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# SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION NEWS

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Society for the Study of Social Problems

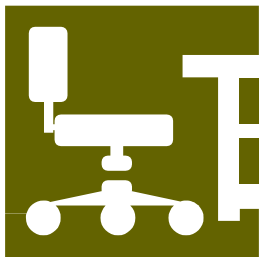
Fall 2004

## SSWD Chair 2004 - 2005

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## A Message from the Chair



Hello to members and friends of the Sociology and Social Welfare Division!

Let me begin this section with a thank-you to Alfred L. Joseph, the outgoing SSWD Chair, for leading the division for the past 2 years. We'll miss Alfred at the Philadelphia meeting next year as he will be settling in for a year of teaching and research at the Miami University Dolibois European Center in Luxembourg.

You will notice that the newsletter is undergoing modification. I welcome your comments and suggestions. I'd like to keep the film recommendation section and add a couple of sections, such as a book recommendation and current events of interest to SSWD members. Please consider submitting a brief essay describing recent lectures, protests, etc. from your part of the country. Send your suggestions and newsletter contributions to me ([anne.broussard@unh.edu](mailto:anne.broussard@unh.edu)).

The 2005 conference theme is **Blowback: The Unintended Consequences of Social Problems Solutions**. I will look forward to seeing you at our sessions and hope that you will make time to attend the SSWD business meeting.

Have a safe and productive year!



## Annual Student Paper Competition

Watch for the SSSP announcement of the Student Paper Competitions. Please announce it to your classes and encourage your students to submit papers. Competition winners receive cash prizes (1<sup>st</sup> prize - \$150 plus meeting registration; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - 100 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - \$50).

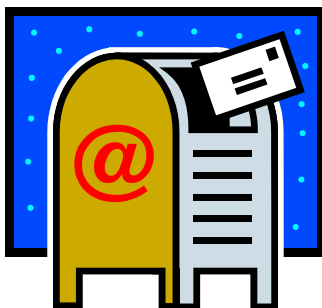
## New Books & Films?

Help us out! Spread the word about your recent publications and films to your peers. Submit the title and a short review of recently released or soon-to-be-released books and we will include them future editions of the newsletter.



## Read Your Division Newsletters Online This Year

At the 2004 Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors voted that all division newsletters will be distributed electronically from now on, noting that, "This effort will save time, money, and our natural resources." No hard copies will be printed or mailed to division members.



One of our SSWD members has a book coming out in January, 2005

## ***The Poorhouse: America's Forgotten Institution***

By David Wagner

Publisher: Rowman and Littlefield

Many of us grew up hearing our parents exclaim "you are driving me to the poorhouse!" or remember the card in the "Monopoly" game which says : "Go to the Poorhouse! Lose a Turn!" Yet most Americans know little or nothing of this institution which existed under a variety of names for approximately three hundred years of American history. Surprisingly these institutions variously named poorhouses, poor farms, sometimes almshouses or workhouses, have received rather scant academic treatment, as well, though tens of millions of poor people were confined there, while often their neighbors talked in hushed tones and in fear of their own fate at the "specter of the poorhouse."

Based on the author's study of six New England poorhouses/poor farms, a hidden story in America's history is presented which will be of popular interest as well as useful as a text in social welfare and social history. While the poorhouse's mission was character reform and "repressing pauperism," these goals were gradually undermined by poor people themselves, who often learned to use the poorhouse for their own benefit, as well as by staff and officials of the houses, who had agendas sometimes at odds with the purposes for which the poorhouse was invented.

### About The Author

**David Wagner** is professor of social work and sociology at the University of Southern Maine. He is the author of five books, including *Checkerboard Square: Culture and Resistance in a Homeless Community*, winner of the 1993 C. Wright Mills Book Award.

# SSWD Sponsored Sessions for the 2005 SSSP Meeting

## Regular Sessions

### **Before and After TANF: Losing Ground or Moving Ahead?**

Organizer: Sanford Schram  
Graduate School of Social Work and Social  
Research  
Bryn Mawr College  
300 Airdale Road  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
Fax: 610-520-2655  
[sschram@brynmawr.edu](mailto:sschram@brynmawr.edu)

### **Faith Based Services: Meeting the Needs?**

*Organizer:* David Wagner  
Contact Information:  
School of Social Work  
96 Falmouth Street  
Portland, ME 04104-9300  
Fax: 307-780-4902  
[wagner@usm.maine.edu](mailto:wagner@usm.maine.edu)

### **Social Policies that Impact Children and Youth**

*Organizer:* Marsha Zibalese-Crawford  
Contact Information  
Chair, Social Work Department  
Associate Professor  
Temple University  
School of Social Service Administration  
Ritter Annex, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fax: 215-844-0773  
[mcrawfor@temple.edu](mailto:mcrawfor@temple.edu)



## Thematic Session

### **The Unintended Social Consequences of War**

*Co-Organizers:* Vernon Brooks Carter &  
Anne Broussard  
Contact Information:  
Department of Social Work  
University of New Hampshire  
Durham, New Hampshire 03824  
Fax: 603-862-4374  
[vbcarter@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:vbcarter@cisunix.unh.edu)  
[anne.broussard@unh.edu](mailto:anne.broussard@unh.edu)

### **Joint Session with Poverty, Class and Inequality**

### **Tax Policy and Inequality**

*Organizer:* Daniel Egan  
Contact Information:  
Department of Sociology  
University of Massachusetts-Lowell  
Lowell, MA 01854  
Telephone (978) 934-4304  
[daniel\\_egan@uml.edu](mailto:daniel_egan@uml.edu)

### **Joint Session with Institutional Ethnography and Social Welfare**

### **Exploring Welfare Policies Ethnographically**

*Organizer:* Frank Ridzi  
Contact Information:  
Department of Sociology  
LeMoyne College  
1419 Salt Springs Road  
Syracuse, NY 13214  
[ridzifm@lemoyne.edu](mailto:ridzifm@lemoyne.edu)

## 2005 Program Participation Schedule

Deadline for electronic submission of papers/proposals to session organizers	January 31, 2005
Participants must be notified by the session organizer of acceptance or referral of paper proposal no later than	February 21, 2005
Session/paper titles and contact information for each author must be in the Executive Office no later than	March 1, 2005
Preliminary programs will be mailed to current members no later than	May 16, 2005
2005 Annual Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1800 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA	August 12-14, 2005

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



JSSW is published quarterly in March, June, September and December of each year. Check out the JSSW:

<http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/Newslettersjournals/jssw/index.htm>

This year a special issue will be devoted to the current role of theory in attempts to understand social welfare problems. The focus will be to determine whether, or in what ways, theory is useful in helping researchers or policy makers to understand institutions, policies, or social problems. Are standard theoretical orientations such as eco-systems, social construction, or Marxism still relevant? Do they require modification, extension, and synthesis? Should they be replaced entirely? Which new theories offer the most promise for helping us understand current social welfare problems?

Possible topics might include (any other topics might be considered):

- Do postmodernist theories undermine culture, or provide important insights into the subtle exercise of power.
- Does the differentiation between agency and structure make sense, or must institutions be conceptualized in a more integrated manner to end alienation?
- Does the notion of symbolic violence advanced by Bourdieu shed light on how racist practices are implemented in the current conservative climate?
- Are meta-theoretical integrations of knowledge, e.g. Wilber's four quadrants model, useful?
- Does chaos theory offer any advances over systems theory, or is it just as impotent when specific applications are called for?

Please send your papers by March 1, 2005 to:

John W. Murphy, Department of Sociology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL 33124.