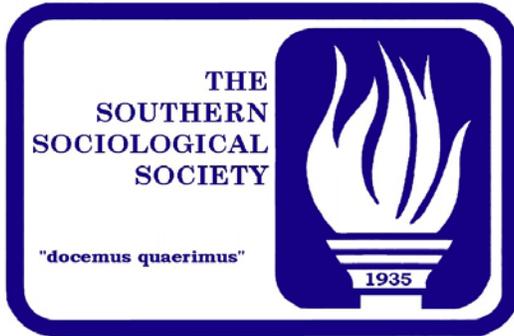


# The Southern Sociologist

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## What a Fall!

Donald Tomaskovic-Devey  
UMass-Amherst  
President

Well this has been one wild fall for the Southern Sociological Society. At last year's annual meeting the executive committee agreed to seriously examine founding a new journal officially associated with the SSS. We met in late October in Charlotte and after much discussion have agreed to do so. We also have a publishing partner: SAGE the globally preeminent publisher of sociology journals. Elsewhere in this *TSS* Patricia Drentea, chair of the SSS publications committee, describes what we are up to and announces a call for the inaugural editor(s) of our journal. We are still looking for ideas on the journal's name. If you have good ideas or want to vote among the names suggested so far you can. Simply go to the SSS journal name poll at [AllOurIdeas](#) and express your preferences.

The other big event this fall was the decision by the executive committee to renegotiate our 2013 and 2104 contracts with Hyatt Hotels in light of the Hyatt boycott initiated this summer by the labor union UNITE-Here. Dave Brunsma, SSS Executive Officer, and I spent the fall negotiating with Hyatt, with strong support from the executive committee and other social science associations, including SSSP, ESS, MSA, and PSA. The result is that we have moved the 2013 meeting from the non-union boycotted Grand Hyatt in the Buckhead area of Atlanta to the unionized Hyatt Regency in downtown Atlanta. The 2014 meeting was scheduled for the boycotted Hyatt property in Greenville, SC. The Greenville Hyatt has agreed to reschedule the SSS meeting for

(Continued on page 2)

### Contents

What a Fall!.....	1
SSS Renegotiates 2013 and 2014 Contracts....	3
Tomaskovic-Devey's Exchange with Max Weber..	4
From the Program Chair.....	8
Test Your Knowledge of Atlanta.....	9
Odum Awards for Student Papers.....	12
The Teaching Corner.....	13
Member News.....	17
Opportunities.....	19
Southern Sociological Society.....	23



(Continued from page 1)

2017, and we are currently negotiating an addendum to our contract which we hope will include a clause that allows SSS to void the contract if the boycott is still on-going as the meeting date approaches.

I had thought I would work on the annual meeting and perhaps my Presidential address this fall. Luckily the annual meeting is in the more than able hands of program chair Steve McDonald and our outstanding program committee. Steve details what is up for the annual meeting [elsewhere](#) in this TSS.

The meeting theme is *Relational Inequality* and that will be the topic of my-still unwritten-presidential address. The Hyatt negotiations were an unexpected application of the theoretical models I and others have been developing around workplace inequality. In our work, Dustin Avent-Holt (Augusta State University) and I have been developing a model that argues that employment inequalities are generated through processes of workplace level claims making. We suggest that claims are treated as legitimate and persuasive to the extent that actors have locally legitimate power and status resources. External environments and organizational fields influence which claims are taken seriously in any particular context.

In the case of the Hyatt-UNITE boycotts, the SSS became an actor in the Hyatt's organizational environment, perhaps influencing the claims making power of housekeepers and their union in the ongoing struggle over low wage worker's dignity and worth. At the same time the UNITE-Hyatt boycott became an important environmental influence on social relations within the SSS. I outline some of the issues in the article on the Hyatt-SSS-UNITE activity, but an important one was the likelihood that if the SSS held its annual meeting two years in a row in boycotted hotels we might have seen a significant drop in attendance and perhaps membership as well. Another issue revolves around the view of the executive committee that it was important that the SSS try to do the ethically right thing.

So please come to Atlanta in the spring-time. We will have an exciting meeting. We hope to announce the inaugural editor and name our new journal. At the business meeting, there will be a further accounting of the impact of both the new journal and the renegotiated Hyatt contracts for the intellectual and financial health of the SSS. Annette Lareau, president-elect of the ASA, will deliver the plenary speech. There are exciting mini-conferences on teaching, social psychology, and social networks, all oriented toward the meeting theme. There will also be presidential panels on relational inequality at work and in intimate relationships. We are trying to organize a session on the Hyatt-UNITE boycott as well. John Shelton Reed (UNC) will be inducted into the Roll of Honor, Jeff Will is organizing another wonderful student reception, and Bill Danaher is making sure we have some smooth jazz for the reception that follows the Honors Session and Presidential Address. And, of course, there will be sessions populated by the members of the SSS exchanging ideas and insights, renewing old friendships, finding new colleagues, and enjoying Atlanta!

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What a Fall!

