



# Newsletter

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Southwestern Sociological Association

## Let's Hit the Slopes! 89th Annual SSSA Conference in Denver, CO

The Southwestern Social Sciences and Sociological Associations will hold annual meetings in Denver, Colorado from April 8 –11, 2009. The conference is entitled, “Investing in the Social Sciences: A Hidden Gem in Higher Education.” It will take place at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver. Look in the newsletter and the SSA website for session information. *Deadline for session submissions in November 3, 2008.*

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**Fall 2008**

### **Special points of interest:**

We moved our SSA website to centralize information for our members.

#### **For the SSA**

<http://www.swsociology.org>

#### **For the SSSA**

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



### **Call for 2009 Session Participants**

Look inside for a list of 52 sessions as well as guidelines for successful submission. There are separate guidelines for visual sociology and photography submissions. For any session or submission questions, contact Sara Horsfall, Program Chair and President Elect for the Southwestern Sociological Association at Texas Wesleyan University, 1201 Wesleyan, Fort Worth, Texas 76105; 817-531-4264; [shorsfall@txwes.edu](mailto:shorsfall@txwes.edu).

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**Executive Committee for 2008-2009:**

President	Janet Huber Lowry (2009); jlowry@austincollege.edu
President-Elect	Sara Towe Horsfall, Texas Wesleyan University; shorsfall@txwes.edu
Vice-President	Karen Manges Douglas, Sam Houston State University; kmdouglas@sbcglobal.net
Secretary-Treasurer	Ed Rossman, US Army Corps of Engineers; Edwin.J.Rossman@usace.army.mil
Executive Council	Nadine Barrett, University of Central Florida, (2007—2009); Njbarret@mail.ucf.edu Lisa Zottarelli, Texas Women's University, (2007—2009); LZottarelli@mail.twu.edu Amanda Baumle, University of Houston, (2008—2010); amandabaumle@hotmail.com Sherry McKibben, Texas Southern University, (2008—2010); sherrymckibben@yahoo.com
Past Presidents	Robyn Driskell, Baylor University (2008); Robyn_Driskell@baylor.edu Cherylon Robinson, University of Texas San Antonio (2007); Cherylon.Robinson@utsa.edu
Student Members	Bev Carlsen-Landy, Texas Woman's University, (2008—2009); bcarlsenlandy@twu.edu Allison Elmer, University of Texas, San Antonio; aelmer1234@hotmail.com Lyndsay Patty, University of North Texas; lpatty@pacs.unt.edu

**Other Officers and Program Chairs:**

Program Chair	Sara Towe Horsfall, Texas Wesleyan University; shorsfall@txwes.edu
Nominations,	Robyn Driskell, Baylor University; Robyn_Driskell@Baylor.edu
Distinguished Papers, & Department Awards	Beverly Stiles, Midwestern State University; Beverly.stiles@mwsu.edu
Elections	
Silent Auction	Karen Manges Douglas, Sam Houston State University; kmdouglas@sbcglobal.net
Student Awards	Nadine Barrett, University of Central Florida; Njbarret@mail.ucf.edu (email may change)
Membership	Janet Huber Lowry; Jlowry@austincollege.edu
Historian & Parliamentarian	Robert Beckley, West Texas A&M; rbeckley@mail.wtamu.edu
Web Master	Sara Towe Horsfall, Texas Wesleyan University; shorsfall@txwes.edu
Newsletter	Janet Armitage, St. Mary's University; jarmitage1@stmarytx.edu
Association Homepage	<a href="http://www.swsociology.org/">http://www.swsociology.org/</a>

