and Mexican Immigrant Men* by Lionel Cantú' and co-edited with Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, received the 2010 Best Book Award from the Sexualities Section of the ASA and Honorable Mention from the Latino Studies Section of the Latin American Studies Association.

She has received numerous grants for her research including funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, the Center for U.S. Mexican Studies, U.C. Mexus, and the ASA's Spivack Program on Applied Social Research as well as from ASA's Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline and the National Science Foundation. She received the 2008 Faculty Excellence Award in Research (Humanities/Social Sciences) given by Uconn's Alumni Association and the 2011 Excellence in Research Award for Social Sciences from UConn's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She also received the 2010 Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Award and the 2011 Feminist Mentor Award from Sociologists for Women in Society.

And we wish to honor **Najwa Safadi** who won the Division Student Paper Competition. Ms. Safadi's paper is entitled "Formulating Anti-Poverty Policies in Emerging Countries: The Case of Palestine." It focuses on investigating the dynamics of decision-making in formulating anti-poverty policies in Palestine. Anti-poverty policy in Palestine is complicated by Palestine's unique political status. Palestine has experienced a long history of occupied status, and now has limited self-rule on some parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Yet, the formulation of anti-poverty policies in Palestine has received little scholarly attention. Therefore, the present study addresses this deficiency. It identifies the key decision makers and their roles, and how the power relationship among them has influenced the process of formulating anti-poverty policies.

Najwa Safadi is originally from Palestine, and in May 2012 completed her Ph.D. in social work at the Graduate School of Social Work at Boston College. She earned her Masters in Social Work with a concentration in community organization from McGill University in Canada. Her research interests are poverty and social policy with an emphasis on formulating and implementing anti-poverty policies, international aid and anti-poverty policies, government performance and social welfare, and civic engagement and social services, in Global South countries. She recently published two articles: **Safadi, N.** & Lombe, M. (2011) Exploring the Relationship between Trust in Government and the Provision of Social Service in Countries of the Global South: The Case of Palestine. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 37 (4). Lombe, M., **Safadi, N.** & Newransky, Ch. (2011). Predictors of Welfare and Child outcomes in Female-headed Households in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Comparative Social Welfare*, 27 (1).

Additionally, she has several years of experience in teaching and social work practice in Jerusalem. She will start her new job next September as assistant professor at Al-Quds University, Department of Social Work in Palestine.

Dr. Safadi will present her winning paper at the conference on Thursday, August 16 in the 12:30 – 2:10 timeslot.

Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare Best Article Award

This is a year for awards, and we are pleased to include an award for best 2011 article in the Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare (JSSW). Selected by the journal's Editorial Board, the article, is entitled: "Food Stamps and Dependency: Disentangling the Short-term and Long-term Economic Effects of Food Stamp Receipt and Low Income for Young Mothers" by **Thomas. P. Vartanian, Linda Houser, and Joseph Harkness** (December 2011). Each of the authors will receive a plaque.

The **Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare** promotes the understanding of social welfare by applying social science knowledge, methodology and technology to problems of social policy, politics, the social ecology, and social services. The Journal provides an outstanding book review section as a regular feature of each issue. Since its first printing in 1974, *JSSW* has published articles on such topics as social change, gender, race, homelessness, social welfare history, cultural diversity, international social welfare, and the social dimensions of health and mental health.

Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare Continued

JSSW is published quarterly in March, June, September and December of each year. At least one issue in every year is dedicated to a special theme. The 2006 March issue, for example, is a [Special Issue](#) on Coping with Poverty.

The Editorial Board includes outstanding scholars such as Mimi Abramowitz, Pallassana Balgopal, Richard M. Grinnell, Jr., Alice K. Johnson, Wilma Peebles-Wilkins, Eunice Shatz, and John Tropman. *JSSW* is sponsored jointly by Western Michigan University, the College of Health and Human Services, and School of Social Work. The substantial support of Arizona State University in the publication of the journal is gratefully acknowledged.

Division 2012 Resolutions

Two resolutions from this division appear starting on the next page. They address (i) wildfires and (ii) African American men, criminal justice, and education. A number of you emailed me to suggest I include the latter topic this year instead of waiting for next year, and David Wagner urged me to stress decriminalization of drugs as a remedy. I was hesitant about doing this, feeling that decriminalization was very far from the national agenda. As I was preparing to write the resolutions, a funny thing happened: I googled drug decriminalization, and found an article that was just posted by Drucker of the Mailman School for Public Health, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ernest-drucker/decriminalization-of-drug_b_1656045.html It describes 21 countries that have decriminalized drugs, and the policy's neutral and positive effects.

Also, please forgive the WHEREASes. They are a part of SSSP resolution tradition, and I was told are necessary.