## SSS Renegotiates 2013 and 2014 Contracts with Hyatt Hotels

The 2013 annual meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, April 24-27. This is one week later than originally announced and reflects an extraordinary decision by the executive committee to move our conference venue.

On Labor Day, ironically, we learned from program chair Steve McDonald that many Hyatt properties were part of a national boycott of non-unionized Hyatt properties by the hotel workers' union UNITE-Here. He had also discovered that our 2013 annual meeting contract was with a boycotted Hyatt hotel. As the word spread, President-elect Leslie Hossfeld quickly discovered we had the same problem in 2014. The executive committee decided to begin negotiations with Hyatt hoping to find a way to honor the boycott while also honoring our responsibility to preserve the vitality of the SSS. In mid-November we concluded negotiations, and Hyatt and the SSS have agreed to move our 2013 meeting one week later to the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, which is a unionized hotel and not on the UNITE-Here boycott list. We also have negotiated to move our 2014 annual meeting contract with the Greenville, SC Hyatt to 2017.

The executive committee is pleased that we have been able to negotiate an outcome that supports the goals of organized labor and the normative commitments of our membership. Our action is particularly noteworthy in that we are the first organization in the South to support the union boycott. It is a moment to be proud of the Southern Sociological Society. These negotiations were aided by direct pressure on Hyatt's national sales office by members of the executive committee, faculty from the University of Mississippi sociology department, and the leadership of other sociological associations. Particularly helpful were Hector Delgado at the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Amy Wharton and Valerie Jennes of the Pacific Sociological Association, Linda Lindsey of the Midwest Sociological Association, and Nancy Naples of the Eastern Sociological Society.

Of course, this change in date is not without costs. The SSS paid \$20,000 to get out of the Hyatt Buckhead contract. We are fairly sure this payment actually saved us money, as our contract included substantial penalties if members did not book sufficient hotel room nights. By my calculation if we lost only 50 members for two nights we would have incurred penalties to the hotel of \$18,000 (100\*\$180 night) and an additional \$3000 in lost registration. So paying the \$20k looks like it was the right thing to do on both business and ethical grounds. There are other less tangible costs, which we regret. We are sure that some of you will be inconvenienced by the move, especially as the new date is nearer the end of the spring semester. While we worried that for some members this change might mean withdrawing their papers from the meetings, so far only a few have done so. We did lose our second plenary speaker, Mario Small, to a prior en-

*(Continued on page 4)*

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## What a Fall!

(Continued from page 3)

gagement. On the other hand the new location is a more convenient to get to and the rooms are \$10 less per night!

We hope that SSS members who have not yet decided whether to come to the meetings this year will embrace this as a moment of pride in the Southern Sociological Society and come to Atlanta. The older members of the society know that the SSS was the first academic association in the South to racially integrate our meetings. More recently, we were also the first association to go back to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated that city. We are now the first association in the South to move our meetings to support the needs and aspirations of low wage, mostly immigrant, hotel workers. This year, perhaps more than any other, we need the membership to support the Southern Sociological Society and come to our annual meeting!

The announcement of this action brought forth a flurry of emails expressing support for renegotiating these contracts and pride in the SSS, but I also got two contacts expressing concern about the implications for the SSS. One was particularly interesting since it came from Maximilian Weber (really). I was surprised to learn that Max was still with us and had a gmail account. Not surprisingly given Max's keen insight, the email raised some very significant questions. I replied promptly and share the email exchange with you in the following box.

### President Tomaskovic-Devey's Exchange with Max Weber

Dear Max (if I may) Weber:

I am happy to answer your questions about the decision to move the SSS meeting this year and renegotiate our contracts with the Hyatt hotels. As President this year of the SSS, I chair the executive committee. Some of your issues are about process, but others are about values. I will in this reply represent the executive committee on process and myself on values.

Don Tomaskovic-Devey

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Max:

I will preface this message by stating upfront that while the questions asked and points made may be perceived as rhetorical or even caustic, and to a degree they are, answers would nonetheless be welcomed.

First, is this (the Southern Sociological Society) a political organization or "a society of professionals that promotes the development of sociology as a profession and scientific discipline by the maintenance of high academic professional and ethical standards, and by encouraging effective teaching of sociology, valid and reliable methods and re-

## What a Fall! President Tomaskovic-Devey's Exchange with Max Weber

(Continued from page 4)

search in the study of human society, diffusion of sociological knowledge and its application to societal problems, cooperation with related disciplines and groups, recruitment and training of sociologists, and development of sociology programs in educational and other agencies?" (<http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>) How does choosing sides on a boycott (for either side) accomplish the development of sociology as a scientific discipline?

