

# THE STUDENT SOCIOLOGIST

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## Editor's Column

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

Hello Students! ASA is back into the swing of things post-Annual Meeting and we hope that you are settled into another semester.

The 108th ASA Annual Meeting was a great success for the Honors Program and the Student Forum; both of which fall under the oversight of the Minority and Student Affairs Program at ASA.

This year, the Honors Program had 39 undergraduate student participants, many of which were first-time attendees at the meeting. The students had a filled schedule for the entirety of the meeting, including a roundtable paper session, panel sessions on careers in sociol-

ogy and applying to graduate school, and presentations from well-known sociologists like Dr. Earl Babbie, Dr. Augie Diana, and Dr. Elisabeth Clemens. Directed by Dr. Dennis Rome at UW-Parkside, the Honors Program is open to undergraduate students of sociology who are juniors or seniors at the time of applying. The application deadline is February 15th every year.

The Student Forum also saw great success with their sessions. Every year, the Student Forum sponsors workshops, paper sessions, roundtables, the Student Reception, and a Business Meeting open to all

ASA student members. This year the first workshop was on how students can cope with the stress that comes with graduate school. The second workshop introduced career paths outside of teaching in the college classroom. Both workshops were very well-received.

The Student Forum Advisory Board (SFAB) is made up of elected ASA student members. If you would like more information about the positions and responsibilities of board members please contact [Beth Floyd](#). The election for SFAB runs concurrently with the ASA annual elections.

**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**

## Student Paper Award Winner Roscoe C. Scarborough: "The Jazz Solo as Ritual: Conforming to the Conventions of Innovation"

By: Nate Breznau

In an era I have come to know as 'after the regression revolution', it was a delight to witness the **Student Forum Advisory Board** select **Roscoe C. Scarborough's** paper as the winner. The student reviewers worked blind on these papers and were faced with difficult choices, and impossible comparisons between methods, philosophical approaches and topics. From what I saw there were many well executed quantitative analyses, consistent with the larger trend in sociology. Amidst these desirable approaches, the winner is a little surprising in its nature. It reminds us that the roots of sociological inquiry, captivating writing and usage of theory are what skilled sociologists do, regardless of 'cutting edge' quantitative methods or comparative perspectives.

In Scarborough's paper he engages in participation and observation, the cornerstones of classic sociology. **"The Jazz Solo as Ritual: Conforming to the Conventions of Innovation"** is a product of Roscoe's early graduate studies and is now published in *Music Sociology: An Introduction to the Role of Music in Social Life* (2013; Paradigm Publishers). Roscoe is a PhD student in sociology at the University of Virginia. I asked Roscoe a few questions about his paper and himself on behalf of the Student Sociologist.

**What motivated you to write the paper? What is the message you hope others will get?**

(Scarborough): The paper arises from my observations of jazz performances and my efforts to ascertain a sociological explanation of audience engagement. I apply neo-Durkheimian theory of ritual as structuring social interactions to jazz solos. I show how a successful solo is not an expression of unfettered innova-

tion. It is instead an elaborate ritual that begs the soloist, supporting musicians and the audience to follow scripts and adhere to strict conventions. This ritual imbues participants with an emotional charge that produces solidarity and results in the reification of the genre's conventions. I hope readers of the piece will reflect on the social foundations of 'innovation' and on the centrality of ritualistic action for guiding human behavior.

**What brought you to sociology?**

It is so easy to sociologize about others, but to think reflexively about the self can be a challenge. Growing up in a working-class neighborhood, attending both private and public schools, being the son of a musician and an artist, and driving a school bus for over a decade must have shaped my decision to go into sociology. However, I can't escape the feeling that this is a revisionist self-presentation for a sociological audience. What is certain is that I enjoy the richness of life and I think people are fascinating. I am intrigued by the ability of sociologists to explain and, in some cases, predict human behavior. I can't think of a more challenging pursuit than a science of social life.

**Your University of Virginia web-picture has you in a fire-fighting outfit...**

I became a volunteer firefighter to challenge myself. Second only college instruction, this has been one of the most rewarding activities. Responding to fires,

restarting someone's heart by performing chest compressions, and extricating entrapped victims of motor vehicle accidents are all experiences that contribute to my ever-changing worldview. I'm currently working on a comparative project analyzing firefighters.

**Are there any personal details you would like to share with the sociological community?**

Working within the budgetary constraints of a graduate student, I stay busy tending a collection of cacti and succulents, cooking, going on motorcycle rides, and attending live jazz and heavy metal music performances. When possible, I try to combine these interests with sociology.