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## 2009 SSA Call for Papers

<p><b>AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE 21ST CENTURY</b>          Betty B. Cox          Texas Southern University          713-313-4218  <a href="mailto:Cox.bb@tsu.edu">Cox.bb@tsu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>MORTALITY</b>          Sherry McKibben          Institutional Effectiveness          Texas Southern University          Hanna Hall 315          3100 Cleburne Street          Houston, Texas 77004          713-313-4313  <a href="mailto:sherrymckibben@yahoo.com">sherrymckibben@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>AGING</b>          Charlotte Dunham          Sociology, Anthropology &amp; Social Work          Texas Tech University          Lubbock, Texas  <a href="mailto:charlotte.dunham@ttu.edu">charlotte.dunham@ttu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SOCIAL THEORY</b>          Matthew Kanjirathinkal          Dept of Psychology and Sociology          Park University          Parkville, Mo 64152          816-752-4802  <a href="mailto:mathewk@park.edu">mathewk@park.edu</a></p>
<p><b>APPLIED SOCIOLOGY</b>          Ida J. Cook          Department of Sociology          University of Central Florida          PO Box 25000          Orlando, FL 32816-1360          407-823-2227  <a href="mailto:cook@mail.ucf.edu">cook@mail.ucf.edu</a></p>	<p><b>POSTER SESSION (INTERDISCIPLINARY)</b>          Charles M. Tolbert, II          Department of Sociology          Baylor University          Waco, TX 76798-7326          (254) 710-1165 (254) 710-1175 (fax)  <a href="mailto:Charlie_Tolbert@baylor.edu">Charlie_Tolbert@baylor.edu</a></p>
<p><b>CLASS AND MOBILITY</b>          Robert Wallace          Department of Sociology          McMurry University          1400 Sayles Blvd.          Abilene, TX 79697          325-793-3895  <a href="mailto:rwallace@mcm.edu">rwallace@mcm.edu</a></p>	<p><b>POVERTY &amp; HOMELESSNESS</b>          Rachel Rayburn          Department of Sociology          University of Central Florida          Orlando, FL 32816          321.544.0473  <a href="mailto:RachelRayburn@bellsouth.net">RachelRayburn@bellsouth.net</a></p>
<p><b>EVOLUTION AND CULTURE</b>          David E. Pearson          Vice President          Partnership Affairs Division          Gorgas Hall          University of Texas at Brownsville          80 Fort Brown          Brownsville, TX 78520          956-882-6567  <a href="mailto:David.Pearson@utb.edu">David.Pearson@utb.edu</a></p>	<p><b>SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION</b>          Betty B. Cox          Texas Southern University          713-313-4218  <a href="mailto:Cox.bb@tsu.edu">Cox.bb@tsu.edu</a></p>

<p><b>DEVIANT BEHAVIOR</b>  Beverly Stiles  Department of Sociology  Midwestern State University  Wichita Falls, TX 76308  940-397-4019  <a href="mailto:Beverly.Stiles@mwsu.edu">Beverly.Stiles@mwsu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>SOCIAL ISSUES AND POLICIES</b>  Rick Rogers  Population Program  University of Colorado  Boulder, Co 80303-0484  303-492-2147  <a href="mailto:Richard.rogers@colorado.edu">Richard.rogers@colorado.edu</a></p>
<p><b>ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY</b>  Muhammad Haque  Department of Social Science  McNeese State University  Lake Charles, LA 70609  337-475-5177  <a href="mailto:mhaque@mcneese.edu">mhaque@mcneese.edu</a></p>	<p><b>SOCIAL THEORY</b>  Tom Segady  Department of Sociology  Stephen F. Austin State University  Nacogdoches, TX 75962-3047  936-468-2221, FAX: 936-468-2162  <a href="mailto:tsegady@sfasu.edu">tsegady@sfasu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY</b>  Edwin J. Rossman, Ph. D.  Social Scientist - Assistant Chief, Planning/Environmental Division  U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa Dist.  1645 S. 101st East Ave  Tulsa, OK 74128  voice: 918-669-4921  fax: 918-669-7546  <a href="mailto:Edwin.J.Rossman@usace.army.mil">Edwin.J.Rossman@usace.army.mil</a></p>	<p><b>SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HIV AND AIDS</b>  Tanni Chaudhuri  Texas Wesleyan University  1201 Wesleyan  Fort Worth, Texas 76105  817-531-4900  <a href="mailto:c_tanni@hotmail.com">c_tanni@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>GENDER AND SOCIETY</b>  Beverly Stiles  Department of Sociology  Midwestern State University  Wichita Falls, TX 76308  940-397-4019  <a href="mailto:Beverly.Stiles@mwsu.edu">Beverly.Stiles@mwsu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>SUBSTANCE ABUSE</b>  Ida J. Cook  Department of Sociology  University of Central Florida  PO Box 25000  Orlando, FL 32816-1360  407-823-2227  <a href="mailto:cook@mail.ucf.edu">cook@mail.ucf.edu</a></p>
<p><b>EVALUATION RESEARCH SESSION</b>  Gary Stokley  Associate Professor, Sociology and Community Relations Officer  Louisiana Tech University  P.O. Box 9988  Ruston, LA 71272  318-257-4804 (O)  318-278-3124 (C)  <a href="mailto:gstokley@latech.edu">gstokley@latech.edu</a></p>	<p><b>SOCIOLOGY AND THE MEDIA</b>  William E. (Bill) Thompson  Director of Mayo College  Texas A&amp;M-Commerce  Commerce, TX 75429-3011  903-886-5876; fax: 903-468-6077  <a href="mailto:William_Thompson@TAMU-Commerce.edu">William_Thompson@TAMU-Commerce.edu</a></p>

