

The Southern Sociologist

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From the President, Leslie Hall Hossfeld

"For the distance is measured, and that is what matters. By measuring the distance, we come home." Raymond Williams, Border Country, 1960

I came to my office this morning to write my first column as President of the Southern Sociological Society and was struck, not for the first time, by the oddity of my surroundings. My current office is nestled in the American Studies program at Swansea University in Wales where I have spent the past four months teaching Welsh and English students about poverty in America. The corridors surrounding my office are plastered with memorabilia, posters, and maps of the southern United States; for the American Studies program at Swansea University is not really focused on *America* so much as it is focused on, (dare I say obsessed with?), the *American South*. Charleston, Savannah, Atlanta, Vicksburg, New Orleans, all greet me each morning as I struggle to find my office key. Cassius Clay (the great Muhammad Ali), William Faulkner, and 2013 SSS Roll of Honor Awardee John Shelton Reed (!) peer over me as I fumble at the door. The juxtaposition of all of this makes me chuckle. And the irony is not lost as I sit down to write to all of you from a very far, measured, distance... way across the pond.

Less than a month ago we all came together in Atlanta and celebrated yet another, outstanding, SSS experience. President and friend Don Tomaskovic-Devey, Vice President Bill Danaher, Local Arrangements Chair Jim Ainsworth, Program Committee Chair Steve McDonald, and the en-

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tire Program Committee put on a splendid annual meeting. The sessions, mini-conferences, and plenaries were all well attended and all intellectually stimulating. David Brunsmma (Executive Officer) and Slade Lellock (Assistant to the EO) worked like Trojans to ensure everything ran smoothly. Jeff Will and the Committee on the Status of Students put on, once again, a brilliant student reception. Atlanta was a resounding success. Well done everyone!

I want to congratulate and welcome our newly elected officers and committee members of SSS: President-Elect David Maume (University of Cincinnati); Vice President-Elect John Reynolds (Florida State University); Executive Committee: James Maple (University of Tennessee-Martin) and Elizabeth Stearns (University of North Carolina Charlotte); and Publications Committee: Kuji Ueno (Florida State University) and William Danaher (College of Charleston). I look forward to working with each one of you in the days and months ahead.

This is such an exciting time to be President of the Southern Sociological Society. As you know, in Atlanta we celebrated the launch of *Social Currents*, the *official* journal of the Southern Sociological Society. We have two impressive inaugural editors, Toni Calasanti (Virginia Tech) and Vincent Roscigno (The Ohio State University), a strong contract with SAGE, and a first issue target date of July 2014! Our Publications Committee, chaired by Patricia Drentea (University of Alabama Birmingham) is reorganizing to take on the new responsibilities created by this exciting venture. Thanks to all the SSS members who have worked incredibly hard to get us to this point and who brought this journal to fruition. We will celebrate our new journal and its first issue at our next conference!

Speaking of which, I should like to turn your attention to activities for the year ahead and to Charlotte, North Carolina. Thanks to a great contract negotiated by Charles Tolbert (Baylor University) and Beth Rubin (University of North Carolina Charlotte), we will be meeting at the newly renovated Charlotte Marriott City Center April 2-5, 2014. Lisa Walker (University of North Carolina Charlotte), Local Arrangements Committee Chair, is already planning and organizing things on the ground. Charlotte is a dynamic city with a vibrant downtown (which they call "Uptown"). Look for Lisa's [article](#) in this and the next issues of TSS describing what to see and explore while you are there.

My focus this year is on building our capacity as a society. I have appointed Denise Bissler (Randolph-Macon College) to Chair a Presidential Taskforce on Committees. Denise, along with Cameron Lippard (Appalachian State University) and James Maples (University Tennessee-Martin) will work with committees to examine their mission and vision, to see what needs to be changed, tweaked or eliminated, and to help committees rethink their work and determine how their committees can best serve the broader mission and vision of SSS. I have reached out to all our committee chairs and committee members to ask them to critically assess how they,

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through their committee structure, can strengthen and buttress the work of SSS in the years to come.

