

# The Southern Sociologist

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Volume 41

Number 3

Winter 2010

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## The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southern Sociological Society Meetings Are Around the Corner

ANGELA M. O'RAND  
PRESIDENT

Happy 2010!

Let us hope that this year will be happier in some ways than 2009. I selected the theme of "Worlds At Risk" for 2010 at our meetings in 2008 when I had just become President-Elect. Little did I expect that within a few months we would find ourselves entering the unprecedented economic downturn of most of our lives. However, I selected the theme then because numerous social indicators that concern us as sociologists strongly indicated that while much evidence pointed to positive trends in such things as child well-being, gender equality, the management of some infectious diseases, etc., risks were spreading across all domains of daily life. Growing economic insecurities attached to risks from declining high school graduation rates, wage stagnation or decline, underemployment/unemployment, and financial loss were already documented in the sociological literature on educational attainment, labor markets, income and wealth trajectories, poverty rates, declining health insurance coverage, and shifts in pension coverage. And, while these

*(Continued on page 2)*

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### Contents

2009 Call for SSS Awards Nominations.....	<a href="#"><u>3</u></a>
Annual Meeting Moves to Atlanta's Hyatt.....	<a href="#"><u>8</u></a>
The Teaching Corner.....	<a href="#"><u>10</u></a>
Member News.....	<a href="#"><u>17</u></a>
Departmental News.....	<a href="#"><u>18</u></a>
Opportunities.....	<a href="#"><u>20</u></a>
Southern Sociological Society.....	<a href="#"><u>23</u></a>



## FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANGELA O’RAND

*(Continued from page 1)*

changes have moved the management of more and more uncertainty to individuals, families, and households, families themselves have continued to be highly differentiated and volatile arrangements. Similarly, global environmental hazards have come close to home, while engagement in military actions abroad has introduced other new global risks. And, although global wealth has increased dramatically and populations are aging around the world, the quality of life for many populations has not improved or has deteriorated.

So we have good news and bad news to talk about in Atlanta. We visited the meeting site in November, and we are very excited about its quality. The Hyatt Regency in Atlanta is a lovely and comfortable hotel in downtown Atlanta within walking distance of scores of restaurants of all kinds and interesting landmarks, exhibits, and entertainment venues. Check out the [report of our Local Arrangements Committee](#) chaired by Deirdre Oakley from Georgia State University.

Program Co-Chairs Don Reitzes (Georgia State University) and John Reynolds (Florida State University) report that we received over 500 individual paper submissions plus panel submissions including about 200 panelists. This is a very positive turnout with exciting titles throughout. The Program Committee is now at work putting the final schedule together. I want to thank them all. In addition to Don and John they include: Rebecca Bach (Duke), Anne Barrett (Florida State), Linda Belgrave (University of Miami), Charles Brody (University of North Carolina-Charlotte), Lee Clarke (Rutgers), Tanya Koropecky-Cox (University of Florida), and Pamela Wilcox (University of Cincinnati).

Three plenary speakers are already on our program. Evelyn Nakano Glenn of the University of California-Berkeley and President of the American Sociological Association this year—which will also be meeting in Atlanta—will present a talk on “Citizenship: Belonging, Recognition, and Rights” in which she will be comparing conceptions of citizenship and models of belonging. Two of our SSS colleagues will also be making presentations in plenary sessions: George Ritzer (University of Maryland) will present “Consuming America: What Have We Done to Ourselves? What Did They Do to Us?” And, Arne Kalleberg (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) will present “Socializing Risk: The Promise of Flexicurity.”

So, thank you for making plans to join us. See you all in Atlanta in a few months.

# 2010 Annual Meeting

April 21-25, 2010      Hyatt Regency      Atlanta



# 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  
Department 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.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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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.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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# Call for SSS Awards Nominations

*(Continued from page 4)*

## **Distinguished Lectureship 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.

## **Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award**

This award, given in alternate years, 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 re-

*(Continued on page 6)*

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# Call for SSS Awards Nominations

*(Continued from page 5)*

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.