<p><b>CULTURE</b>  Helen Brethauer-Gay  Department of Sociology and CRJ  Florida A&amp;M University  416C Perry Paige  Tallahassee, Florida 32307  <a href="mailto:Helen.brethauer-gay@famuedu">Helen.brethauer-gay@famuedu</a>  850-561-2255</p>	<p><b>RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CULTURE</b>  Dr. Mahmoud Sadri  Texas Woman's University  Department of Sociology  Denton, TX 76204  949-898-2052  <a href="mailto:msadri@mail.twu.edu">msadri@mail.twu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>DEMOGRAPHY</b>  Dudley L. Poston, Jr.  Department of Sociology  Texas A&amp;M University  College Station, Texas 77843-4351  979-574-5055 (cell)  <a href="mailto:d-poston@tamu.edu">d-poston@tamu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>RELIGION</b>  Bob Beckley  Department of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work  West Texas A&amp;M  Canyon, Texas 79016-0001  806-651-2595  <a href="mailto:rbeckley@wtamu.edu">rbeckley@wtamu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>DEMOGRAPHY AND RACE</b>  Chiung-Fang Chang  Department of Sociology, Social Work, &amp; Criminal Justice  Lamar University  Beaumont, TX 77710  409-880-7621  <a href="mailto:cchang2@my.lamar.edu">cchang2@my.lamar.edu</a>  <a href="mailto:chiung-fang.chang@lamar.edu">chiung-fang.chang@lamar.edu</a></p>	<p><b>SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE</b>  Douglas F. George  University of Central Arkansas  201 Donaghey Avenue  Irby Hall 306C  Conway, AR 72035-5003  501-450-5583  <a href="mailto:dougg@uca.edu">dougg@uca.edu</a></p>
<p><b>GRADUATE STUDENT PAPERS</b>  Janet Huber Lowry  Department of Sociology  Austin College,  900 N Grand Avenue, Ste 61641,  Sherman, TX 75090,  903-813-2568  <a href="mailto:JLowry@austincollege.edu">JLowry@austincollege.edu</a></p>	<p><b>UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPERS</b>  Mark Fossett  Department of Sociology  Texas A&amp;M University  Mail Stop 4351  College Station, Tx 77843  979-845-0812  <a href="mailto:m-fossett@tamu.edu">m-fossett@tamu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY</b>  Anthony Guerrero-Soto  Department of Sociology  University of North Texas  P.O. Box 31157  Denton, Texas 76203-1157  415.812.3017  <a href="mailto:Anthony.guerrero-soto@oig.hhs.gov">Anthony.guerrero-soto@oig.hhs.gov</a></p>	<p><b>U.S.-MEXICO BORDER ISSUES</b>  Cecilia Garza  Department of Sociology  Texas A&amp;M International University  5201 University Blvd.  Laredo, TX 78041  956-326-2619  <a href="mailto:cgarza@tamiu.edu">cgarza@tamiu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>CRIME AND JUSTICE</b>  Rhonda D. Evans  Department of Criminal Justice  University of Louisiana at Lafayette  Please send information to:  Sara Horsfall  <a href="mailto:shorsfall@txwes.edu">shorsfall@txwes.edu</a>  817-531-4264</p>	<p><b>QUALITATIVE STUDIES</b>  Shirley Rombough  Department of Social Work  University of Texas-Pan American  Edinburg, TX  956/381-2179 – office  <a href="mailto:srombough@utpa.edu">srombough@utpa.edu</a></p>

