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Section Program Set for ASA Annual Meeting in New York

The ASA-AAA section has finalized its program for the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in New York City, August 30 - September 5, 1986. The program includes a thematic session and three roundtable sessions:

Roundtable I: Theme: The Structure of Asian Communities in America

Presider: Susan Takata, University of Wisconsin, Parkside

Papers by: Dana Takagi, University of California, Santa Barbara
"The Structure of Class: Marxist Analyses and the Asian Community."

Tai S. Kang, State University of New York, Buffalo; and
Gay E. Kang, Columbia University
"Life Satisfaction of Korean American Elderly: An Exchange Perspective."

Alden E. Roberts, Texas Tech University
"Prejudice and Vietnamese Refugees."

Roundtable II: Theme: Social Change: Contrasting Mainland China and Taiwan

Presider: Yung-mei Tsai, Texas Tech University

Papers by: Hsin-Huang Hsiao, National Taiwan University and Academia Sinica, Taiwan, ROC, and

Yung-mei Tsai, Texas Tech University
"Industrialization, Urbanization and Social Structural Transformation in Taiwan: A Macro-Historical Analysis."

Wen Xie, Columbia University, and
Nan Lin, State University of New York, Albany
"The Process of Status Attainment in Urban China."

Kuanjeng Chen, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, ROC
"On the Changes of Household Composition in Taiwan."

Lawrence Hong, California State University of Los Angeles
"Socio-economic Ramifications of the 'One Child Policy' in China."

Roundtable III: Theme: Quality of Life and Life Satisfaction of Asians and Asians in America

Presider: Proshanta Nandi, Sangamon State University

Papers by: T. Mathai Thomas, University of Bridgeport
"Occupation and Family Stability Among Kerala Immigrants."

Anne E. Imamura, University of Maryland
"The Loss That Has No Name: Social Womanhood of Migrant Wives in International Marriages."

Ling Wang, State University of New York at Albany; and
Yun-Kang Pan and Guo-hua Yuan, Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences, Tianjin, PRC
"Quality of Life in Tianjin, China: Some Preliminary Results."

Theme: The Asian American Myth
Organizer: William T. Liu
University of Illinois at Chicago
Presider: Ashakant Nimbark
Dowling College

Presentations:

"The 'Success' Image of Asian Americans: Its Validity, Practical and Theoretical Implications."

Won Moo Hurh and Kwang Chung Kim
Western Illinois University

"Unequal Earnings Among Whites and Asian Americans in California."

Sen-Yuan Wu and Jin-Yi Chen
State University of New York, Stony Brook

"The Education of Asian Americans: Evidence from the 1980 Census."

Herbert R. Barringer, University of Hawaii
David T. Takeuchi and Peter Smith, East-West Population Institute

"Asian American Families: Strategies of Domestic Groups in Migration."

William T. Liu, Elena S. H. Yu, and Marilyn Fernandez
University of Illinois at Chicago

"A Comparative Analysis of Chinese Migration to the United States and Southeast Asia: 1800-1940."

Sharon Mengchee Lee
Cornell University

Discussant: Tetsuden Kashima
University of Washington

Slate of Candidates for Council

The ASA-AAA is scheduled to elect two new members to the Executive Council. The candidates are: James Geschwender, Eui-Hang Shin, Peter C. Smith and Morrison Wong. Section members should receive their ballots directly from the ASA and return them to: Nan Lin, Sociology, SUNY-Albany, Albany, NY 12222. The biographies of the candidates are as follows:

JAMES A. GESCHWENDER

Present Position: Professor of Sociology, SUNY Binghamton (1970-present). Department Chairperson (1972-76, 1980 to present).

Former Positions: University of Western Ontario (1968-70); Wayne State University (1964-68); Florida State University (1962-64).

Degrees: M.A. & Ph.D. 1959 & 1962, Michigan State University; B.S. 1955, Buffalo State Teachers College.

Publications: Black rioters; Class, race and worker insurgency: The league of revolutionary black workers; Racial stratification in America; "The interplay between class and national consciousness: Hawaii, 1850-1950"; "Lessons from Waiahole-Waikane"; "Class struggle, state policy and the rationalization of production"; "The Hawaiian transformation: Class, submerged nation and ethnic minorities"; "The social context of strategic success: A land-use struggle in Hawaii"; "On the role of the vanguard party in the United States: A case study of the revolutionary communist party in Waiahole-Waikane"; "Rationalization of sugar production in Hawaii, 1946-50: A dimension of class struggle"; and "Class struggle and political transformation in Hawaii, 1946-1960."

EUI-HANG SHIN

Present Position: Professor of Sociology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Former Positions: Assistant Professor (1971-75) and Associate Professor (1975-1982), University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Degrees: Ph.D. 1971, University of Pennsylvania; M.A. 1968, University of Pennsylvania; B.A. 1964 Seoul National University.

