Calling 2011 Session Organizers

If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a session organizer, participant, and/or moderator of sessions at the 2011 Southwestern Sociological Association meeting in Las Vegas, we would like to know. Each year we are pleased to have the support of our colleagues.

As in previous years, we will offer traditional paper sessions as well as poster and visual sessions. The standard poster sessions will be presentations of empirical research in a display format rather than an oral paper reading. In contrast, the visual sessions will reflect the use of visual mediums (e.g., video, still photos, etc.) as tools to study the social world.

If you have questions or interests, please contact Dr. Mark Fossett, Texas A & M University; m-fossett@tamu.edu. The preliminary call for papers will be distributed in summer 2010, with a final deadline of mid October for paper and proposal submissions.

Southwestern Sociological Association

Photo Finish for 90th Annual SSA Conference in Houston, Texas

The Southwestern Social Sciences and Sociological Associations held annual meetings in Houston, Texas from March 31—April 3, 2010. The conference, entitled “E Pluribus Unum: Integrating Our Scholarship,” was held at the Hyatt Regency of Houston. For the first time in many a year, sociologists outnumbered political scientists! We presented papers in 78 sessions with over 400 registered participants.

Our next meeting is in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Riviera Hotel and Conference Center. Subsequent SSA meetings will be held in San Diego (2011), New Orleans (2013), San Antonio (2014), and Denver (2015).

Spring 2010

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/

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Executive Committee for 2010—2011:

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Past President  Sara Towe Horsfall, Texas Wesleyan University; shorsfall@txwes.edu

Other Officers and Program Chairs:

Program Chair  Mark Fossett, Texas A & M University; m-fossett@tamu.edu
Nominations, Distinguished Papers & Department Awards  Sara Towe Horsfall, Texas Wesleyan University; shorsfall@txwes.edu
Norma Williams
Service Award  Sherry McKibben, City of Huntsville; sherrymckibben@yahoo.com
Elections  Beverly Stiles, Midwestern State University; Beverly.stiles@mwsu.edu
Silent Auction  Charles M. Tolbert II, Baylor University; Charlie_Tolbert@Baylor.edu
Student Paper Awards  Cheng Hsien Lin, Lamar University; Cheng-Hsien.Lin@lamar.edu
Student Poster Awards  Charlotte Dunham, Texas Tech University; charlotte.dunham@ttu.edu
Naming Paper Awards  Bob Beckley, Doug Eckberg, Elizabeth Estherchild, Beverly Stiles, Jim Williams
Membership  Janet Huber Lowry, Austin College; Jlowry@austincollege.edu
Historian & Archivist  Robert Beckley, West Texas A&M University; rbeckley@mail.wtamu.edu
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Janet Huber Lowry, Austin College; Jlowry@austincollege.edu
Association Homepage  http://www.swsociology.org/
**2010 CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT**

**Interdisciplinary Historian as SSA Plenary Speaker**

Dr. Randolph Roth was the SSSA’s plenary speaker for the 2010 meeting in Houston, Texas. According to SSSA President Douglas Eckberg, Randolph Roth “is an historian who integrates historical and statistical methods in the study of historical variations in different types of violence—mainly murder... equally adept at working in dusty archives and at employing demographic estimation techniques in his work with historians, sociologists, political scientists, public health experts, and legal scholars.” His address, entitled “Can We Learn to Play Well with Others? Enlisting the Humanities, the Sciences, and the Social Sciences in the Study of Violence,” highlighted possibilities for scholarly integration across the social sciences.

Roth is a Professor of History and Sociology at Ohio State University, who received his Ph.D. in History from Yale University. He is author of *American Homicide* (2009), an interregional history of murder in the United States from colonial times to the present. In addition, he is founder/co-director of the Historical Violence Database at the Criminal Justice Research Center at Ohio State University (http://cjrc.osu.edu/researchprojects/hvd/) and serves on the editorial board of *Crime, History, and Societies*.

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**Poston Recognized for Norma Williams Service Award**

The fourth annual SSA Norma Williams Service Award recognized Dr. Dudley Poston as the 2010 recipient. This award is given to an SSA member, in good standing for 10 years, who demonstrates ongoing service to the SSA through meeting participation and student mentoring. The 2010 Committee, appointed by the President, recognized Poston for his tireless efforts with mentoring SSA student members. Previous service award recipients were Hiram Friedson (2007), Elizabeth Esterchild (2008), and Robert Buckley (2009).