In Charlotte, on the 79th year of our society, we will revisit some of the very issues that the founders of SSS struggled with in the South: poverty, social policy, and the role of the sociologist. In an era not that different from the early years of SSS, we are experiencing some of the highest poverty rates in our history and a profound intensification in economic, social, and political inequality. What is our role as sociologists in addressing this issue? We have a long, solid tradition of excellent poverty scholarship: we have shifted our gaze from cultural explanations to structural explanations, and recently brought culture back in. We have examined the fallout of bad poverty policy, examined the lived experiences of poverty, social isolation, social exclusion, diminishing opportunity structure, and limited human, cultural, and social capitals. Yet there still remains an arena that as sociologists we are particularly weak, and this relates to policy and praxis. There are three interrelated areas that I want us to focus on in Charlotte. The first, and perhaps the greatest, is the unresolved problem with the poverty measurement itself. We know it is flawed, yet we proceed with this caveat and continue its use. Rather than accepting a flawed poverty measure, why are we not at the forefront of recasting and reshaping measurement? What can we do as social scientists? How can we influence and be the vanguard of policy change around measurement? We have scholars who are working at the state level to redress this issue. What can we learn from their work and praxis? Secondly, I am deeply concerned about the current dismantling of the social safety net by state and local governments taking place throughout the country, particularly in the South. The assault on Medicaid extension, Earned Income Tax Credits, unemployment benefits, emergency assistance, and state austerity programs has become routine. How can sociology be at the forefront of informing state policy? How can we work with local and state governments to apply our body of sociological knowledge to address local and state policy initiatives; how can we counter this assault on programs that are targeted to help low income, poor, working, and middle class families? As someone who works on the ground, at the local level, it is becoming increasingly clear that targeting state and local policy and working with state and local governments is vital. Lastly, who are the sociologists working on anti-poverty projects and policy in the South and what can we learn from their experiences? The founders of SSS exemplified this kind of scholarly engagement as they worked to address poverty in the South. We need to highlight and celebrate this tradition and the work that is currently being done.

With this framework in mind, here is some preliminary information on what we can expect in Charlotte in 2014. Vice President Stephanie Moller is putting together a presidential plenary panel session on the critique of the poverty measure and how and why sociologists should be at the forefront in addressing its inadequacies. David Jaffee (University of North Florida) is organizing a session on economic development projects in the South and the sociologists who in-

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form and carry-out those projects. Tracy Ore (St. Cloud State University) will return to her native South to organize a mini-conference on the Sociology of Food that will examine myriad issues including labor, gender inequality, access, local food movements, food insecurity, food sovereignty—to name a few. President Earl Wright (University of Cincinnati) and President-Elect Thomas Calhoun (Jackson State University) of the Association of Black Sociologists will be part of a presidential panel session focusing on the poverty scholarship of W.E.B. DuBois. And last, but certainly not least, I am delighted to announce that Aldon Morris (Northwestern University) will be our plenary speaker. Our talented Program Committee for Charlotte 2014, chaired by Daniel Buffington (University of North Carolina Wilmington), is already working hard to ensure an intellectually rich program. Many more details will appear in upcoming issues of *The Southern Sociologist*.

I am still thinking about that handful of days we had together in Atlanta last month. More than one person said to me, “I always feel like I am coming home when I attend Southern.” Over the years I have served on leadership roles in many of our professional organizations and one thing stands out about SSS: we have a remarkable spirit about us. One full of warmth and good-will that I suppose makes people feel like they are, indeed, coming home.

As I sit here in Wales, I reflect on my home: the US South. I grew up playing on the hills of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and except for a long stint teaching at a university in South Africa, I have been deeply entrenched in the communities of the South, using sociology to inform and address pressing social issues. Like so many of you, SSS has always been my intellectual home. I have benefited and grown from the relationships and friendships that have developed over many years and that are nurtured by our common love of the region and SSS. It is not surprising that so many of our members scattered near and far still make the trek to our annual meetings, returning because of their connection to the South and the sense of community and belonging SSS provides us.

I am deeply honored to be president of this fine society. I look forward to working with you and seeing all of you at our 2014 conference home—Charlotte, North Carolina.

Leslie Hossfeld
Swansea, South West Wales

Spring 2013 SSS Meeting

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society had over 750 registrants, a record for Atlanta. The Hyatt Regency Atlanta provided a welcoming venue for the meeting. The Program Committee led by Chair Steve McDonald, North Carolina State University, produced a diverse and exciting program. Donald Tomaskovic-Devey delivered his Presidential Address on “Relational Dynamics, Organizational Contexts, and Institution Glue,” which include several lighter slides to further entertain the audience. The mini-conferences on social psychology, social networks, and teaching generated considerable discussion. Additionally, plenary speaker ASA President-elect Annette Lareau spoke on “The Search for a Good School: Class, Families, and the Reproduction of Inequality.” Several other informative sessions also focused on the meeting theme “Relational Inequality.”



President Tomaskovic-Devey delivers his Presidential Address, “Relational Dynamics, Organizational Contexts, and Institution Glue.”

