

The Southern Sociologist

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PREPARATION FOR THE 72ND ANNUAL SSS MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS

KATHLEEN F. SLEVIN
PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

The Southern Sociological Society's Program and Local Arrangements Committees are hard at work to ensure the success of this year's meeting in New Orleans. The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held on April 1-4 at the venerable Hotel Monteleone in the heart of the French Quarter. It promises to be both exciting and to be very well attended. Program Co-Chairs Graham Ousey and Matt Lee received over 1,000 submissions for the meetings. So, mark your calendars and be sure to renew your membership--if you have not done so already. Also, make hotel reservations early as there is likely to be strong competition for rooms.

The theme for the 2009 meetings in New Orleans will be: **"Inequalities Across the Life Course."** This theme is intentionally broad and allows us to explore the vast and exciting scholarship that has emerged in recent decades around both the causes and consequences of inequality. Among the many sessions, there will be significant attention paid to post-Katrina New Orleans;

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FROM THE PRESIDENT, KATE SLEVIN

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we will have a wonderful opportunity to learn from our own colleagues how things have changed (or not) in New Orleans since that fateful event. With your contributions, and those of leading scholars such as ASA President, Patricia Hill Collins, I have no doubt that the 2009 meetings will be provocative, exciting, and fun.

Key committees that are working diligently behind the scenes to make the New Orleans meetings both intellectually stimulating and enjoyable deserve thanks and recognition from all of us. They are:

Program Committee: Co-Chairs: Graham Ousey, College of William and Mary, and Matthew Lee, Louisiana State University. Members: Verna Keith, Florida State University; Mariano Sana, Louisiana State University; John Bartkowski, University of Texas, San Antonio; Jody Clay-Warner, University of Georgia; Elizabeth Gorman, University of Virginia; Steve McDonald, North Carolina State University; Adia Harvey, Georgia State University; Lois Benjamin, Hampton University; Dana Berkowitz, Louisiana State University; Charis Kubrin, George Washington University; Neal King, Virginia Tech; Shannon Davis, George Mason University; Anne Barrett, Florida State University; Michael Maume, University of North Carolina-Wilmington; Nicole Carr, University of South Alabama; Sal Saporito, College of William and Mary; Pamela Wilcox, University of Cincinnati; and Rebecca Powers, East Carolina University.

Local Arrangements Committee: Chair: Carl Bankston, Tulane University. Members: April Brayfield, Tulane University; Amy Hite Bellone, Xavier University; Tony Ladd, Loyola University; Francis Adeola, University of New Orleans; Vy Dao, Tulane University; Farrah Gafford, Xavier University; and Diane Grams, Tulane University.

Exhibit Coordinators: Thomas J. Linneman, College of William and Mary, and Kathleen E. Jenkins, College of William and Mary.

What could be better than spring in New Orleans? I look forward to seeing you there in a few months!

Kate Slevin
College of William and Mary

Membership Database Now Online

Members can check to see if they've paid this year's dues, remembered to register for the annual conference, or search for other SSS members in their state or areas of inquiry. From the home page (<http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/index.html>), click on member page from the left hand side of the page (http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/member_search.php).

Call for SSS Awards Nominations

The process for nominating candidates for SSS awards is described below. To the extent that nomination letters and supporting materials can be emailed, this is preferable as emailing will expedient sharing the materials with the Honors Committee members. Anything that cannot be emailed can be submitted by regular mail. However, an email letter of nomination and other submitted materials must be received by the deadline of January 15 to be considered.

Please email materials to Toni Calasanti ([mailto: toni@vt.edu](mailto:toni@vt.edu)). Snail mail can be sent to:

Toni Calasanti
Dept. of Sociology
648 McBryde Hall
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Roll of Honor

The greatest recognition given by the Southern Sociological Society is an appointment to the Roll of Honor. This award recognizes a career of distinguished intellectual contribution to Sociology. Awardees must be members of the Southern Sociological Society (or made significant contributions to Sociology while a member of SSS) and have made stellar contributions to the discipline across their career.

Nomination Procedure:

- 1) Nominations for the Roll of Honor may be submitted by any member of the Society to the chairperson of the Honors Committee.
- 2) At least five letters of nomination, the majority being from current members, shall be received and reviewed by the Honors Committee. These letters should address the purpose and qualifications stated above and should be accompanied by supporting documentation. The letters of nomination will be presented to the honoree when the award is made.
- 3) Nominations may be made at any time during the year. To be considered for an award to be made at the next meeting of the Society, they must be complete by January 15.

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Call for SSS Awards Nominations

(Continued from page 3)

Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award

The purpose of this award is to honor individuals, departments, schools, institutions, or other collective actors for their outstanding contributions to the teaching of sociology at the undergraduate and/or graduate level. The award may recognize contributions over the course of a career, over the history of a program, or for a specific project or projects.

Teaching is broadly defined to include: classroom instruction, curriculum design, directing and mentoring students, developing instructional materials, producing educational films or videos, creating educational software or web sites, writing or editing textbooks or teacher manuals, conducting workshops on pedagogy, training student teachers, and publishing teaching-related research. Recipients of the award are expected to have excelled in one or more of these areas, and have a minimum of five years teaching experience (or be a program that has been in existence for at least five years). This is not an award simply for being an outstanding classroom teacher at one's own institution, but is intended to honor individuals or collective actors whose contributions, though they may result from classroom teaching, go beyond their institutions to benefit the discipline as a whole.