## **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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*(Continued on page 7)*

# Call for SSS Awards Nominations

(Continued from page 6)

## 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. The author is expected not to 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.

# 2010 Annual Meeting Moves to Atlanta's Newly Renovated Hyatt Regency

Deirdre Oakley, Georgia State University  
Chair, Local Arrangement Committee

This year's annual meeting heralds a new beginning of sorts with a move to Atlanta's newly renovated Hyatt Regency. This is a great location for a meeting. It is right in the heart of downtown Atlanta in close proximity to the up-and-coming South of North (SoNo) district as well as Midtown. Within in walking distance of the hotel, nearly 80 restaurants and coffee shops serve a variety of cuisines and caffeine. And if you would rather not leave the Hyatt for your coffee, a 24-hour coffee place in the lobby serves a conference staple: Starbucks.

The Hyatt is attached to the Peachtree Center, a mixed use, rather post-modernistic three-tiered space full of shops, eateries, and a MARTA rail station (yes, it is a direct line to and from the airport). The hotel is also a short train ride or moderately long walk from some of Atlanta's downtown attractions including *Imagine It Children's Museum*, the *Aquarium*, the *High Museum*, and the famed *Fox Theatre*.



While traveling to the *M.L.K Historic Site and Museum* takes one train ride and one bus ride from the Hyatt, the close proximity of the Peachtree Center MARTA rail station allows one of two-stop train access to Atlanta's most interesting and racially diverse neighborhoods including *Cabbage Town*, *Inman Park*, and *Little Five Points*.



The hotel's history is socio-  
(Continued on page 9)



## 2010 Annual Meeting Moves to Atlanta's Newly Renovated Hyatt Regency

(Continued from page 8)

logically interesting in itself. Designed by Atlanta's own distinguished architect John Portman, and completed in 1967, it was the first hotel centered around an atrium concept, which has influenced worldwide hotel design ever since. More relevant to sociology, it was the first major hotel in the South to open as a racially integrated establishment, which caused a fair amount of controversy at the time. Portman himself had witnessed first hand the destructive



Peachtree Avenue near the Hyatt – full of eateries from cheap to heaps.

nature of racial discrimination when he first arrived in Atlanta to attend Georgia Technology Institute's architectural program in the mid-1940s. By the mid-1950s, he had created the *Action Forum*, a racially mixed consortium of about two dozen Atlanta-based corporate leaders who pushed for the integration of downtown business establishments. As Portman himself has said "we were not always popular." But, the end result meant a new, signature hotel that did not bar African Americans as well as the integration of numerous other business establishments in downtown Atlanta.

In late 2009 this year's Program Committee conducted a site visit to the Hyatt and surrounding neighborhood. Even those of us who live in the Atlanta area were very impressed, not only with the hotel, hotel's staff, and meeting facilities but also with the variety of places to go if you want to get away from the conference.



We had a very nice dinner at the French American Brasserie (F.A.B.), located a few blocks from the hotel. F.A.B. is famed for its White Bean Truffle Oil Soup, Duck Confit, and fresh oysters. It also has a roof top dining area with a great view, and by April the weather will be warm enough to enjoy dinner or drinks outside. Ironically, F.A.B. also served as the location for a recent episode of *Real Housewives of Atlanta* where an argument among them erupted. They were asked to leave of course—well on television anyway.



**Denise L. Bissler, Chair**  
**Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges**

**Committee Members**

Chair: Denise Bissler, Randolph Macon College, [dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)  
Chandrouti Persaud, Mississippi Valley State, [persaudmvsu@yahoo.com](mailto:persaudmvsu@yahoo.com)  
Daniel Harrison, Lander University, [dharrison@lander.edu](mailto:dharrison@lander.edu)  
Lisa Peloquin, Elon University, [artemis@elon.edu](mailto:artemis@elon.edu)  
Amie Hess, Meredith College [hessamie@meredith.edu](mailto:hessamie@meredith.edu)  
Siti Kusujarti, Warren Wilson College [skusujia@warren-wilson.edu](mailto:skusujia@warren-wilson.edu)

Welcome to our two new members of the Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges: Amie Hess and Siti Kusujarti. Also, thank you to members who have rotated off the committee: Caroline Parham and Karen Mundy. Thank you for your service to the committee and to SSS.

