

TIMELINES

NEWSLETTER 30 OF THE ASA HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY SECTION—AUGUST 2020

FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

Begin to write by writing the truest sentence you know. – Ernest Hemingway

“This is our annual Annual Meeting Newsletter,” I comply, only to realize that isn’t exactly true--there is no annual ASA meeting this year, there is instead a “Virtual Engagement.” That correction typifies a new theme in my life, and probably in yours in the time of the pandemic--the extraordinary absence of habit, the disruption of the taken-for-granted which Berger and Luckmann, and before them, Alfred Schutz, so insightfully identify as foundational to living in the everyday life world.

“It will certainly be an historic occasion.” I try again. But while it will be historical, whether it is indeed “historic” depends less on the virtual engagement itself than on what we do after it, what lessons we take from it. Will we find ourselves being more and more in a world of virtual engagements? How will that affect us? Will it matter?

For an organization like ASA it surely will mean a recalibration of what it offers and how to get people to pay for it. For a small unit of ASA like the Section on the History of Sociology, it may be an opportunity to strengthen the Section. Because sessions at the Annual Meeting are apportioned on the basis of total Section membership, we like other small sections are typically accorded only one paper session at each meeting and that invariably forces a choice among three equally worthwhile alternatives—a session on a particular historical subject beloved of the Chair, a session on the nature and practice of the history of sociology, or an open paper session (this last being our best chance of drawing a crowd and attracting new members). With the possibility of Virtual Sessions—and not just at ASA Annual Meeting time but throughout the year, we can have it all.

Whether “having it all” is advisable or part of the problem humans, especially in so-called developed countries, have created for the planet is a question that should give us pause. ***But assuming for a moment we did begin to run some virtual sessions throughout the year, what topic would you set as the organizer of one?***

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Charles Camic, Patricia	
Lengermann.	
Discussant: Peter Kivisto,	

OFFICERS & COUNCIL

Chair Gillian Niebrugge- Brantley
Past Chair David Swartz
Chair-Elect Kevin Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer Daniel R Huebner
Student Representatives Hannah Waight Taylor Paige Winfield
Section Council Paul Joosse Christian Dayé Laura R. Ford Martin Bulmer Simonetta Falasca- Zamponi

I would like—you must have known this was the direction this was tending—to have a session on the nature and practice of the history of sociology as a distinct subfield within sociology. What do we think it is composed of, what constitutes doing history of sociology? Those of you who have helped the Section organize paper sessions or make awards know that the history of sociology as a disciplinary field is frequently confused with comparative historical sociology or with an account of some aspect of social theory, both understandable mistakes but ones that suggest we need to be more forceful in defining ourselves.

So what is the history of sociology? When Patricia Lengermann and I were working to found the Section in 2000 (this is the Section's 20th anniversary), against some opposition, our thinking was that the history of sociology has three main components: (1) it is about sociology as both a profession and a discipline, (2) it locates sociology in time, and (3) it understands that the profession and the discipline hope to affect and certainly are affected by events in the larger society. As a profession sociology is composed both of its own formal organizations like ASA and also of organized education (the largest employer of sociologists), governments and non-governmental agencies. As a discipline sociology is concerned with “the systematic study of society and social relations” (to borrow Dorothy Smith's phrasing).

A key area of real life tension in sociology—and, hence, of interest for the historian of sociology—is the ways that the profession may affect the discipline—and vice versa of course. We had scheduled for this annual meeting a special program featuring Charles Camic, Patricia Lengermann, and Peter Kivisto on American sociology in the 1930s, a period which offers important lessons about how the profession and the discipline interacted in a moment of crisis. That program has been canceled but we will be posting the papers from it shortly as an addendum to this *Timelines* (for an elaboration of the statement of key features of history of sociology see “Introduction to Further Reflections on American Sociology in the 1930s,” forthcoming).

But I want to make a third try at the truest sentence I know: I have some unfinished business. This will be probably my last communication with you as Chair, and I do wish to thank everyone for the gracious and intelligent support you have given the Section (and me) this year. There was only one “cry for help”—sent out with the email subject line, ‘HELP NEEDED’—that seemed to fall on deaf ears. ASA Section management suggested early this year that each section prepare an “elevator speech” that would in a couple of minutes pitch our Section to someone not yet a member. No one replied to my “HELP NEEDED” and I couldn't think of anything that didn't seem, even to me, to sound too pedantic.

But now in this last moment it has come to me. Here is the background. In 2018 HoS sponsored a special ASA session on honoring on the 30th anniversary of the publication of Mary Jo Deegan's *Jane Addams and the Men of the Chicago School*. At that session, Natalia Ruiz-Junco opened a paper about the role of citations in sociological history with a delightful and moving comparison to the movie *Coco*'s treatment of the universal duty to keep someone's memory alive: the idea that we die twice, once when the body quits and once when the memory of us disappears, the last time someone speaks our name is the second death. Natalia argued that citations are one way sociologists ward off that second death. So this is my elevator speech: join HoS for a piece of immortality, because we are the people who'll keep you alive—at least in memory (and we also do resurrections of the dead)—such power!

