



TIMELINES

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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E-Newsletter No.7

Message from the Chair 2006

You are History of Sociology

Eleanor Townsley, Mount Holyoke College

Conceived broadly, the history of sociology is central to the contemporary sociological project. Anchored in fundamental scholarship on the plurality of sociological traditions and practices, work on individual sociologists, institutions, schools, and networks, the history of sociology also extends to sociology's extra-disciplinary relationships. These include state institutions, social movements, other academic disciplines and also intellectual/political traditions like socialism, liberalism and feminism. In turn each of these is located in a variety of national and regional traditions that inform cross-national, transnational and global sociologies. Clearly then, the history of sociology connects to conversations with every subfield in sociology as well as to pressing contemporary issues.

Consider, for example, the role of sociology in social policy. A perspective from the history of sociology might examine the ways sociologists have provided data to inform decision-making as well as the theoretical perspectives and research methods that have shaped governance. It might ask: how have sociologists typically imagined the role of quantitative social science research in democracies? Are there differences across time and place? How are previous projects to professionalize social science theories, methods and analysis in state institutions connected to contemporary efforts to collect, standardize, and/or publicize social science

data and findings?

In a straightforward way, these kinds of questions open up the history of sociology to a range of sociological fields and sub-disciplines: from the sociology of intellectuals and the sociology of knowledge to comparative-historical sociology, political sociology, the sociology of occupations and professions, social theory, and the burgeoning social studies of social science. It may be less obvious that such questions and their answers can inform contemporary policy agendas themselves. For example, recent discussions about a central "clearing house" for social science data at the National Science Foundation, has deep echoes in the history of disciplinary sociology from the very first meeting to establish a sociological association in 1905 through repeated proposals to institutionalize social accounting and social indicators research over the course of the 20th century.

Consider another example: a historical and sociological perspective on the relationships between sociology and other academic disciplines can usefully inform contemporary debates about interdisciplinarity. For many of us in the U.S., collaboration and competition with colleagues in other disciplines define our institutional context. Ideas about interdisciplinarity frame discussions about graduate and undergraduate training, and enable or constrain policies on

1. At the first meeting of sociologists interested in forming a professional association, Anna Garlin Spencer of the New York School of Philanthropy said "I am very desirous that there shall be a 'clearing-house' in the field of sociology, especially that which has focused into practical effort." (Rhoades 1981, Chapter 1). There have been many calls for a centralized, institutionalized role for the adjudication, distribution and/or communication of social science, and specifically sociological knowledge, to government policy-makers since that time. A quick list: the Social Indicators work done under the imprimatur of the Social Science Research Council and the Hoover Commission in the period between WW1 and WW2 (Tressider 2005), efforts to include sociology in what eventually became the National Science Foundation legislation (Kleinman 1995, Klausner and Lidz 1986), calls for a social science foundation or court for social science research in government from the mid-1960s onward (e.g., Eder, NYT October 10, 1966; Groom NYT July 6, 2000; The American Sociologist 1972) as well as the eventually unsuccessful legislation to institutionalize a Council for Social Advisors and some kind of social accounting system around the same time (Congressional Record, March 21 1967, "Full Opportunity and Social Accounting Act Seminar" 1968). There is also Robert Hauser's (1969) wonderful presidential address entitled "The Chaotic Society" where he recommends a full blown social accounting system for government and society. Written for the difficult American Sociological Association meetings of 1968, where the theme was "The Gap Between Sociology and Social Policy", Hauser sets the scene in the following way: "contemporary society possesses the knowledge, embodied in the emerging social sciences, including sociology, that affords some hope for the dissipation of confusion and the restoration of order before the advent of collective suicide. It is a moot question, however, as to whether society as yet possesses the will and the organization to utilize available knowledge to this end".

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faculty hiring and promotion. What place do sociology and sociologists have in discussions of interdisciplinarity?