*Don:*

*Rhetoric aside, the issue appears to be whether or not sociology or the SSS can have a scientific or ethical position on social practices or if those practices are to be observed but not disturbed? I think that the boycott decision involved an ethical standard for most members of the executive committee. That was certainly the weight of the discussion among the executive committee. There are some of us, myself included, who think that the scientific evidence on the value of unionization and worker protections for individual well-being, societal health, democracy, and economic development are well established in the literature as well. In a less legalistic vein we do know that the SSS was the first professional association to violate Jim Crow laws at its professional meetings and the first to return to New Orleans after Katrina. It is also the case that other sociological associations including ASA, SSSP, and ESS have taken similar actions in support of workers in the recent past. Thus from a more institutional point of view, we do not seem to be violating professional practice. All three of these considerations were discussed by the executive committee, although the weight of the discussion was on the first and last points.*

*Max:*

Second, was there any sort of vote or other form of democratic decision making that went into the decision to inconvenience members in order to take sides in what amounts to a political conflict? Who made this decision? Did they consult membership to any real extent before deciding what side to select in this struggle between workers and employees? It would seem such a process would have been necessary before coming down on one side or the other as an organization. Also, what are the practical ramifications other than simple inconvenience? How will students be affected or the fiscal situation of the organization?

*Don: The SSS is governed by a set of by-laws that vest decisions over the annual meeting and spending of association monies under the purview of the executive committee. So, no there was no poll or vote of the membership for this specific decision, but the membership did vote on the by-laws and elect the members of the executive committee. The decision was made in the same way most membership associations make decisions.*

(Continued on page 6)

## What a Fall! President Tomaskovic-Devey's Exchange with Max Weber

*(Continued from page 5)*

*There are practical consequences of this decision, which were discussed at length by the executive committee. From the beginning the executive committee was committed to keeping the disruption to members' plans and pocketbooks as limited as possible. While the new meeting is one week later, the new location is more convenient by air, car, and public transport. In addition, the hotel rooms are \$10 less per night than under the old contract. We did lose one plenary speaker and so far have had one member cancel a presentation because of the change in date.*

*Financial considerations were central to the decision making process. From the beginning the executive committee decided that we would do nothing if it would cause serious financial harm to the SSS. Our first and ultimately largest concern was the financial harm to the SSS if we did not get out of the contracts. We estimated that somewhere between ten and fifty percent of members would not sleep in a boycotted hotel. Under our contract with the hotel for every bed not sold under a minimum threshold (595) we would owe the hotel \$180. Thus if we lost 100 room nights (50 people @2 nights) to the boycott we would owe the hotel \$18,000. Fifty is not that many people and you can see the math only gets progressively worse if 50 was an underestimate. In addition, the basic finances of SSS are such that we get a surge in membership and have a surplus the year we are in New Orleans, lose some members and break even in Atlanta, and lose some more members and lose money when the meeting is in the smaller city location. So we were also faced with the problem of losing more members than usual in the Atlanta year, and then having the same problem the next year in Greenville, SC, where we would also end up owing the hotel money for not fulfilling the minimum room contract. We did not price this out, too much uncertainty, but over two years it would be a larger still loss to the association than not making the room contract in Atlanta. Although our original two contracts had \$160,000 in penalties associated with us not going to the two properties, in the end, we negotiated this down to \$20,000. Thus, quite possibly moving the meetings saved the association a great deal of money. Even the most conservative estimate, we lose 50 members this year and there are no other losses over time, is basically break even. The association was able to absorb this cost from our short term reserve fund, so there should be no practical consequences for students or other members (except the loss of Mario Small as plenary speaker).*

Max:

It seems to me that sociology as a discipline is often the laughing stock of the broader scientific community due to this sort of politically motivated, value-laden action. Is such a judgment justified? How much do such things reflect on the scientific rigor of the discipline? Does this common conception of sociology as a biased pseudo-science have any merit? That is debatable, but merely on the face of such an action as this change in venue, and the reasons behind it, it would appear that the discipline, or at least one

*(Continued on page 7)*

## What a Fall! President Tomaskovic-Devey's Exchange with Max Weber

*(Continued from page 6)*

chunk of its members, are of a single opinion on what amounts to a political issue. Now, it is obvious enough that such a display of bias could be set aside by saying that this is not part of some research program, etc. and that when sociologists set out to do scientific work they set such biases aside. However, asking the public at large to buy into that line is, well... I have beachfront property in Wyoming for sale. This claim that biases are set aside as sociologists carry out their scientifically rigorous work is all the more suspect when the subject matter (employer-employee relations, organizational structures, bureaucracy) under study by sociologists is directly related to the political issues where sociologists are displaying their clear bias and preconceived notions of how matters should play out.

Be a political activist group or be a science. It doesn't seem that a discipline can be both.

*Don:*

*Obviously I cannot speak for the executive committee on this one. I can speak for myself. What if an engineer told you she did not care if a bridge collapsed, an environmentalist if global warming flooded Bangladesh and other low lying poor countries, an economist if economies grew or shrank, a political scientist if their country was democratic or fascist? I think your (Max Weber's) work on science being value free has done much harm. It is interesting to note that most American sociologists ignored this admonition until the cold war era threatened anyone who talked about social well-being. Did you know that not only C. Wright Mills but even Talcott Parsons had FBI files? For my part, it is heartening to see that the discipline of sociology is increasingly part of the world we study. None of which is an argument against science as method and a value unto itself. Speaking only for myself, but I suspect for many members of our profession, there is no contradiction between valuing science and society.*

*Max:*

Sincerely,

Someone who doubts the relevance to society of the discipline to which she is dedicated.

