

The Southern Sociologist

Volume 40

Number 1

Summer 2008



FROM THE PRESIDENT, KATE SLEVIN— MEMORIES OF RICH- MOND, VISIONS FOR NEW ORLEANS

The recent annual meetings in Richmond were tremendously successful. President Larry Isaac, Vice President Jeanne Hurlbert, Program Chairs Woody Beck and Peggy Hargis, and Local Arrangements Chairs Sarah Jane Brubaker and Denise Bissler orchestrated a memorable meeting: attendance broke new records, sessions were of high quality, and they were very well attended; the venue was conducive to collegiality and fun. Jeff Will, Chair of The Committee on the Status of Students, did a great job of organizing an opening reception for students at the *Tobacco Company* and, from personal observation, I can attest to the fact that a rousing time was had by all students in attendance!

This year was the first year that Stephanie Bohon served in the critical role as SSS Secretary-Treasurer, and she had the unenviable task of following in the footsteps of the legendary Marty Levin. Suffice it to say, Stephanie has met the challenge with aplomb. Indeed, she has managed, in a matter of months, to make it look as if she has been “on the job” for years. Without a doubt, the daily running of the Society continues to be in excellent hands, and we are enormously grateful to Stephanie for her willingness to assume this leadership position. This past year Stephanie has been assisted very ably by James Maples, a graduate student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. James not only is the SSS website guru, he was responsible also for the lion’s share of

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FROM THE PRESIDENT, KATE SLEVIN

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organizing registration for the Richmond meetings. Kudos to James for doing such a fantastic job and for making it look so effortless.

I extend congratulations and a warm welcome to the newly elected officials of the Society: Angela O’Rand, Duke University, President-Elect; Christopher Ellison, University of Texas, Austin, Vice President-Elect; Executive Committee members: April Brayfield, Tulane University, Stephanie Moller, University of North Carolina, Charlotte; Publications Committee member: Holly McCammon, Vanderbilt University. I look forward to working with all of you.

With the Richmond meetings behind us, it is now time to look forward to the 2009 meetings in New Orleans. Once again, we re-visit the fabled Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter. While New Orleans suffered hugely from Katrina (and we will visit that topic in a significant way during our program), the Monteleone remains unscathed; reports confirm also that the Quarter has returned to its vibrant self. We expect our usual high attendance and promise to make it worth your while to attend these meetings.

The theme for the 2009 meeting will be “Inequalities Across the Life Course,” allowing us to showcase the vast and exciting scholarship that has emerged in recent decades around both the causes and consequences of inequality. Sociologists have paid particular attention to the interconnections between status hierarchies. Feminist scholarship, in particular, has seriously challenged us to explore the complexities of how people’s lives are both advantaged and disadvantaged through the interlocking locations of race, class, gender, age and sexualities. Our attention to inequalities highlights a wide spectrum of sociological scholarship that encompasses topics such as: income inequality within and between nations; migration and immigration; the global politics of domestic labor; unequal educational opportunities; socioeconomic and racial disparities in health; women’s unpaid labor; child welfare; crime and imprisonment; residential segregation; environmental injustice; labor market inequalities and changing patterns of work and retirement. Much of this scholarship aims to influence social policies in ways that reduce or, ideally, eliminate the inequalities that emerge from non-meritocratic social systems. In that regard, and given the meeting locale, it is important for us to focus specifically on post-Katrina New Orleans and to explore through the scholarship of our colleagues, local and beyond, how this historical event has shaped the life chances of large numbers of people, depending on their social locations.

A second reason for my choice of theme stems from my own focus on aging and the ways that

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**The theme for the 2009 meeting will be
“Inequalities Across the Life Course”**

FROM THE PRESIDENT, KATE SLEVIN

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advantages and disadvantages from birth onward profoundly shape lives into old age. Using a life course perspective allows us not only to acknowledge the confluence of historical period and biography but also to explore how various social locations throughout the life course create systems of privilege and disadvantage that shape life course transitions. It gives us a lens for exploring how people's intersecting locations in social systems shape lives from childhood through old age. A brief example from the scholarship on aging illustrates this point. Lifelong inequities for women often become exacerbated in old age, leaving them financially insecure and more likely to be financially dependent than men. Because of a host of inequities in their earlier lives (e.g. occupational segregation, gender pay gaps, primary responsibility for child care and domestic labor), older women are twice as likely as older men to live in poverty and older African American women are twice as likely as their white counterparts to live in poverty. At the same time, this focus on gender obscures the relatively high rates of poverty among old Black and Hispanic men. Furthermore, when we focus on how the privileges of heterosexuality are embedded into social institutions, we see how financial status can be further enhanced or compromised. Given that today's old lesbian and gay couples are not able to collect spousal pensions or Social Security if their partners die, their financial situation may become dismal, particularly in relation to their race, class, and gender.