Don Tomaskovic-Devey passes the symbols of “power” to new President Leslie Hossfeld.



2013 SSS Awards



Roll of Honor

John Shelton Reed is recognized for his addition to the Southern Sociological Society's Roll of Honor after receiving the award from James Wright, Chair of the Committee on Honors.

Distinguished Teaching Award

Rebecca Bach receives the Distinguished Teaching Award.



2013 SSS Awards



Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award

Karen Campbell displays the
Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award.



Martin L. Levin Distinguished Service Award

Bob Freymeyer receives the Martin L. Levin
Distinguished Service Award.



Odum Student Paper Awards

Undergraduate Award

Cara Wagner of Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, receives the Undergraduate Odum Award for her paper "The Gendered Nature of Food."



Graduate Award



The Graduate Odum Award is presented to Anne Kronberg of Emory for her paper "Stay or Leave? Externalization of Job Mobility and the Effect on the U.S. Gender Earnings Gap, 1979-2009."

2014 SSS Awards

Walter Gove and Kenneth Land to be Added to the Roll of Honor

The greatest recognition given by the Southern Sociological Society is an appointment to the Roll of Honor. This award recognizes a career of distinguished intellectual contribution to sociology. Awardees must be members of the Southern Sociological Society (or made significant contributions to Sociology while a member of SSS) and have made stellar contributions to the discipline across their career. **Walter Gove**, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Vanderbilt University, and **Kenneth Land**, John Franklin Crowell Professor of Sociology at Duke University, will be added to the Roll of Honor in 2014.

The Martin L. Levin Distinguished Service Award to be Presented to Stephanie Bohon

The Martin L. Levin Distinguished Service Award honors outstanding service to the Southern Sociological Society. This honor recognizes those members who have made exemplary contributions to the Southern Sociological Society through direct service over a lifetime or significant portion of their professional careers. Their contributions should have been vital in fulfilling the Society's mission and sustaining its annual meetings. Their record may include serving in major fiduciary and organizational leadership roles, either as an officer or chair/member of committees, or as a program chair, session organizer, discussant, etc.; or it may involve providing leadership for innovative changes in the organization and functioning of the Society, in building the Society's membership, or in other ways. Recipients of this award are expected to have been members of the Society for a considerable portion of their careers. The 2014 Martin L. Levin Distinguished Service Award will be presented to **Stephanie Bohon**, University of Tennessee.

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David Maume to Receive Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award

The Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award recognizes distinguished scholarly contributions to the understanding of gender and society. The award honors a single work, several pieces of work, or a significant career of professional achievements. **David Maume**, University of Cincinnati, will receive this award in 2014.

Charlotte in 2014

Lisa Walker
Chair, Local Arrangements Committee

If you haven't been to Charlotte since the last time SSS met here, you are in for a treat. Uptown Charlotte has so many new cultural and entertainment venues that you won't be able to visit them all. Recently, the Levine Center for the Arts opened, and it is now home to the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, the Mint Museum of Art, the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, and the Knight Theater. The EpiCentre is an open-air entertainment center which contains over three dozen bars, clubs, restaurants, and entertainment outlets, including Strike City for a modern bowling experience. The NASCAR Hall of Fame and Museum is a great place to visit—even if you are not a race fan. The presence of Johnson & Wales (Culinary) University means that Uptown is full of amazing restaurants, including several with a farm-to-table format. The newly unveiled Liberty Walk (download the app now!) provides a peek into Charlotte's early history. Charlotte is also home to a booming craft beer culture. For more on what to do in Charlotte, check out www.charlottesgotalot.com.



Southern Sociological Society

Creating the New Journal *Social Currents*

Patricia Drentea (Chair) and
the Publications Committee

We were excited to roll out the announcement of the official journal of the Southern Sociological Society at the recent annual meetings in Atlanta. Lots of swag (pens, buttons, stickers, etc.) and plenty of discussions in hallways, receptions, and area restaurants helped to bubble up the excitement for the new journal. Indeed, the new journal is exciting. This article is about the process of creating the new journal *Social Currents*.

Selection of Publisher

The SSS Executive Committee and the Publications Committee Chair had a historic off-site meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, in October 2012 to discuss moving the new journal forward. This group considered several publishers and, based on the quality of contracts, narrowed down the choices to either Sage Publications or Elsevier. During this October 2012 meeting, the executive committee voted unanimously to work with Sage, and the contract with Sage was finalized in February 2013. We launched the name, *Social Currents*, at the April 2013 meetings with much swag and ceremony.