**Work of the Committee**

Sessions

The Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges will be sponsoring several sessions at the 2010 meetings. If accepted, four sessions should be listed in your program: "Do you Want to Work at a Small or Community College?"; "Experiential Learning in Community College and Small College Sociology Classes" (special thanks to Caroline Parham for submitting); "Experiential Learning in Community College and Small College Sociology Classes: Session II" (this session was so popular we added an additional session) and "The Pros and Cons of Working at a Community College." We hope you have the chance to attend one of these sessions.

Dinner

In keeping with tradition, we organized a *dinner* out for faculty and students who teach at small and community colleges. The dinner is tentatively scheduled for *Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.* We will meet in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency at 6:30 p.m. The dinner offers the oppor-

(Continued on page 11)

# The Teaching Corner

*(Continued from page 10)*

tunity for individuals from these types of institutions to network, to discuss issues relevant to teaching, or to simply socialize. Please let me know (Denise Bissler: [dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)) if you are interested in attending the dinner or look for an email announcement before the meetings. We will do our best to find an affordable restaurant with a variety of menu selections.

## Participation

Last year, in an effort to increase participation in SSS among faculty at community and small colleges, letters detailing the benefits of membership were sent out to select institutions. This year, the committee sent electronic letters to small and community colleges in Georgia in an effort to gain interest and representation in SSS from these types of institutions.

## **Information Needed for “The Teaching Corner”**

As always, we are seeking material from SSS members who are committed to teaching. The information in this newsletter is supplied by SSS members. We would love to publish 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. If you are interested in publishing your teaching material in “The Teaching Corner,” please submit your 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. Please send this information to Denise Bissler, Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges, Department of Sociology, Randolph Macon College ([dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)).

We also like to include a faculty spotlight and an undergraduate student spotlight that showcases those SSS members from small and community colleges who go above and beyond and deserve special recognition. If you know of a faculty member or undergraduate student that deserves recognition for outstanding teaching, research, or activism, please send a short commentary and picture to Denise Bissler ([dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)).

Lastly, please submit any websites that are helpful in teaching about sociological issues; please send the link with a brief description of the website to Denise Bissler ([dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)).

*(Continued on page 12)*

# The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 11)

## Teaching Exercise

### *Do Your Ears Hang Low? An Exercise Demonstrating the Subjectivity Inherent in Systems of Racial Classification*

**Victor Romano** is an assistant professor of sociology/criminology at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. His specialty areas include racial and ethnic relations and gender stratification. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Florida in 2007.

**Utility:** This is an exercise used to demonstrate the socially constructed and subjective nature of racial classification systems based on skin color. It was created as an alternative to Jane Elliott's classic "Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes" exercise in which students are separated into groups and labeled superior or inferior and based on the color of their eyes. Dividing students by eye color can be problematical for the following reasons:

1. At institutions that primarily serve students of color, everyone in a class may have brown eyes.
2. In multicultural classrooms this exercise typically results in students of color being placed into the same group—thereby reinforcing color difference.
3. A person's eye color is a physical characteristic that students have been conditioned to notice, and light eyes are often seen as more desirable than dark eyes.

To avoid these issues a more effective alternative is to divide students into groups based on whether their earlobes are free or attached. These groups tend to be more racially and ethnically diverse than those created by the "Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes" exercise. Moreover, since students have not been conditioned to notice this physically apparent genetic trait, the exercise provides an opportunity to discuss why certain genetic distinctions such as the amount melanin a person has are considered important, while others (such as earlobe characteristics) are ignored. This exercise can be used in various courses in which issues relating to race are covered.