The above paragraphs are meant only to provoke thought about the possibilities for engaging this broad and exciting topic of inequalities across the life course. I hope the 2009 meetings will give us an opportunity to engage in a lively exchange of ideas about and around our theme. With this in mind, I am delighted to announce that Eduardo Bonilla-Silva from Duke University has agreed to give a major address from his recent research on inequalities. He will be joined by a host of other scholars from our Southern universities and beyond. Among us, we have no shortage of expertise on multiple aspects of inequalities and the program co-Chairs and I fully intend, with your contributions, to craft an exciting and provocative program.

Much of my excitement about this year and about the meetings in New Orleans stems from my good fortune to work with talented and hard-working colleagues. A first among equals is David Maume, Vice President. Dave has already proven to be invaluable in his help and advice to me. I am also very fortunate to have two excellent co-Chairs for my Program Committee: Graham Ousey (College of William and Mary) and Matthew Lee (Louisiana State University). Heading up the Local Arrangements Committee is a colleague whose reputation for excellence precedes him, Carl Bankston (Tulane University). In advance, I owe each of these colleagues a huge debt of gratitude for their willingness to serve SSS in these leadership positions. Their capabilities ensure that New Orleans 2009 will be a meeting to attend and to remember. I look forward to providing our members with an opportunity to come together in historic New Orleans for collegiality, for inspiration and—last but by no means least—for fun. Stay posted for future news!

Kate Slevin
College of William and Mary

Spring 2009 SSS Meetings

Carl Bankston
Chair, Local Arrangements

Those who attended the 2006 meeting in New Orleans, just months following the hurricane, will note the changes in the city when they arrive for our 2009 meetings. Many of the areas that were hard hit have now been restored, and New Orleanians are more optimistic about the future than they were two years ago. The rich culture of the city has survived and continues to be strong. Still, the city struggles with many problems that will attract the attention of sociologists, in particular. While a large portion of the population has returned, too many citizens who would like to come back have been unable to do so. Important neighborhoods have still not been rebuilt. Problems with schooling, poverty, crime, and racial inequality continue to afflict us.

The 2009 Local Arrangements Committee is eager to welcome SSS members and to help them enjoy the music, fine restaurants, and exciting ambience of New Orleans. At the same time, we want to contribute to their understanding of the difficulties that the city still faces. We are fortunate to have committee members from four major universities in New Orleans: Tulane (Carl Bankston, April Brayfield, Vy Dao, Diane Grams), Xavier (Amy Hite Bellone, Farrah Gafford), Loyola (Tony Ladd, Nicole Youngman), and the University of New Orleans (Francis Adeola). In the coming months, we'll be providing you with information about the city and about the meeting site. In the meantime, please encourage all your colleagues to plan on joining us for Spring in New Orleans.



2009 Annual Meeting

April 2-5, 2009

Hotel Monteleone

New Orleans

2008 SSS Awards



Gregory Weiss, Roanoke College, receives the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award from Vice President Jeanne Hurlbert.



President Larry Isaac presents **Larry Griffin**, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with the 2008 Distinguished Lecturer Award.



Clifton Bryant, Virginia Tech, receives the Martin L. Levin Award From Vice President Hurlbert.

Ida Harper Simpson, Professor Emeritus Duke University, also received recognition by having her name added to the Society's Roll of Honor.