Selection of Name

The process of choosing the name was iterative: Members suggested names using an online program called "Allourideas.org." This names generator program is an iterative program that presents paired choices and allows people to make continuous votes between titles/phrases, until the program generates the final best matches. As of February 28, 2013, there were 1937 votes on 21 different ideas. Two final titles, *Sociological Currents* and *Social Currents*, were considered by the Executive Committee along with the Publications Committee Chair. After discussion, *Social Currents* won the vote.

Editor Selection

During the summer of 2012, the Publication Committee members were given a list, by Assistant Executive Officer Slade Lellock, of colleges and universities that send scholars to the annual SSS meetings. Because SSS leadership had worked very hard to develop a journal that would

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truly be “of” the Southern Sociological Society, they had a deep commitment to ensuring that the editor(s) would be active participants in the Society. From that list of schools, we developed a list of potential editors, using criteria that included the quality of research, participation, relationship with the Southern, and other editorial or administrative experience. We listed about 30 potential editors. Publications Committee members divided the list, and each member wrote to several people informing them that their name came up as a potential editor and inviting them to apply. This process generated considerable interest. We also posted a call for editors in mid-December 2012 on the SSS website, sent an announcement on the SSS listserv, and reminded the membership again in late February 2013 via listserv. Finally, we placed the call in the Winter 2012 edition of *The Southern Sociologist* (TSS).



These advertisements sparked serious interest from several individuals, with some of them dropping out due to issues relating to lack of institutional support and/or bad timing in their personal/professional life. On March 25, the Publications Committee held a conference call, with seven of the nine members participating, and discussed the pros and cons of the applications, ultimately sending our recommendation to Executive Committee. Executive Committee voted to appoint the inaugural co-editors Toni Calasanti and Vinnie Roscigno to the new journal.

Editorial Board Selection

The Editorial Board member selection of *Social Currents* is now underway. The Editorial Board will be diverse, with 50% of the members from the Southern Sociological Society membership. Once the co-editors make their recommendations, the Publications Committee will review the list for diversity, and then send their comments back to the co-editors.

Southern Sociological Society

SSS Executive Committee Decides on Revised and Expanded Structures for Membership Dues and Conference Registration Fees

David L. Brunσμα, SSS Executive Officer

The Executive Committee of the Southern Sociological Society approved important new initiatives and incentive structures for annual membership dues as well as conference registration. These changes will occur on July 1, 2013, for the coming 2013-2014 membership year and will also be in effect for the upcoming annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina (April 2-5, 2014). These changes are in line with other regional sociological associations, will generate more income for the Society, and will streamline the conference registration process and the production of the final program for annual meetings.

Membership Categories: Old and New

SSS has had the following membership categories for quite some time: Regular (\$60), Student (\$25), Associate (\$58, membership with no journal), Emeritus (free), and NonMember (no annual dues, \$100 for conference registration). Executive Committee voted to eliminate the Associate category due to the fact that all members will get *Social Currents* and historically only a handful of SSS members in any given year were Associate Members.

SSS will now offer two new membership categories in addition to the continuing ones: Sustaining and Departmental. A Sustaining membership is for those members of the SSS who can afford to pay more than the cost of a Regular membership. The SSS membership has always been very generous with their donations over and above their dues and registration fees—Executive Committee expects this generosity will continue. Such a membership should also be able to be charged to members' grant accounts. A Sustaining membership in SSS will be \$120 and will be acknowledged publicly each year with a designation on all Sustaining members' conference badges at the annual meeting. Executive Committee hopes you will consider becoming a Sustaining member.

Another exciting initiative is that SSS will now offer Department memberships. Your institution can now become a Department Member of SSS at the following rates (dependent upon your institution type): 1) \$150 for PhD-granting institutions; 2) \$100 for MA-granting institutions; and 3) \$50 for BA/AA-granting institutions. Such memberships, like all SSS memberships last from July 1st through June 30th. Departments who choose this membership will be

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listed in the annual meeting program, the department will receive *Social Currents* to display for their faculty and students in their front office, *and* all undergraduate students who come from that Department and present will have their annual membership dues waived (undergraduate conference registration fees will still be required). Executive Committee hopes your department will consider becoming a Department Member of SSS in the upcoming year.

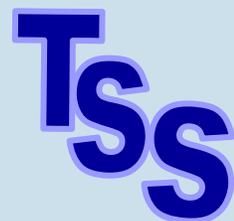
In conclusion, SSS now has the following individual membership categories: Sustaining (\$120), Regular (\$60), Student (\$25), Emeritus (free), and NonMember (no annual dues, \$100 for conference registration). The Society also now has Department Memberships available. As a reminder, the membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th.