2020 ELECTION RESULTS

Listed below are the officers elected in the 2020 Election. The Section is deeply grateful to all candidates who volunteered to help keep us a lively place to call “home” at ASA.

Chair-Elect: **Paul Joosse**, University of Hong Kong

Secretary-Treasurer: **Kristin Marsh**, Mary Washington University

Council Members-at-Large: **Anne Eisenberg**, State University of New York at Geneseo

Chad Goldberg, University of Wisconsin

Council Member, Student: **Kerby Goff**, Pennsylvania State University

2020 HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY SECTION AWARDS

We are pleased to announce the 2020 winners of the three annual HOS awards for scholarly achievement--all have made important contributions to the study of the history of sociology. We also wish to acknowledge the careful work of the awards committee members in making these selections.

Awards will be presented at the HOS Business Meeting at the ASA in NYC Sunday August 09, 11:30-1:30 EDT
ZOOM

Do plan on attending our business meeting to congratulate the winners and thank the committee members.

2020 HOS Lifetime Achievement Award Marcel Fournier of Université de Montreal

It is one of the rare privileges of academic life to have the opportunity to honor the scholarly achievements of our professional colleagues, and no honor is more meaningful than recognition for lifetime achievement. Few scholars ever receive such awards, and it is our pleasure to extend that recognition, in 2020, to Marcel Fournier of the Université de Montreal.

Professor Fournier is widely recognized for many scholarly achievements, but above all for his path breaking and continuing work on Durkheimian sociology and sociologists. The best known fruits of that endeavor are his encyclopedic biographies of Marcel Mauss and Émile Durkheim. In the words of Professor Stephen Lukes, one of his most eminent predecessors, Professor Fournier “is rightly regarded across the world as the major present-day authority on Durkheim, Mauss and the Durkheimians.”

“His biographies of Durkheim and Mauss and his focus on the collective work of the *Année sociologique* group of scholars, together with various ancillary writings constitute a monumental body of work to which all subsequent writings and research must refer.”

Professor Jeffrey Alexander of Yale University adds detail to this evaluation: “Marcel's book on Mauss transformed that thinker into a ravishing intellectual and human being.” Levi-Strauss and Bourdieu had given his well-known work *The Gift* new salience, but Professor Fournier showed “that Mauss was so much more than these achievements. He displayed and interpreted Mauss' writing, for

example, about the situation of the working class, and he brought together and interpreted his massive published and unpublished thinking, both polemical and systematic, about socialism. Marcel demonstrated that Mauss was one of the key intellectual figures of France over four decades, spanning several disciplines..."

"If Marcel's book has forever changed how Mauss is understood, this is also the case, if slightly less so, for his amazing biography of Durkheim. [It had long been] believed that [an encompassing] biography was impossible, for the reason that Durkheim's papers had been destroyed when the Nazis controlled Bordeaux. Remarkably, Marcel was able to [recount] what Durkheim was doing every year of his life, and often during many months of each year. ...He also documents what I myself had only been able to speculate about textually, namely the dramatic shift towards religion and collective representations that occurred in Durkheim's thought in the late 1890s."

Professor Fournier has also been active in the history and sociology of science. As Professor and former ASA President Michèle Lamont of Harvard University explains, "The research that Marcel Fournier conducted on *Quebec's entry into Modernity* opened a new perspective at the crossroads of the history of scientific disciplines and the sociology of science and culture."

"This work made it possible to better understand the process of constitution of the scientific and intellectual fields and to renew the analysis of social and cultural changes that Quebec has experienced since the end of the 19th century. Marcel Fournier has influenced a whole generation of researchers, who have continued their research, some in the history and sociology of science, others in the sociology of arts and culture."

After reviewing extensive documentation concerning Marcel Fournier's publications and activities, the Lifetime Achievement Award committee unanimously and enthusiastically endorses the sentiments expressed by Professors Lukes, Alexander, and Lamont. We offer him our warmest congratulations and our best wishes for his continuing scholarship.

Committee: David Smith, Chair; Gary Jaworski, Anne Kane

2020 HOS Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award—Book Award

Chad Goldberg, *Modernity and the Jews in Western Thought*

Chad Alan Goldberg's *Modernity and the Jews in Western Social Thought* is a model of careful and critical scholarship, written with an enviable clarity. The thinkers whose work he examines include Emile Durkheim in France; Karl Marx, Max Weber, Werner Sombart and Georg Simmel in Germany and Lester Ward and Louis Wirth in America. The central claim advanced in the book is that for the foundational figures of sociology in Europe and America, Jews and Jews alone were used as signifiers of the pre-modern/modern binary.