#### **Procedure:**

1. Arrive to class a few minutes early and greet students at the entrance to the classroom. As they walk in, note whether their earlobes are free or attached.
2. At the beginning of class, inform students that they will be divided into two groups based on a genetic distinction, and that this distinction makes them biologically different. Do not tell them what that distinction is.
3. Allocate one corner of the room for students with free earlobes and an opposite corner for those with attached earlobes. Begin separating students into corners based on their earlobes. This separation should be done as discretely as possible so that students do not realize how they are being assigned to a particular corner. (I recommend walking up to each student

(Continued on page 13)

# The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 12)

individually and then assigning him/her to a corner. This act will give you an opportunity to confirm whether their earlobes are free or attached.) If hair covering their earlobes prevents you from being able to tell whether they are free or attached, assign them to the free group. If they have ambiguous earlobes that are difficult to classify assign them to the attached group.

4. Ask students what the difference between the groups is. If they cannot figure it out, feel free to give them hints.
5. Ask how many of them were aware of this genetic trait. Typically, only a few students are aware of this distinction.

Conclude with a discussion of why certain genetically-based physical characteristics are considered important while others are ignored. Be sure to relate to students how concepts such as the Thomas Theorem, social constructionism, power, and exploitation have influenced the United States' system of racial classification. Also, be sure to discuss how systems of racial classifications vary over time and place.

## Faculty Spotlight

**Victor Romano** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. He earned a BA in Sociology/Anthropology from Florida International University and an MA and Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Victor teaches courses on race, class, gender, marriage and the family, work, and introductory sociology. His professional interests include racial and ethnic relations, gender stratification, childlessness, and sexuality. As a new member of the Southern Sociological Society (SSS), Victor recently presented his work *Race, Gender, and The Prisoner's Dilemma: A Study in Social Dilemma Cooperation* at the SSS annual meeting.



A strong believer in the effectiveness of service learning, Victor is responsible for creating and maintaining his department's service learning partnerships with local community organizations. Last year these partnerships generated over 1,900 hours of service to the community performed by students enrolled in sociology and criminology courses at Barry University.

In recognition of his own service to the community, Victor was appointed to the Miami-Dade County Commission on Human Rights (CHR). The CHR is a quasi-judicial board tasked with combating discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, credit and financing practices, family leave, and domestic violence leave.



## *Websites for Teaching about Sociological Issues*

### **Teaching about Race:**

1. <http://www.racismreview.com/>

Submitted by Victor Romano, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Barry University

Racism Review is produced by Joe R. Feagin and provides research and analysis of “race, racism, ethnicity, and immigration issues, especially as they undergird and shape U.S. society within a global setting.”

2. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided/etc/view.html>

Submitted by Denise L. Bissler, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Randolph-Macon College

Frontline’s “A Class Divided” video (able to watch online). The video shows the 1968 experiment on discrimination (eye color) conducted by a third-grade teacher on her students.

3. <http://www.e-noah.net/ASA/ASAShopOnlineService/ProductDetails.aspx?productID=ASAOE337R07>

Submitted by Denise L. Bissler, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Randolph-Macon College

ASA’s collection of syllabi and resources for teaching race and ethnicity. The website offers the book in hard-copy or electronic version for \$5.00.

4. <http://www.splcenter.org/intel/map/hate.jsp>

Submitted by Denise L. Bissler, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Randolph-Macon College

Southern Poverty Law centers Hate Group map demonstrating active U.S. hate groups by state.



## 2010 Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium April 15-16, 2010

Sponsored by the *South Carolina Sociological Association*  
*Coastal Carolina University*  
*Myrtle Beach Center*

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, 2010.

Three cash awards 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 1, 2010. Additionally, an award will be given for the best student poster.

