

# THE STUDENT SOCIOLOGIST

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## Editor's Column

By: Beth Floyd, ASA Minority and Student Affairs Program Coordinator

Hello Students!

Congratulations on making it to the end of another semester! As you get to your much deserved break, don't forget about all of the [funding](#) opportunities that ASA supports. Applications are due around the end of January and beginning of February.

The 2014-15 Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) applications are now being accepted with a deadline of January 31, 2014. MFP has existed since 1974 and has supported nearly 500 sociologists of colors during this time.

Currently MFP is supporting seven students in various programs and universities across the country: Edwin Ackerman, UC Berkeley; Regina Baker, Duke University; Jessica Dunning-Lozano, University of Texas at Austin; Joseph "Piko" Ewoodzie, University of Wisconsin; Elena Shih, UCLA; Stacy Torres, New York University; and Matthew Town, Portland State University. Each award winner receives a monthly stipend as well as travel funding for two ASA Annual Meetings during their fellowship.

The Honors Program is also currently accepting applications. The program brings approximately 35 undergraduate sociology majors to the ASA Annual Meeting to experience a full program agenda with specialized sessions. Honors Program participants can apply for the Student Forum Travel Award and the Honors Program Travel Award to help defray the costs of traveling. The Honors Program deadline is February 14, 2014.

Happy Holidays!

**Beth**

## SSS Call for Papers: Odum Awards for Student Papers

To nominate undergraduate or graduate student papers for the [Odum Award](#), first consider eligibility. Eligible papers must have only one author and conform to the style guidelines and length conventions of Social Currents. The student authors need not be a member of the **Southern Sociological Society (SSS)**. It is expected that the author will not 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 on to graduate or professional school are eligible for the undergraduate paper 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: The undergraduate papers should be submitted by a member of the SSS who attests the author meets the conditionals of eligibility.

Nominating procedure for Graduate Papers: Graduate students may submit their own papers. Their submission should come with the endorsement of a member of their graduate institution's faculty who is an SSS member and who attests that the author is a student in good standing. More? Visit [southernsociologicalsociety.org](http://southernsociologicalsociety.org).

**Deadline: January 15, 2014**

## Call for Applications: Minority Fellowship Program

ASA invites applicants to apply for the **Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)** for the 2014-15 academic year.

For the second year, the MAP office is accepting applications through the online application portal. The application portal will open at the end of November and can be found through the [MFP](#) pages on the ASA website. Applicants will want to establish "intent of applying" and provide information on letter writers as soon as the portal opens.

Eligible applications must be members of an underrepresented racial/ethnic minority group within the United States (e.g. Blacks/African-Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, Asians or Pacific Islanders, or Native

Americans/ Alaska Natives). Applicants should also be citizens of the United States, non-citizen nationals, or lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence; as well as having completed one full academic year prior to applying.

The MFP Fellowship is a 12 month appointment including a monthly stipend as well as travel funds to two ASA Annual Meetings.

Fellows are selected each year by the MFP Advisory Panel, a rotating, appointed group of scholars in sociology and former MFP Fellows.

The MFP began in 1974 and has supported nearly 500 sociologists of color since its

start. MFP is supported by significant contributions from *Sociologists for Women in Society*, *Alpha Kappa Delta*, and the *Midwest Sociological Society*, along with the *Association of Black Sociologists*, the *Southwestern Sociological Association*, the *Eastern Sociological Society*, and the *Pacific Sociological Association*.

All application materials must be submitted through the online application portal (with the exception of official transcripts which can be sent through the USPS and secure PDF) by 11:59 pm EST to be considered. Questions about the fellowship and the application should be sent to [Beth Floyd](#).