<p><b>INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION</b> Cristina Morales Department of Sociology University of Texas, El Paso El Paso, Texas <a href="mailto:Mcmorales@utep.edu">Mcmorales@utep.edu</a></p>	<p><b>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL</b> Sonia M. Frias Centro Regional de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias Universidad Autonoma Nacional de Mexico Avda Universidad s/n, Circuito 2 62210 Cuernavaca, Morelos (Mexico) Phone 777-313-0555 Fax 777-313-5981 <a href="mailto:sfrias@correo.crim.unam.mx">sfrias@correo.crim.unam.mx</a></p>
<p><b>INTERNET, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY</b> James L. Williams Department of Sociology and Social Work Texas Woman's University PO Box 425887 Denton, TX 76204 940-898-2052 <a href="mailto:JWilliams2@mail.twu.edu">JWilliams2@mail.twu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>VISUAL SOCIOLOGY STUDENT PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION</b> Charlotte Dunham Sociology, Anthropology &amp; Social Work Texas Tech University Lubbock, Texas <a href="mailto:charlotte.dunham@ttu.edu">charlotte.dunham@ttu.edu</a> Karen M. Douglas Sam Houston State University Huntsville, Texas 77341</p>
<p><b>GENETICS, ETHICS AND SOCIETY</b> Tom Segady Department of Sociology Stephen F. Austin State University Nacogdoches, TX 75962-3047 936-468-2221, FAX: 936-468-2162 <a href="mailto:tsegady@sfasu.edu">tsegady@sfasu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>TEACHING SOCIOLOGY</b>  James L. Williams Department of Sociology and Social Work Texas Woman's University PO Box 425887 Denton, TX 76204 940-898-2052 <a href="mailto:JWilliams2@mail.twu.edu">JWilliams2@mail.twu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>GENDER AND SOCIETY</b> Beverly Stiles Department of Sociology Midwestern State University Wichita Falls, TX 76308 940-397-4019 <a href="mailto:Beverly.Stiles@mwsu.edu">Beverly.Stiles@mwsu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>SUBSTANCE ABUSE</b> Ida J. Cook Department of Sociology University of Central Florida PO Box 25000 Orlando, FL 32816-1360 407-823-2227 <a href="mailto:cook@mail.ucf.edu">cook@mail.ucf.edu</a></p>
<p><b>GLOBALIZATION ISSUES</b> Muhammad Haque Department of Social Science McNeese State University Lake Charles, LA 70609 337-475-5177 <a href="mailto:mhaque@mcneese.edu">mhaque@mcneese.edu</a></p>	<p><b>TEENAGE CHILDBEARING</b> Jeff Dennis Department of Sociology University of Colorado at Boulder 327 UCB, Ketchum 219 Boulder, CO 80309 (303) 437-6619 <a href="mailto:Jeffrey.dennis@colorado.edu">Jeffrey.dennis@colorado.edu</a></p>