Maximillian Weber

*Don:*

*Thank you for the opportunity to explain our decision making process. You can be assured that some version of this dialog will be in the next TSS.*

*Sincerely,*

*Don Tomaskovic-Devey*

*President of the Southern Sociological Society*

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## **From 2013 Program Chair Steve McDonald**

The program committee received an impressive response to the call for papers. Over 650 presentations were submitted by 1000 authors/panelists. As we finalize the program, we anticipate holding over 180 sessions, which would be—as far as I am aware—the largest SSS conference ever held in Atlanta.

The program contains many exciting sessions to anticipate. First and foremost, we are looking forward to Don Tomaskovic-Devey's presidential address on Relational Inequality. ASA President-elect Annette Lareau will provide the plenary talk. Each of the conference's three days will be organized around three key issues related to the conference theme, headlined by three invited thematic panel sessions. Vincent Roscigno has organized a session on Relational Inequality at Work, Barbara Risman has organized a session on Relational Inequality in Interpersonal Relationships, and I have organized a session on Relational Inequality Theory. The 2013 conference will continue the recent tradition of mini-conferences that center on the conference theme. This year will include a mini-conference on social networks and inequality organized by Jim Moody, a mini-conference on social psychology and inequality organized by Karen Hegtvedt, and a mini-conference on teaching inequality organized by Maxine Atkinson and Christine Wernet.

I am very appreciative of the efforts of the members of the program committee: Troy Blanchard, Tyson Brown, Shelia Cotten, Martha Crowley, Shannon Davis, Jason Eastman, Bob Edwards, Ross Haenfler, Caroline Hanley, Karen Parker, Anthony Peguero, John Reynolds, Jason Rodriguez, Dan Tope, Karolyn Tyson, and Sarah Winslow. In true "relational" style, the program committee worked in teams to organize the many submissions into a wide array of intriguing paper and roundtable sessions. They (along with the help of a few others) have also organized several high profile panel and paper sessions on employment and inequality, health disparities, crime and inequality, morality and cognition, and gendered social structures, as well as ten Author Meets Critics sessions. Also included in the program will be workshops (on QCA and on Preparing for a Program Review). And of course, we will have plenty of time for socializing at the poster sessions, roundtables, and the Student Mixer, as well as during the Roll of Honor Reception (for John Shelton Reed) and Presidential Reception.

In pulling the program together, I received invaluable support, guidance, and advice from Dave Brunsmas, Slade Lellock, Stephanie Moller, Elizabeth Stearns, and, of course, Don T-D. I am also indebted to my program committee assistant, Lindsay Hamm, who has been incredibly helpful throughout this process. But most of all, I want to thank the rank and file SSS members who submitted papers and sessions to the program in spite of the uncertainty regarding where and when the conference would be held. In the context of this uncertainty (now resolved, thanks to the efforts of Don and the SSS executive committee), your commitment is truly extraordinary and is a testament to the vitality of this organization.

Have a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all in Atlanta in April!

Steve McDonald  
NC State University  
SSS 2013 Program Chair

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# Test Your Knowledge of Atlanta: A Quiz to Help Prepare for the 2013 Meeting

James W. Ainsworth, Georgia State University  
2013 Local Arrangements Chair

So if you are coming to Atlanta for the Southern Sociological Society's annual meetings this spring, here is a true/false quiz that will provide you some interesting trivia questions to share with your colleagues. Enjoy!

**Question 1:**

If you have ever driven through Atlanta, you have undoubtedly noticed that every other street has the word "Peachtree" in its name. In fact, there are about 60 streets with "Peachtree" in their name. But how did the name Peachtree come into being? True or false: Peachtree Street was named after Esther Peachtree Norcross, the wife of Jonathan Norcross (the mayor of Atlanta from 1851-1852). Peachtree was her maiden name.



**Question 2:**

True or false: Atlanta is the only city in North America destroyed by a fire as an act of war.

**Question 3:**

True or False: The Coca-Cola soft drink was first bottled in Atlanta?

**Question 4:**

True or False: Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest passenger airport, and flights from this airport can reach 83% of U.S. cities within two hours.

**Question 5:**

True or False: The Eastern Continental Divide, a continental divide in the U.S. that separates the Gulf of Mexico drainage from the watersheds that flow directly into the Atlantic Ocean, runs right through downtown Atlanta?

**Question 6:**

True or False: Atlanta is the original capital of the State of Georgia?

**Question 7:**

True or False: Before becoming Atlanta, the city had two other names?

(Continued on page 10)

## Test Your Knowledge of Atlanta

(Continued from page 9)

### Question 8:

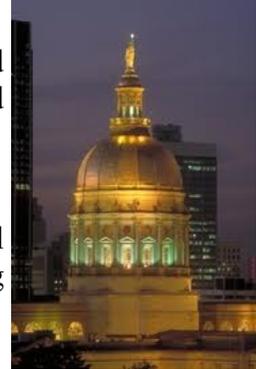
True or False: Atlanta has more shopping center space per capita than any other city in the United States?