This award includes the opportunity for the recipient or others on their behalf to arrange a session at the next annual meeting if appropriate and desired.

Nominations should include:

- 1) the name(s) and address(es) of the nominee;
- 2) three letters of recommendation (one of which is from the nominator) explaining how the nominee has excelled in the teaching of sociology;
- 3) the nominee's curriculum vitae or, in the case of collective actors, program description, which includes a list of activities that fall under the areas above; and
- 4) relevant supporting materials (syllabi, student evaluations, textbooks, manuals, and any other evidence that demonstrate contributions to the teaching of sociology). Nominees may also independently send supporting materials. Both the nominee and the nominator must be members of the Southern Sociological Society.

Nominations are due by January 15.

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Call for SSS Awards Nominations

(Continued from page 4)

Distinguished Lectureship Award

A new award, The Southern Sociological Society Distinguished Lectureship Award, may be awarded annually to a member of the Southern Sociological Society in recognition of his/her excellence as a scholar and lecturer. This award has three key goals. First, it allows the Society to honor one of its distinguished scholar/teachers in a public manner. Second, it allows SSS to provide a much-needed resource to departments that typically lack the resources to bring distinguished scholars to their campuses. Third, it serves to promote SSS.

Criteria: The criteria are twofold: first, the nominee must be a distinguished scholar who is recognized as having made a significant contribution to the discipline through major publications. Second, evidence must be provided which demonstrates that the nominee is an excellent lecturer. The honoree, who receives an honorarium of \$500 and the honorific title of Southern Sociological Society Distinguished Lecturer for the year awarded, must commit to giving a minimum of two public lectures at SSS region colleges/universities in that year. As with similar awards, the location of the lectures will be chosen on a competitive basis by a selection committee; institutions with fewer resources will be given priority. Ideally, expenses will be shared by institutions and SSS. The latter will help support the lecture series by contributing up to \$1,000 to subsidize travel and other expenses. The honoree may also deliver a lecture in a special session dedicated to that end at the SSS annual meeting in the year following his/her designation.

Nomination Procedure:

- 1) Any member of the SSS may submit a nomination but self-nominations are not accepted.
- 2) The nominee must be a member of SSS.
- 3) The primary nominator should submit a packet of materials including several letters endorsing the nomination (the majority of them from current SSS members), the nominee's curriculum vitae, particular publications and evidence of excellence in teaching (student evaluations, syllabi and other supporting documentation).

Nominations must be submitted by January 15.

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Call for SSS Awards Nominations

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Charles S. Johnson Award

Nominations are now being solicited for the Charles S. Johnson Award, given by the SSS to an individual in recognition of distinguished scholarly contributions on race and the South. The individual's contribution may be an exceptional single work, several pieces of work, or a significant career of professional achievement.

This award includes the opportunity for the recipient or others on their behalf to arrange a session at the next annual meeting if appropriate and desired.

Nomination Procedure: Any member of the SSS may submit a nomination but self-nominations are not accepted. The primary nominator should submit a package including several letters endorsing the nomination (the majority of them from current SSS members), the nominee's curriculum vitae, particular publications and/or other supporting documentation. Nominations must be submitted by January 15.

Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award

This yearly award recognizes distinguished scholarly contributions to the understanding of gender and society. The award honors a single work, several pieces of work, or a significant career of professional achievements. This award includes the opportunity for the recipient or others on their behalf to arrange a session at the next annual meeting if appropriate and desired.

Nomination Procedure:

- 1) Any member of the SSS may submit a nomination but self-nominations are not accepted.
- 2) The nominee must be a member of SSS.
- 3) The primary nominator should submit a packet of materials including several letters endorsing the nomination (the majority of them from current SSS members), the nominee's curriculum vitae, particular publications and other supporting documentation.

Nominations must be submitted by January 15.

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Call for SSS Awards Nominations

(Continued from page 6)

The Martin L. Levin Distinguished Service Award

The purpose of the award is to honor outstanding service to the Southern Sociological Society. This honor recognizes those members who have made exemplary contributions to the Southern Sociological Society through direct service over a lifetime or significant portion of their professional careers. Their contributions should have been vital in fulfilling the Society's mission and sustaining its annual meetings. Their record may include serving in major fiduciary and organizational leadership roles, either as an officer or chair/member of committees, or as a program chair, session organizer, discussant, etc.; or it may involve providing leadership for innovative changes in the organization and functioning of the Society, in building the Society's membership, or in other ways. Recipients of this award are expected to have been members of the Society for a considerable portion of their careers.

Nominations should include:

- 1) the name and address of the nominee;
- 2) three letters of recommendation (one of which is from the nominator) highlighting the nominee's service to the Southern Sociological Society;
- 3) the nominee's curriculum vitae;
- 4) relevant supporting documents illustrating contributions to service. Both the nominators and the recipient must be members of the Southern Sociological Society. This award need not be presented annually but will be offered in years when the Honors Committee determines that a nominee truly merits this recognition.

The deadline for nominations is January 15.