**Deadline: January 31, 2014**

## Call for Nominations: Student Forum Advisory Board

The **ASA Student Forum Advisory Board** is seeking nominations for Graduate Student Board members and Undergraduate Student Board members. The term of commitment is two years beginning at the end of the 2014 ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA in August and continuing through the 2016 Annual Meeting. Nominees must be Student Members of the ASA at the time of nomination and during their two-year term. They also should commit to attending the 2014, 2015, and 2016 Annual Meetings. Self nominations are welcomed.

The nominations sub-committee of the Student Forum Advisory Board will review nominations and oversee selection of candidates for the 2014 ASA Spring Election.

SFAB members receive travel funds to the ASA meetings held during their commitment.

To be considered, please send (1) your curriculum vitae including a current e-mail address and (2) a brief statement of no more than 250 words indicating why you want to serve on the SFAB and including a

brief biographical sketch. Should you be selected to be on the ballot, this statement will accompany your name to give voters an idea of who you are and why you want to be on the SFAB. Additionally, please indicate any web skills you may have. Nominations will only accepted by email.

Send nominations to [Student Forum](#).

**Deadline: March 3, 2014**

## Student Forum Travel Awards

The **ASA Student Forum** welcomes applications from all student members participating in the 2014 ASA program in San Francisco for the Student Forum Travel Award.

The Student Forum has 29 awards to distribute at the 2014 meeting. Each award is in the amount of \$225

Applicants must be students pursuing an undergraduate or graduate sociology degree in an academic institution and a current student member of ASA at the time of application. Participation in the Annual

Meeting program (e.g., paper sessions, roundtables), purpose for attending (e.g., workshop training, Honors Program participation), student financial need, availability of other forms of support, matching funds, and potential benefit to the student are among the factors taken into account in making awards. A travel award committee of the ASA Student Forum convened especially for this purpose will select awardees.

To apply, complete the PDF file and email it to [studentforum@asanet.org](mailto:studentforum@asanet.org) or print out

and mail one (1) hard copy of the Student Forum Travel Award Application form no later than April 1st (postmark deadline is ok). Decisions will be announced by May 15th. No part of the application may be submitted by fax, and only applications from individuals on their own behalf will be accepted.

View in PDF [Student Forum Travel Award](#) For more information, please call (202) 383-9005, ext. 322 send an email to [Student Forum](#).

## 2014 ASA Call for Papers: Student Forum Paper Sessions

### The 2014 Online Paper Submission System will open on December 6, 2013.

The Student Forum Advisory Board (SFAB) is sponsoring two Student Panel Sessions and a Student Roundtable Session. These sessions are organized by student members and are listed as "Student Forum Sessions" (SFS). Interested student authors should note that SFS operate under the same guidelines as Regular Sessions and are subject to the submission criteria, deadlines, and program policies listed in the ASA Call for Papers.

All submissions will be reviewed and approximately eight papers (2 panels and 4 papers each) will be chosen for inclusion into one of the two SFS. Every effort will be made to accommodate the remaining papers in the Student Forum Roundtable Session.

To apply for the SFS, please submit your completed paper via the ASA website. We encourage you to consider the theme for the 2014 Annual Meeting, "Hard Times: The Impact of Economic Inequality on Families and Individuals," for your paper submission.

This open submission and review process for the 2014 meeting is designed to encourage quality student papers. Remember, out of the papers submitted, one paper will be chosen to receive the Student Forum Best Paper Award, which comes with a Travel Grant.

To submit a paper to the SFS, please follow the online submission [guidelines](#).

**Deadline January 8, 2014**

## Call for Applications: ASA Honors Program

The American Sociological Association seeks applications from exceptional undergraduate students who wish to be considered for the **2014 ASA Honors Program**, which is highlighted at the ASA Annual Meeting.

Honors Program students come to the Annual Meeting and experience a laboratory on the profession. They participate actively in special sessions designed just for them, and

develop valuable networks with their peers as well as meet prominent professionals in the discipline. Taking part in the ASA Honors Program provides a significant and meaningful early experience in the careers of the next generation of sociologists.

