

Sociology and Social Welfare Division Newsletter

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Summer 2008

Message from the Division Chair

Dear Members:

This is my last newsletter message as Chair of this Division. It has been a rewarding experience serving and it gives me great pleasure to announce Dave Wagner as the incoming Chair. The Division is lucky to have such an esteemed Chair for the next term. Dave is an accomplished scholar, advocate, and practitioner. He has worked as a social worker, a community and labor organizer and continues to be active in community issues. He has also written widely in the areas of poverty and social welfare. His books include *Checkerboard Square*, which won the 1993 C. Wright Mills award, *What's Love Got to Do with It? A Critical Look at American Charity*, and *The Poorhouse: America's Forgotten Institution*. His current book, published in November 2007, is *Ordinary People: In and Out of Poverty in the Gilded Age*. Dave holds degrees from Columbia University, University of Massachusetts and City University of New York. So please join me in welcoming Dave as the next Division Chair!

Congratulations also go to Joyce Bialik who is this year's winner of our Graduate Student Paper Competition. Joyce is a fourth-year doctoral student at the Wurzweiller School of Social Work, Yeshiva University. She will be presenting her award-winning paper *Working Poor Fathers* at the annual meeting (see details under this year's session descriptions on page 2 of this newsletter. Special thanks to Division members Sandra Fogel and Richard Caputo for coordinating this year's competition.

Lastly, the 58th SSSP annual meeting is coming up quickly and we are sponsoring a number of interesting paper sessions. This year's meeting entitled *Crossing Borders: Activist Scholarship, Globalization, and Social Justice* is being held in Boston, MA at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers on July 31 through August 2, 2008. Details of our sessions are on the next page.

I hope to see you at the meeting!

Deirdre Oakley

Georgia State University

DIVISION-SPONSORED PAPER SESSIONS

Thursday, July 31 – 8:30am-10:10am

Session 2: Beyond the Numbers: Challenging the Proclaimed Success of Welfare Reform, Part I

Room: Charles River

Organizers: Luisa S. Deprez, University of Southern Maine Mary Gatta, Rutgers University

Presider: Mary Gatta, Rutgers University

Discussant: Luisa S. Deprez, University of Southern Maine

Papers:

“It’s All One Big Circle: Welfare Discourse and the Everyday Lives of Urban Adolescents,” *Staci Lowe, University of Madison, Wisconsin*

“Reframing Child Support Initiatives: The Fathers Behind the Numbers,” *Timothy Black, Lauren LoBue and Matthew Walker, University of Hartford*

“Patchwork: The (Dis)integration of Social Welfare from the Standpoints of Low-Income Women,” *Autumn Green, Boston College*

“Poor Women’s Views of and Experiences with Welfare-to-Work Programs in Philadelphia,” *Rebecca Joyce Kissane, Lafayette College*

Saturday, August 2, 4:30-6:10pm

Session 143: Working Poor in the Global Economy (Co-sponsored with Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division)

Room: Newbury

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Sondra Fogel, University of South Florida

Papers:

“ETIC and TANF Participation Among Young Adult Low-income Families,” *Richard Caputo, Yeshiva University*

“Working Poor Fathers,” *Joyce Bialik, Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University, 1st place Winner of the Sociology and Social Welfare Division’s Student Paper Competition*

“The Value of Hard Work: Low Wage Labor and the Construction of Work as a Moral Virtue,” *Alecea Standlee, Syracuse University*

“Language and Undocumented Immigration as a Social Problem: Pre- and Post 9/11,” *Caitlin E. Slodden, Brandeis University*

Thursday, July 31, 10:30am-12:10pm

Session 12: Beyond the Numbers: Challenging the Proclaimed Success of Welfare Reform, Part II

Room: Charles River

Organizers: Luisa S. Deprez, University of Southern Maine Mary Gatta, Rutgers University

Presider: Luisa S. Deprez, University of Southern Maine

Discussant: Mary Gatta, Rutgers University

Papers:

“Caring for Our Children: The Impact of Welfare Reform on Childcare Needs in Poor Rural Communities,” *Debra A. Henderson and Ann R. Tickamyer, Ohio University*

“Welfare and Family Economic Security: Toward a New Poverty Knowledge,” *Deborah A. Harris, Texas State University, San Marcos and Domenico Parisi, Mississippi State University*

“A Qualitative Analysis of the Welfare Experiences of Low-Functioning Rural Women,” *Heather M. FitzGibbon, The College of Wooster*

“Welfare Reform and Household Survival in a Transnational Community: The Case of Deep South Texas,” *Mark Harvey, Florida Atlantic University*

Annual Meeting Announcements

The Sociology and Social Welfare Division Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 31 from 4:30pm to 6:10pm in the Stanbro Room.