For some, the Jews represented *modernity*—either in a positive light or in a negative light. For others, the Jews represented the *pre-modern*, usually in a negative light. Using the Jews in these ways enabled the theorists to produce an *image of life* that illustrated what they conceived as either revealing of modern life or as mistakenly associated with modern life. For the latter theorists, correcting that mistake was integral to a critique and correction of a mistaken analysis of modernity and the construction of a more accurate analysis.

In this way, Goldberg shows how the Jews and ideas of “the Jews” were an important element in the development of classical sociological theory. The Jews occupied a unique social space that enabled them to be constituted as an Other unlike any other Other. After detailed examinations of the French, German, and American traditions, Goldberg cumulatively mounts his case in the three sections of his concluding chapter titled respectively “Why the Jews are Good to Think,” “Jews and Other Others,” and “New Jews and Old in the Twenty-First Century.” This concluding chapter addresses and raises important and challenging questions regarding social thought today – thought, that now, as then, is, as Goldberg shows, of great political significance.

Chad Goldberg's book demonstrates high quality comparative historical sociology; it constitutes genuinely original thought, cogently argued. It can be argued that the book offers a model for one way to do a history of Sociology – focusing on a particular idea and its role in the development of sociological thought.

Grégoire Mallard's book, *Gift Exchange, The Transnational History of a Political Idea*, provides a history of the idea of the gift exchange. Extending Emile Durkheim's concern with the need for and possibility of social solidarity within modern society, Marcel Mauss, the nephew of Durkheim, focused on the need for and possibility of social solidarity across societies – in international relations.

A work of original research that draws on archival materials, Mallard's book reveals the political activism around international relations by Marcel Mauss and the circles in which he moved and the central role of the *gift exchange* in that political activism. The book, *The Gift*, published in 1925, concluded that the gift exchange was a universal method (found on every continent) for managing social relations - and (re)producing a kind of social solidarity - between and among groups and societies, such as clans, tribes and nations.

We learn from Mallard that Mauss and his contemporaries, using the gift exchange as the guiding idea, tried to get the French to agree to cancel or postpone payment of the reparations that had been imposed on Germany in the Versailles Treaty. From 1923 through 1924, these reparation payments figured critically in the international sovereign debt crisis that threatened the economic stability of Europe. With the failure of his political efforts, Mauss dejectedly predicted another war with Germany and a possible increase in anti-Semitism.

Mallard then focuses on three other historical moments: the idea of the gift in colonial ideology and French colonial policy in the period before and after World War I; the role of Mauss's disciples in Algeria during the period of decolonization; and the period of nationalization and attempts within international law to “decolonize the idea of the gift exchange” and create a more equitable New International Economic Order (relations between the North and the South) in the 1970s – including especially sovereign debt cancellation. He concludes with a discussion of international solidarity and the gift exchange with respect to the Eurozone and neoliberalism.

In short, Mallard's book provides a profoundly new historical understanding of the sociological idea of the gift exchange and its significance in and for history.

Committee: Roslyn Bologh, Chair; Michael R. Hill, Peter Kivisto

2020 HOS Graduate Student Paper Award—Romulo Lelis, University of Sao Paulo

The Graduate Student Prize Committee is pleased to announce that it has selected "The Great Transformation: The Durkheimian Sociology of Religion from Emile Durkheim to Henri Hubert" by **Romulo Lelis** as

the best graduate student paper in the history of sociology for 2020. Examining Durkheim's earliest ideas on religion, where religion is cast primarily as a source of moral discipline in society, Lelis shows how Hubert's early 20th century writings on religion as a "sacred drama" influenced Durkheim's later thinking on the topic. Indeed, Lelis puts forth the provocative thesis that because of his reading of Hubert, Durkheim's views on religion were transformed from a "sociology of transience" to a "sociology of transfiguration", the latter most notably articulated in *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Overall, the paper represents important and original research not only in the history of sociology, but in the fields of sociological theory and the sociology of religion as well.

Committee: Bradley Nash, Chair; Anne Eisenberg, Natalia Ruiz-Junco,

2020 ASA HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY EVENTS—VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

This event schedule is presented first as a quick capsule and then with Zoom information as we have it:

Sunday, August 9, 10-11 a.m. EDT Council Meeting by Zoom (see details below)

Sunday, August 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. EDT Business Meeting with AWARDS Presentation by Zoom (see details below)

Tuesday, August 11, 2 – 6 p.m. EDT New Voices in the History of Sociology Symposium by Zoom (see detailed program below)

Thursday, August 13 8 p.m. EDT Regular Paper Session: "Sociology in Politics, Politics in Sociology" by Zoom see details below

COUNCIL MEETING—Zoom details, followed by Agenda

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83615502741>

Meeting ID: 836 1550 2741

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83615502741# US (Germantown)

+19294362866,,83615502741# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 836 1550 2741

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdmlUy3CAo>

1. Call to Order—Gillian "Jill" Niebrugge-Brantley, Chair
2. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer—Dan Huebner

3. Agreement on the Agenda
4. State of the Section—*Congratulations to Outgoing Council Members, you leave it well tended and poised for the future of history.*
 - i. Online ASA Presidential Biographies
 - ii. New Voices Symposium—Outreach effort
 - iii. Opportunities in the History of Sociology
 - iv. Department Histories
 - v. Response to ASA Covid-19 Initiative
5. Looking ahead to “fresh woods and pastures new”—Kevin Anderson and Jill
 - a. membership
 - b. name change
 - c. virtual technologies and the future of history
 - d. outreach to other Sections by individual members of HoS
 - e. editors and managers—*Timelines*, webpage
 - f. a publication of our own
6. New Business.

