

# The Southern Sociologist

Volume 42

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT, VINCENT ROSCIGNO— Building Excitement for Jacksonville

Do not miss the 2011 Southern Sociological Society meetings in Jacksonville, Florida, April 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>!!! The program committee and its chair, Bill Danaher (College of Charleston), have been hard at work thinking about and creating exciting, rich, and unique sessions that cover a lot of terrain within our field and that also align quite nicely with the program theme “Power, Revisited.” Details pertaining to the meeting and submitting papers, posters, and sessions [follow](#) along with the planned dates for our submission links and websites.

The Conference theme, “Power, Revisited,” will cut across many of our specialty areas, levels of analyses, and methodologies. Indeed, the hope is that we as sociologists revisit the theoretical construct of power—one of the most longstanding and arguably important dimensions of social life—and its utility in what we do. No less important is that we think critically as an intellectual community with regard to dimensions and processes of power that have been neglected or overlooked.

Is power a status attribute, is it derived fundamentally from institutional location, should we think about it in the aggregate as a function of community and group, and/or is it inherently a relational phenomenon that should be treated and studied as such? And how should we conceive of power even more generally, as something behaviorally specific, material resource-oriented, or some-

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT,**

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thing that is also discursive, cultural, and ideological? These are important questions, the answers to which guide implicitly or explicitly the assumptions undergirding what many of us do.

We welcome submissions that revolve around the program theme as well as those that might diverge. And, all areas of sociology are welcome. Indeed, program committee members have in their sights already provocative, high visibility sessions on education, criminology, environment, social stratification, social movements, gender, work, religion, family, political, and international comparative, to name but a few. Donald Tomaskovic-Devey and President-Elect Beth Rubin are putting together an exceptional, one-day mini-conference on “Work & Power,” while George Wilson will be doing the same on the topic of “Race and Power.” These mini-conferences will be embedded in the regular program and attendance is open and free to all SSS attendees. Finally, we are working with SWS and its President Kristine De Welde to organize provocative sessions relating to gender, stratification, and power.

These are going to be wonderful meetings, and we look forward to great attendance and intellectual exchange. Be sure to keep up with the current buzz on the new SSS facebook page, in the next few issues of *The Southern Sociologist*, and through the SSS website, where updated meeting information, announcements regarding sessions and plenary speakers, submission procedures, and great things to do in Jacksonville will be posted regularly throughout September.

Vincent Roscigno  
Ohio State University

## **2011 Annual Meeting**

**April 6-9, 2011**

**Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront  
Jacksonville, Florida**



# Call for Papers: “Power, Revisited”

Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting

April 6-9, 2011

Jacksonville, Florida

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville

**Program Chair**

William F. Danaher, *College of Charleston*

The theme for the 2011 meeting is “Power, Revisited.” The society president, Vincent Roscigno, and program chair, William Danaher, encourage thematic papers and thematic panels that address the many issues encompassed under this theme. We look forward to a great meeting in a new location. Please come to Jacksonville.

Submission Deadline: **December 1, 2010**. This is a **firm** deadline for all papers including student papers and **late submissions will not be accommodated**. To be considered for a place on the program, complete submissions with title, abstract, author names, and contact information must be received by the above deadline.

## GUIDELINES

### I. SUBMISSION TYPES AND PROCEDURES

A. All proposed presentations or panels **must be submitted on-line** through the SSS online submission system at <http://www.meetingsavvy.com/sss>. The window for submission will be open from October 1 to December 1. Four submission types are available: 1) Individual papers; 2) Complete paper sessions; 3) Thematic paper sessions; 4) Poster presentations. **At least one author for each submitted paper must be a current member of SSS at the time of submission**. A description of each submission type appears below.

1. Individual Papers: Members may submit abstracts of individual papers for inclusion in a regular paper session. These papers will be organized into sessions by the program chair on the basis of common themes. All submissions for a regular paper presentation should include: 1) the title of the paper; 2) an abstract of the paper (no more than 150 words); 3) author names and affiliations and contact information for each author.