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**ASA’s Shin Attends SSA Meeting for Fifth Consecutive Year**

American Sociological Association’s Jean Shin attended the SSA meetings for a fifth consecutive year. He brought exciting news of the impending launch of the online interactive digital resource library of teaching guides. And, extended gratitude for our continued support for the ASA’s Minority Fellowship Program, celebrating its 37th year at the ASA’s annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

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**Darville Becomes New SSSA President**

Doug Eckberg passed the SSSA gavel to Ray Darville in Houston. Dr. Ray Darville is Professor of Sociology at Stephen F. Austin State University and an associate instructor and researcher in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture where he works in the areas of natural resource interpretation and outdoor recreation. He received a Ph.D. in Sociology from University of North Texas in 1984 under the mentorship of Dr. Elizabeth Almquist Esterchild.
2010 CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Silent Auction

Once again, the SSA hosted a Silent Auction in Houston with proceeds benefiting the American Sociological Association’s Minority Fellowship Program. Jean Shin, offered his thanks to our association for the financial support of $1,000.

Visual Sociology: Social Problems Student Photo Essay Awards

The SSA Visual Sociology Photo Essay Competition awarded in three categories this year: graduate, undergraduate, and “people’s choice.” Congratulations to our photo essay winners!

Graduate Awards

First Place: Emily Pain, Oklahoma University
Second Place: Chad Scott, Texas A & M University
Third Place: Newman Wong, University of Oklahoma

Undergraduate Awards

First Place: Larissa Propest, Midwestern State University
Second Place: Marsha Perez, Texas A & M University Corpus Christi
Third Place: Katherine Kinsel, Texas A & M University Corpus Christi

“People’s Choice” Awards

First Place: Larissa Propest, Midwestern State University
Second Place: Juan Livas, University of Texas San Antonio
Third/Fourth Place Tie: Newman Wong, University of Oklahoma and Chad Scott, Texas A & M University

Student and Distinguished Paper Awards

The SSA bestowed one distinguished paper award at the 2010 conference. Amanda K. Baumle, University of Houston, and D’Lane R. Compton, University of New Orleans, received this $500 paper award for their paper entitled, “The Law and Family Formation: Examining The Effect of Law on the Presence of Children in Same-Sex Households.” Congratulations to our distinguished winners!

The SSA bestowed three student paper awards at the 2010 conference. Angela Frederick of University of Texas Austin received the doctoral paper award for her paper entitled, “Practicing Electoral Politics in the Cracks: Intersectional Consciousness in a Latina Candidate's Campaign for City Council.” At the Masters level, Dimitra Cupo of the University of New Orleans received a prize of two hundred dollars for a paper entitled, “Towards a Theory of Female Subjectivity.” Our final student paper award at the undergraduate level went to Daniel norsworthy of Lamar University for his paper entitled, “Am I Stressed Because I Am Raising My Grandchild?” Congratulations to our student paper award winners!
Another year gone and another successful conference in Houston. New members and our returning colleagues energized the Houston meeting and made it successful on multiple fronts. Sociologists outnumbered political scientists for the first time in a very long time. We also had a record-setting year for the silent auction. Kudos to TAMU’s Mark Fossett for his innovative ideas and “buy it now pricing” which allowed those attendees not staying the entire conference to participate in the silent auction along with those who simply wanted an item and didn’t want to risk losing it due to the last minute bidding frenzy. This year’s auction also demonstrated the popularity of non-academic books and items. I think we can continue to innovate in this area the proceeds of which go directly to the ASA’s Minority Fellowship Program.

In order to build on our success in Houston, the SSSA has offered incentives to keep up and expand our participation in 2011. Specifically, SSSA is offering money to the affiliate who grows their membership the most over the next year. It would be great if we can build upon our recent success in attendance at the Houston meetings and convert all attendees into full-fledged members of our affiliate and get a monetary reward to boot. One idea that has been floated includes offering a free conference hotel stay for a new member. I welcome all ideas and assistance in growing our membership. Developing a Sociology brochure was also discussed. And I’m appealing to anyone willing to take on this task.