The Student Forum is proud to recognize Roscoe's paper with distinction of those submitted in 2013. It was judged the best out of a field of 31 papers. If you would like to submit your paper for next year's award please visit the [Student Forum](#) pages for more information.

Finally, the SFAB would like to thank all of its reviewers who graciously volunteered their time to review these papers:

Dinur Blum, Marie Gualtieri, Corey Walters, Denise Cook, Sarah Pollock, Nicole Owens, Zsófia Ignác, Letisha Brown, Kaleefa Munroe, Dara Naphan, Michael J. Doane, Witte, Melissa Savlov, Mujun Zhou, Yibing Shen, Valerie Bonner, Danielle N. Johnson, Adrian Stanciu, Sooji Han, Matthew Grindal, Alex Reda, Maximilian Held, Mauricio Reichenbachs, Mindy Weller, Judith Offerhaus, Ryan Trettevik, Yara Jarallah, and Karina Wibowo.

## North Central Student Sociology Conference

The **North Central Student Sociology Conference (NCSSC)** cordially invites undergraduate students in sociology, anthropology, criminology, and related fields to submit their original work for presentation during the **North Central Sociological Association (NCSA)** annual meeting, April 10-13, 2014, in Cincinnati. Undergraduate sessions are generally scheduled on Saturday only.

The NCSSC gives undergraduate students the opportunity to present their research and to receive feedback from other students, professors, and professional sociolo-

gists. Students also have the opportunity to attend the many research and teaching sessions that are part of the NCSA's annual c o n f e r e n c e .

Submissions will be divided thematically and each student session will have 4-5 student presenters with a faculty facilitator. Students may choose to present a poster based on their research instead of presenting in a session as well.

Submissions should be emailed to [Gail McGuire](#).

Please include the following information with all submissions:

1. An abstract that includes the title of the paper, the research question investigated, methodology used (if appropriate), findings, and main conclusions.
2. The name of the student author, university affiliation, mailing address, phone and email.
3. Name and email of the faculty sponsor.

**Deadline: January 8th, 2014**

## Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting

The online abstract submission system for the **Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)** annual meeting is now open through the abstract system or through the [ESS web-site](#). The ESS welcomes submissions addressing any and all issues of interest to sociologists, drawing on methods of every sort. In addition, the 2014 meeting will have a special focus on "Invisible Work."

Work is central to collective life. But which work is recognized and valued? Paid jobs are only part of the picture. People also work to find and keep jobs and homes; to nurture others; to build communities; to access services; and more. Migrants and refugees work to sustain transnational families and build new lives. People work to establish and transform identities, protect privileges, and resist the indignities of marginalization. They work to make change. Children work, in the informal economy, as well as at home, in school, and in their communities. Many people have long worked in shadow economies; some have begun to create new kinds of local economies. And new technologies are producing novel forms of work that are only beginning to be understood.

A job description directs attention to some parts of a job and not others. Carework is valued in the abstract, but is rarely written into policy. Much of the work that sustains North American lives is performed elsewhere by workers who remain largely unacknowledged. The work that racial and ethnic group members do to resist oppression and prejudice is recognized within their communities, but is invisible to many in dominant groups. What kinds of change might be possible if these efforts were seen more clearly? This year, we invite submissions that re-examine this "generous" concept of work broaden its initial conceptualization, and reflect on its continuing relevance and transnational dimensions. In a time of ongoing economic transformation, studies of invisible, unpaid, unacknowledged, and under-valued work can contribute to scholarship, policies, and politics that take account of the full range of activities that sustain people's everyday lives.

Although the ESS particularly encourages submissions related to this year's theme, we welcome submissions on all sociological topics, drawing on all methods and formats in addition to:

- Individual papers (please include abstracts of 250 words or less; longer drafts are also welcome via email to the program committee)
- Wholly constituted sessions (with names and affiliations of all presenters)
- Thematic conversations (panels of two or more scholars engaged in debate or exchange)
- Workshops on specific topics and techniques (indicate the expert in charge)
- Master classes featuring a prominent scholar or Q & A sessions
- Roundtable session
- Undergraduate Posters

Paper submissions and session proposals are due by **October 15, 2013** and can be entered directly into the [abstract system](#).