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2009 Annual Meeting

April 1-4, 2009
Hotel Monteleone
New Orleans



Call for SSS Awards Nominations

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Odum Awards for Undergraduate and Graduate Papers

Are you working with a student who has written an outstanding paper? Consider nominating the student for the Odum Award, which carries a cash prize of \$100 and up to an additional \$200 toward expenses of attendance at the SSS meeting. The Odum Award recognizes outstanding research papers by undergraduates and graduates in the southern region or by students outside the region with work mentored by current SSS members. One award may be given each year for the best undergraduate paper and best graduate paper submitted on any sociological topic.

Eligibility: The paper must have only one author and conform to the style guidelines and length conventions of *Social Forces*. The student author need not be a member of the SSS. It is expected that the author will not have presented the paper at another professional meeting. Papers will be judged on the basis of originality, clarity of exposition, conceptualization, and analysis. Faculty are asked to nominate no more than one student paper in each category per year. Students who have gone on to graduate or professional school are eligible for the undergraduate award if the paper was written when they were enrolled in an undergraduate degree program.

Authors of the Odum award-winning papers are expected to attend the SSS Annual Meeting to receive their award. Students are expected to present their papers at the annual meeting. If the winning paper had not previously been submitted and accepted for presentation at the time the committee makes its award decision, the paper will be added to the program.

Nominating Procedure for **Undergraduate Papers:**

- 1) The undergraduate papers should be submitted by a member of the SSS who attests that the author meets the conditions of eligibility.

Nominating Procedure for **Graduate Papers:**

- 1) Graduate students may submit their own papers.
- 2) Submission should come with the endorsement of a member of the graduate institution's faculty who is a member of the SSS and who attests that the author is a student in good standing.

Deadline: Email the nominated paper by January 15.

Please email materials for all awards to Toni Calasanti (<mailto:toni@vt.edu>). Snail mail can be sent to: Toni Calasanti, Department of Sociology, 648 McBryde Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Spring 2009 SSS Meetings Local Arrangements Committee on New Orleans

Carl Bankston
Chair, Local Arrangements

The SSS Local Arrangements Committee is excited about the upcoming meeting in New Orleans. We will be posting information about events and activities in New Orleans. For now, we want to alert our members to the fact that we have tentatively booked “The Baby Boyz” Brass Band for the Presidential reception. The band is made of young New Orleans residents, and we hope they will give our members a taste of New Orleans culture beyond the tourist experience, and demonstrate the local, grass-roots nature of the arts in this city. A view of the band can be found at their MySpace page at <http://viewmorepics.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewPicture&friendID=282109067&albumId=46444>, although you might keep in mind that the band manager, Glenn Hall, cautions me that they need to update their page.

For those seeking a perspective on current controversies and social issues in New Orleans, Jay Arena, a longtime activist in the New Orleans area and current faculty member at the CUNY College of Staten Island, has offered to organize tours of the former public housing sites in New Orleans. These tours are to include the participation of displaced public housing residents and other involved parties. Jay will be coordinating his tours with the Local Arrangements Committee, as well as the Program Committee in order to assure that all of our interested members have the opportunity to participate. In the meantime, he has generously offered to provide background on the housing question in the city. He can be contacted at [mailto: Arena@mail.csi.cuny.edu](mailto:Arena@mail.csi.cuny.edu).



If you have any questions or any suggestions for your Local Arrangement Committee, please feel free to contact me at [mailto: cbankst@tulane.edu](mailto:cbankst@tulane.edu).

The preliminary program for the 2009 Annual Meeting is available at <http://southernsociologicalsociety.org/assets/SSS%20Preliminary%20Program%202009.pdf>

2009 SSS Meetings—Special Book Exhibit

The 2009 meeting of the Southern Sociological Society will include a special book exhibit organized and managed by the LIBRARY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE. The exhibit will bring together a wide range of titles covering the full spectrum of books on sociology. The exhibit will contribute substantially to the intellectual value of our conference by providing a comprehensive collection of the latest and most significant publications.

If you are an AUTHOR and wish to have your book included in the exhibit, please respond by email to LSSBookExhibits@earthlink.net or fax it to 413-832-8145 providing the following information:

1. The title(s) of the book(s) you are recommending, and date(s) of publication.
2. The name(s) of the publisher(s).
3. The name, telephone number, and e-mail address of your contact at each publishing company.

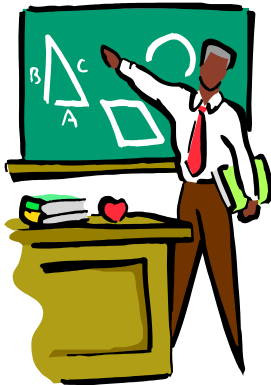
Please be sure to include your own name, telephone number, and e-mail address with the information that you send, so Library of Social Science can follow up if additional information is required.

If there are other titles that you wish to recommend for inclusion in the display, simply provide the name of the books and their authors.

To obtain additional information on the book exhibit, authors or publishers may call Mei Ha Chan at 718-393-1075 or fax 413-832-8145

EQUIPMENT

LCD projectors will be available for all panel and paper presentations to facilitate computer-based presentations. However, presenters or panel organizers will need to bring their own computers. A limited number of overhead projectors will be made available, on request only. Information on requesting an overhead projector will be distributed to members in March.