Publications: "Variations in the duration of reign of monarch," Comparative Political Studies 18 (April 1985):104-122 (with I.K. Kim); "Use of surnames in ethnic research: The case of Kims in the Korean-American populations," Demography 21 (August 1984):247-360, (with E.Y. Yu); "Destinations of international travel by the U. S. population," International Migration 21 (Spring 1983):62-74 (with W. Lee); "Age and academic-professional honors," Journal of Gerontology 37 (March 1982):220-227, (with R. Putname); and "Determinants of fertility differentials in Korea," Sociology and Social Research (January 1981):211-224, (with H. Lee & T. Kwon).

PETER C. SMITH

Present Position: Research Associate, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii; Graduate Affiliate Faculty, Department of Sociology, University of Hawaii.

Former Positions: Project Specialist, Ford Foundation, Manila, Philippines; Assistant Professor, University of the Philippines Population Institute.

Degrees: Ph.D. 1970, University of Chicago; M.A. in demography 1966, University of the Philippines; B.A. in history 1965, Marquette University.

Publications: "The impact of age at marriage and proportions marrying on fertility," 2 Chapter 13 in Rodolfo A. Bulatao and R.D. Lee (eds.), Determinants of Fertility in Developing Countries, 2 vols., New York: Academic Press, 1983. Women in the Cities of Asia: Migration and Urban Adaptation, Boulder: Westview Press, 1984 (with James T. Fawcett and Siew-Ean Khoo (eds.)). "The components of population change in nineteenth century Southeast Asia: Village data from the Philippines," Population Studies 36(2):237-255, 1982, (also Working Paper, No. 6, with Ng Shui-Meng). "Migration, sex and occupations in urban Indonesia and Thailand," 3:99-122 in International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, International population conference, Manila, 1981 (also EWPI Working Paper No. 21). "Social origins and sex-differential school in the Philippines," Comparative Education Review 25(1):28-44, 1981, (also EWPI Reprint No. 127; also reprinted in Gail P. Kelley & Carolyn M. Elliot (eds.), Women's Education in the Third World: Comparative Perspectives, Albany: State University of New York Press, 1982), (with Paul P.L. Cheung). "Asian marriage patterns in transition," Journal of Family History, 5(1):58-96, 1980, (also EWPA Reprint No. 118).

MORRISON WONG

Present Position: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Texas Christian University.

Former Positions: Post-doctoral fellow at Duke University (Immigration and Ethnicity Program); Lecturer/Instructor at Duke University, California State University, Fullerton, Chaffey College, Mt. San Antonio College, and Crafton College.

Degrees: Ph.D. & M.A. University of California, Riverside; B.A. in sociology and Chinese Studies, California State University, San Jose.

Publications: "The extraordinary educational attainment of Asian-Americans: A search for historical evidence and explanations," with Charles Hirschman, Social Forces (forthcoming). "Socioeconomic gains of Asian-Americans, Blacks, and Hispanics: 1960-1976," with Charles Hirschman, American Journal of Sociology 90:584-607, 1985.

"Economic survival: The case of Asian-American elderly," Sociological Perspectives, 27:197-217, 1984. "Labor force participation and socioeconomic attainment of Asian-American women," with Charles Hirschman, Sociological Perspectives 26:423-46. "The new Asian immigrants," with Charles Hirschman in McCready (ed.), Culture, Ethnicity, and Identity, NY: Academic Press, 1983. "The case of being Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino in the United States: 1960, 1970, and 1976," Pacific Sociological Review 25:59-78, 1982. "Trends in socioeconomic achievement among immigrant and native-born Asian-Americans," with Charles Kirschman, Sociological Quarterly 22:495-513, 1981. "Changes in socioeconomic status of the Chinese male population in the United States from 1960-1970," International Migration Review 14:511-24, 1980. "Model students? Teachers' perceptions and expectations of their Asian and white students," Sociology of Education 53:236-46 1980. Other articles appear in Simpson and Simpson (eds.), Research in the Sociology of Work: Volume II; Grant (ed.), Majority and Minority; Maldonado and Moore (eds.), Urban Ethnicity; and the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

Asian Americanists and Asianists in the AAA Section

The Asian and Asian America section is composed of sociologists who are interested in Asians living in Asia and Asian Americans living in the States. Many active members of the section are interested in both groups especially in the cultural and institutional heritages that connect the two. Studies on Asian societies and Asian cultures throw light on our understanding of the situations of Asian Americans--their subcultures, their status in the American ethnic stratification system, and their unique ways of adapting to the American social structure. The basic idea of the AAA rests on this connectedness of Asians and Asian Americans, and hopefully this section will facilitate interesting research endeavors in this area of cultural and institutional continuities or discontinuities.

But it seems true also that the present ASA membership is composed of two somewhat distinct constituencies, one whose interests are primarily focused on issues concerning Asian Americans and the other whose primary research concerns are with social structures and social change in Asian societies. The first group constitutes the majority of the membership and has provided a main impetus and social network for establishing this new section. The second group seems to make up a fairly small part of the present membership, but there exists a large pool of potential membership in the larger sociological community. In order for the AAA section to grow further, this pool of sociologists must be incorporated into its membership.