2. Complete Paper Sessions: Members may submit proposals for complete sessions. These sessions may take the form of paper presentations that follow a single theme, featured panel discussions of a timely topic, sessions that honor a colleague, author-meets-critics sessions, etc. Generally, complete sessions should contain four presenters (e.g., 4 authors; 3 authors and 1 discussant; 1 book author and 3 critics; and so on). The following information must be provided in the online system for *complete paper sessions*: 1) a suggested title for the panel; 2) the titles of each paper/presentation; 3) abstracts for each paper/presentation; 4) names, affiliations,

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and contact information for each author, critic, panelist, discussant, etc. An individual whose paper is part of a complete paper session will not need to submit that paper separately.

3. Thematic Paper Sessions: We encourage members to submit proposals for a thematic paper session. Thematic sessions typically are identical in structure to complete paper sessions, but they are organized around a topic that fits closely with the theme of the 2011 conference: "Power, Revisited." The following information must be provided in the online system for *thematic paper sessions*: 1) a suggested title for the panel; 2) the titles of each paper/presentation; 3) abstracts for each paper/presentation; 4) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author, critic, panelist, discussant, etc. An individual whose paper is part of a complete paper session will not need to submit that paper separately.

4. Poster Presentations: Members may submit abstracts for papers to be included in the poster session. Poster presentation submissions must include the name, affiliation, and contact information for all authors, as well as a title and brief abstract of the work to be presented. Posters should display data, policy analysis, or theoretical work in a visually appealing format that stimulates interaction with poster session attendees. For dimensions and other poster questions, please see [SSS FAQ](#) page.

B. All paper and poster presentations should be original work that has not been published or presented elsewhere. Noted exceptions may include presentation of material from books included in author-meets-critics sessions.

## II. PROGRAM POLICIES

A. Meeting Participation: The 2011 meetings are held from Wednesday, April 6 through Saturday, April 9, 2011. Participants should **plan to attend for the duration of the meeting**. The Southern Sociological Society is unable to honor special requests for dates or times of presentations. All program participants (i.e., those presenting papers, presiding at sessions, serving as discussants, panelists, etc.) **must be registered** for the annual meeting. Only the President has the authority to waive membership and registration fees and only for a limited number of invited guests who are invited to participate as plenary speakers.

B. Limitations on Program Appearances: Because meeting rooms and time slots are limited, an individual may serve in **no more than two presentation roles** (i.e., author of a paper, panel participant, workshop leader, poster presenter, etc.) in the program. There are no limitations on the number of times a person may serve as a session presider or discussant. The maximum number of sessions that any person may organize for the annual meeting is two.

## III. 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.

For more information, please go to the Southern Sociological Society Homepage FAQ ([Frequently Asked Questions](#)) page.

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## *Right Here in River City—Jacksonville, 2011*

The City of Jacksonville, Florida, has been host to a number of important and memorable events over the past several decades. In 2005 the City hosted Super Bowl XXXIX which pitted the New England Patriots against the Philadelphia Eagles. In 1960, Jacksonville played host to a much less impressive, but no less visible clash of forces: Axe Handle Sunday, in which over 200 white men attacked Civil Rights Activists participating in a sit-in at several lunch counters in the downtown area. Much of the Jacksonville downtown area was burned to the ground in the Great Fire of 1901, yet the city bounced back to be the home of the Motion Picture industry through 1918. And through much of the middle of the twentieth century, Jacksonville's segregated LaVilla Neighborhood was known as the "*Harlem of the South*" playing host to some of the greatest Jazz and Blues Musicians of the era.



In April 2011, Jacksonville will play host to the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. Located on the St. John's River in downtown Jacksonville, the Hyatt sits only blocks from the highlights (and lowlights) of the host city, and will offer attendees a wide range of historical and contemporary attractions rife with sociological importance.

Over the course of the next two *TSS* editions, we will be highlighting these attractions, as well as the local beaches, tourist attractions, museums, and art venues—all within close proximity to the Downtown area. The Jacksonville area offers both our intellectual and our recreational personas ample opportunity to learn and play. And the weather promises to be beautiful, with average temperatures in the 70's, and plenty of sunshine.

We look forward to having you come to our home city for this great event! And Check out the Hotel at: <http://www.hyattregencyjacksonville.com/>.