BUSINESS MEETING—Zoom details, Agenda

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87007174960>

Meeting ID: 870 0717 4960

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87007174960# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,87007174960# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 870 0717 4960

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87007174960>

1. Call to Order—Gillian “Jill” Niebrugge-Brantley, Chair
2. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer—Dan Huebner
3. Agreement on the Agenda
4. Current State of the Section AND THANKS—Jill
 - a. Membership
 - i. Gift membership sponsorship has brought us in at **204** members
 - ii. Pledges
 - b. Progress on Initiatives from 2019 Council and Business Meetings
 - i. Online ASA Presidential Biographies—Stefan Bargheer, Chair
 - ii. New Voices Symposium—Outreach effort—Lauraleen Ford, Chair
 - iii. Opportunities in the History of Sociology—Gary Jaworski, Chair
 - iv. Department Histories—Chair TBA
 - v. Response to ASA Covid-19 Initiative
 - c. Needs
 - i. Membership building
 - a. name change?
 - b. more work with other Sections

- c. use of initiatives begun this year
- ii. Editors and managers—newsletter, website
- iii. Virtual technology and the future of history
- iv. A publication of our own
- v. Ways we can build community—

5. AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Paper

Presented by Bradley Nash, Committee Chair to

"The Great Transformation: The Durkheimian Sociology of Religion from Emile Durkheim to Henri Hubert" by **Romulo Lelis**

Outstanding Publication—Book Award

Presented by Roslyn Bologh, Committee Chair to

Modernity and the Jews in Western Social Thought by Chad Alan Goldberg, The University of Chicago Press.

Gift Exchange, The Transnational History of a Political Idea by Grégoire Mallard, Cambridge Studies in Law and Society, Cambridge University Press. (There is an accent acute over the first e in his name.)

Career Achievement--

Presented by David Smith, Committee Chair to

Marcel Fournier Université de Montreal

6. Passing of the Virtual Gavel to new Chair Kevin Anderson and a hope "next year in Chicago"

NEW VOICES SYMPOSIUM—Zoom, agenda

Topic: New Voices Symposium

Time: Aug 11, 2020 02:00 PM America/Toronto

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://princeton.zoom.us/j/94651062965>

Meeting ID: 946 5106 2965

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,94651062965# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,94651062965# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 946 5106 2965

Find your local number: <https://princeton.zoom.us/j/ab3OfUEMBG>

Symposium Program—we will adhere to schedule as closely as possible so you may plan your attendance; break times are scheduled.

2 pm – Opening--**Gillian Niebrugge-Brantley**, *Chair, Section on the History of Sociology; The George Washington University*

2: 10 - Reflections on the Value of Mentorship for Emerging Scholars

Taylor Winfield, *Council, Section on the History of Sociology; doctoral candidate Princeton University*

2:30 - Discussion (~10 minutes)

2:45 - **Sociological Encounters Across Time & Geopolitical Space**

"Caste and Race in American Sociology" **Ryan Parsons**, *Princeton University*

"Introducing Jane Addams into Contemporary China"

Wen Guan and **Lan Huang** both of *The George Washington University*

"Doctoral Origins & Academic Labour in the Periphery of American Sociology"

Francois La Chapelle, *University of British Columbia*

"U.S. Sociology in/and the Global Cold War"

Savina Balasubramanian, *Loyola University Chicago*

"Erving Goffman's First Steps Toward an 'Unfettered and Un-sponsored' Sociology"

Francesco Ranci, *Iona College*

Discussant: Gary Jaworski, *Chair Opportunities Committee, Section on the History of Sociology, Farleigh Dickinson University (ret.)*

3:45 - Discussion - ~15 minutes

4 - Break - 15 minutes

4:15 - **Paper Panel 2 - Shifting Paradigms in Theory & Methods**

"Moving Beyond the Founding Father Myth"

Angela Fillingim, *Western Washington University*

and **Zawadi Rucks-Ahidiana**, *State University of New York at Albany*

"Paper Tools and the Sociological Imagination" **Stefan Bargheer**, *Institute for Advanced Studies, Aarhus, Denmark*

"On the Mortality of Cited Works, Cited Authors, and Writing Authors in Sociology"

Alec McGail, *Cornell University*

"Mourning the Sociological History of Death" **Jyoti Puri**, *Simmons College*

Discussant: **David Swartz**, *Past Chair, Section on the History of Sociology; Boston University*