Participation in the Honors Program requires nomination and later, sponsorship, by a sociology faculty member at your college or university.

Interested students and prospective faculty sponsors are encouraged to consult the ASA website at <http://www.asanet.org/students/honors.cfm>

for additional information and an application form. Questions? Contact [Dr. Dennis M. Rome](#), Director, ASA Honors Program or [Beth Floyd](#).

**Application Deadline: February 14, 2014**

## 16th Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference

### Call for Papers

The Department of Sociology at Northwestern University is pleased to announce the **16th Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference**. This annual graduate student conference is hosted on a rotating basis by one of several Chicago-area Sociology departments, including DePaul University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Loyola University, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, University of Notre Dame, the University of Chicago, and University of Illinois at Chicago. The conference provides an opportunity for graduate students to share their ethnographic scholarship with one another and get feedback from faculty and other graduate students based in the Chicago area and beyond. This year's conference will be held at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL on March 15th, 2014.

Graduate students in all academic disciplines are invited to present their original ethnographic research. While preference will be given to those who have conducted substantial fieldwork, interviewing methods are ac-

ceptable. Papers in all substantive areas are welcome. The theme of this year's conference is cultural production and reproduction. In addition to topics that relate to the theme, graduate students are welcome to submit work on topics including but not limited to: class, crime, education, ethnicity, gender, family, globalization, health and illness, immigration, medicine, methodology, performance ethnography, race, religion, sexualities, social movements, technology, urban poverty, and work and employment.

### Plenary Speakers

**Nina Eliasoph** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern California. Eliasoph's research explores volunteer work, civic engagement, and grassroots political activism. Her first book, *Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life* (1998, Cambridge University Press) depicts the culture of political avoidance in American civic life. In her second book, *Making Volunteers: Civic Life after Welfare's End* (2011, Princeton University Press), Eliasoph uncovers what role volunteers play for civic

and community organizations and the consequences of relying on short-term volunteers. Her recent *Politics of Volunteering* (2012, Polity Press, Cambridge) explores broader consequences of volunteering for the participants, recipients of aid, and society.

**Ashley Mears** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Boston University. Her first book, *Pricing Beauty: The Making of a Fashion Model* (2011, University of California Press), examines the production of value in fashion modeling markets and analyzes how cultural production markets become sites for the reproduction of cultural inequalities. Her current research explores the global context of culture and beauty in elite nightclubs.

### Abstract Submissions

To submit an abstract, please complete the online submission [form](#). The abstract should not exceed 250 words. **The deadline for submissions is January 15th, 2014.** All presenters will be notified of acceptance by February 1st. Participants will be asked to submit their full papers to the conference committee by March 1st.

## NSF/SBE Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants

The Sociology Program Dissertation Improvement Grants are awarded to support high quality doctoral dissertation research in sociology. The suitability of a research idea is based on the extent to which the research contributes to sociological theory and knowledge, not on specific topics. Grants are for direct research costs associated with either original data collection or the analysis of existing datasets. Direct research costs may include such things as dataset acquisition, additional statistical or methodological training through ICPSR (Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research) meeting with scholars associated with the original data set, and fieldwork away from the student's home campus. More information about the nature of dissertation grants, applicant eligibility, and proposal and grant processing is given in the solicitation, [SBE Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants](#).

As a general rule, proposals that review well are those that clearly state a central research question, make an argument that engages and/or debates relevant literatures, specifies the data the student will gather and the analytic procedures the student will apply to those data. Additionally, strong proposals state what the researcher expects to find or show through the research. Projects designed primarily to "expand," "explore," or "develop" our understanding of a phenomenon tend to be too preliminary for NSF support. Likewise, the Sociology Program does not fund evaluation projects or those with a primarily applied focus. NSF-funded sociology proposals tend to be theoretically framed and make clear contributions to sociological theory, and the strongest proposals have a research design that permits falsifiability so that the PI can be wrong as well as right.