See you in April!

Jeff Will  
Local Arrangements Chair  
Professor of Sociology  
University of North Florida

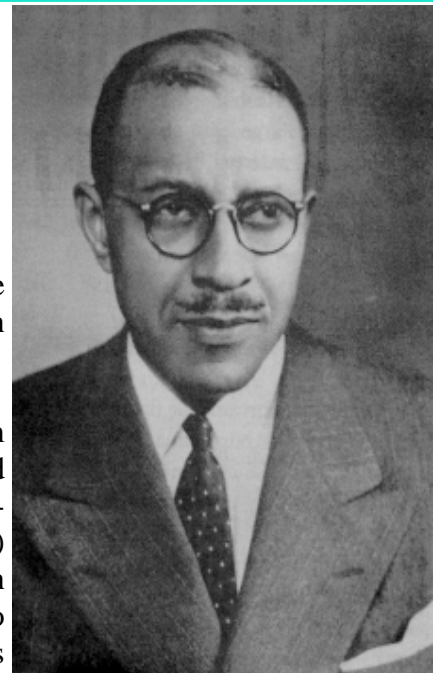


# 2011 SSS Awards

## Charles S. Johnson Added to SSS Roll of Honor

In our age of specialization we would do well to reflect on the broad scholarly and social contributions of this year's addition to the SSS Roll of Honor, Charles S. Johnson (1893 – 1956).

As a pioneering African American sociologist during the Jim Crow era, Johnson faced enormous hurdles with dignity and strength. He was trained in sociology at the University of Chicago by Robert Park (his first African American Ph.D. student) and quickly put his sociological understanding and research skills to work as a co-director of the official committee to study causes of the 1919 Chicago race riot. His report on this event was a powerful indictment of racial inequalities in the city and is still read today. Later in his career, Professor Johnson made African American community life and race relations in the South the focal points of his research. While he examined the issues blacks faced in their migration and settlement in large urban centers, Johnson was also a "rural sociologist" and in books and articles (e.g., *Shadow of the Plantation*, *The Collapse of Cotton Tenancy*, and *Growing Up in the Black Belt*) he produced some of the most thorough, accurate, and moving sociological studies of race relations, racial economic oppression, and black identity ever done. Johnson was also an important contributor to Gunnar Myrdal's work that led to the renowned *An American Dilemma*. Moreover, in covering the forms and inequalities generated by segregation in the South and other parts of the country Charles S. Johnson produced a classic of his own, *Backgrounds to Patterns of Negro Segregation* (1943).



In addition to Johnson's exceptional contributions to expanding sociological understanding of the problems and prospects of rural and urban African Americans, Johnson was a pioneer in what we now call the sociology of education. His books *The Negro College Graduate* (1938) and *Education and the Cultural Crisis* (1951) were early and important works on educational institutions and the need for equal educational opportunity. These books and other articles

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2011  
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made Charles Johnson a leading voice in the growing movement for racial integration of the public schools in the 1940s and 1950s.

Charles S. Johnson was one of our first “applied sociologists.” Beyond his sociological research in service to the movement for school integration, he did much research and community service for government agencies and commissions, private foundations, and international agencies (including the League of Nations and UNESCO). These international contacts led to Johnson doing an in-depth study of social, economic, and political conditions and conflicts in the African nation of Liberia (*Bitter Canaan: The Story of the Negro Republic*), and its analysis of stratification and colonialism was decades ahead of its time.

Members of the SSS may also be interested in another facet of his work that is less widely known. While living in New York in the 1920s and working for the Urban League, Johnson was a prominent sponsor of writers in the Harlem Renaissance. As editor of the Urban League’s journal, *Opportunity*, and editor of the book *Ebony and Topaz*, Johnson encouraged and published short stories, poetry, and sociological essays imbued with innovative and bold ideas on African American community, identity, and race relations.

Another vital part of Charles S. Johnson’s legacy was his outstanding tenure at Fisk University. As a professor and as Chairman of Fisk’s Department of Sociology, Johnson taught and mentored many cohorts of college students. He also gave guidance and support to countless faculty colleagues. So active and influential was he that he became President of Fisk University (the first African American to be appointed President of that black institution of higher learning).