### Question 9:

True or False: The Capitol Dome is layered in 100 ounces of pure gold mined by Georgians that travelled to California during the gold rush, and donated their gold to their home state?

### Question 10:

True or False: Atlanta Brave Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run on April 1974 over the left field wall at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, breaking Babe Ruth's career record.



Here are the answers. How many did you get right?

### Answer 1:

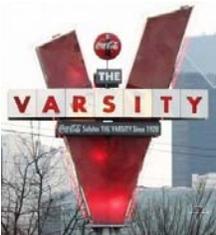
False. Esther Peachtree Norcross never existed, and Peachtree Street is not named for a peach tree of any sort. Many of Atlanta's corridors follow the paths created by the Creek and Cherokee Indian nations who inhabited the area until the early nineteenth century. A large Creek settlement was called Standing Pitch Tree after a tall lone tree. Over time, the "pitch tree" became "peach tree."

### Answer 2:

True. Following the city's surrender to General Sherman in 1864, only 400 structures remained standing. Today, the city's symbol is the Phoenix, a legendary bird of Egyptian mythology that rose from its own ashes with renewed strength and beauty.

### Answer 3:

False. This is a trick question. Coca-Cola was invented in 1886 by Dr. John Stith Pemberton, an Atlanta pharmacist. On May 8, 1886, Pemberton produced the syrup for Coca-Cola, and carried a jug of the new product down the street to Jacobs' Pharmacy, where it was sampled, pronounced "excellent" and placed on sale for five cents a glass as a soda fountain drink. Therefore, Coca-Cola was first sold at a soda fountain in Atlanta. However, it was first *bottled* in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



### Bonus Trivia:

Atlanta is home to the "world's largest drive-in restaurant." The Varsity Restaurant has earned the distinction of serving the highest volume of Coca-Cola anywhere. It dispenses nearly 3 million servings of Coca-Cola annually, more than any other place in the world.

(Continued on page 11)

## Test Your Knowledge of Atlanta

(Continued from page 10)

### Answer 4:

Yes, this is a classic double-barrel question, but both parts of the question are true. With a passenger terminal complex equivalent to more than 45 football fields, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest passenger airport. Atlanta is an ideal location for carriers like hometown Delta Air Lines, as the city is a 2-hour flight away from 83 percent of U.S. cities.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport  
Terminals & Concourses Map



### Answer 5:

True. Rainwater that falls on the south and east side of the divide runs eventually into the Atlantic Ocean while rainwater on the north and west side of the divide runs into the Gulf of Mexico.

### Answer 6:

False. Atlanta is actually the fifth city to be the capital of the state of Georgia. It was preceded by Savannah, Augusta, Louisville and Milledgeville.

### Answer 7:

True. Atlanta was originally known as "Terminus" because it was situated at the end of a railroad. It is one of the few major U.S. cities originally built around a railroad rather than a port or river. Its second name was "Marthasville" for Governor Lumpkin's daughter.

### Answer 8:

False. Atlanta has more shopping center space per capita than any other city except Chicago.

### Answer 9:

False. Atlanta's *Capitol Building* is gilded with 43 ounces of pure gold leaf that was mined in Dahlonega, Georgia, the site of America's first gold rush. The gold arrived in Atlanta on August 4, 1958, in an historic covered wagon caravan drawn by seven mules.

### Answer 10:

True. The stadium was demolished in 1997 following the Centennial Olympic Games. A parking lot for Turner Field now stands on the site, with an outline of the old stadium, and a plaque marking the spot where Aaron's historic home run landed in what was formerly the Braves' bullpen.



# Odum Awards for Undergraduate and Graduate Papers

Are you working with a student who has written an outstanding paper? Consider nominating the student for the Odum Award, which carries a cash prize of \$100 and up to an additional \$200 toward expenses of attendance at the SSS meeting. The Odum Award recognizes outstanding research papers by undergraduates and graduates in the southern region or by students outside the region with work mentored by current SSS members. One award may be given each year for the best undergraduate paper and best graduate paper submitted on any sociological topic.

**Eligibility:** The paper must have only one author and conform to the style guidelines and length conventions of *Social Forces*. The student author need not be a member of the SSS. The author is expected not to have presented the paper at another professional meeting. Papers will be judged on the basis of originality, clarity of exposition, conceptualization, and analysis. Faculty are asked to nominate no more than one student paper in each category per year. Students who have gone onto graduate or professional school are eligible for the undergraduate award if the paper was written when they were enrolled in an undergraduate degree program.

Authors of the Odum award-winning papers are expected to attend the SSS Annual Meeting to receive their award. Students are expected to present their papers at the annual meeting. If the winning paper had not previously been submitted and accepted for presentation at the time the committee makes its award decision, the paper will be added to the program.

#### Nominating Procedure for **Undergraduate Papers:**

1. The undergraduate papers should be submitted by a member of the SSS who attests that the author meets the conditions of eligibility.