5:15 - Discussion & Break - ~15 minutes

5:30 - Reflections on the State of the Field **Larry Nichols**, editor, *The American Sociologist*

6 pm – Opportunity for further group discussion

REGULAR PAPER SESSION: A HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY IN POLITICS, POLITICS IN SOCIOLOGY

Zoom, agenda

Zoom link for the session: <https://hku.zoom.us/j/98208039097>

Session Organizers Anne Frances Eisenberg, SUNY-Geneseo
Clayton Alexander Fordahl, University of Memphis

Presider: Paul Joosse, University of Hong Kong
Discussant: Timothy M. Gill, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Paper: *The Absence of Organizational Arrangements and Institutional Collaborations -History of the American Sociological Association Archives*
Yu Sun, Pennsylvania State University

Paper: *Authorizing a Counterprofession: Social Science For Homebirth Midwifery*
Liora O Goldensher, Princeton University

Paper: *Moral Highways and By Ways: Connecting New Critiques with Old Insights in the Study of Nationalism*
Samuel David Stabler, Yale University
Shai M. Dromi, Harvard University

Paper: *The Legacies of Colonialism in Social Sciences. How Postcolonial Scholars' Trajectories and Thought Deal with Empire*
[Mohamed Amine Brahim, Columbia University
Amin Perez, University of Quebec at Montreal

RECENT AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES BY SECTION MEMBERS

Anthony Blasi reports two new publications.

Sage Encyclopedia of the Sociology of Religion, ed. Adam Possamai and Anthony J. Blasi, 2 vols. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage, 2020.

The Abuse of Minors in the Catholic Church. Dismantling the Culture of Coverups, ed. Anthony J. Blasi and Luis Oviedo. Oxford: Taylor & Francis/Routledge, 2020.

Christian Borch (2020) [*Social Avalanche: Crowds, Cities and Financial Markets*](#) (Cambridge UP).

Individuality and collectivity are central concepts in sociological inquiry. Incorporating cultural history, social theory, urban and economic sociology, Borch proposes an innovative rethinking of these key terms and their interconnections via the concept of the social avalanche. Drawing on classical sociology, he argues that while individuality embodies a tension between the collective and individual autonomy, certain situations, such as crowds and other moments of group behaviour, can subsume the individual entirely within the collective. These events, or social avalanches, produce an experience of being swept away suddenly and losing one's sense of self. Cities are often on the verge of social avalanches, their urban inhabitants torn between de-individualising external pressure and autonomous self-presentation. Similarly, Borch argues that

present-day financial markets, dominated by computerised trading, abound with social avalanches and the tensional interplay of mimesis and autonomous decision-making. Borch argues that it is no longer humans but fully automated algorithms that avalanche in these markets.

Jason Mueller has two new publications:

Mueller, Jason C. 2019. "Political, Economic, and Ideological Warfare in Somalia." *Peace Review* 31 (3): 372-380.

Schmidt, Steven and Jason C. Mueller. 2020. "The Emergence of Participatory Budgeting in Mexico City." Pp. 286-298 in *The Routledge Handbook of Planning Megacities in the Global South*, edited by Deden Rukmana. New York: Routledge.

From **Jack Nusan Porter**, The Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University <Porter_jack@comcast.net> (Academic Studies Press (of Brookline) will be publishing two of my books: my collected "The Radical Writings of Jack Nusan Porter", my essays from the 60s, on politics, culture, movies, novels, even some poetry and prose dealing with Judaism and revolution, socialism, Zionism, anti-Zionism, and other topics going back to 1966.

And my memoirs about coming here as a refugee and Holocaust survivor from Ukraine (losing 25 members of my family to the Nazis) , via DP Camp in Austria, coming to America in 1946, growing up in the ghetto of Milwaukee; Wisconsin schools, my growth as a sociologist at UW-M, Northwestern University, Jerusalem, Kibbutz Geshet Haziv, and my experiences as a human rights and genocide scholar with travels to the "killing fields" of Germany, Ukraine, Poland, Turkey, Bosnia and Kurdish Iraq.

Andrea Ploder is the treasurer of the newly founded: Section on the History of Sociology in the German Sociological Association

In September 2019, the [German Sociological Association \(GSA\)](#) approved the foundation of a [Section on the History of Sociology](#). The proposal was supported by 58 scholars from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland who wanted to establish a platform for the exchange of information and ideas, support young scholars in the field, and organize events on the annual meetings of the GSA and beyond. As of April 2020, the new section has 75 members and is busy organizing events for the upcoming years. The members of the section are scattered in different disciplines and departments, often the only ones in their department working on the topic. This makes the networking efforts of the section even more important, as it enables translocal and interdisciplinary collaboration and raises the awareness for work in other areas of the academic world. The edition of a three-volume handbook on the history of sociology in the German speaking countries (published 2017-2019, see [Timelines 28/2019](#)) was one of several important steps towards establishing the network behind the newly founded section. On a strategic level, the existence of a section on the History of Sociology in the ASA was a strong supporting factor for the success of this project. The two sections have a large set of overlapping interests (like the promotion of departmental histories) and plan to cooperate in the future. The first executive committee of the section consists of Stephan Moebius (chair), Nicole Holzhauser (vice chair), Andrea Ploder (treasurer), Claudius Härpfer, and Takemitsu Morikawa.