*\*Papers and posters included in the competition must be single authored. All electronic presentations (PowerPoint, videos, etc.) must be submitted by April 12 and will be pre-loaded for the symposium.*

An opening reception and keynote address are planned for Thursday evening; student symposium presentations will be Friday, April 16...more details will be forthcoming.

Proposals and papers should be sent to Professor Susan Webb, Sociology, Coastal Carolina University, PO Box 261954, Conway SC 29528-6054, mail to: [sewebb@coastal.edu](mailto:sewebb@coastal.edu) and phone 843-349-2933.



# CALL FOR PAPERS 28th SouthEastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium

## *Social Justice in Global and Local Context*

Atlanta, Georgia  
February 19-20, 2010

The 28th annual SEUSS will be held at Emory University. The Symposium provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to present their research at a professional meeting. Presentations in any area of sociology are welcome. Students whose papers are accepted will give a 12-15 minute presentation of their research.

All presenters will receive *Certificates of Professional Participation*. Abstracts of presented papers are published in the *Symposium Proceedings*. The three best papers will receive an *Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research* (1st place \$100, 2nd place \$75, 3rd place \$50).\*

A banquet will be held on February 19th for all participants. The keynote speaker this year is Professor Charis Kubrin from the Department of Sociology at George Washington University.

### **Application Procedure**

#### **Part I. Application Deadline: Friday, January 22, 2010**

Interested students should email Dr. Elizabeth Griffiths ([elizabeth.griffiths@emory.edu](mailto:elizabeth.griffiths@emory.edu)) the following items with the term "SEUSS" in the subject line:

1. A one-page abstract\*
2. A faculty letter of support indicating that the student's research is, or will be, completed and ready for presentation on February 20, 2010.

\* To be considered for an *Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research*, completed papers must be submitted by Friday, January 22, 2010.

#### **Part II. Application Acceptance**

Dr. Griffiths will notify students of their acceptance and registration information the week of January 25-29, 2010. A \$25 registration fee is necessary to help defray the costs of the banquet and proceedings. This fee is required for all students participating in the symposium and all faculty attending the banquet.

Co-Sponsored by Emory University and Morehouse College Departments of Sociology  
For more information about SEUSS, please visit: <http://www.sociology.emory.edu/SEUSS/>.



# Member News

## USC Upstate Sociology Professor Receives Human Rights Award



**Brigitte Neary**, associate professor of sociology at the University of South Carolina Upstate, received the Menschenrechtspreis der Volksgruppe der Donauschwaben, or Human Rights Award of the Ethnic German Danube Suevians, on December 12, 2009, in Stuttgart, Germany. This award recognizes her work dealing with the expulsion of 15 million Germans from east central Europe in the aftermath of World War II. The organization presenting the award is one of several groups in Germany that endeavor to direct attention to the plight of Germans expelled from their homes and homelands in east central Europe and forced to bear suffering and death in what some scholars are now calling ethnic cleansing.

The issue is a personal one for Neary, born in West Germany after her parents had experienced the upheaval of expulsion from their homelands—her father from Yugoslavia and her mother from Breslau Silesia. “I grew up with the consequences of the displacement, initially experiencing absolute deprivation,” says Neary. “The shadow of the tremendous loss to my parents lingered on and was like a concrete presence in our lives.”

Neary’s research was compiled in two books, *Voices of Loss and Courage: German Women Recount Their Expulsion from East Central Europe, 1944-1950* and *Frauen und Vertreibung*. They focused specifically on the women and young girls who were forced from their homelands in East Prussia, Pomerania, East Brandenburg, Silesia, Sudetenland, in the Hungarian plains, in the Balkan mountains of Yugoslavia, and Romania. The project is also “a memorial to the women who were stigmatized because they were German,” says Neary, a difficult position to be in when the world equated all Germans as Nazi enemies. “Germans,” she says, “are aware if they evoke victim status they typically evoke strong reactions.” Neary interviewed 40 women between the ages of 6 and 24 during the years between 1944 and 1950. They were “glad finally to be given a voice” and to share their stories of survival despite loss of shelter, starvation, systematic plundering, rape, torture, and murder.