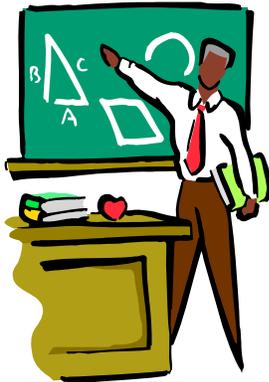
Conference Registration: Pre Registration and On Site Registration

A significant proportion of SSS members and conference attendees register on site every year. This action creates a series of challenges: from program construction to monitoring the hotel room block, from creating a smooth registration experience to conducting the work of crafting reasonable budgets, from ordering tote bags to making sound decisions on how much food to order at the Presidential Reception. Executive Committee has decided to build in incentives for our members to Pre Register for the annual meeting.

Starting with the 2014 annual meeting, a cut-off date will be set a month before each annual meeting. Those SSS members who Pre Register on or before this cut-off date will pay the usual fees for conference registration (\$60 for Regular, \$30 for Student, \$100 for Non-member, free for Emeriti). Those who register *after* this cut-off date will be considered On Site Registration. The rates for those On Site Registrations are as follows: \$75 for Regular, \$40 for Student, and \$140 for Non-member. Thus, for the upcoming meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina (April 2-5, 2014), the cut-off date will be March 3, 2014. Those who register for the conference *before or on* this date will pay the Pre Registration rates, those who register *after* this date will pay On Site Registration rates.

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





The Teaching Corner



James N. Maples
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Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges
Nicholas Guittar, Chair, University of South Carolina- Lancaster
Jeannie Haubert, Winthrop University
Sandra Weissinger, Southern University of New Orleans
James N. Maples, The University of Tennessee at Martin
Kimberly Lancaster, Coastal Carolina Community College
Susan Ambler, Maryville College

Work of the Committee

The committee again hosted the Teaching Sociology Mini-Conference at the 76th annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Atlanta. The mini-conference was a great success and each session was well-attended. This year's mini-conference sessions included presentations on teaching stratification, utilizing technology in the classroom, and transformative learning. CSCSC would like to thank Sociologists for Women in Society-South for co-sponsoring the session on teaching stratification.

CSCSC also held its annual networking dinner at Max Lagers in Atlanta on Thursday, April 25. Our dinner provides an opportunity for members to reach out to faculty and graduate students who are working (or interested in working) at small and community colleges. It also provides members a chance to discuss pedagogical tools and tips for the classroom. For the fourth consecutive year, our dinner had approximately 20 attendees. We look forward to holding this event again in Charlotte at next year's conference.

The new membership year brings several changes to CSCSC. Nick Guittar (University of South Carolina-Lancaster) is the new committee chair. The committee would like to thank outgoing chair, Christine Wernet (University of South Carolina Aiken) and outgoing committee member Sandra Godwin (Georgia College and State University) for their dedication and service

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to the Society. The committee also adds two new members: Susan Ambler (Maryville College) and Kimberly Lancaster (Coastal Carolina Community College). Additionally, James Maples (The University of Tennessee at Martin) will begin editing “The Teaching Corner.”

This will be an exciting year for the committee as we prepare for the Teaching Sociology Mini Conference in Charlotte. We will also be working with Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) to plan special teaching-based sessions at the conference. Stay tuned to “The Teaching Corner” for updates as we prepare for Charlotte! If you have suggestions for CSCSC, please contact our chair, Nick Guittar, at nguittar@mailbox.sc.edu.

Teaching Essay **Bringing Food into the Classroom** **Carmel E. Price (Furman University)**

As an environmental sociologist, I am increasingly doing research on food. I also believe in the teacher-scholar model and have accordingly made a pedagogical discovery (albeit a very obvious, mundane discovery): students relate to food! What follows in this “Teaching Corner” essay are some ideas for bringing food into your classroom. I’m not delineating how to replicate my sociology of food course; I’m specifically addressing ways to integrate food into introductory level sociology courses. For example, I talk about asparagus when giving my “What is Sociology: Everything is Sociology” lecture, I use obesity to talk about structure and agency, and I talk about tofu and portion sizes when teaching West and Zimmerman’s 1987 “Doing Gender” article. I hope you find inspiration (and resources) abundant in the following food-based modules.