#### Nominating Procedure for **Graduate Papers:**

1. Graduate students may submit their own papers.
2. Submission should come with the endorsement of a member of the graduate institution's faculty who is a member of the SSS and who attests that the author is a student in good standing.

Deadline: Email the nominated paper by January 15.

**Please email papers to James Wright (mail to: [James.Wright@ucf.edu](mailto:James.Wright@ucf.edu)). Snail mail can be sent to: James Wright, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 4000 Central Florida Blvd., Orlando, FL 32816.**



Christine Wernet

Chair, Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges

### Committee Members

Chair: Christine Wernet, University of South Carolina Aiken, [christinew@usca.edu](mailto:christinew@usca.edu)

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Matthew Cazessus, University of South Carolina, [Matthew.Cazessus@glvtec.edu](mailto:Matthew.Cazessus@glvtec.edu)

### Work of the Committee

The Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges (CSCSC) is gearing up for our annual meeting this April in Atlanta. The meeting theme is *Relational Inequalities*, and we look forward to contributing to this theme by continuing to sponsor *The Teaching Sociology Mini-Conference*. This year the committee will sponsor two sessions: Teaching Social Stratification and Teaching Sociology through Distance Education to highlight relational inequalities and undergraduate teaching.

A primary goal of this committee is to support educators at small and community colleges. One way that we offer this support is through sponsorship of *The Teaching Sociology Mini-Conference*, another way is through our Annual Networking Dinner that will be held on Thursday evening, April 18, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in Atlanta. (Please note that we will meet at 7:00, not 6:30 as stated in the previous newsletter.) We will meet in the lobby of the conference hotel. So mark it on your calendars, and make sure to attend. The dinner is open to all and it is always a great way to meet likeminded colleagues.

If you have any suggestions for the committee, please contact me at [christinew@usca.edu](mailto:christinew@usca.edu) I welcome your input.

(Continued on page 14)

# The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 13)

## Teaching Exercise

### Excuses! Pedagogical Considerations for Recruiting Undergraduates in Collaborative Research

Melencia Johnson

As a new faculty member, I applied for and received an internal grant to do research. I included a research assistant position, under the assumption that if I advertise the position as a paid position I would have no problem recruiting a student. I was new to the small institution, and I did not know any students personally. This was my first lesson in recruiting undergraduates into research. It is not just about the research experience for the students. I advertised the position for two weeks in my classes and on flyers in the school without anyone expressing interest. I listed the expectations of the position as well as the qualifications of the position (a junior with a 2.5 GPA who was interested in research). I did not understand why no one had applied for the position, so I asked several students during the week if they would be interested, and I was given several excuses. These are the most cited excuses for not applying for my research assistant position.

#### 1. I don't have the time.

The "good" students I approached believed they did not have the time to participate in collaborative research with me because they were involved in not only school work, but also extracurricular activities (student organizations, sororities/fraternities). Additionally, they were employed through work-study or an outside job to help pay for school. This is a special challenge for first generation college students from underserved backgrounds. Although the research position offered a salary, it was below what was needed to sustain the student for the semester. No amount of my stressing the importance of research would make a student dive further into poverty to gain the experience. I suggest departments offer course credit for students who would like to perform independent or collaborative research with a professor.

#### 2. I don't know how to do research.

Senior year is too late to learn research techniques. If students have to wait until senior year to have their first taste of real research, they may not have a chance to develop a genuine interest. I solicited juniors to participate in my research because of their maturity level, time they would have to commit to the project, and the probability this experience would help with the graduate school process. I ran into the problem of students not taking research methods until their senior

(Continued on page 15)

# The Teaching Corner

*(Continued from page 14)*

year. The students I talked to had only completed book reports and article summaries within their classes, but never any actual research projects within or outside of class. Sociology departments must consider offering a variety of research courses at the lower and upper level. Integrating research projects into other courses is also essential (content analysis, secondary source critiques, literature reviews, source evaluations, etc.). If students are ex-

posed early, they may develop an interest in research and a specific topic of interest.

3. I don't know if I want to go to graduate school.

In trying to recruit students to do research, I stressed the importance of having this experience before applying to graduate programs. I discussed how knowing how to collect and analyze data using a variety of tools and techniques would make them more marketable during the application process. I did not consider the background of my students when making these pleas to attend graduate school. Many of my students had never imagined going to graduate school. They were in school to obtain a degree so they could go directly into the workforce. I had to shift my focus a bit for these students and suggest that the skills learned in the process of doing research would also be beneficial on the job market. I told these students that being able to follow a method of research would contribute to skills of organization and problem solving that would be an asset at any job. They were also learning to think critically about a problem and enhancing their verbal and written communication skills.