The Teaching Corner



Denise L. Bissler, Chair
Randolph-Macon College
Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges

Committee Members

Chair: Denise Bissler, Randolph Macon College, dbissler@rmc.edu
Chandrouti Persaud, Mississippi Valley State, persaudmvsu@yahoo.com
Karen Mundy, Lee University, Kmundy@leeuniversity.edu
Caroline Whitehead, Craven Community College, whitehec@craven.cc.edu
Daniel Harrison, Lander University, dharrison@lander.edu
Lisa Peloquin, Elon University, artemis@elon.edu

Please feel free to contact any of these individuals with ideas or suggestions for our committee.

Work of the Committee

The committee is excitedly preparing for the upcoming 2009 meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in New Orleans. We are organizing several sessions and a dinner out for faculty at teaching institutions. We are still accepting submissions for the teaching corner as well. Please see below for information needed for The Teaching Corner and for the 2009 meetings.

Information Needed for The Teaching Corner

The committee is responsible for writing "The Teaching Corner." Please remember that the information in "The Teaching Corner" comes from you! For the Spring issue, Daniel Harrison of Lander University will be Guest Editor. Please send your *ideas, classroom exercises, videos, out-of-class assignments, service learning techniques*, or any other material that you have found to be effective in improving students' understanding of course material to him at dharr-

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The Teaching Corner

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[son@lander.edu](mailto:dharrison@lander.edu), or by mail to him at Daniel Harrison, Lander University, Department of Political and Social Sciences, 320 Stanley Ave., Greenwood, SC 29649-2099. Please include in your submission some brief biographical information, title of exercise or technique, what courses the technique could be used for, and a brief description of the exercise or technique.

Also, we would still like to include in The Teaching Corner, a *faculty spotlight* and an *undergraduate student spotlight* in order to highlight the achievements of some of our SSS members from small and community colleges. If you know of a faculty member or undergraduate student who deserves recognition for outstanding teaching, research, or activism, please send a short commentary and pictures to Daniel Harrison (dharrison@lander.edu).

Lastly, please let us know of any *websites* that you have found particularly helpful in your teaching. Please send the link with a brief description of the website and how you have used it to Daniel Harrison (dharrison@lander.edu).

Information Needed for the 2009 Meetings

Again, the committee is currently seeking ideas on how to increase participation in SSS among faculty at small and community colleges. Please contact Denise Bissler (dbissler@rmc.edu) or another committee member with any suggestions or comments for increasing participation.

We are excited to be organizing a *dinner* out for faculty and students who teach at small and community colleges. The dinner will be on *Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.* We will meet in the lobby of the Hotel Monteleone at 6:30 p.m. The dinner offers the opportunity for individuals at these institutions to gather in a casual setting to discuss issues of importance at these institutions, to network, or to simply socialize. Please let me know (Denise Bissler: dbissler@rmc.edu) if you are interested in attending the dinner. We will do our best to find a restaurant that will be affordable for all of you and offers a variety of menu selections.

Lastly, the committee on sociology in small and community colleges will be sponsoring several *sessions* at the 2009 meetings. Four sessions should be listed in your program: “The Pros and Cons of Online vs. Brick-n-Mortar Teaching in Sociology”; “Active and Community Based Learning in Small and Community Colleges”; “Assessment in the Undergraduate Classroom”; and “Do You Want to Work at a Small or Community College?” We hope you have the chance to attend one of these sessions.

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The Teaching Corner

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Teaching Exercise

Teaching Strain Theory through Puzzles

Kennon Rice is an assistant professor of Sociology at Albright College in Reading, PA. His specialty areas include crime and inequality. He earned his Ph.D. at North Carolina State University in 2003.

Utility: I typically conduct this exercise after assigning students to read Messner and Rosenfeld's *Crime and the American Dream*, although I have also used it to cover Merton's classic strain theory with only minor alterations. I have used it in various courses related to criminology in several different university environments and with classes ranging from 20 to 50 students. Moreover, I have taught the exercise to several colleagues who have also reported success with the activity.

Materials Needed:

- Approximately 1 mailing envelope for every student in the class
- 1-3 sets of scissors
- Approximately 3 pieces of individually wrapped candy per student (Hershey's Kisses work well)
- 1 page of white 8.5X11 paper for every envelope and a handful of extra sheets

Procedure:

- 1) Cut the white 8.5X11 sheets of paper into rough "jigsaw puzzles." Each should be cut into 6-10 pieces. Resist the urge to use pictures, drawings, colored, or heavier stock paper, as doing so promotes inhibitions among students to defacing them, and makes certain forms of "deviance" more difficult. Place one puzzle in each mailing envelope.
- 2) Tamper with 10-20% of the puzzles by removing one of the pieces, or swapping pieces out with another puzzle. This is designed so that some of the puzzles are impossible to complete by the ordinary conventions of jigsaw puzzle construction. Mark the envelopes that these altered puzzles are contained in so that you can keep track of when and to whom they are distributed. The marking should be done in such a way that it is not obvious to the students that these puzzles are any different from any of the other puzzles.
- 3) Conceal the scissors on your body (e.g., in a pocket).
- 4) Upon arriving in the classroom, divide the class into groups of three individuals. (Three is a number that allows everyone to be involved, but is large enough to inspire confidence in individuals as they see it is "not just them" that might be having trouble with a puzzle.)