Module 1: Obituaries, food, and identity

I begin this particular lesson by asking students to take a few minutes to write out their own obituary, but with one important twist: I ask students to write their *food obituary*. I encourage students to describe their life through food with no specific rules or requirements in mind. Some students use food purely as metaphors and similes. For example, “the world was her oyster” or “he was sweet as honey but could sting like a habanero.” Other students literally write about themselves through the foods they eat and their food-related activities. For example, “she was a creature of comfort; her favorite foods were macaroni and cheese, hotdogs, and ice-cream” or “he relished in the simple and rustic elegance of food such as homemade breads and jams, roasted fresh vegetables, and sweet summer fruit.” I am always overwhelmingly impressed with the varied ways students talk about themselves using food. The point is to illustrate that food is an undeniably powerful marker of personal identity. We are what we eat, literally and figuratively. Food can also be easily associated with national and regional identities, as well as racial,

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ethnic, class, gender, and religious identities (see *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes* by Guptill, Copelton, and Lucal, 2013).

I discuss how food, especially the identities associated with particular foods and food-related behaviors, can reinforce hierarchies and structural inequalities. This past semester, my students read the

original, unedited version of Yvonne Brill's *New York Times* Obituary (published March 30, 2013). Brill was a pioneering female rocket scientist in the 1940s. Her obituary talks about how she was not allowed to major in engineering because the field camps could not (or would not) accommodate females. The controversy surrounding her *New York Times* obituary, however, comes in the first sentences: "She made a mean beef stroganoff, followed her husband from job to job, and took eight years off from work to raise three children. 'The world's best mom,' her son Matthew said." Massive public outcry over the gendered reference to cooking beef stroganoff immediately followed the publication of Brill's obituary. This led the *New York Times* to publish a revised obituary seven hours after the first that read: "She was a brilliant rocket scientist who followed her husband from job to job..." (for the different versions of Brill's obituary see: <http://www.newsdiffs.org/article-history/www.nytimes.com/2013/03/31/science/space/yvonne-brill-rocket-scientist-dies-at-88.html>).

Using this obituary, I engage the students in a conversation about what it means to be identified by your job (a more traditional obituary topic) and how this might be different from being identified by the food you eat or your food-related activities (e.g., food preparation, cooking, or serving). I ask students to consider how these identity markers are shaped by gender, class, race, and other stratification systems. I find it very beneficial to connect the students' food obituaries to the food reference in Brill's obituary. Students discuss if they would be offended by a food reference in their obituary and to what degree their answer is a reflection of their social position in society (see "Moral Overtones of Food: Judgments of Others Based on What They Eat" by Stein and Nemeroff, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 1995).

I am also able to talk to students about a plethora of sociologists and sociological concepts (and assign readings accordingly) based on the idea of food as a symbol of identity. Some example theorists include George Herbert Mead and Erving Goffman, and related concepts include symbolic interactionism, social interaction, impression management, the presentation of self, and doing gender. I also use discussion questions to prompt class conversation: do you eat differently in your front stage than you do in your back stage? Do you order different foods if you are on a first date than if you're dining out with your family or friends? (For research on these specific questions see "Eating Lightly and the Self-presentation of Femininity" by Mori, Chaiken, and Pliner, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 1987 and "Impact of Group

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Settings and Gender on Meals Purchased by College Students” by Allen-O’Donnell, Cottingham, Nowak, and Snyder, *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 2011.)

Module 2: Food and gender

There are many directions to take the topic of food and gender. Possibilities include gender differences in eating, food labor, and dieting; gender differences in cooking professionally versus cooking domestically; the gendered nature of farming and gardening; and food movements as gendered movements (contact me for a lengthy reference list on gender and food). One of my favorite topics is the intersection of food, gender, and media. My inspiration for this topic is heavily rooted in Adams’ book *The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory* (1990).

I begin my lecture by showing students a slide-show of images that Adams has collected, which visually represent the sexual politics of meat (the images are located at <http://www.caroljadams.com>). The images are very profound and typically prompt a lively discussion among the students. For example, an advertisement for chicken wings has a caption that reads “Nibble on these!” placed over an image that strongly suggests the caption is referring to a woman’s breasts. Next, I show my students a Hummer commercial via YouTube that depicts a man buying tofu and vegetables and then purchasing a new vehicle, a Hummer, to restore balance back to his masculinity. (The video can be found at <http://youtu.be/1L4ZkYPLN38>; see also “Beasts, Burgers, and Hummers: Meat and the Crisis of Masculinity in Contemporary Television Advertisements” by Rogers, *Environmental Communication*, 2008). I then have my students scrounge the internet and magazines for gendered advertisements of food. I ask students to bring what they find to class. Soon, we have a very large sample of videos and print advertisements to view and discuss. For example, one of my students found an advertisement for Reddi-wip depicting a peach wearing makeup and fishnet stockings poll dancing on a spoon. My student cleverly noted that the sexual politics of meat as discussed by Adams has been extended to include other food items (this research eventually led to her senior thesis topic and the 2013 SSS Odum Undergraduate Paper Award). In addition, every semester students *discover* the gendered and sexual nature of both Super Bowl commercials and Hardee’s commercials.