Charles S. Johnson was so highly respected that he was elected, in 1946, as President of the Southern Sociological Society. It was rare in his day (and is rare in ours) for a scholar to be so adept and keen of insight that he could effectively study racial, economic, and social phenomena at the local (Macon County, Alabama, and other southern communities), the national (United States), and international (Liberia) levels. But Charles S. Johnson was a truly exceptional scholar and person.

Charles Jaret  
Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Georgia State University

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## LARRY ISAAC RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP AWARD



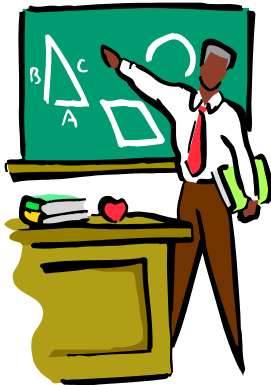
Currently Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Vanderbilt University, Larry Isaac received his Ph.D. from Indiana University—Bloomington and taught at Florida State University (where he was the Mildred and Claude Pepper Distinguished Professor of Sociology) until 2004. His research and teaching interests focus on social movements, social class, and historical sociology (especially Gilded Age America and the Sixties). His research has been supported by the National Institute of Mental Health, American Sociological Association, National Science Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has published scores of articles and essays, edited a volume on historical sociology, and is currently working on two book manuscripts.

Professor Isaac's research has contributed primarily to questions dealing with (a) political and cultural consequences of social movements, (b) methods for analyzing historical processes of social change, and (c) cultures of class. Currently editor of the *American Sociological Review*, he has also served on 11 scholarly journal and book editorial boards.

With Larry Griffin, he was the recipient, in 1990, of the Barrington Moore Award, given by the American Sociological Association's Comparative-Historical Section for the best article for "Ahistoricism in Time-Series Analyses of Historical Process" (*American Sociological Review*, 1989). This year he is the recipient of the Clifford Geertz Prize presented by the American Sociological Association's Culture Section for the best article in the last two years for "Movements, Aesthetics, and Markets in Literary Change: Making the American Labor Problem Novel" (*American Sociological Review*, 2009). Over his career, he has been honored with 8 teaching awards and recognitions. He has been a member of the SSS since his arrival at Florida State University in the late 1970s, serving on the Program Committee, Nominations Committee, Site Selection Committee, Finance Committee, Secretary-Treasury Search Committee, and as Vice-President and President. "I am truly honored to have my scholarship and lecturing abilities recognized by the Society. Thank you."

The topic of the 2010-2011 lecture is "‘Music City’ as ‘Movement City’: The Special Place of Nashville in the Southern Civil Rights Movement."





# 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](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)  
Chandrouti Persaud, Mississippi Valley State, [persaudmvsu@yahoo.com](mailto:persaudmvsu@yahoo.com)  
Aime Hess, Meredith College, [hessaime@meredith.edu](mailto:hessaime@meredith.edu)  
Siti Kusujiarti, Warren Wilson College, [skusujia@warren-wilson.edu](mailto:skusujia@warren-wilson.edu)  
Christine Wernet, University of South Carolina Aiken, [ChristineW@usca.edu](mailto:ChristineW@usca.edu)  
Sandra Godwin, Georgia College and State University, [sandra.godwin@gcsu.edu](mailto:sandra.godwin@gcsu.edu)

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

Welcome back! The committee is looking forward to an eventful year. As always we are planning sessions for the annual meetings and a dinner for anyone interested in networking with faculty at small colleges. In addition, we are hoping to institute a mentor program.

## **The Annual Meeting!**

### Sessions in Jacksonville:

The committee is working on organizing sessions for the annual meetings. Two sessions are always well-attended: “**Do you want to work at a Small or Community College?**” and “**Experiential Learning in Community College and Small College Sociology Classes.**” We will do our best to offer these sessions again.

Also, we hope to organize at least two other sessions. If there are topics you would like to see the committee sponsor in a session please let me know ([dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)). Topics have

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ranged from teaching issues at small colleges, to participation in small classrooms, to assessment...so just let the committee know what topics you would like to see offered.