A reception co-sponsored by Sociology and Social Welfare Division will be held on Thursday, July 31 from 6:30p to 7:30pm in the Plaza Ballroom.

The annual SSSP Awards Banquet will be held on Friday, August 1 from 8 to 10pm in the Plaza Ballroom.

Featured Documentary

The Meth Epidemic, 2006
Directed by Carl Byker
Length: 60 minutes

In *The Meth Epidemic*, FRONTLINE, in association with *The Oregonian*, investigates the meth rampage in America: the appalling impact on individuals, families and communities; the difficulty of controlling an essential ingredient in methamphetamine and pseudoephedrine -- sold legally in over-the-counter cold remedies; and the impasse that lawmakers have reached in trying to regulate it. United States Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has called meth "the most dangerous drug in America," while the United Nations has labeled it "the most abused hard drug on earth." *The Meth Epidemic* chronicles the history of the drug's development and use in the United States, while exploring through firsthand accounts how destructive meth addiction can be.

You can watch the entire film online at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/meth/view/>

Featured Book

Bargaining for Brooklyn: Community Organizations in the Entrepreneurial City

By Nicole P. Marwell. University of Chicago Press, 2007. 290 pp. ISBN 0-226-50907-9.

Bargaining for Brooklyn is an ethnographic study of eight community-based organizations (CBOs) located in Brooklyn's Williamsburg and Bushwick neighborhoods. Its focus is on the role of CBOs in negotiating the larger social order of the city thus shedding new light on how the symbiotic relationship between mainstream social institutions and neighborhood-based organizations.

This book received an honorable mention from the American Sociological Association's Park Book Award Committee for 2008.

The book tells a number of stories illustrating how these CBOs engage in the larger economic and political arenas of child care, housing, public resources distribution, employment, and public education reform in an ongoing pursuit to improve the lives of local residents. Within an historical backdrop, the stories detail a variety of achievements and struggles highlighting the complex organizational environments in which these CBOs operate.

Bargain Boston Bistros

Border Cafe

32 Church St, Cambridge, MA , 02138-3730 Phone: (617) 864-6100

Massive margaritas and affordable Tex-Mex fare combine to yield one of Harvard Square's most popular restaurants.

Bukowski's Tavern

1281 Cambridge St, Cambridge, MA, 02139 Phone: (617) 497-7077

This Cambridge sibling to the Back Bay's popular beer bar updates the original's formula with stellar results

El Pelon Taqueria

92 Peterborough St, Boston, MA, 02215 Phone: (617) 262-9090

Some of the city's best, most authentic tacos and burritos are wildly popular with budget-conscious students.

Greek Corner Restaurant

2366 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA, 02140-1852 Phone: (617) 661-5655

With its fresh, affordable dishes, this casual Greek eatery is a favorite among Cambridge residents.

No Name Restaurant

15 Fish Pier St W, Boston, MA, 02210-2008 Phone: (617) 338-7539

The last of the waterfront's no-frills seafood joints, value and freshness trump atmosphere and service.

The Paramount

44 Charles St, Boston, MA, 02114 Phone (617) 720-1152

Welcoming Charles St. restaurant has been serving fluffy French toast and savory steak tips since 1937.

Teaching Resource in the Spot Light

Social Explorer

This online mapping system has provided easy access to demographic information about the United States, from 1940 to 2000 for a number of years now and is constantly being updated. In partnership with The Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA), Social Explorer's most recent addition includes maps and reports about organized religion in the United States.

Housed at City University of New York, Queens and run by Professor Andrew Beveridge and his team, Social Explorer is an innovative teaching and research tool.

To check out this resource, log on to <http://www.socialexplorer.com/pub/home/home.aspx>

Newsletter Submissions

I wanted to use this space to call for future submissions to the Sociology and Social Welfare Division newsletter. Particularly, I wanted to ask for submissions for the *Fall* edition. I will accept submissions until **September 30, 2008**.

Submissions have a wide range, from new publications to pertinent division information, awards, job openings, etc. You may send any material directly to me. My contact information is below.

Thank you in advance for your submissions and I look forward to serving this division. For more information about my research and scholarship, I direct you to my website:

<http://personal.bgsu.edu/~antwanj>.

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