This content analysis of print and digital media allows for several discussion, such as an introduction to the sociological study of media and culture, and more specifically sexualized media and the implications for girls, women, and gender-based violence (although a discussion of gender-based violence should be much more complex than sexualized media, but it is a good place to start). Another direction is discussing the health implications of people and the environment. The food guide pyramid (now the food plate—see *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health* by Marion Nestle, 2007) is not gendered, yet the foods we eat and

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food related behaviors are gendered. Rogers (2005) notes that “scholars interested in environmental movements must pay attention to the role of masculinity in resisting moves toward sustainability.” A sophisticated discussion of the implications for a feminist vegetarian culture that exists alongside a masculine meat culture makes for fun times in the classroom!

I hope that this small tasting of food related teaching ideas has increased your appetite for bringing food into the classroom. For more information, feedback, or discussion please do contact me at carmel.price2967@furman.edu or 864.294.3697. Bon Appétit!

Faculty Spotlight

Carmel E. Price is an ACS Postdoctoral Fellow of Sustainability at Furman University. Her area of expertise is gender and environment. She has a particular interest in creating meaningful learning experiences for her students. Her focus on pedagogy is rooted in her undergraduate training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education. She is the recipient of several distinguished teaching awards and is currently working on the submission of three journal articles focused on undergraduate teaching and assessment. She holds a Ph.D. in (environmental) sociology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a MSW from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.



The Teaching Corner

2013 Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

The 2013 Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium was hosted by Newberry College on April 12-13. Approximately 75 students and faculty from colleges and universities throughout the region participated in this annual event.



Rebecca Settle (left), Presbyterian College, won the Dr. Joel Thayer Paper Award for the best paper in the student paper competition for “Does Money Truly Buy Happiness? A Study of 157 Countries’ Level of Happiness and Contributing Factors.” The first place poster award went to Chelsea Taylor (right), Newberry College, for her poster on “Individual Differences in Working Memory Capacity Leading to Differences in Task.” Kendia Mitchell received the second place poster award for her work on “Beauty or Brains.”

Opportunities

CALL FOR PAPERS

Utopia in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
February 28—March 2, 2014
Dahlonega, Georgia



From early ideas of a perfect human condition to a more modern conception of technological or social nirvana, visions of utopia have permeated our histories. Their genesis is often in response to social and political struggle or is a reaction to imperfect reality. They are commentaries on the aspirations of our predecessors and present dreamers for the potential that lives within us all. This interdisciplinary conference seeks to examine how human experience and culture has impacted our idea of utopia in the present, in times and places past, and in the future.

What do these visions of utopia tell us about ourselves? How have they been conceived during centuries past, and how have they changed? How has our conception of utopia propelled us and shaped our intellectual activity and creative output? How does it impact what we do today, and what we envision for the future?

The idea of utopia raises interesting interpretive questions about all of the arts and humanities. These questions are investigations into the nature of humankind. They reflect our curiosity about ourselves, and about our place in the whole human enterprise.

We welcome contributors from all disciplines and on a wide range of topics. Possible themes might include:

- Utopia and creativity
- Utopia and revolution
- Utopia and dystopia
- Utopia and human rights
- Anthropocentrism and utopia
- Utopia in the creative arts
- Social utopia
- Creating the Garden of Eden
- The price of utopia
- Utopia in human psychology
- Utopia in ecology

A selection of contributions to the conference will be published in a peer-reviewed, edited volume by University of North Georgia Press. Faculty, graduate students, and independent scholars are welcome. Please submit an abstract of 200 – 300 words and a brief biography to rjohnston@northgeorgia.edu by August 1, 2013.

Rebecca R. Johnston, Department of Music
University of North Georgia
82 College Circle
Dahlonega, Georgia 30597



Southern Demographic Association Call for Papers

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Southern Demographic Association (SDA) will be held October 23-25, 2013, at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Potential contributors are encouraged to send abstracts for individual research papers and posters, as well as proposals for complete paper and poster sessions, thematic sessions, panel discussions, and software demonstrations. Presentations of research in both applied and academic demography, sociology, economics, political science, public health, epidemiology, geography and psychology are welcome.