2008 Annual Meeting a Success

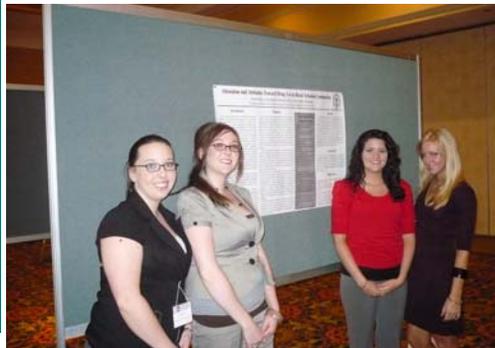
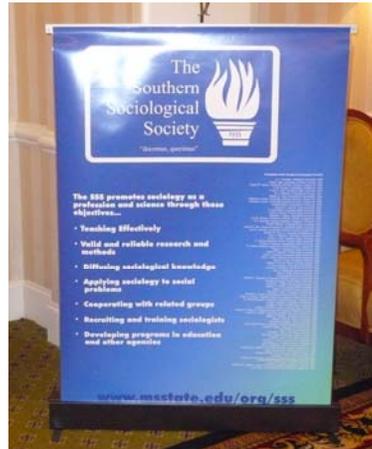
The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society had near-record attendance. The Richmond Marriott served as a welcoming host for this meeting. The Program Committee led by Woody Beck, University of Georgia, and Peggy Hargis, Georgia Southern University, produced a diverse and exciting program. Larry Isaac's Presidential Address "Movement of Movements A: Culture Moves in the Long Civil Rights Struggle," both summarized past work on social movements and laid out a new agenda for future direction of study. The program included fifteen thematic sessions related to "Movement Matters: Vision, Mobilization, and Memory" including a Presidential Thematic featuring civil rights movement veterans James Lawson from Vanderbilt University and Bernard Lafayette from the University of Rhode Island. The program also included fourteen Undergraduate Paper sessions, suggesting a bright future for the Society and the discipline, and an address by ASA President Arne Kallenberg on "Rethinking the Sociology of Work."

The **2009 Award Winners** were announced Friday afternoon at the "Presidential Honors and Convocation Plenary." At the 2009 Annual Meeting, **Patricia Yancey Martin**, Florida State University, and **Clifton D. Bryant**, Virginia Tech, will have their names added to the SSS Roll of Honor. More information about these award winners will be provided in the Fall edition of *TSS*.

Enjoying the reception after the Presidential Address



2008 Annual Meeting



2008 Annual Meeting

Scenes from the Business Meeting:



Outgoing President Larry Isaac passes “power” to new President Kate Slevin.

President Isaac presents plaques for service to the Society.



Nominations Committee Seeks Candidates

The SSS Nominations Committee requests nominations for elected officers and committee members in Southern Sociological Society. In the fall, members of SSS will vote for

- * President-Elect (who will become President for 2010-11);
- * Vice-President-Elect (to become VP in 2010-11);
- * two members of the Executive Committee, who will serve 3-year terms (2009-12);
- * one member of the Executive Committee, to serve a 1-year term (2009; to replace VP-elect Chris Ellison who currently serves on the Executive Committee);
- * one member of the Publications Committee, to serve a 5-year term (2009-14).

Article III, section 3 of the SSS bylaws specifies the following eligibility requirements: "To be eligible for nomination, a person must be a voting member whose dues have been paid for the fiscal year during which the election is held and for at least three of the four preceding years." If you are uncertain whether a possible candidate is eligible, send her/his name anyway.

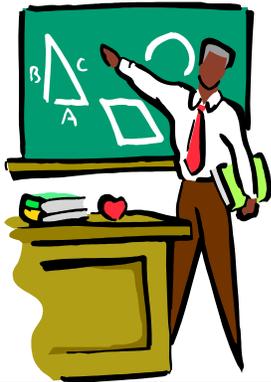
By June 1, please send (1) names of persons you would like to nominate to run for offices or committee memberships; (2) the office or committee for which you are nominating each; (3) contact information of your nominees (e-mail address, phone numbers), if you have it; and (4) one sentence describing the nominee's qualifications. Self-nominations are perfectly appropriate. It is important to SSS that our officers and elected committee members represent the diversity of southern sociologists. So . . . think expansively!

Thanks in advance for your help. Please send all nominations to:

David Maume, SSS Vice President
Department of Sociology, PO Box 210378
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0378
[mailto: david.maume@uc.edu](mailto:david.maume@uc.edu)

PAPER REQUEST

Deborah Williams Avery would like a copy of a paper coauthored by Kevin B. Bales and Deborah M. Williams (Bales) titled "The Suppression of Innovation" presented at the annual meeting in New Orleans in the late 1970s. Her copy was lost in Katrina. Contact Deborah Williams Avery dwavery3@bellsouth.net.



The Teaching Corner



Carrie L. Cokely

Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges

Many thanks to all those who organized and participated in the sessions sponsored by the Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges at the annual meetings in Richmond, Virginia. These sessions allowed for some exciting dialogue around the issues of academic honesty and comparisons between small colleges and large universities.