It is necessary to recognize the gap of interest that separates the two groups of scholars. The research interests of the Asian Americanists are centered around issues such as international immigration, patterns of assimilation, discrimination, minority status attainment, or ethnic identity within American society. On the other hand, Asianists are usually concerned with topics of large-scale structural change, such as industrialization, modernization, dependency, and so forth in Asian societies.

Thus, it seems to me that one important organizational problem which the AAA section must deal with is this duality of interest within the membership structure. Of course, a divergence of interests and theoretical orientations is a common characteristic of almost every sociological organization. There is nothing peculiar about the lack of integration in the AAA membership. But clearly there is a challenge to the organizational structure of this new section. The challenge is how to organize our activities in such a way that both groups can benefit without feeling alienated, and more important, how the section promotes a cross-fertilization of interests and ideas between Asianists and Asian Americans.

Obviously, no simple policy can achieve this goal. We will have to develop the most workable organizational formula through many trial and errors. The organizational goal will be a "structural pluralism" rather than a "amalgamation." Therefore, at the AAA section council meeting last summer, held in conjunction with the ASA meetings in Washington, D.C., council members recognized this dual constituency problem and decided to reflect it in organizing papers presented under this section at forthcoming ASA meetings. Thus, rather than mixing papers, for example, on Filipino immigrants in L.A. with development problems in Taiwan, we will have separate sessions on ethnic issues of Asian Americans on the one hand, and social structures and social change in Asian societies on the other. The reason is that those who come to listen to papers on the first topic would probably not be very interested in listening to papers on the second topic. By separating the two types of papers into two different sessions, we can achieve greater coherence in each session.

But the goal of the AAA section remains the same--it is in the connectedness of Asians and Asian Americans through intricate linkages of culture, institutions and social networks. The great challenge and promise of the section always lie in bringing full sociological light on this connectedness.

Activities of Section Members

*The University of Washington has established a degree conferring Department of American Ethnic Studies. Professor Joseph Scott, formerly of the University of Notre Dame, has been named as its first Department Head. The Department has three components, or programs: Afro-American, Asian American, and Spanish American. Council Member of the Section on Asia and Asian America, Tetsuden Kashima is named as the Director of the Asian American Program. Unlike the program at UCLA, the American Ethnic Studies Department has its emphasis on American Ethnology, a classic discipline going back to the 19th Century. It is an interdisciplinary faculty consisting of History, Literature, Linguistics, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences. The Department is recruiting senior level tenure faculty.

*Setzuko Nishi, Professor of Sociology at the City University of New York Graduate Center and Brooklyn College, appeared before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Government Relations at its hearing on R.R. 442, scheduled for April 28, 1986. She testified on (1) the long-term social psychological sequelae of the evacuation and incarceration of Japanese Americans, and (2) those who renounced their citizenship and went to Japan at the end of WWII. These critically significant aspects of the redress and reparations issues so far received little public attention.

For those who are not familiar with the issue, a research committee has been established under the leadership of Professor Nishi after the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. The Committee at present consists of sociologists as follows: John Clausen, UC Berkeley; Glen Elder, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Gerald Gurin, University of Michigan; William T. Liu, University of Illinois at Chicago, S. Frank Miyamoto, University of Washington; Tom T. Sasaki, University of Notre Dame; Joe Yamamoto, University of California at Los Angeles; and Setzuko Nishi, CUNY (Chair).

*Service providers and research scientists, after the HHS Secretary Task Force on Black and Minority Health report is completed, has formed an Asian Health Forum to monitor both the federal programs on health services and health data relevant to Asian Americans. Dr. Hyung Mo Lee, M.D., of Virginia Commonwealth University, was elected as the Chair of its Steering Committee. One sociologists elected to the Steering Committee is William Liu of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

*Baidya Nath Varma, Professor of Sociology, received a Senior Faculty fellowship award from the American Institute of Indian Studies during 1984-85. He studied "Factory Employment and Modernization" in two of the largest public enterprises, Heavy Engineering Corporation and Central Coalfields Limited in Ranchi and two private enterprises, The Tatas of Jamshedpur and The Goenkas of Bombay in India. He was also Visiting Professor at Bombay University and Ranchi University. He gave a series of Distinguished Lectures at Ranchi University, which are published in a book, titled Social Science and Indian Society: A Civilization Perspective (New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company), 1985. He is also the organizer and Chairman of a Post-Congress session in Patna of the XIth World Congress of Sociology to be held in New Delhi in August, 1986. His book, titled New Direction in Theory and Methodology, will be published at the time of the Congress by Popular Prakashan, Bombay.

The Nancy Shaw Case

We have received a letter from Arlene Kaplan Daniels, Chair-Elect, Section on Organizations and Occupations, concerning Nancy Stoller Shaw. The following is printed at her request and does not represent any position of the AAA Section nor any of its officials.

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