The SDA also awards the Everett S. Lee Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award (http://sdademography.org/sda_lee_award.php) and an outstanding undergraduate paper award (http://sdademography.org/sda_undergrad_award.php). In addition, the Walt Terrie Award is given to recognize the best paper presented at the SDA Meeting on an applied topic, especially one relating to state and local demography (http://sda-demography.org/sda_terrie_award.php).

All submissions must be made by **July 1, 2013**, through the SDA website (<http://sdademography.org/SDA2013.php>). Please contact Ronald Cossman: Ronald.Cossman@ssrc.msstate.edu, program chair, with any questions regarding a potential submission.



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SSS Committee, 2013-2014

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Adia Harvey Wingfield, Georgia State University (aharvey@gsu.edu)

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SSS Committee, 2013-2014

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SSS Committee, 2013-2014

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Vincent J. Roscigno, The Ohio State University (roscigno.1@osu.edu)

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Chair: Cameron Lippard, Appalachian State University, 2014 (clippard@appstate.edu)

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SSS Committee, 2013-2014

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Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges (appointed—three years)

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SSS Committee, 2013-2014

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Pending

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Kirsten Dellinger, University of Mississippi (kdelling@olemiss.edu)

Exhibits Coordinator (appointed—indefinite term)

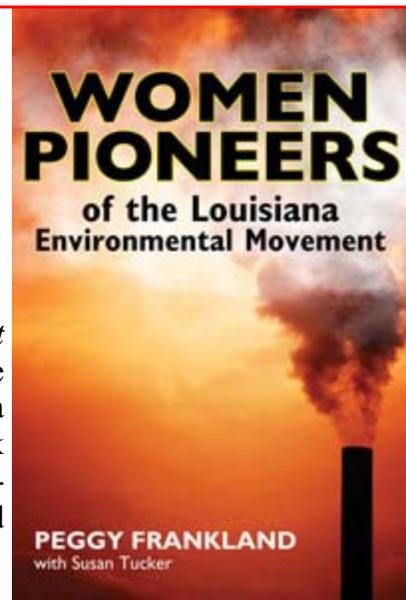
Pending

Parliamentarian (appointed—indefinite term)

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Women Pioneers of the Louisiana Environmental Movement

Peggy Frankland with Susan Tucker
University Press of Mississippi



Women Pioneers of the Louisiana Environmental Movement provides a window to better understand the significance of the thirty-eight passionate and concerned individuals who led a grassroots movement in a socially conservative state. The book is a compilation of oral history narratives in which women activists share their motivation, struggles, accomplishments, and hard-won wisdom.

Peggy Tucker, along with Susan Tucker, sheds light on Louisiana and American social and political history, as well as the national environmental movement in which women often emerged to speak for human rights, decent health care, and environmental protection. By illuminating a crucial period in Louisiana history, the women tell how “environmentalism” emerged within a state already struggling with the challenges of integrating the dual effects of the civil rights movement and the growing oil boom.

Frankland, an environmental activist herself since 1982, allows the women’s interviews to provide a clear picture of how their smallest actions impacted their communities, their families, and their way of life. Some experiences were frightening, some were demeaning, and many women were deeply affected by the individual persecution, ridicule, and scorn their activities brought to their lives. But their shared victories reveal to the reader the positive influence their activism had on the lives of their loved ones and fellow citizens within their local communities.

Women Pioneers of the Louisiana Environmental Movement also features additional interviews with nine men, all leaders who worked with, or against the women, thus providing more insight into this rich—and also gendered—history. A concluding chapter addresses the movement in Louisiana from the vantage of the present day.

PEGGY FRANKLAND has served environmentalism in many capacities, notably as president of Calcasieu League for Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) in Lake Charles. **SUSAN TUCKER** is curator of books and records at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women at Tulane University. She is the author of *Telling Memories among Southern Women*.

More information about *Women Pioneers of the Louisiana Environmental Movement* available at <http://www.upress.state.ms.us/books/1559>.

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 online access to *The Southern Sociologist* and coming soon will have access to *Social Currents*: The Official Journal of the Southern Sociological Society. 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 Executive Officer. 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 and annual dues are:

Sustaining.....	120.00
Regular	60.00
Emeritus.....	no cost
Student	25.00
Department.....	varied depending upon institution type

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

Dr. David L. Brunsmas
Executive Officer
Southern Sociological Society
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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, 2013