Natalia Ruiz-Junco is now Associate Professor at Auburn University and has a new publication, Baptiste Brossard & Natalia Ruiz-Junco (2020): "On the Shoulders of Citers:

Notes on the Social Organization of Intellectual Deference," *The Sociological Quarterly*, DOI: 10.1080/00380253.2019.1711262 To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2019.1711262>

David Swartz published 2020/04/28. "The academic Trumpists: American professors who support the Trump presidency" *Theory and Society* 49: 1: 493-531. 10.1007/s11186-020-09391-4

Taylor Paige Winfield wove an acknowledgement of the Section's mentoring activities into her announcement a recent publication (this ran as an email earlier but is repeated here to give members a second chance to read it): " I have very exciting news! My paper, "Rereading Durkheim in light of Jewish law: how a traditional rabbinic thought-model shapes his scholarship" was officially published online and open-access through *Theory and Society*. I included our section in the acknowledgments □.

This paper started as a submission to the ASA History of Sociology and Social Thought Paper session in 2016. After the fruitful session, I met with members of our community, including Steven Lukes, David Swartz, and Chad Alan Goldberg who gave me detailed feedback and the inspiration to keep investing in this project. Through mentorship and guidance of section members, I continued to grow and develop the paper for five years until it reached its current publishable form.

THE FUTURE OF HISTORY—THE STATE OF THE SECTION

This is a column that may become a regular feature of the newsletter and, if so, would be used, as it is here, to deal with issues of the ongoing (and, hopefully, increasing) presence of the History of Sociology as a professional organization within ASA and sociology. The importance of setting aside space and time for this consideration is made clear if you turn to the 2018 *TIMELINES* where **David Swartz** updates the Section on the issue of "probationary status." Thanks to David's efforts, building on an earlier report by **Martin Bulmer** and consultation with **Peter Kivisto**, HOS is out of probationary status. But that status is an ongoing problem for what are known in the ASA as "the small sections," that is, sections with less than 300 members. **As of October 2019** (the date on which session allocations for 2019 is based), there were eight small sections--Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco 140, Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity 237, Animals and Society 148, Disability in Society 181, Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis 115, Evolution, Biology and Society 104, **History of Sociology** 215, Mathematical Sociology 215, Rationality and Society 122, Sociology of Consumers and Consumption 252, Sociology of Emotions 250, Sociology of Human Rights 261. **Please go back to this column in *Timelines 2018* for more background on the current state of the section.**

The Future of History—the State of the Section

When we adjourned the Council meeting a year ago in 2019 in New York, we had worked out a series of initiatives we would attempt to undertake this year. Those are listed below with the results.

Initiative suggested August 2019	Actions Taken August 2019-August 2020
Online Presidential Biographies Project	Committee formed, met, produced plan for ASA; approved by ASA; now functioning to undertake revision project. Stefan Bargheers , Chair; Kerby Goff , Bradley

	<p>Nash Gillian Niebrugge-Brantley, David Swartz, Joyce E. Williams</p>
<p>Outreach to “Junior Historians”—proposal follows Theory Section “junior theorists” and symposium run by HoS when Richard Swedberg was chair—proposed by Laura Ford</p>	<p>Under Laura Ford’s leadership with help of Anne Eisenberg, Gary Jaworski, Simonetta Falasca-Zamponi, Hannah Waight, Taylor Winfield this has become the NEW VOICES SYMPOSIUM scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2-6 p.m. EDT with nine participants plus six expressions of interest which may lead to a special issue of <i>The American Sociologist</i> edited by Larry Nichols.</p>
<p>Gift Membership Program</p>	<p>Program continued under good faith pledge system whereby members pledge an amount that is requested for redemption only after memberships are purchased. This year we raised our membership from 175 to 204 with pledges.</p>
<p>Play a larger role in ASA archiving</p>	<p>These two activities have been merged under a more general concept of “Opportunities”—a Committee now established with Gary Jaworski as chair.</p>
<p>Pursue possibility of a Section journal or yearly review or some other publication form</p>	
<p>Departmental Histories—this carries forward a suggestion from past Chair Neil Gross</p>	<p>An exploratory committee is now functioning with Gillian Niebrugge-Brantley as convener and contributions by Andrew Abbott, Anthony Blasi, Anne Eisenberg, Michael R. Hill, Neil Gross, Xiaohong Xu. There has been one conversation with ASA Assoc Director Margaret Vitullo.</p> <p>One suggestion generated so far is that we consider a program to recruit volunteers who are interested in this project—such as retired sociologists</p>
<p>Newsletter editor</p>	<p>Rabbit not yet caught</p>
<p>Curriculum Committee for purpose of finding ways to get History of Sociology into sociology curriculum</p>	<p>No takers this year. Should consider taking this item up again in 2021.</p>
<p>ASA initiated special issue of <i>Footnotes</i> on Covid 19, asked for all Sections to respond.</p>	<p>Section responded with a group publication of responses by sociology to national and international crises—these were published in abbreviated form as HoS contribution to <i>Footnotes</i> special issue and in full in a special issue of <i>Timelines</i>.</p>