Dr. Alfred de Zayas of The Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, and the 2007 recipient of this award, writes, “Professor Neary has done ground-breaking work on women’s issues and has demonstrated academic courage in addressing the hitherto neglected history of the expulsion of millions of German civilians from their home at the end of World War II. In so doing she has on both sides of the Atlantic illuminated the sociological, psychological, historical, and legal aspects of this form of ethnic cleansing.”

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# Departmental News

**F**lagler College. The sociology program at Flagler College has been active in the past year. Last fall, Casey Welch joined Mel Barber, Tina Jaeckle, and Beth Higgs as the fourth sociologist in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department. In addition to these full-time faculty members, the Department has several outstanding adjunct professors, such as Steven Stoll, who coordinated bringing Invisible Children activists to Flagler and other area colleges. Under the auspices of sociology, the Department recently started a Criminology Minor, and has already placed interns in prominent positions. And this semester, Flagler College started the Nu chapter of AKD, the Sociology Honor Society; and next semester it will launch its first Sociology Club, which will offer semi-monthly Graduate School Preparation seminars, as well as other events. Because the college is less than an hour south of Jacksonville, Florida, Dr. Welch has joined the Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee for the 2011 SSS Conference in Jacksonville. Hopefully members will be able find some time before or after the conference to visit Flagler College in historic St. Augustine. If you have any questions, please email Casey Welch at [cwelch@flagler.edu](mailto:cwelch@flagler.edu).

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## University of Tennessee Launches Center for the Study of Social Justice

With the goal of shedding light on society's most pressing social issues, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has formed the Center for the Study of Social Justice. Based in UT's Department of Sociology, the center provides a framework for scholars of sociology, psychology, education, social work, law, geography, political science, and philosophy, among others, to collaborate on research and share insights about the conflicts, complexities, and contradictions related to social justice. The center aims to produce science-based solutions for everyday problems, explains Stephanie Bohon, Associate Professor of Sociology. Bohon and Scott Frey, Sociology Department Head, co-direct the new center.

"What are the facts about health care disparities? What are the facts about immigration and the many other issues facing our nation and the world?" Bohon said. "Our role is to provide the results of unbiased research and analyses to the people who make the policy decisions and create the programs to address the many needs of our society."

The need for interdisciplinary social science research is growing, and support from private and public sectors is following suit. "The world is changing and evolving at such a rapid pace, and our society's problems become increasingly complex. We must inquire from an academic per-

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spective about the state of humanity, as it relates to inequalities and the societal changes affecting all aspects of social, political, cultural, and political life in our world," Frey said.

The center is housed within the College of Arts and Sciences but represents 60 faculty fellows from 14 academic programs. The center enhances the university's ability to compete for social science research funding by providing an interdisciplinary, organized research unit. "We are very pleased that the Center for the Study of Social Justice has been established and is centered in the College of Arts and Sciences," said Bruce Bursten, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "The center promises to be an intellectual and translational force in taking basic research in social justice and using it to make a difference in society. The multidisciplinary nature of the center will mirror the college's goal of fostering critical thinking across disciplines to advance human knowledge and to make a difference in the human condition."

As the nation experiences economic crisis, its impact on society and its ability to fulfill basic needs will only grow. "Research informs us that in the tough economic times we're experiencing, all social problems that exist will only worsen," Bohon explained. "We can play a large role in collecting and analyzing data, and in providing science-based methods of evaluating resources and the effectiveness of specific approaches or proposed solutions. Through the center, the university can contribute to the body of knowledge that measures these impacts. Research is no longer from one discipline, and social justice issues require an increasingly complex and interdisciplinary approach to effectively weigh in on solutions to the persistent social problems that keep having detrimental effects on individuals and members of social groups," said Bohon.