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The Teaching Corner

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- 5) Deliver one envelope to each group. Tell the class that they are going to be playing a competitive game for treats (e.g., Hershey's Kisses). Explain that each of the envelopes contains a jigsaw puzzle and that every time their group successfully completes a puzzle everyone in the group will receive a treat. Show them a plain sheet of paper and note that it represents the finished product that each of the puzzles should represent when completed.
- 6) Instruct them that whenever a puzzle is completed you will come to their group delivering the treats they had earned, and delivering another puzzle to their possession. However, they are not to eat the chocolates immediately, but rather are to amass the chocolates until the end of the game.
- 7) If questions arise about "other rules," casually shrug them off by noting that they've all done jigsaw puzzles before and they are just to complete them the same way they would any other jigsaw puzzle.
- 8) Make a dramatic display of starting the game with a countdown and allowing the students to open simultaneously their envelopes.
- 9) Groups that have intact puzzles will complete them in approximately 2-5 minutes depending on group skill, complexity of the puzzle and student motivation. Students who have altered puzzles will begin to discover that something is not what it seems in just slightly more time. They will begin to feel confused and slightly frustrated and typically will summon the instructor over to inquire if some kind of mistake hadn't been made with their puzzle. Even very polite students eventually resort to this questioning when they see the mounds of treats accumulating on their classmates' desks.
- 10) When the instructor is summoned to a stumped group, it should be considered an opportunity to "stress ends relative to means." When they insist the puzzle can't be completed, shrug them off, telling them it's not your problem. If your rapport with your class allows it, you may even want to tease them with comments such as, "it's not my fault if you're not smart enough to solve it." Such teasing usually alerts students that standard classroom norms are not in play. You may also want to make comments such as, "I don't care what you do, I need to see an 8.5X11 sheet of paper before you get a treat," or "this is the lot you drew in life, do with it what you will, but that chocolate sure looks good." These comments and their like will encourage students to contextualize the exercise within the material of the course and encourage them to see it as a simulation with greater complexity than merely a puzzle completion exercise.
- 11) Finally, if none of the stumped groups seem willing to "innovate," leave scissors on their desks/tables as you walk away from your consultation with them. This step certainly is not always necessary, as students often get the hint by this point. Nonetheless, if I resort to this step, I usually attempt to do this as subtly as possible as the discovery of scissors moments

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The Teaching Corner

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later adds mirth to the game and makes the suggested downplay of “means” less heavy handed.

12) Typical responses to your actions include: cutting pieces of paper to fit the gaps in their puzzles, putting other white paper beneath their puzzles to make them appear complete when they are not, taking pieces from other groups, salvaging pieces from puzzles they may have

completed previous to encountering a “problem puzzle,” etc. When encountering these acts of “innovation,” merely wink and dispense the treats!

End the game when all the puzzles or chocolate has been distributed, or when the point of the exercise seems obvious to all. This exercise usually takes about 25 minutes total. Discuss the results of the game by making the following points:

- Ask the groups that innovated, “Why did you innovate the way you did?” “How would Merton/Messner & Rosenfeld explain it?” Point out that what they were experiencing was a state of collective anomie. Frustration may have been present, but the primary impetus was a feeling that the “means” are not being regarded as very important by the instructor or classmates, but the ends were coveted by all. Anomie/normlessness and frustration are not the same thing.
- Moreover, a disproportionate emphasis on “ends” is not the same as “greed.” They didn’t have to be desperate for chocolate to stoop to cheating; they merely had to perceive there to be little inhibition against it.
- Messages about the relative importance of the “ends” and “means” are socially communicated. How did it occur here?
- Culture is often expressed in and reproduced by social structure. How did that happen in this exercise?
- Where did the feeling of anomie come from? Anomie exists as a social phenomenon. They had to look to their instructor and classmates to experience it. Without those interactions no messages about norms are sent. An individual does not experience anomie in isolation and sources of deviance may be external to the individual.
- An assortment of Merton’s modes of adaptation can be observed by different groups. Conformists fail to resolve their dilemma, but continue to follow conventions by continuing to try anyway. Retreatists give up, sit back and watch, do their homework, etc. Innovators “cheat.” I’m not sure I’ve ever seen “rebellion” in this exercise, but it is easy to imagine the forms it might take if stakes were higher and sustained over time (e.g., reports to the dean, seizing the treats or puzzles, rallying the class to a “collective” solution to the dilemma, etc.)
- I usually end, by segueing into more direct parallels to “Crime and the American Dream” and a more direct discussion of the content of the book. What are the real world parallels to what we modeled here?

The Teaching Corner

Websites for Teaching about Sociological Issues

Death Penalty Information Center <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/>

Submitted by Denise Bissler, Randolph-Macon College

This website offers a vast amount of information on the death penalty including crimes punishable by the death penalty to the debate on the arbitrary nature of the death penalty. The site features facts on history to sentencing, resources from articles to quizzes, and video clips.