Classroom Exercise – Crayons and Inequality

I have used this exercise many times in Introduction to Sociology courses in order to introduce students to the idea of class inequality in society.

Supplies needed:

- Box of crayons – preferably the one with 96 crayons in it
- Blank paper
- Statistics on distribution of wealth in America

Divide the class into 5 groups each representing 20% of the population in America

Then divide the crayons among the groups according to the distribution of wealth statistics

Give the students several minutes to draw a picture with the crayons that they are given, and tell them that they must use only their own crayons.

After the drawing are complete, explain that each group of students represents one-fifth of the population and that their crayons represent their portion of the wealth in society. Students can also share what it was like for them to be in their particular group with the resources that they had. From this point, lead into a discussion of class inequality in society and the institutions that support this inequality.

Each time I use this activity, the students have responded positively to the exercise, and it gets them thinking about the ways in which inequality operates in society while also engaging in an activity.

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Websites for Teaching about Race

The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow>

This site explores segregation from the time of Jim Crow laws through the Civil Rights Movement. It contains interactive maps, personal narratives and classroom activities.

Understanding Race

<http://www.understandingrace.org>

This site is published by the American Anthropological Association and contains information on both the biological and social dimensions of race. It has interactive elements to help students think about the ways that race operates in society and impacts people differently.

RaceSci

<http://www.racesci.org>

Published by the MIT Center for Diversity in Health, Science, and Medicine and the University of Toronto History Department, this site contains information related to race and science. It examines eugenics, environmental racism, health and scientific racism among other topics.

Send your comments, suggestions, or materials for *The Southern Sociologist* to the editor Bob Freymeyer
mailto: rhfreym@presby.edu



The Teaching Corner

Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

On April 18, students and faculty participated in the Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium sponsored by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the College of Charleston and by the South Carolina Sociological Association. Over seventy students participated in this annual event held on the campus of the College of Charleston.



Tracy Burkett, College of Charleston, presents the awards for best papers in the student paper competition. Jessica Williams (left), Columbia College, and Shannon Cherry (right), Presbyterian College tied for first prize for their papers on “Religiosity, Self-Esteem, and Optimism” and “Social Class and Charitable Behavior” respectively.



Tracy Burkett presents the second place award to Grace Wells, Columbia College, for her paper “Resiliency in Older Adulthood and Application to a Life Stage Issue: Depression.”



Tracy Burkett congratulates Shelley Hazard, Lander University, for winning the poster award for “Attitudes Toward Healthcare: Do Concerns Over Healthcare Access and Costs Vary by Political Affiliation.”

Opportunities

SOUTHERN DEMOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION 2008 Call for Submissions

You are invited to submit abstracts for papers and/or completed papers for the 2008 annual meeting of the Southern Demographic Association (SDA). You are also invited to suggest topics for panels and poster sessions (see below). This year's meeting will be October 30 through November 1 at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville, South Carolina. For emerging details, please check <http://sda-demography.org/>.

Presentations of research in both applied and academic sociology are welcome as are related topics in economics, sociology, geography, political science, public health, epidemiology, and psychology. Though SDA is known for regional emphases and membership, we encourage the membership and participation of individuals from any region of the country or world. The structure of presentations is flexible; potential contributors are encouraged to not only send abstracts for individual research papers, but also for complete sessions, thematic sessions, panel discussions, software demonstrations and more!

ALL PAPER AND SESSION SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH THE SDA WEB SITE TO RECEIVE PROPER CONSIDERATION!

Please email Lynne Cossman (Lynne.Cossman@msstate.edu), this year's program chairperson, if you have any questions regarding a potential submission. Presentations by (or co-authored with) students are especially welcome; they can offer a student a significant first professional meeting experience. SDA also awards cash prizes to the best undergraduate and to the best graduate student paper (see details below). Please send all proposals and abstracts by June 30, 2008, to the SDA 2008 submissions site <http://sda-demography.org/SDA2008.php>

The SDA 2008 submissions site will ask you for:

- Your name
- Name(s) of any co-authors or other presenters if you are proposing a session
- Descriptions of paper(s) or poster(s)/topics of proposed session(s)
- Institutional affiliation(s)
- Complete contact information (email address, telephone number, fax number, and mailing address)

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SDA STUDENT PAPER AWARDS

The SDA makes awards for the following types of student papers presented at the annual meeting:

- *Everett S. Lee Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award*
SDA presents an award for the best graduate student paper delivered at the annual meeting. The winning student receives a cash prize and a certificate, both of which are presented at the annual business meeting. Please send your complete paper, in electronic format, to studentawards@sda-demography.org by September 1, 2008.
- *Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award*
SDA presents a cash prize and a certificate for the best undergraduate paper presented at the meeting, both of which are presented at the annual business meeting. Please send your complete paper, in electronic format, to studentawards@sda-demography.org by September 1, 2008.