<p><b>JUVENILE DELINQUENCY</b>  Cheng-Hsien Lin  Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice  Lamar University  P.O.Box 10026  Beaumont, TX 77710  409-880-8339  <a href="mailto:chlin@my.lamar.edu">chlin@my.lamar.edu</a>  <a href="mailto:cheng-hsien.lin@lamar.edu">cheng-hsien.lin@lamar.edu</a></p>	<p><b>WOMEN IN POLITICS</b>  Shirley Rombough  Department of Social Work  University of Texas-Pan American  Edinburg, TX  956/537-9418 – cell  956/381-2179 – office  <a href="mailto:srombough@utpa.edu">srombough@utpa.edu</a></p>
<p><b>LIFE COURSE TRANSITIONS</b>  Mary Ann Davis  Sam Houston State University  P O Box 2446  1803 Avenue I, Room 311  Huntsville, TX 77341-2446  936-294-4083 936-294-3573 (fax)  <a href="mailto:mad011@shsu.edu">mad011@shsu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>WOMEN, WORK &amp; RACE</b>  Shilpashri Karbhari  Department of Sociology  Texas Women’s University  Denton, Texas  <a href="mailto:shilpashri@twu.edu">shilpashri@twu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY</b>  Nadine J. Barrett  Department of Sociology  P.O. Box 25000  University of Central Florida  Orlando, FL 32816  407-823-3923, 407-823-3026 Fax  <a href="mailto:NJBarret@mail.ucf.edu">NJBarret@mail.ucf.edu</a></p>	<p><b>THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD OF CHINESE YOUTH</b>  Dudley L. Poston, Jr.  Department of Sociology  Texas A&amp;M University  College Station, Texas 77843-4351  979-574-5055 (cell)  <a href="mailto:d-poston@tamu.edu">d-poston@tamu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>FERTILITY</b>  Sherry McKibben  Institutional Effectiveness  Texas Southern University  Hanna Hall 315  3100 Cleburne Street  Houston, Texas 77004  713-313-4313  <a href="mailto:sherrymckibben@yahoo.com">sherrymckibben@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITY</b>  Anthony Guerrero-Soto  Department of Sociology  University of North Texas  P.O. Box 31157  Denton, Texas 76203-1157  415.812.3017  <a href="mailto:Anthony.guerrero-soto@oig.hhs.gov">Anthony.guerrero-soto@oig.hhs.gov</a></p>
<p><b>GENDER AND CRIME</b>  Nathaniel Eugene Terrell  Department of Sociology and Anthropology  Emporia State University  1200 Commercial,  Campus Box 4022  Emporia, KS 66801  620-341-5321  <a href="mailto:nterrell@emporia.edu">nterrell@emporia.edu</a></p>	<p><b>SOCIOLOGY OF SPORTS</b>  Douglas F. George  University of Central Arkansas  201 Donaghey Avenue  Irby Hall 306C  Conway, AR 72035-5003  501-450-5583  <a href="mailto:dougg@uca.edu">dougg@uca.edu</a></p>

## SESSION GUIDELINES AND REMINDERS

1. Please indicate to your session chair if you need an overhead or other accommodation.
2. For questions, contact Sara Horsfall, Program Chair and President Elect for the Southwestern Sociological Association, at Texas Wesleyan University, 1201 Wesleyan, Fort Worth, Texas 76105, 817-531-4264, [shorsfall@txwes.edu](mailto:shorsfall@txwes.edu).

3. For Visual Sociology — Social Problems Photo Essay—Poster Contest Event:

A photographic essay is a personal and integrative statement about a social problem important to the student. The five to eight photographs should:

- reflect the social problem under consideration
- elicit an emotive response from the viewer
- be a statement of public affirmation of your position on the issue.

Title your essay, but no written copy is to accompany the photographs other than the location where the picture was taken in fine print. Place the photos in such an order of presentation that they “read” like an essay. Photographs downloaded from the Internet are acceptable as long as copyright laws are not violated. Please avoid large poster board presentations. *The due date is November 3, 2008 for topic & name.* Judges will evaluate: appropriateness of Title, whether photographs reflect the social problem under consideration, demonstrate a given position on the issue, elicit an emotive response from the viewer, if presentation “reads” like an essay, and all instructions were followed. Images due by November 30th.