Besides carrying on with the initiatives begun this year, we need to consider some new directions. One of these is a direction discussed last year and that is the question of a **name change**. One change currently being proposed by **Kevin Anderson** is that we think about becoming the “Section on the History of Sociology and Social Thought.” We need to arrange a real discussion of the issues surrounding this particular

change and might think about a **virtual Section meeting on this topic**; if not this, then, we need to find some other way to take the issue up. Briefly, the issues are: pro—(1) it could attract substantially new members, (2) it is an important topic; con—(1) does it take us away from a concern with sociology as a profession and toward an understanding of sociology as a discipline based in thought as opposed to empirical research; (2) does it contradict understandings affirmed at the time the Section was established that HoS would not usurp the Theory Section's traditional domain. This latter point is important to our maintaining good relations with other Sections. Three name change suggestions left over from 2019 Section on the History of Sociology—Past, Present, Future (Lauren Langman), Section on the Revisioning of the History of Sociology (Hans Bakker), Section on the History and Sociology of Sociology (Jill).

A second initiative we should consider is working with membership to **reach out to other Sections** by asking HoS members to look at their other Section memberships and consider proposing programs and article on the history of the other Section and reporting the results of their efforts to HoS.

A third initiative is to consider using Zoom to facilitate communication within the Section by sponsoring special **Virtual Meetings** of special topic sessions throughout the year. We need to go carefully here as many people are reporting that with the advent of the Covid-19 crisis, they are being "zoomed to death." But it would be a way we could have more specialized discussions on both substantive and methodological topics.

One area that needs continuing monitoring and initiative is strategies open to us for **increasing membership**. Besides the gift memberships is our use of the Paper and Roundtables Sessions at the ASA Annual Meeting. In all likelihood we will again, because of our low numbers, have only one Paper Session (we will be over 200 members when the 2021 count is taken but need to be at 300 to get two paper sessions). That paper session can be devoted to a topic open enough to attract other Sections—e.g., this year we mirrored the general theme of the meeting and got a number of second choice referrals that presumably raised our profile at least with the people who submitted. But in choosing this route, we lose the chance to offer a session on a topic of particular interest to scholars in the history of sociology. We need, here, to think about the suggestion made above that we mobilize individual members to propose sessions on history for the various other sections to which they belong.

ASA is frequently remarked upon as "very bureaucratic" but the activity of Sections offers an opportunity to break through that level of the profession and come to relationships that offer a more nuanced and personal level of acquaintance. A small section like HoS is a very good place to begin some activity: watch our email for announcements of opportunities—they are real.

Remembering Guenther Roth

The July 2019 *Timelines* noted the passing of Guenther Roth, recipient of the Section's 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. In keeping with our opening meditation on one role of the history of the discipline being as a keeper of memories, we are honored to repeat the *Footnotes* obituary Stephen Kalberg wrote at the time of Roth's death.

**In: The American Sociological Association *Footnotes*. November/December 2019 by
by History of Sociology member Stephen Kalberg**

Guenther Roth 1931-2019

Guenther Roth, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Columbia University, passed away on May 18, 2019, age 88. He is survived by his wife, the distinguished Medievalist Caroline Walker Bynum, daughter Alice Roth, son Christian Roth, and step-daughter Antonia Walker.

Guenther's name will be linked with Max Weber's *magnum opus*, *Economy and Society* (*E&S*, 1968, 1976, 2013), as long as Weber endures. With the assistance of his long-term friend and co-editor Claus Wittich, he served as the major translator and editor of this three-volume tome. His labors have been acknowledged for decades as remarkable. Guenther was qualified – indeed, uniquely so – to undertake this herculean task.

His Humanistic Gymnasium in his hometown, Darmstadt, Germany, provided to him an excellent education in languages and history. The study of both ancient (Latin and Greek) and modern languages (French and English) was required. Assembling and translating Weber's dauntingly abstruse treatise would have been impossible without a firm grasp of Western history and languages.

Alterations in approaches to the teaching of the social sciences in America set the framework for Guenther's translation. In the aftermath of World War II, instruction could no longer remain America-centric. An opening to the world must occur and, indeed, American universities were transformed by a wave of émigré scholars. Guenther's life-long enthusiasm for "the big picture," his close observation of the writing of *Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait* (1960) by his mentor, Reinhard Bendix, pushed him further toward the study of Weber's works.