When preparing the proposal, write clearly and concisely. Reviewers will include sociologists from a variety of specialty areas. It is possible that no specialist from your particular area of research will be on the panel. Defining key terms and keeping your proposal free of jargon will ensure that all reviewers will be able to understand your proposal and evaluate it fairly.

The proposal should not include any appen-

dix unless the student PI has received permission from the NSF program director. Students are, however, allowed to include copies of their survey instruments and interview guides if they are completing original data collection. Please limit these materials to five pages and insert at the end of the project description. Proposals without explicit permission for appendices may be held up or returned without review. Remember that reviewers are not obligated to read appendices, so critically important information should be in the body of the proposal. Letters testifying to local institutional sponsorship need not be appended but definitely should be cited in the proposal.

Students should use their judgment to determine how much space to allot to various portions of the discussion of the research. For example, students analyzing existing datasets will probably need to devote more space to the theoretical discussion and engagement with extant literature. In contrast, those designing their own study, whether quantitative or qualitative, will need to apportion more of their space to explication of the measurement instrument, fieldwork, or data-gathering efforts. Likewise, different analytic techniques require more or less discussion. Regardless of how much space the student devotes to discussion of theory and method, it is crucial that these be tightly connected.

Descriptions of data, regardless of type, should address how the specific data are appropriate to the theoretically motivated question(s) asked. Issues such as sampling, generalizability, reliability and validity are crucial components of this discussion regardless of data type (quantitative or qualitative). Thus, proposals should specify how the student will use the data to generalize to a relevant population or theory. In addition to consideration of the quality, type and appropriateness of data, students should be similarly informative about their plan for data analysis.

Reviewers recognize that plans change in the process of research; nonetheless, they will look for a clear description of how the student will use the data to answer the research questions and test the hypotheses. Listing software programs or methods (participant observation) does not provide

sufficient information to reviewers nor demonstrate that the student has seriously considered all phases of the research process in designing the proposal. Reviewers should be able to look back to the specific research aims and understand the purpose of the data collection and analytic strategy.

In sum, there are no pre-determined page lengths for sections of the project description; what is important is that reviewers know what the student PI intends to do, why she or he is doing it, exactly how the student will conduct the research and analyze the data regardless of its form.

Finally, remember that reviewers understand that there are no perfect strategies for conducting research. Thus, they look for evidence that the student is knowledgeable about the strengths and weaknesses of the approach selected. In a competitive review process where NSF can only fund a subset of excellent proposals, students should include a discussion of how the new knowledge their particular study produces will yield generalizations that advance sociological knowledge.

As a proposal preparation tool, consider the following checklist:

1. What is the research question?
2. Have you entered into a dialogue with the literature?
3. What is the project's theoretical contribution?
4. What do you expect to find?
5. How will you know if you are wrong? (falsifiability).
6. What, where and when will you conduct your research?
7. What kinds of evidence (data) will you gather?
8. How will you analyze the data?
9. Has your proposal been read (multiple times) by others before submitting?
10. Have you included the **required** sections of the project: Scientific merit? Broader impacts?
11. Have you applied for or obtained human subjects (IRB) approval?

**Deadline: February 15, 2014**

## AERA Undergraduate Education Research Training Workshop

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) invites applications for an Undergraduate Student Education Research Training Workshop to be held at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. This [workshop](#) is designed to build the talent pool of undergraduate students who plan to pursue doctorate degrees in education research or in disciplines and fields that examine education issues. Applicants are sought who have potential and interest in pursuing careers as education researchers, faculty members, or other professionals who contribute to the research field.

The workshop, led by junior and senior scholars, will give fellows an overview of how education research is designed across fields, how quantitative and qualitative research methods are used in studies, and how research is applied to education policy and practice. Senior researchers and faculty from both academic institutions and applied research organizations (i.e., The American Institutes for Research, Educa-

tional Testing Service, the College Board, and the Urban Institute) will introduce education research as a field and share their area of expertise and knowledge with the fellows. Workshop activities will also focus on exploring graduate education, applying to graduate school, and beginning a career in education research.