## Call for Abstracts: The Sociology of the Body and Embodiment Mini-Conference at the 2014 ESS Annual Meeting

The significance of **body studies** has been demonstrated in its first few decades by the plethora of attention the body has received from feminist theory, cultural studies, queer theory, and critical race studies; the expansive treatment of the body's representations in nearly all areas of cultural life; a renewed interest in embodied experience and phenomenology; and a rethinking of the materiality of the body in disability studies, science studies, health and illness, and social studies of medicine. New issues in the field include the role of affect in embodiment theory, the renewal of interest in ontology, the rise of new materialism, post-positivism and critical realism, a rethinking of the legacies of postmodernism, and transformations in the relation of the humanities to the natural sciences. This **mini-conference** will draw attention to contemporary sociological work on the body, addressing such themes as:

- the body and marginalized populations, and the embodiment of race,

class, gender, sexuality, disability, nation, or how does the sociology of the body contribute to understanding inequality?

- sociological engagement with phenomenology, perception and embodiment
- health and illness, bioethics and the sociology of the body
- body projects and body modifications, including body-machine interfaces
- critical engagements with biology, epigenetics, and the neurosciences as they relate to embodiment
- assemblage and affect theories of the body and their applications
- the new materialisms and body studies
- the body in disability studies, including the prosthetics and assistive technologies related to disability, chronic illness

and mobility, the role of the body in conceptualizing disability, and bodily variation

- transempodiment and queer embodiment
- fat studies
- culture, aesthetics, performance, art and the body
- the body and social theory now
- the body and "invisible work" - invisible, unpaid, unacknowledged, and under-valued work

Other topics related to the sociology of the body are also welcome. Please send abstracts of up to 350 words **directly to the mini-conference organizer, [Victoria Pitts-Taylor](#)**. Submissions must have the subject line **ESS Body Conference** and be submitted by **October 10, 2013**. Abstracts that are not accepted will be forwarded to the main conference for general submission.

## Sexuality Matters: Race, Gender, & Class Intersections in the 21st Century

Black feminist scholars have long argued that we must attend to how intersecting oppressions associated with race, class, and gender affect people differently based on their location in the "matrix of domination." Queer scholars of color have extended this argument to emphasize how systems of power that privilege heterosexuality and heteronormative sexual and relationship patterns also work in concert with other systems of power to produce unequal outcomes for populations on the margins.

Key Black sociologists have heeded the call to nuance our treatments of sexuality, race, class, and gender. However, sexuality and gender blind spots in Black sociology as an intellectual field have limited our ability to bring a systematic and rigorous Black sociological lens to sexuality. "**Sexuality Matters: Race, Gender, and Class Intersections in the 21st Century**," will bring to-

gether scholars of color to assess our current knowledge about how sexuality intersects with race, class, gender, and other systems that structure and precipitate oppression, as well as to chart a course for the tradition of Black sociology to both shape and be shaped by emerging work in this area in the coming decades.

This **ABS-sponsored symposium** will build on traditions in Black feminist and Black queer theory, centering sexuality as an inquiry site to better understand the increasingly complex intersections of race, class, and gender in the 21st century. It will feature panels on the state of Black LGBT American; the epistemology and praxis of Black feminist and Black queer research; contemporary implications of sexism and the feminization of poverty, especially for women of color; everyday and institutional experiences of LGBT persons of color; and

the activist work of community organizations addressing the unique challenges experienced by LGBT persons of color.

**This Symposium is being held in conjunction with the 2014 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco.** We see this Symposium as a distinct space in which we, as an organization, can bring our intellectual energies to specific topics of pressing importance to our intellectual and social justice missions. The **Association of Black Sociologists** hopes this Symposium will open a dialogue about how sociological inquiry, in general, and Black sociological inquiry, in particular, can be useful in both highlighting the experiences of marginalized groups of color and also advancing social justice for people of color in the 21st century American and beyond. More information can be found at **[associationofblacksociologists.org](http://associationofblacksociologists.org)**.

American Sociological Association



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## Fung Global Fellows Program

The **Fung Global Fellows Program** at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies is pleased to welcome the inaugural cohort of six [Fung Global Fellows](#). Beginning in September, the fellows will spend the 2013-2014 academic year at Princeton University, doing research around the theme "[Languages and Authority](#)." The program's director is Michael Gordin. Read the [feature article](#).

In 2014-15, the Fung Global Fellows Program will focus on the theme "[Global Diffusion](#)." The program is currently accepting applications from international scholars developing new, innovative ways to study global diffusion processes. The director for the 2014-15 program is Andreas Wimmer. For eligibility criteria and details see the [application](#) section of this website.

**Deadline: November 1, 2013.**

## 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**