## Dinner in Jacksonville:

Last April, we had a great turn-out for the dinner, so we will organize another one in Jacksonville. The committee offers the dinner so that people can network, connect, or just socialize with faculty members at small or community colleges.

## **The Teaching Corner!**

As always, the committee will be writing each edition of The Teaching Corner this year. Again, we are looking for teaching exercises to include in each edition. This information comes from SSS members. 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. Contact Denise Bissler ([dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)) if you are interested in submitting your exercise.

Also, we want to highlight outstanding SSS faculty or students. We try to include a *faculty spotlight (and would like to include an undergraduate/graduate student spotlight)* in each edition. If you would like to highlight the achievement of an SSS member from a small or community college or you know of a faculty member or student that deserves recognition for outstanding teaching, research or activism, please contact Denise Bissler ([dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)).

Also, please contact me if you have any *websites* that you have found particularly helpful in your teaching. Denise Bissler ([dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)).

## **Goals for this year!**

### Increasing Representation:

We are always trying to increase representation among faculty at small and community colleges in SSS. We sent electronic letters out to 244 faculty members at such institutions in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama hoping to recruit members for the Jacksonville meetings. We also intend to follow up with these faculty when the call for papers comes out.

Please help us get the word out that SSS is a society that is committed to both scholarship and teaching.

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# The Teaching Corner

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## Mentor Program:

The committee is working on creating a mentorship program including SSS members of small/community colleges and newer members. The more experienced members can help the newer members navigate the meetings or provide guidance with other issues such as job hunting, managing family/work balance issues, adjusting to small college environment, etc.

ing family/work balance issues, adjusting to small college environment, etc.

The committee hopes to offer a meet-and-greet at the Jacksonville meeting for members to introduce themselves to their mentor/mentee

\*\*\*Please contact me if you are willing to be a mentor or if you like to be mentored: Denise Bissler: [dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu).

## Teaching Exercise

### Milligan Unplugged...and not even wireless....

**Biographical Information:** Rubye W. Beck is about to begin her 17<sup>th</sup> year teaching sociology at Milligan College, a small Christian college in Northeast Tennessee. She teaches Introductory Sociology, Social Problems, Latin American Cultures, Gender and Society, Theory, Medical Sociology, and numerous other classes. Her most recent research has been in the area of service-learning. Previous research has included work on social support and widowhood, social factors in rural community health, and analysis of extended-family households. She earned her doctorate at the University of Florida, specializing in Social Gerontology and Marriage and Family.

**Utility:** The following exercise was designed for use in an introductory sociology class, but would also work well in a social psychology class. The idea for this assignment struck me as I observed the ubiquity of the near-continuous use of electronic devices by students: texting in class, shopping on e-bay during lectures, chatting on cell phones while walking across campus, ignoring all the people around them, and listening to I-Pods to the exclusion of any type of conversation with other people. I wondered what would happen to them if they were deprived of these devices for 24 hours. Would they have a total nervous breakdown, or perhaps notice for the first time that birds sing? I decided to assign this exercise as an optional extra-credit project, to avoid the charge of cruel and unusual punishment.

**Procedure:** Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to *spend 24 hours living as though it were 1985*. (No, you do not have to wear shoulder pads or leg warmers!) Here's what you'll need to do.

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# The Teaching Corner

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1. **For 24 hours, do not use your cell phone at all** (you can give it to a close friend for safekeeping), **do not use a computer or any other device to access the internet in any form**, not even facebook! **Do not play any games using a computer or portable device.** You may use a computer for word processing only, such as typing an assigned paper if absolutely necessary, but it is better to avoid this activity. **Do not watch any television on any device.** (I am aware there was TV in 1985, but this limitation is part of the assignment.) **Do not use an I-Pod or any personal music listening device.** You should let your friends and family know you're doing this assignment, so that they won't assume you've been abducted by aliens or hit by a bus. Give them a friend's cell phone number to contact you **ONLY** in case of emergency.
2. Take **detailed notes** on paper (not a computer of course) on what you experience. You will need to turn in your notes.
3. **Note how you feel not being plugged in:**
  - What things do you notice that you miss about using your electronic devices?
  - What barriers does this experience present to accomplishing your expected daily tasks?
  - In what ways are you **less connected** to other people during this experiment?
  - Note any **positive** things that happen as a result of giving up these devices for 24 hours.
  - In what ways are you **more connected** to other people during this experiment?
  - What did you do with the time you would otherwise have spent using these devices?
4. Write a two to three page paper addressing these questions and describing what you experienced and what you learned from this experiment. Remember to turn in your notes in addition to your paper. Please use font size 12. If you wish, you may make a short presentation in class on your paper.