Fellows will be paired with a faculty member and a graduate student who will serve as program mentors. In addition to attending the workshop, fellows will attend pre-selected paper sessions and presentations during the AERA Annual Meeting.

**Dates:** To be announced. The Workshop activities will take place during the 2014 AERA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Thursday, April 3 - Monday, April 7, 2014)

**Award:** Fellows will participate in the Undergraduate Student Education Research Training Workshop during the AERA 2014 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. They will also have the benefit of a distinguished

mentor as part of the award. The award includes conference registration and two nights of lodging. The fellows and/or their home institutions are responsible for transportation costs to Philadelphia.

**Eligibility:** Candidates may come from a broad range of fields across the arts and sciences. Underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities and women are encouraged to apply. Candidates must be:

- Students in their sophomore, junior, or senior year of college in good academic standing.
- Interested in pursuing a graduate or professional degree that can lend itself to education research areas such as children and youth, school and schooling issues, higher education, education policy, student achievement, curriculum and instruction, education psychology, or education leadership.
- U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

**Deadline: January 6, 2014**

## ICPSR Announces New Student Research Paper Competition

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social research (ICPSR) is pleased to announce that the [National Addiction and HIV Data Archive](#) (NAHDAP) is offering a Research Paper Competition for undergraduates and master's students this year and invites submissions from students and recent graduates at member and nonmember institutions.

The paper must be on the topic of drug addiction or HIV, and students are encouraged to use these data released by the [National Addiction and HIV Data Archive Program](#). The purpose of the competition is to highlight exemplary research papers on topics related to addiction and HIV that are based on quantitative analysis. The awards are \$1,000 for first place and \$750 for sec-

ond place in each category, and publication on the [ICPSR Research Paper Competition Winners website](#) and in a special edition of the ICPSR *Bulletin* for the first-place winners.

Visit the [ICPSR Research Paper Competition website](#) for details. **Deadline** for submissions is **January 31, 2014**.

Robert  
Wood  
Johnson  
Foundation

**Center for  
Health Policy**  
at the University of New Mexico



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico  
Doctoral Fellowships  
2014-2015



Questions? Email: [center@unm.edu](mailto:center@unm.edu) or Call: 505-277-0130

For more information and to apply, visit  
<http://healthpolicy.unm.edu/fellowships/doctoral-fellowship>

**APPLICATION PRIORITY DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2014 AT 5PM MST**

**As an RWJF Center for Health Policy Doctoral Fellow, you will:**

- Become a leader in health policy analysis and research for underrepresented communities
- Receive up to 5 years of funding, including tuition, health insurance and a \$27,000 annual stipend
- Have access to conference travel, office space, and statistical and writing support
- Have opportunities to participate in collaboration between social scientists and health professionals

The RWJF Center for Health Policy is dedicated to shaping the future of our nation by increasing the diversity of scholars who become leaders in health equity.

## APPLICATION PRIORITY DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2014 AT 5PM MST

### What are the RWJF Center for Health Policy Doctoral Fellowships ?

The RWJF Doctoral fellowship is a prestigious doctoral fellowship program for Ph.D. students with educational and research interests that include health and health policy analysis and research. The RWJF Center for Health Policy seeks to increase the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., Hispanic, Native American, Black, etc.) in the nation in the development, implementation, and analysis of health policy. At the core of the Center's mission is the education of a new generation of leaders in health and health policy studies, leaders whose diversity reflects the full diversity of the U.S. population.

### What Can I Expect?

Fellows will receive up to five years of funding support including paid tuition, a \$27,000 annual stipend and health insurance. Fellows also have access to travel funds for research or conferences, as well as statistical and writing support staff, office space and the use of a laptop computer for the duration of their fellowship.