In 2011, we will continue with the popular photo and poster sessions that are supported by student participants. I would like to see our poster session expand to include student-produced YouTube like video screenings of social issues. If you have any students who are budding film makers, the technology has advanced such that short documentary and/or ethnographic films are now very doable. So please begin to promote this idea to your students. There are any number of issues happening today that lend themselves to documentary presentation -- the oil spill along the Gulf coast; recent immigration protests and tea party events -- all quickly come to mind. If you have additional ideas, please offer them to Charlotte Dunham (CHARLOTTE.DUNHAM@ttu.edu) at Texas Tech who continues to organize this increasingly popular venue.

This past year included a very well attended session in which the video *Codes of Gender: Identity and Performance in Pop Culture* directed by Sut Jhally (the Dreamworlds director) was screened. I think this type of session should become a mainstay in our program. If you have any ideas for videos you might like to see screened next year or other session ideas, please float them by program chair, Mark Fossett (m-fossett@tamu.edu).

There are a number of exciting changes in the SSSA and SSA. Most notably, Dr. Ray Darville will serve as the new SSSA president and the *Social Science Quarterly* journal becomes a Sooner as it moves to University of Oklahoma. We are also hoping to have the program submissions be online this coming year. Hopefully this will help ease some of the logistical problems we’ve encountered in the past. We ask your patience as we work out the kinks.

We continue to embrace new experiences and maintain our ongoing commitments. I thank you once again for your support over the past year and in making the Houston meetings highly successful. I look forward to our 2011 meeting in Las Vegas and continuing our success there. In the meantime, we have a lot of work to do. If you are willing to help, no one will be turned away.

See you in Vegas!

Karen Manges Douglas
President, Southwestern Sociological Association
Call for Papers: 2011 SSA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada

We are looking for program and session organizers for the 2011 annual meeting. Participate in the 2011 meeting by putting together topics, organizing sessions and panels, or volunteering as a discussant. Contact Dr. Mark Fossett, Texas A & M University; m-fossett@tamu.edu.

As in Houston, we are working to promote greater interdisciplinary activity across the Southwestern Social Science Association affiliates. We aspire to offer interdisciplinary sessions—a unique feature of our regional associations—that connect teaching in the social sciences and the collective contributions of the social sciences. We will continue to offer paper, poster, and visual sessions with technological and financial assistance from the SSSA.

For our next meeting, we will add “welcome tables” as a new SSA conference feature. We need volunteers to staff all affiliate tables to orient our new colleagues and provide a rendezvous point for the meeting regulars. Please let Mark Fossett, SSA President (m-fossett@tamu.edu) or Charles M. Tolbert II, SSA Vice President (Charlie_Tolbert@Baylor.edu) know if you’re interested.

2011 SSA New Business

Calling All Members for SSA Contest in Las Vegas

The SSSA decided to give a monetary incentive to the affiliates for membership growth during the coming year. Two awards are possible—one for the largest absolute gain and one for the biggest percentage increase in members. As one of the larger affiliates, we are hoping to win the first with some creative ideas. There is even some seed money for special programs targeted at building membership. Think about a free room for each night at the annual meeting, Wednesday through Friday for three lucky new members? Would that make your colleagues and peers decide to join us in Las Vegas next year? (Thanks to Sherry McKibben who came up with this idea!)

Distinguished Paper Awards

We will award $500 at the Las Vegas 2011 Southwestern Sociological Association meeting as a Distinguished Paper Award. Undergraduate and graduate papers can be submitted by self-nomination or by session organizer. Eligible papers must be on the 2011 program. If interested, send a completed paper to Cheng Hsien Lin, Lamar University, Cheng-Hsien.Lin@lamar.edu and Sara Towe Horsfall, Texas Wesleyan University, shorsfall@txwes.edu. Please submit as Word not PDF file. Deadline to be posted on SSA website.

Posters, Posters, Posters Welcomed in Las Vegas

As in previous meetings, the SSA welcomes visual sociology submissions in Las Vegas 2011. Check out instructions for visual sociology displays on our website. It is a great first format for student participants and for those interested in discussing research issues, more than making a formal presentation. We hope more will opt for this strategy so that the use of the display boards can entice others into the conventional/registration hall and generate interaction and, ultimately, the practice of social science in our region. For more information—check out our website for poster instructions.

Social Science Quarterly on the Move

Our greatest thanks to Dr. Robert Linberry who steps down as Social Science Quarterly editor. New co-editorship moves to University of Oklahoma in Summer 2010, where an updated submission vision begins. The journal seeks publications that reflect the diverse methodologies in the fields represented by the Southwestern Social Science Association. Check out a recent SSQ edition for more details!
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

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 co-editors can be reached at:

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