Faculty fellows of the center currently are involved in research relating to such urgent issues as immigration and criminal justice, environmental degradation, and the fly ash release involving the Tennessee Valley Authority in Kingston, Tennessee. "This new center facilitates the sharing of resources among a unique group of scholars and also provides the university with a framework to attract support for new interdisciplinary projects that will ultimately benefit humankind," said Brad Fenwick, Vice Chancellor for Research. While the center's research and public policy work will engage primarily faculty and graduate students, undergraduate students and all members of the campus community will benefit from the center's presence. "We have the opportunity to engage our campus in many conversations through lectures, workshops, films, and a variety of other ways to explore emerging issues that are of great concern to many people," said Bohon.

For more information about center events or lectures, visit <http://cssj.utk.edu> or contact: Stephanie Bohon, (865-974-7019, mail to: [sbohon@utk.edu](mailto:sbohon@utk.edu))  
Kristi Hintz, (865-974-3993, mail to: [khintz@utk.edu](mailto:khintz@utk.edu))

# Opportunities

## Undergraduate Minority Student Travel Scholarship

The Southern Sociological Society (SSS) and the Committee on Race and Ethnic Minorities is pleased to announce that travel scholarships are available to support the attendance and participation of undergraduate minority students at the annual conference. These scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis and are meant to assist students in defraying costs associated with attending the SSS meeting. The Committee anticipates granting ten scholarships at the minimum amount of \$250 per recipient; however, the amount of funds and the number of scholarships may fluctuate depending on the number of applications and need therein.

### Eligibility and Application Requirements

To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must be:

- An undergraduate minority student pursuing a sociology degree in an academic institution
- An active participant of the meeting by presenting a paper during a paper session or roundtable, presenting a poster on research, or participating in workshops or special programs designated to enrich the undergraduate experience or to prepare the student for graduate education
- A student member of the SSS at the time of receiving the scholarship

To apply, an applicant must submit:

- A completed Travel Scholarship Application
- A letter of support or recommendation from a faculty member

Applications and additional information are available from Dr. Cameron Lippard ([lippardcd@appstate.edu](mailto:lippardcd@appstate.edu)). The deadline for completed applications is January 30<sup>th</sup>. The Race and Ethnic Minorities Committee will make selections and announce decisions by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Only applications from individuals on their own behalf will be accepted.

Send your comments, suggestions, or materials for *The Southern Sociologist* to the editor Bob Freymeyer <mailto:rhfreym@presby.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 2010 Issue Volume 2

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](mailto:sociologicalinsight@austin.utexas.edu)  
512.232.6344

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## Submission Deadline

January 11, 2010

For submission guidelines and other information visit:

<http://www.sociologicalinsight.org>

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## *Rural Sociology Gains New Publisher*

Beginning in 2010, the Rural Sociological Society will partner with Wiley-Blackwell to publish *Rural Sociology*.

*Rural Sociology* (*RS*) is the Rural Sociological Society's professional journal. Published quarterly, this peer-reviewed journal is distributed worldwide. *RS* is in its 73<sup>rd</sup> year of publication. Scholarly articles are authored by rural sociologists, sociologists, anthropologists, geographers, economists, and other social scientists who study social, spatial, local, and global rural issues.

This advantageous new partnership offers *RS* many benefits including significant global marketing and accessibility and a leading online submission and peer-review system, ScholarOne.

As of September 14th, all new manuscripts should be submitted using ScholarOne at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rs>. Submissions, reviews, and correspondence are now performed online. ScholarOne allows for efficient submission of manuscripts, provides guidance at every step, and makes the journey from submission to publication quicker and easier.

In addition, the Rural Sociological Society will offer an annual \$1,000 award for the best scholarly article published in *RS*. The first award for articles published in 2010 will be presented at the Rural Sociological Society's 2011 meetings.

To learn more about submitting to *RS*, please visit the Rural Sociological Society's website at <http://www.ruralsociology.org/pubs/ruralsociology>.

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## 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, 2010**