Pew Social and Demographic Trends <http://pewsocialtrends.org/>

Submitted by Amy Armenia, Randolph-Macon College

This website from the Pew Research Center is great for finding recent and readable blurbs on social trends related to gender, race/ethnicity, class, and family. Handouts from the website are useful for class. The trends are used to stimulate discussion on course material.

Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism <http://faculty.plattsburgh.edu/richard.robbins/legacy/default.htm>

Submitted by Beth Gill, Randolph-Macon College

This site is designed to provide support materials for the book, Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism (4th Edition) by Richard H. Robbins (Allyn & Bacon Publishers, 2008). The website provides a myriad of Internet resources on perspectives on global issues, capitalist legacies, utopian alternatives, social action opportunities, and public policy. In addition, it is a great site for those interested or concerned with the consequences of the global expansion of capitalism.

Computer Projected Maps:

Submitted by Beth Gill, Randolph-Macon College

These are the top websites for computer generated maps for those instructors who have occasion to use computer projected maps in their classes.

<http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/History/Maps/>

<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~feefhs/maps/indexmap.html>

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/map_sites/hist_sites.html#general

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/Map_collection.html

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref.html>

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The Teaching Corner

Faculty Spotlight

**Leonda Williams
Keniston**



Photo from:
[www.pubapps.vcu.edu/
./alumni/keniston.jpg](http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/~alumni/keniston.jpg)

Leonda Williams Keniston teaches sociology at John Tyler Community College on the Midlothian campus in Midlothian, Va. Her work as a professor epitomizes the “above and beyond” style that deserves recognition. The Southern Sociological Society (SSS) has benefited from her diligence and dedication to teaching and service. Her work with SSS is mostly altruistic as travel and other costs are not supported by the college, and it does not add to merit in terms of promotion.

One of two full-time sociology professors, Leonda has taught at John Tyler for three and half years. Her course load ranges from Introductory Sociology to Sociology of Racism to Human Sexuality with a few other “staples” of the discipline included.

Leonda is also a member of the Southern Sociological Society and served on the Local-Arrangements Committee for the annual SSS conference in Richmond last year. Serving with Denise Bissler, Sarah Jane Brubaker, and other sociologists from surrounding colleges and universities, Ms. Keniston was responsible for informing teaching faculty in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) of the SSS annual conference. She worked through the VCCS system’s office contacting deans, program heads, and full-time and part-time faculty about the conference. She also co-wrote one of the “Richmond Neighborhood Spotlights” for the SSS newsletter focusing on Jackson Ward, the historical African-American neighborhood. Once the conference was in full swing, Leonda helped with conference registration, helped attendees find sessions, and answered general questions.

According to Ms. Keniston, this conference created a wonderful opportunity to get her students interested in what other sociologists’ research and teach. Some of her Tyler students not only attended several sessions, but they also helped with registration and AV set-up.

Websites for Teaching About Sociological Issues *(Continued from page 16)*

A Sociological Tour Through Cyberspace <http://www.trinity.edu/~mkearl/index.html#in>

Submitted by Beth Gill, Randolph-Macon College

This site features commentary, data analyses, essays, interesting and informative links put together for courses taught by Trinity University Professor Michael Kearl. More specifically, Kearl’s Guide to Sociological Thanatology has proven to be an important resource for Death and Dying courses.



2009 Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium April 23-24, 2009

The University of South Carolina Aiken
Sponsored by the South Carolina Sociological Association

Undergraduate students in all disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences are invited to participate. Reports of social science research and investigation regardless of methodology, including qualitative and quantitative works, theoretical pieces, visual sociology, secondary analysis papers, essays on social science topics, and posters are all appropriate for presentation at the symposium.

Students wishing to participate should submit a proposal (preferably electronically) that includes the author's name, institutional affiliation, paper/poster title (specifying format), and a brief abstract. Abstracts should be approximately 100 words and reflect the general content of the paper including a theoretical orientation and questions and issues the presentation will address. Please also indicate any equipment needed for the presentation. The deadline for submission of proposals is April 1, 2009.

A cash award will be given to the students with the papers judged to be best. To be included in the student paper competition, a completed paper must be submitted by April 15, 2009. Additionally, an award will be given for the best student poster. Papers and posters included in the competition must be single authored.

A keynote address is planned for Thursday evening...more details will be forthcoming.

Proposals and papers should be sent to

Barbara Johnson
Department of Sociology
USC Aiken
Aiken, SC 29801
[mailto: barbj@usca.edu](mailto:barbj@usca.edu)

Member News

Daniel B. Cornfield, professor of sociology and director of the Vanderbilt Center for Nashville Studies, received the Harvie Branscomb Distinguished Professor Award for distinguished accomplishments at furthering the aims of Vanderbilt University.

Opportunities

ASA Section on Disability in Society

We are proud to announce a new Section-in-Formation of the American Sociological Association: Disability in Society. The background to the formation of this Section-in-Formation includes the development of a social movement around disability rights, rising awareness of the impact of a disabling society, and the development of disability-specific legislation, policies and databases. Additionally, we will draw on a range of perspectives that connect the experience of disability with various forms of social inequality – racism, sexism, class oppression, and so on. We are keen to further explore the insights that may arise from studying experiences of disability from a range of perspectives and urge you to join with us. This section is a great place to network, engage with other scholars, discuss recent events, and pursue avenues for grants, teaching, research, and service. The Disability section is also pleased to be offering FREE membership to 40 graduate students who are current members of ASA who would like to join the section. We encourage potential members to contact the chairs of the membership committee, Liat Ben Moshe: lbenmosh@maxwell.syr.edu or Mark Sherry: markdsherry@yahoo.com Further information about ASA sections and becoming a member can be found at <http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/sections/overview>.