Only one student applied to be my research assistant, and I gladly accepted her. The task now was for her to maintain her involvement in the research. This was a highly motivated student who had plans to attend graduate school. However, she had not had any research courses and no prior research experience. She decided to take the position primarily for the funding it offered and the free trip to a conference at which she presented her research. The first few weeks of working with her we had several sessions on using the library database to find peer reviewed journal articles and on how to read those articles for specific information to see if it was a quality source and included the information for which we were looking. I also had to teach her about content analyses and how to record that data. We also had one-on-one sessions discussing how to perform telephone interviews and record data. We had a crash course on how to perform research, but she was essentially learning through the experience. At several points in the research project, I had to motivate her to do the research she was expected to perform, but in the end, she became interested in the research and presented it at an undergraduate poster session at a regional sociology conference.

The first generation, underserved student population is a special group when it comes to recruiting for outside research opportunities. The obvious issues of prior knowledge and lack of funds come to the forefront. If your students are within this population, ask your institution about pro-

*(Continued on page 16)*

# The Teaching Corner

*(Continued from page 15)*

grams designed to get students involved in research (Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, summer research programs, etc.). As a first generation college student from an underserved background interested in attending graduate school, I now understand the importance of being introduced to research techniques early in the undergraduate career.

## Faculty Spotlight Melencia Johnson

Melencia Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of South Carolina Aiken. She received her B.A. in Sociology/Criminal Justice from Norfolk State University (2005) and her M.A. and Ph.D from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (2006, 2010). Johnson's research interests include women and girls perpetration of crime and feminist pedagogy in criminology classrooms. When not teaching, she enjoys spending time with her family in Lynchburg, Virginia, playing tennis and watching bad sci-fi movies.



## 2013 Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

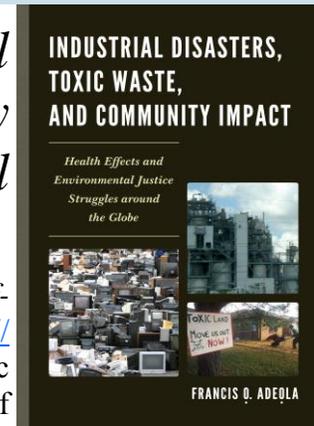
The 2013 Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium will be held Thursday April, 11, and Friday, April 12, at Newberry College. Students will present their papers on April 12th. Interested undergraduate students should send the abstracts for the papers or posters to Dr. Vinetta Witt ([Vinetta.Witt@newberry.edu](mailto:Vinetta.Witt@newberry.edu)) by March 30. The address for Newberry College is 2100 College Street, Newberry, SC 29108. The students who want to participate in the paper competition should submit the full completed paper to Dr. Witt by April 1, 2013.

# Member News

## Francis O. Adeola publishes *Industrial Disasters, Toxic Waste, and Community Impact: Health Effects and Environmental Justice Struggles Around the Globe*

*Industrial Disasters, Toxic Waste, and Community Impact: Health Effects and Environmental Justice Struggles Around the Globe* (<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780739147467>) focuses on hazardous and toxic

wastes releases, industrial disasters, the consequent contamination of communities, the environment, and the subsequent social impacts including adverse health effects, deaths, and destruction, psychosocial problems, and community disruption. The book explains the emergence of sociological study of risk, natural, technological, and hybrid disasters, and reviews the accumulated body of knowledge in the field up-to-date. It is unique in its integration of sociological perspectives with perspectives from other disciplines in the discussion of the problems posed by technological hazards both in advanced industrialized societies and in the underdeveloped world.



This book extends the body of knowledge through innovative presentation of topics that have not been adequately covered in the extant sociological textbooks. The book starts with an introduction presenting the sociology of hazardous waste, risk, and disasters as a relatively new development with a growing passion and increasing volume of empirical research among scholars. Next, it describes how hazardous and toxic wastes disposal, exposure, remediation, and proximate adverse health consequences have risen to the level of endemic social problem both in the United States and around the world. Then it presents contemporary theories of industrial and organizational disasters. Subsequently, the book delves into different classification of hazardous wastes, the characteristics of each type of waste, and identifies what makes them especially dangerous to people and the environment.

Other major topics addressed in the rest of the book are: Electronic waste (E-waste) as a new species of trouble in terms of the volume and toxicity of global e-waste generation and management, the environmental and health risks of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), case studies of contaminated communities within the United States and across the globe, the international flows of toxic waste, analysis of risk and environmental contamination by race and ethnicity in the United States, and the issues of environmental justice and human rights are juxtaposed.

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**S**hane Gunderson graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Ph.D. in Comparative Studies on December 7, 2012. For twenty-three years, Shane Gunderson has worked as the Director of Client Services in the Broward Office of the Public Defender. He entered the Ph.D. program in Comparative Studies on a part-time basis in June 2007. Prior to entering the Comparative Studies Program he earned his Master's Degree in Public Administration at Florida Atlantic University in 2000. His professional background working in the court system and activism interests in social movements prepared him well for the Public Intellectuals Track in the Comparative Studies Program.