IMPORTANT: Submission of a paper for one of these awards should only be done after the paper has been included on the program for the conference. It must first be submitted for program consideration through the SDA web site <http://sda-demography.org/SDA2008.php>.

E. Walter Terrie Award for State and Local Demography

Walt Terrie was a faculty member and applied demographer at Florida State University and an active member of the Southern Demographic Association. After he died suddenly in 1997, SDA and FSU began awarding the Walt Terrie Award to recognize the "best paper presented at the SDA Annual Meeting on an applied topic, especially one relating to state and local demography." The award is chosen by a committee appointed by the SDA President and including at least one FSU faculty member. For consideration for the 2008 E. Walter Terrie Award, email your submission to Isaac W. Eberstein at ieberstn@fsu.edu no later than October 15, 2008. Submissions for the award should also be presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Demographic Association. The Terrie Award consists of a \$400 cash prize and an appropriate certificate. Winners are added to the list on the SDA website.



ARDA Launches new Learning Center and GIS Mapping

The Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) has recently developed new online tools, including GIS mapping, and an expanded Learning Center to provide instructors and researchers immediate access to the most comprehensive collection of data on religion. The ARDA's web site, <http://www.thearda.com>, allows visitors to interactively explore data on national and international religion using online features that generate national profiles, church membership reports, denominational heritage trees, tables, charts, and other summary reports.

Instructors will welcome the new Learning Center. The Center continues to offer downloadable topic-driven learning modules that assist students in using the data online. But now the Center also offers a statistical and religion dictionary, allows students to complete a survey and compare their responses to others, and gives students a religious and demographic profile of any area in the nation by entering a zip code. All of the services, including the learning modules, are free of charge.

Partnering with Social Explorer (<http://www.socialexplorer.com>), the ARDA also provides interactive GIS mapping of demographic data by census tracts and religious adherence data by counties. All of the GIS maps allow for zooming, moving, and searching across locations and let the user create customized demographic and religious reports.

Other new online tools include QuickStats and QuickLists. With a single click, QuickStats offers tables and graphs on religious attitudes and behavior from the General Social Survey and the recent Baylor Religion Survey. When data are available, it also graphs trends over time. QuickLists provides popular data on religion in rank order for U.S. counties and states or for nations and regions.

The National Profiles feature also continues to expand, now providing statistics on religious freedom, persecution, and rates of adherence for virtually all nations. The Profiles now feature Google mapping and draw on statistics from the World Values Survey when available. Up to 8 nations can be compared on a single screen.

Among the new additions to the ARDA's collection of over 400 data files are the 2006 General Social Survey, the 2005 Baylor Religion Survey, the 2003 National Study of Youth and Religion, and the 1948-2004 National Election Studies Cumulative Data File. All data files can be downloaded free of charge.

The ARDA is housed at the Penn State University and is funded by the Lilly Foundation and the John Templeton Foundation. Visit the ARDA website at <http://www.thearda.com>.

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.

Members receive *Social Forces* and online access to *The Southern Sociologist* and to a membership directory. An annual meeting is held in the spring, usually mid-April. Membership is open to any person who can assist in promoting the objectives of the society. Persons wishing to join SSS may send dues directly

to the Secretary-Treasurer. Please include your first middle and last name, address, phone number, where employed, and gender. For statistical purposes, we also ask you to include your race and/or ethnic group and three areas of specialty.

The membership year is July 1 through June 30. Membership classes, annual charges and dues are:

Regular	50.00
Emeritus	
with <i>Social Forces</i>	28.00
without <i>Social Forces</i>	no cost
Associate (non-voting)	48.00
Student	25.00

Dues, subscriptions, membership inquiries and address changes should be addressed to:

Dr. Stephanie Bohon
 Secretary-Treasurer
 PO Box 16239
 University of Tennessee
 Knoxville TN 37996
 To pay online go to

<https://www.cart.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>

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.

TSS

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.

Next Issue Deadline: August 15, 2008