Liat Ben-Moshe
Sociology & Disability Studies
302 Maxwell Hall
Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY 13244
[mailto: lbenmosh@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:lbenmosh@maxwell.syr.edu)

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A peer-reviewed undergraduate research journal published annually by The University of Texas at Austin

Sociological Insight

Call for Papers

For May 2009 Issue

Invites undergraduates to submit original academic manuscripts of between 4000 and 7000 words on any topic in the social sciences.

Cash Awards for Top Papers

1st	\$ 300
2nd	\$ 100
3rd	\$ 50

Sociological Insight is also seeking undergraduates interested in peer-reviewing for the journal. Please direct all questions to:

sociologicalinsight@austin.utexas.edu
512.232.6348

Submission Deadline

January 26, 2009

For submission guidelines and other information visit:

<http://www.sociologicalinsight.org>

Work and Occupations Special Issue

Work and Occupations invites papers for a special issue, Changing Worlds of Professional Work: New Markets, New Morals, New Models. Recent years have seen profound transformations in the landscape of professional work. Organizations that employ professionals are changing form and growing larger and more profitable. Markets for professional labor and services are globalizing; some clients and third-party payers are becoming more sophisticated. New groups of workers are making claims to professional status, and boundaries between professions are being renegotiated. The entry of women, ethnic and racial minorities, and other historically excluded groups has generated new interests, challenges, and pressures. Amidst these changes, professionals are rethinking the business of professional service, the nature of professional ethics, the role of regulation, and their identities as professionals. At the same time, sociologists are developing new perspectives on professional work. While the traditional sociology of professions has become quiescent, researchers in the broader fields of organizations, work, and inequality have begun to extend their questions and models to the professional context. This new work emphasizes the agency of actors at different levels—individual professionals and clients, employing and client firms, professional associations, and regulatory agencies—within their economic, technological, and cultural environments. The co-editors invite papers that seek to understand new empirical developments, offer new conceptual lenses, or employ new ideas and innovative approaches to push the boundaries of the sociology of professions and professional work. We welcome both theoretical contributions and empirical papers utilizing diverse methods. Review of manuscripts will commence on March 1, 2009. The co-editors welcome and encourage inquiries; contact: Elizabeth H. Gorman at egorman@virginia.edu or Rebecca L. Sandefur at sandefur@stanford.edu.

Critical Demography Association Conference

March 6-7, 2009, at the State University of New York at Albany

This conference calls to action researchers who think outside of traditional demographic paradigms. The program consists of guest speakers, lead discussants, presentations, panels, round tables, full lunch, and a dinner reception. The Critical Demography Association and its annual conference aim to promote critical demographic discourse and interdisciplinary exchange free from the restrictions of conventional demography.

Researchers from any discipline are encouraged to submit an abstract for the conference. CDA is seeking fresh new ideas to add to the projects extensive repertoire. Abstracts may be submitted via the Critical Demography website <http://www.albany.edu/~hdh/criticaldemography/index>.

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Call For Papers—Special Issue of
Societies Without Borders

“Race and Human Rights: Critical Histories, Inquiries, and Futures”
Edited by David L. Brunsmad and James Michael Thomas

Societies Without Borders seeks manuscripts for a special issue broadly devoted to critically investigating and interrogating the historical, contemporary, and future linkages between race and human rights. Racism and discrimination are not merely social problems, they are violations of human rights, widespread global consensus, and international law. While human rights discourse has been dominated by western, European, white, nationalist, and imperialist philosophies, epistemologies, and ideologies it is also centrally obvious that the struggles of people of color, indigenous peoples, and racialized minorities have been fundamental to the collective, grounded, and progressive mobilization of human rights around the globe. Yet there is more to be done to understand this situation. “**Race and Human Rights: Critical Histories, Inquiries, and Futures**” seeks manuscripts that critically and empirically examine the struggles for Human Rights within a global context, for instance, the Black Freedom Movement and the building of Human Rights, the transition from discourses on civil rights to human rights on the international level, or the re-translation from an international discourse on human rights to local articulations as rights of citizenship.

The special section will be edited by David L. Brunsmad and James Michael Thomas, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri. David L. Brunsmad is race and ethnicity section editor of *Sociology Compass*, recent co-editor of *The Leading Rogue State: The U.S. and Human Rights* (Paradigm), and an executive committee member of Sociologists Without Borders. James Michael Thomas is a Ph.D. student who has published on race, reparations, and human rights. Papers will be peer reviewed.

The deadline for submissions is **March 1, 2009**. Manuscripts should be limited to 4,000-6,000 words including all materials. See <http://www.brill.nl/AuthorsInstructions/SWB.pdf> for formatting guidelines. Submissions should be submitted as a Microsoft Word attachment to David L. Brunsmad (brunsmad@missouri.edu) and James Thomas (JT) (jmt552@mizzou.edu).