Prior to finishing his dissertation, he had already established himself as a serious and productive scholar. He has published two book chapters, six journal articles and has presented his research at twelve national conferences and at one international conference in Budapest. His dissertation title is *Social Movement Momentum, Intellectual Work and the East Timor Independence Movement*. He developed the theoretical concept of social movement momentum by examining the origins, framing strategies, and organizational dynamics of the East Timor transnational social movement. Gunderson conducted interviews of people involved in the East Timor independence movement from 1975-1999. He traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to collect data in restricted files kept by the United Nations Archives. In addition, he was awarded a grant from the Frederic Ewen Academic Freedom Center at New York University's Tamiment Library to pay for travel to carry out research on the East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN) records. Gunderson developed the theoretical concept of social movement momentum to provide a better understanding of how social movements make people feel that social change is inevitable.

In addition to working full-time in the Public Defender's Office, Gunderson teaches as an Adjunct Professor at Florida International University, Miami Dade College, and as a Visiting Professor at DeVry University. His areas of specialization include: Agenda Setting Theory, Social Movements, Resistance Studies, Rhetorical Theory, Public Administration, Organizational Theory, Public Intellectuals, Public Speaking, and Communication. His doctoral dissertation was supervised by Fred A. Fejes (Chair), Becky Mulvaney, Farshad Araghi, and Robert D. Benford.

## 2013 Annual Meeting

April 24-27, 2013  
Hyatt Regency Atlanta  
Atlanta, Georgia



# Opportunities

## Call for Nominations/Proposals to Edit the new Journal of the Southern Sociological Society

As you likely have been following in the recent issues of *The Southern Sociologist*, the Executive Committee of SSS has been hard at work over the previous two years in establishing our very own academic journal, owned and run by the society, and published by Sage. We are thrilled, and hope you are as well.

The journal itself will focus on cutting edge research from all methodological and theoretical traditions with implications for national and international sociological communities. While preserving a traditional journal “feel” including normal length articles, the SSS journal will be unique in also welcoming succinct research and policy-related contributions as well as important conceptual and theoretical debates ranging from 2000-3000 words.

The journal will publish:

- Refereed articles
- Research briefs
- Policy-related pieces
- Theoretical and substantive area debates

A copy of the proposal can be seen at the Southern Sociological Society webpage in the documents section <http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/assets/gov%20documents/SSSJJournalVision.pdf>.

The editor will work in conjunction with Sage Publications, the publications committee, SSS membership, and the executive committee to establish a journal title, develop an editorial board, solicit manuscripts, and edit the new journal. The journal will be published three times per year at first, with 100 pages devoted to each volume.

The initial editorial appointment will be for three to four years, with the expected first term beginning in June 2013. For those individuals who wish to apply to be Editor, the following guidelines should be followed.

**Eligibility:** For the inaugural editor, candidates must be members of the Southern Sociological Society and have had a significant presence at the SSS in the past. We will happily consider co-editors and editorial teams.



(Continued from page 19)

**Qualifications:** In addition to participation in the SSS, we seek editors with strong research programs and an established record of scholarship, attention to detail, and a desire to publish great research from all over the world.

**Deadline for receipt of proposals :** March 15, 2013.

**The Proposal itself:**

The Application Packet should be no more than three pages and should include:

Vision Statement: Set forth your goals and plans for how you, along with the SSS publications committee, would inaugurate the journal especially given the journal's aims and foci as outlined in the SSS's journal vision: <http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/assets/gov%20documents/SSSJJournalVision.pdf>. This packet might include putting together a diverse editorial board and working with Sage. In addition, enthusiasm to work within contemporary publishing priorities such as encouraging downloads of articles and encouraging innovations in paper content and supplemental material is expected.

Editor/Co-Editor Background Information: Please include the names and CVs of all editors and/or Associate editors. Describe your strengths and/or experience in leading, working with, or editing a journal.

Institutional Support: Although the SSS may be able to help defray some of the office costs in running a journal, it is important for prospective editors to provide a sense of institutional support (e.g., office space, course release time, graduate or undergraduate help) that their university or college might be able to provide should the journal be housed at their institution. Letters of support from department chairs or deans are encouraged.

The ASA has a useful website entitled "How to Apply for a Journal Editorship." Some of the information may be useful: <http://www.asanet.org/journals/editorships.cfm>.

**Selection process**

Applications will be reviewed by the publications committee, with the applicants rank ordered and then sent to executive committee for final approval. A decision will be made by April 19, 2013. The inaugural editor will be announced in late April, with the hope of an announcement/possible panel created on the topic at the 2013 SSS meetings.

Please send your application and vita, along with any supporting documents to:  
Patricia Drentea, Publications Committee Chair. Applications must be received electronically by March 15th, 2013.

Patricia Drentea, Ph.D.

Department of Sociology

University of Alabama-Birmingham

[Pdrentea@uab.edu](mailto:Pdrentea@uab.edu)





## 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 may receive *Social Forces* (online or by mail) and online access to *The Southern Sociologist*. 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 .....	60.00
Emeritus	
with <i>Social Forces</i> .....	33.50
without <i>Social Forces</i> .....	no cost
Associate (non-voting) .....	58.00
Student .....	25.00

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

Dr. David L. Brunnsma  
 Executive Officer  
 Southern Sociological Society  
 560 McBryde Hall (0137)  
 Blacksburg, VA 24061

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: February 15, 2013**