Proposed Resolution (i)
Denver, Colorado, 2012
African American Men, Criminal Justice, and Education

WHEREAS poorly educated young African American men are disproportionately confined in prisons, having grown up in residential areas that receive disproportionately low expenditure levels for educating them; and

WHEREAS studies in the USA show that African Americans are at especially high risk of incarceration for drug crimes, with about 12 percent of black men in their twenties in prison or jail, a rate that increases for those who lack a high school diploma (Pettit & Western, 2004); and

WHEREAS the use and sale of alcohol, another addictive substance, had been decriminalized in the USA with a constitutional amendment, and drugs have been decriminalized in 21 countries (Drucker, 2012); and

WHEREAS legalizing alcohol and drugs have not lead to an increase in the use of these substances, but have very substantially decreased imprisonment rates (Drucker, 2012); and

WHEREAS implementing a new law in the USA that would decriminalize drugs would reduce the prison numbers for all Americans, including African American men; and

WHEREAS we are losing too many African American men to prisons, decreased life chances, reduced earnings capacity and reduced family involvement, while our economy and society are losing their participation and productivity; and

WHEREAS decriminalizing drugs is not enough of a solution for poor African American men as long as their access to good primary and secondary schools is limited; and

WHEREAS resources for education in the USA are derived from property taxes that produce less revenue for low income neighborhoods where African Americans disproportionately reside (Card & Payne, 2002); and

WHEREAS the most recent period when African American men as a whole were doing better economically in the USA was when this country had a significant manufacturing sector (Holzer & Offner, 2004); and

WHEREAS good manufacturing jobs do not require college degrees, employment in today's communication and technical economy does; and

WHEREAS education reform must include an end to property-tax based funding, the effects of which have been shown to decrease the spending gap between richer and poorer districts and narrow test scores between socio-economic groups (2002); and

WHEREAS without this reform we are not dealing with the problem of unequal schools for Black and White students that was supposed to be addressed in 1954 with the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision.

Resolution on African American Men Continued

Sources

Card, D & Payne A. A. (2002). School finance reform, the distribution of school spending, and the distribution of student test scores. *Journal of Public Economics*, 83, 49–82.

Drucker, E. (2012). The Huffington Post. Retrieved July 7, 2012 from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ernest-drucker/decriminalization-of-drug_b_1656045.html.

Holzer, H. J., & Offner, P. (2004). The puzzle of Black male unemployment. *Public Interest*, 154, 74-79.

Pettit, B & Western, B. (2004). Mass imprisonment and the life course: race and class inequality in U.S. incarceration. *American Sociological Review*, 69/2, 151-168

Proposed Resolution (ii) Denver, Colorado, 2012 Wildfires: An Urgent Concern

WHEREAS in June 2012 the Denver Post reported a wildfire in northern Colorado that scorched 85 square miles and destroyed 112 or more homes (6/16/12); and

WHEREAS studies show an increase in the duration and intensity of wildfires since 1986, in the USA and Canada, coinciding with longer and warmer summers with less precipitation accompanied by further buildup of greenhouse gases because of the increase in carbon emissions from the fires; and

WHEREAS seasonal firefighting expenditures by governments are reaching \$1.7 billion, an unfortunately large amount that could instead be used for such social benefits as health and education (Running, 2006); and

WHEREAS the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, acknowledging the threat of global warming, is studying how to maintain and enhance forests and grasslands; and

WHEREAS this action by the US government addresses only part of the broader problem of global warming and the accumulation of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS legislation for a cap-and-trade global warming reduction plan similar to what has been implemented successfully in Europe failed to pass the US Senate in 2009 (OpenCongress, 2012); and

WHEREAS this failure to pass cap-and-trade in the USA is feeding these forest fires, which will only grow more deadly if we do not act with necessary speed; and

THEREFORE be it resolved that the membership of SSSP authorizes and directs the Administrative Office to publicly express the SSSP's support of cap-and-trade legislation that is designed to have a significant impact on reducing greenhouse gases, that will in turn reduce the intensity of wildfires and the significant loss of lives and property and billions of tax dollars fighting the fires.

Wildfire Resolution Continued

Sources

Denver Post (2012). Retrieved June 16, 2012 from <http://www.denverpost.com/H.R.2454> - American Clean Energy And Security Act of 2009. Retrieved June 23 from <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h2454/show>

Running, S.W. (2006). Is Global Warming Causing More, Larger Wildfires? *Science*, 313, 927 – 928.

USDA Forest Service and Development (2012). Retrieved June 23, 2012 from <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/climate/>

At the conference, please join me 2:30 – 4:10 August 16 when we will discuss the full set of 2012 proposed resolutions.