Inquiries about the review process or about a particular manuscript should be directed to David L. Brunsmad (<mailto:brunsmad@missouri.edu>).

Job Opportunity

The University of South Carolina Aiken invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor of Sociology to begin August 2009. Ph.D. in sociology is required by August 16, 2009. Candidates will be expected to teach Introductory Sociology and advise undergraduate students. Candidates must be prepared to teach the social demography course required of majors. The Department of Sociology serves about 160 majors and offers the B.A. in Sociology with concentrations in criminology/criminal justice, human services, and general sociology. Located in an historical community near Augusta, Georgia, USCA is a predominately undergraduate institution which emphasizes teaching, requires scholarship, and expects service by its faculty. Faculty typically teach 12 contact hours per week and average class size in the department stands at 27.

Apply on-line at: <https://uscjobs.sc.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=61620>. Mail unofficial graduate transcripts and a list of at least three academic references to Dr. Barbara Johnson, Chair, Sociology Search Committee, USCA, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801. **Review of applications will continue until positions are filled.** USC Aiken seeks to attract and retain a diverse faculty consistent with its diverse student body and the diversity in the surrounding community. USCA is an AA/EOE.

Send your comments, suggestions, or materials for *The Southern Sociologist* to the editor Bob Freymeyer <mailto:rhfreym@presby.edu>

The logo consists of the letters 'T', 'S', and 's' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The 'T' is the largest and is positioned at the top left. The 'S' is slightly smaller and positioned to the right of the 'T'. The 's' is the smallest and is positioned below the 'S'. The letters have a slight drop shadow effect.

Demographic Transitions

John T. Doby, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Emory University, died on November 1, 2008, in Corbin, Kentucky. After a distinguished career in the Air Force during World War II, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and began his career at Wofford College in South Carolina. In 1958 he moved to Emory where, over 27 years, he nurtured a highly successful graduate program in Sociology.

In those productive years, he published books on social psychology and methodology, several articles and book reviews, and received several research and training grants for a rapidly developing program. He was one of the founders of the Georgia Sociological Society and served as President of the Southern Sociological Society. He was a frequent consultant to Georgia's mental health programs.

Many of John's close associates and long-term friends saw him relish his role as scholar, administrator, mentor, debater, and confidante. He combined small town common sense and humor with the accelerating diversity of metropolitan Atlanta, but returned to Kentucky in retirement. John had a love for sociology at its core and a critical, Veblenian view of American higher education. He greeted stories and puns with reverberating laughter, even over the phone in recent years. His students and colleagues profited from his concern and knowledge. He will be remembered as a leader, thinker, listener, pragmatist, but above all, friend.

Prepared by: Alvin Boskoff, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Emory University

Edited by: Bob Agnew, Chair Sociology Department, Emory University and Maggie Stephens, Sociology Academic Department Administrator, Emory University and close friend

THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

The Southern Sociological Society (SSS) is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote the development of sociology as a profession and scientific discipline by the maintenance of high academic professional and ethical standards and by encouraging:

- (a) effective teaching of sociology;
- (b) valid and reliable methods of research in the study of human society;
- (c) diffusion of sociological knowledge and its application to societal problems;
- (d) cooperation with related disciplines and groups;
- (e) recruitment and training of sociologists; and
- (f) development of sociology programs in educational and other agencies.

Members receive *Social Forces* and online access to *The Southern Sociologist* and to a membership directory. An annual meeting is held in the spring, usually mid-April. Membership is open to any person who can assist in promoting the objectives of the society. Persons wishing to join SSS may send dues directly

to the Secretary-Treasurer. Please include your first middle and last name, address, phone number, where employed, and gender. For statistical purposes, we also ask you to include your race and/or ethnic group and three areas of specialty.

The membership year is July 1 through June 30. Membership classes, annual charges and dues are:

Regular	60.00
Emeritus	
with <i>Social Forces</i>	30.00
without <i>Social Forces</i>	no cost
Associate (non-voting)	58.00
Student	25.00

Dues, subscriptions, membership inquiries and address changes should be addressed to:

Dr. Stephanie Bohon
 Secretary-Treasurer
 PO Box 16239
 University of Tennessee
 Knoxville TN 37996
 To pay online go to

<https://www.cart.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>

THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGIST

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The Southern Sociologist (TSS) is the official publication of the Southern Sociological Society. It is typically published electronically four times a year in the months of May, September, January, and March. The purpose of TSS is to report the news, announcements, and information of interest to the profession and to serve as a medium of communication for the SSS membership on issues affecting the profession.

INFORMATION WANTED. . .CONTRIBUTE TO TSS

To bring you the news, I need your news! Please send any news of your department and/or colleagues for possible publication in TSS. Articles pertaining to the state of the profession or the discipline are also welcome. To appear in the next issue, submissions must be received by the deadline below.

In addition to news and other information, I am also interested in any thoughts you may wish to suggest regarding the format and/or content of TSS.

TSS

The editor reserves the right to publish or not to publish any submission. Also, there may be times when submissions need to be edited. This will be done where appropriate, but in no case will the substance of any submission be changed without the prior consent of the author.

Next Issue Deadline: February 15, 2009