4. All regular session submissions are due by November 3, 2008.

***For more information, go to the SSA or SSSA websites: for the SSA go to [www.swsociology.org](http://www.swsociology.org) and for the SSSA go to <http://www.sssaonline.org/>***

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## **“Investing in the Social Sciences: A Hidden Gem in Higher Education”**

Investing - WOW if ever there was a word more under attack, scrutiny, and attention right now, I don't know what it would be. Here we are less than two weeks from a critical election in the USA and less than two weeks from the submission deadline for the Southwestern Sociological Association meetings in Denver, April 7-11 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. As the sociology affiliate we are the second largest membership group of the Southwestern Social Science Association and will gather with colleagues from political science, history, economics, international studies, social work, and recently renamed women and gender studies groups for a summit on the value of our professions.

We are a significant part of a unique regional association whose disciplines are sorely needed in the coming administration and throughout the 21st century if we expect the planet to last another millennium for the human species. Yes we need the natural science of environmental science, but without the social science to help us reimagine our own behavior as it contributes to problems and solutions - will we make? We are the hidden gem in higher education, one many students drift to out of disillusion with science or inaction of humanities. We need more penetration of the secondary level of education and more collaborative research implementation at the undergraduate level to capture the best for our graduate programs in the coming lean years. That is why I'm proposing an interdisciplinary panel on the state of the social sciences in high school and the models of undergraduate and graduate research for our Interdisciplinary sessions this spring.

Please join us in Denver this April 2009 and submit a paper or poster (unique and increasingly popular format and opportunity for graduates and undergraduates again this year) to the many subfields of sociology listed in this program and the recent call for papers from our President Elect Sara Horsfall by the November 3rd deadline.

Consider bringing something for the Silent Auction - our fundraising effort for the American Sociological Association's MOST Program - and stopping by to bid on items in the exhibit hall. We hope the posters will also be in that hall this year and that more of our colleagues will consider this form of scholarly engagement.

What hidden gems can you reveal in Denver at the SSA and the SSSA? Visit the websites and join today and submit to a session organizer or the President Elect by November 3rd. I'm working on membership lists, so please share this with prospective members and notify me of any problems in our correspondence at [jlowry@austincollege.edu](mailto:jlowry@austincollege.edu).

Your Southwestern Sociological Association President 2009,  
Dr. Janet Huber Lowry - Austin College, retired professor

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## **Announcing the Publication of the Agenda for Social Justice, Solutions 2008**

The SSSP is pleased to offer you the Agenda for Social Justice, Solutions 2008, which represents an effort by our professional association to nourish a more "public sociology" that will be easily accessible and useful to policy makers. It is also a way to give something back to the people and institutions that support our scholarly endeavors. We hope that you find it helpful in your challenging work of crafting successful solutions to contemporary social problems. In all, it contains 11 pieces by SSSP members, covering a variety of social problems in three sections: global issues, Americans at risk, and health & welfare. This is an effort on the part of scholars at the Society for the Study of Social Problems to disseminate the findings in social problems research as freely and as widely as possible. The web page for the project is located here: <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323>. On that page, you can download the full version, and you can link directly to the one-page briefs and individual chapters. The chapters are available for free download, and may be suitable as cost-effective supplementary readings in many social problems-related courses.

For more information contact: Glenn W. Muschert, Ph.D. at Miami University, Department of Sociology and Gerontology, Oxford, Ohio 45056-1879, [www.users.muohio.edu/muschegw/](http://www.users.muohio.edu/muschegw/)



### **SSA Newsletter Ideas and Information?**

The SSA is interested in your sociological experiences, endeavors, projects, and more. If your department has disciplinary information to share with colleagues, please contact us. The newsletter editor can be reached at:

Janet S. Armitage, Ph.D.  
St. Mary's University  
Department of Sociology  
One Camino Santa Maria  
Charles Francis Hall 205  
San Antonio, Texas 78228-8579  
210-436-301 EXT. 1279  
[jarmitage1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jarmitage1@stmarytx.edu)

# Southwestern Sociological Association

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St. Mary's University  
Janet S. Armitage, Editor  
SSA Newsletter  
Department of Sociology  
One Camino Santa Maria  
San Antonio, TX 78228-8579

*Don't forget to select sociology as your  
affiliate when you renew your  
membership. Please remind colleagues  
that this is important.*

*We're on the web!*  
*<http://www.swsociology.org>*