**Student reactions to assignment:** Student reactions to this electronics deprivation were mixed. As expected, several noted that they felt cut off from other people, for example having to walk across the dorm hall and speak to a friend, or physically searching for a buddy in the cafeteria, rather than texting their question or location. Several noted that they felt lonely, being accustomed to chatting with friends and family numerous times per day, and even sleeping with their cell phones beside them to be available around the clock. Speaking of clocks, most students do not wear a watch, relying on their phones to let them know the time to get to class or

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# The Teaching Corner

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when to expect class to be over. Some felt strange without the constant musical soundtrack their I-Pods provided. Since they couldn't check facebook, they were the last to know of their friends' status updates, which made several feel anxious about being left out of what was going on. One extremely conscientious student called me, assuring me she was using a landline, to ask whether we

had hairdryers in 1985. I assured her she could blow dry her hair!

On the positive side, several students noted that they had longer and more meaningful conversations with their roommates or family members. One noted that she and a roommate played guitars and sang for a couple of hours, and how much fun that was. She had forgotten how much she enjoyed her music. Several noted that they enjoyed some uninterrupted sleep. Another spent a lazy Sunday afternoon petting her dog and playing board games with her parents and brother. She confessed that her mother had asked if I could assign this project again.

While most students indicated that they would be unwilling, or even unable, to give up the advantages of using these devices, several noted that they would start setting aside a few hours here and there to live device-free. Perceived advantages included a deepening of relationships, being more aware of nature, and accomplishing more focused and productive schoolwork.

## Websites for Teaching about Sociological Issues

Included in this issue are various websites for teaching in general:

**Click here to subscribe to [TRAILS](#):**

American Sociological Association now offers TRAILS which is an online teaching resource center (12-month subscriptions are \$25 to current ASA members, \$100 to non-members). This "Innovative web-based system could spark better teaching and shift paradigm for assessing professors."

<http://abcnews.go.com/WhatWouldYouDo/>

ABC stages scenarios in which people are put in awkward social situations and films their reactions. Some are mundane and fun and others are quite serious. For example, one show by-stander's reactions when it appears that a stranger is trying to abduct a child. Another shows African-American shoppers being mistreated by store employees.

<http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/>

This site offers C-span video clips that are "Timely, Teachable, Videos." Current topics discussed on video could be used in class (in part or whole) to spark discussion of current controversies.

# The Teaching Corner

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## Faculty Spotlight

Rubye W. Beck



Rubye W. Beck is an associate professor beginning her seventeenth year teaching sociology at Milligan College, a small Christian college in Elizabethton, Tennessee. She is one of the two sociology professors at Milligan, so she teaches a wide variety of courses, including Introductory Sociology, Social Problems, Latin American Cultures, Gender and Society, Theory, Medical Sociology, Sociological Research, Death, Dying and Bereavement, and several other classes. In addition to teaching four classes each semester, she serves on several committees and supervises student field work.

Dr. Beck has been instrumental in developing and evaluating students' service-learning projects. Her most recent research was a retrospective survey and follow-up qualitative interviews of a 15-year cohort of Milligan alumni regarding their service-learning experiences at Milligan, their careers, their values, and their volunteer work since that time.

Dr. Beck's previous published research has included work on social support, religion and widowhood, social factors in rural community health, and analysis of extended-family households. She earned her B.A. at Lambuth College, her M.A. at Memphis State University, and her Ph.D. at the University of Florida, specializing in Social Gerontology and Marriage and Family.