Bendix's volume was wildly successful, in part owing to a rapidly growing dissatisfaction in the 1960s with the Modernization theory of Parsons. Yet extant translations of Weber were piecemeal and frequently unreliable. Roth and Wittich took on a huge task: the hydra-headed *E&S* spanned nearly 1,500 pages. Guenther encountered obscure references throughout and a convoluted, 19th-century German writing style.

E&S defined Weber clearly as an opponent of organic holism and banished the effort by Parsons to render him a Modernization theorist. This study became an amenable home for many American comparativists. A new field – "comparative-historical sociology" – acquired solid footing and a "Weber wave" now became apparent in American macro theorizing. However, this transformation of the discipline would never have occurred without the firm parameters defined by *E&S*. Had Guenther not undertaken the task, *E&S* might never have become accessible to researchers. Cumulative sales of this opus have reached approximately 40,000 copies.

Perhaps historians of American sociology will someday think of *E&S* as Guenther's major contribution. However, his scholarship pronounced a distinct voice. Written in equal numbers in German and English, his publications were numerous and influential. First, in respect to Weber studies, Guenther's contributions were wide ranging. He clarified many of his concepts (such as domination [*Herrschaft*], legitimacy, patrimonialism, bureaucracy, and charisma), identified central procedures in Weber's comparative-historical writings ("secular theories," "socio-historical models," and ideal-type analysis), demonstrated the capacity of these procedures to guide empirical research, and understood Weber's writings on the origins and trajectory of the

West as offering a “developmental history” of the West. He also utilized a variety of his ideal types in order to comprehend empirical phenomena such as the 1960s student movement (charisma), personal (patrimonial) and impersonal (bureaucratic) domination in the developing world. He documented heretofore fully unexamined aspects of Weber’s life, connecting them to main themes in his scholarship, politics, and personal activities. In a 700-page epic, *Max Weber’s Anglo- German Family History, 1800 -1950* (in German, 2001), he investigated Weber’s extremely cosmopolitan family as an example of 19th century economic globalization.

Secondly, Guenther’s contributions ranged beyond Weber. He defended the discipline of sociology as well as the university’s mission to support non-partisan scholarship and to reject all attempts to politicize social science research (see Bendix and Roth, *Scholarship and Partisanship*; 1971, 1980). He also examined the writings and political activities of Weber’s wife, Marianne Weber, placing them within the context of feminist activism in Germany and arguing for her recognition as a major feminist theorist, wrote a widely acclaimed volume on the integration of a hostile political movement in Imperial Germany (see *the Social Democrats in Imperial Germany* (1963, 1979)), and he analyzed Jewish immigration and assimilation in the United States (see Edgar Jaffe, *Else von Richthofen and Their Children* [2011]). Guenther’s distinctive and powerful voice requires our attention even today.

His long journey encompassed a boyhood under Nazi Party rule in his city, running from building to building to avoid bombings, and providing directions in English to American soldiers. He arrived in the United States in 1953 after two years studying critical theory at the University of Frankfurt. To his delight, Guenther received a residency permit even though he had vigorously opposed, through his activities in the German Peace Movement, the rearmament of Germany, a position upheld by the American government.

In addition to Columbia University, his academic positions included Ohio State, Stony Brook University, UC-Davis, and the University of Washington. His guest positions in Germany included the University of Heidelberg, Mannheim University, and the Free University of Berlin. He received the Lifetime Service Award from the ASA History of Sociology Section in 2007. “I grew up in Nazi Germany in a hurry. War made me a political animal; liberation, an intellectual; emigration a political sociologist.”

In his autobiographical essay (*Authors of Their Own Lives*, edited by Bennett Berger, 1990), Guenther wrote that he arrived in the U.S. as a foreign student “with little cultural preparation.” However, he also noted that he never lacked support from a network of cosmopolitans scattered throughout the country. Perhaps an important guidepost in his life in America can be comprehended by these statements: at least since the 1970s Guenther actively assisted the acculturation of innumerable German scholars in America and of scores of American scholars in Germany. Although he knew he would always be viewed in the U.S. as “a hyphenated” (German-American) scholar, he wished to “give back” the generosity he had received in his early years by becoming a trans-Atlantic mediator. One practical avenue to “bridge building” involved for him the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), a government-funded foundation that provided scholarships to students and post-doctoral fellowships to faculty. He sat on its selection committee for six years. Perhaps Guenther’s efforts as a “reliable advisor” assisted several hundred people in need of “cultural preparation.”

Guenther leaves behind generations of students who appreciated the broad expanse and empirical foundation of his theorizing, a singular ability to frame events and developments through theories, a dry humor, and a sincere dedication to his task. “My kind of Sociology,” he wrote, “must address the big, political, cultural, and social issues of modernity.”

Stephen Kalberg, Boston University

COMING SHORTLY, AS AN ADDENDUM TO THIS ISSUE OF TIMELINES,

“American Sociology in the 1930s”

—an exchange among Charles Camic, Patricia Lengermann and Peter Kivisto