The RWJF Center for Health Policy also provides Fellows with a variety of opportunities for collaboration between social scientists and health professionals, as well as programming that enhances scholarship and civic leadership skills. Several initiatives support the mission of the Center, including the Institute for the Study of "Race" and Social Justice, the Institute for Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), Center for Native American Health Policy and the Women Health Policy Unit.

### Who Is Eligible?

Students who are applying to, or who are currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program in a social science department at UNM are eligible for this award. Priority is given to applicants from Economics, Political Science and Sociology. You may not need an M.A. before applying to the Ph.D. Program. In many cases you can apply with a B.A. and you will earn an M.A. enroute to earning the Ph.D. Applicants who are Ph.D. candidates and who are no longer taking classes in their program are eligible for funding for up to two years of total funding. The fellowship is open to all United States residents and citizens.

All students accepting RWJF Center awards for 2014-15 must be enrolled full-time in a social science department doctoral program (minimum nine graduate credit hours) each semester and remain in good academic standing with their department. The particular program of study is designed by each doctoral fellow in collaboration with a department advisor and Center staff prior to the start of the award year.

### What Are the Application Requirements?

All applicants are required to submit:

- Statement of Purpose
- GRE scores (copies OK)
- College Transcripts (copies OK)
- Three academic letters of reference
- One academic writing sample
- Copy of the application to the Ph.D. Program
- Current curriculum vitae

### How do I apply?

Applicants should go to <http://healthpolicy.unm.edu/fellowships/doctoral-fellowship> to download the application form and instructions. All materials should be received by the priority deadline date of January 15, 2014 at 5:00PM MST.

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### RWJF Center for Health Policy

A collaboration of the University of New Mexico and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the RWJF Center for Health Policy focuses on inserting the perspectives of Latino, American Indian, African American and other underrepresented groups into the most pressing health policy debates today. For more information contact the Center at 505-277-0130, email [center@unm.edu](mailto:center@unm.edu) or visit <http://healthpolicy.unm.edu>

## American Sociological Association



ASA Student Forum  
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[www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)  
<https://twitter.com/#!/ASASStudentForum>



### Sorokin Lecture Grant

Any of the winners of major ASA awards in the past two calendar years may be available to deliver a lecture at a state, regional, or aligned sociological association meeting, and on an academic campus. ASA would cover the costs of travel and up to two days of hotel costs. The host would cover registration (if applicable) and meals. Contingent upon available funding, the ASA can support up to four such lecture trips each calendar year.

[Distinguished Book Award](#)

[Dissertation Award](#)

[Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues](#)

[Jessie Bernard Award](#)

[Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award](#)

[Award for the Public Understanding of Sociology](#)

[Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology](#)

[Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award](#)

[W.E.B. DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award](#)

### Application Process

To apply, send a letter of inquiry with specific information about the event and the audience as well as the lecturer preferred. Executive Officers or Presidents of association, or faculty (with chair's support) in departments may apply. Submit these materials and any questions to the [Governance Department](#).

**Deadline: February 1, 2014**

## Call for Papers: MSS Student Paper Competition

The **Midwest Sociological Society** announces the 2014 Student Paper Competition. The competition is open to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate student members of MSS. Papers are judged through a blind review with separate panels of judges for graduate and undergraduate papers.

Students may nominate their own work.

With a student's permission, an advisor may submit a paper on a student's behalf. Maximum text length is 25 double-spaced pages (12-point font), not counting abstract, references, tables or figures.

Students who submit papers to this competition may submit the same paper to sessions at the annual meeting and/or to the editor of *The Sociological Quarterly* for pub-

lication consideration.

Students competitors must pay MSS dues for 2014 prior to submitting a paper.

All submissions must be received by January 10, 2014. Send submissions electronically only to [midwestss@centurytel.net](mailto:midwestss@centurytel.net).

**Deadline: January 10, 2014**