Prior to teaching at Milligan College, Dr. Beck was a research associate at the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University. Dr. Beck and her husband, fellow sociologist Dr. Scott Beck, have lived in Johnson City for 26 years, where they have raised two wonderful daughters and have been active members of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, where they both serve as volunteers with the church's programs for the poor and homeless. Dr. Beck attended her first Southern Sociology meeting in New Orleans while she was a student at Memphis State University and has presented papers and poster sessions a few times over the years, most recently at the 2010 meeting in Atlanta.

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# Opportunities



Council on Undergraduate Research  
*Learning Through Research*

## **Social Science Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research Invites Sociologists to Join**

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), founded in 1978, is a national organization of individual and institutional members representing over 900 colleges and universities. It supports and promotes high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship. CUR and its affiliated colleges, universities, and individuals share a focus on providing undergraduate research opportunities for faculty and students at all institutions serving undergraduate students. CUR believes that faculty members enhance their teaching and contribution to society by remaining active in research and by involving undergraduates in research. CUR's leadership works with agencies and foundations to enhance research opportunities for faculty and students. CUR provides support for faculty development. Publications and outreach activities are designed to share successful models and strategies for establishing and institutionalizing undergraduate research programs. The organization assists administrators and faculty members in improving and assessing the research environment at their institutions. CUR also provides information on the importance of undergraduate research to state legislatures, private foundations, government agencies, and the U.S. Congress and advocates in support of faculty and undergraduates engaged in undergraduate research.

More information about the Council of Undergraduate Research and membership information is available at <http://www.cur.org> or by contacting the Social Science Division Chair, Andrea Chapdelaine at [achapdelaine@alb.edu](mailto:achapdelaine@alb.edu).

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## Call for Distinguished Lecturer Campus Visit

In the past few years, SSS has honored one of its members with the title of Southern Sociological Society Distinguished Lecturer. The honoree, who receives an honorarium and this honorific title for the year awarded, commits to giving a minimum of two public lectures at SSS region colleges/universities in that year. The 2010-2011 Lecturer is Larry Isaac, Vanderbilt University, whose topic is “‘MUSIC CITY’ AS ‘MOVEMENT CITY’: THE SPECIAL PLACE OF NASHVILLE IN THE SOUTHERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.”

The campuses at which Professor Isaac speaks are to be chosen on a competitive basis by the 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 SSS Honors committee is taking applications from SSS regions colleges and universities to have Dr. Isaac deliver his lecture at their campus in the spring of 2011. Application is straightforward, and consists of a letter outlining the benefits of having Dr. Isaac speak at your campus, in relation to both the resource issue as well as how his topic would be ideal for your college or university. The deadline for receipt of such letters is **October 29, 2010**, and should be sent by email to the Honors Committee chair, Toni Calasanti, at [toni@vt.edu](mailto:toni@vt.edu). Selection of campuses will be made shortly thereafter so that schools might arrange the spring lecture at a convenient time for both them and Professor Isaac. If you have any questions about this process or about the lectureship, please email Toni Calasanti ([toni@vt.edu](mailto:toni@vt.edu)).

“MUSIC CITY” AS “MOVEMENT CITY”: THE SPECIAL PLACE OF NASHVILLE IN THE SOUTHERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT—Abstract

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the "music city" went through a transformation that made it one of the most important "movement cities" in the Southern civil rights movement. The claim that Nashville was a special place, a key movement city in the civil rights movement, hinges on three central moments: initial conditions, quality of organization and training, and a highly committed mobile cadre. First, prior to the movement Nashville had a cultural, organizational, and institutional infrastructure that made it highly conducive to launching a movement against Jim Crow social arrangements. Second, due largely to the migration of James M. Lawson, Jr., to the city in 1958, Nashville became one of the most organized and disciplined training grounds for the Southern movement and served as a major stage for successfully launching sit-ins, stand-ins, marches, and freedom rides. Finally, many of those who were trained and earned their "movement spurs" in the Nashville crucible would help move the movement by playing leadership roles in other campaigns across the South. In general, the Nashville case illustrates the significant role of *place* in social movement studies, one in which a movement school created a powerful nonviolent leadership counterculture. As such, it stands as a major model and inspiration for contemporary social justice movements.



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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.

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**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.

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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.

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