I would argue that thinking broadly about the history of sociology can help us find our place in contemporary conversations in productive ways. First, a historical perspective identifies the ways in which sociology has always imagined itself in interdisciplinary terms (Abbott 2002, p. 213-214). Second, a historical and comparative sensibility helps to contextualize the interdisciplinary (and multi, cross, and/or anti-disciplinary) claims of others. Third, a view from the history of sociology also suggests collaboration with colleagues interested in the history of psychology, economics, history, communications, philosophy, literature and studies of difference as allies in an effort to build robust intellectual spaces across the disciplines based on a reflexive historical analysis of “how we got to where we are right now”. Bringing the imagination of the history of sociology to bear on such questions has the potential to make us better teachers and better academic citizens in the rapidly changing landscape of higher education we all confront.

These examples reflect my own intellectual interests and are offered in that spirit. I am sure others can provide illuminating connections on a range of contemporary issues. I would urge them to do so and submit them here to [Timelines](#).

For my examples, the punch line is that the history of sociology is not only about the past, as many people (not in our section!) might think. The history of sociology is also fundamental to how we imaginatively enter into the joint sociological endeavor today. This is why the history of sociology is central to the discipline; it is crucial to the reflexivity that defines the sociological imagination.

Having read this far you might reply to me: rousing words, but what can I do practically for the cause? Funny you should ask. I list seven concrete steps below that can help to move the history of sociology from the margins to the center of the discipline, win us new members, and pave our way to fame and fortune.

1. In your own work, think about how what you do is contextualized in a broader history of sociology. Talk about it. Write about it.
2. In your department, talk about the way the history of sociology overlaps or is invisible in the theory and method offerings in undergraduate and graduate curricula. Mail your ideas about this to Larry Nichols (larry.nichols@mail.wvu.edu) so we can all talk about it in this newsletter.
3. Write a local history of the department/program academic field where you are and how sociology fits in - or do it with your students in a social theory, comparative-historical sociology, or an archival methods class.
4. At the ASA meetings in New York, plan to go to your other section business meetings, proselytize for the history of sociology section, or even suggest a joint session with the history of sociology or a history of sociology focus.

5. At the ASA meetings in New York, come to the History of Sociology Business meeting and our reception. If you cannot attend, send recommendations and suggestions by email.
6. Step up with suggestions for the website, newsletter, and/or the ASA program.
7. Think about proposing a session at a regional association meeting. Details on page 3.

References

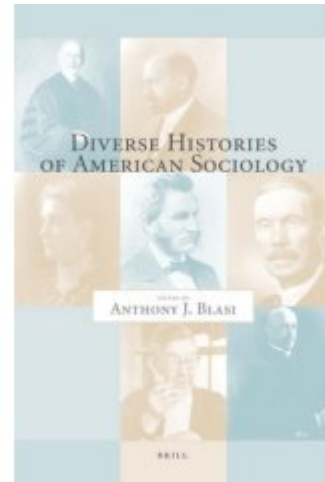
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Think about putting together
a History of Sociology panel
at the Regional Societies

- District of Columbia Sociological Society <http://www.thesociologist.org> (202) 708-5537 x5708. President - Barbara Haley, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Barbara_a_haley@hud.gov
- Eastern Sociological Society www.essnet.org (973) 720-3689 President - Phil Kasinitz, CUNY Graduate Center, pkasinitz@gc.cuny.edu; Executive Officer - Emily H. Mahon, William Paterson University ess@wpunj.edu
- Mid-South Sociological Association <http://www.midsouthsoc.org> (662) 325-1570. President - Thomas C. Calhoun, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, calpro@siu.edu.
- Midwest Sociological Society <http://www.themss.org/> (608) 787-8551. Presidents - Peter Adler, University of Denver, and Patti Adler, University of Colorado, Peter (socyprof@hotmail.com), Patti (Adler@Colorado.Edu); Program Chair - Helen Moore, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Hmoore1@Unl.edu ; Executive Officer - Lauren Robinson Tiffany MidwestSS@centurytel.net
- New England Sociological Association <http://web.bryant.edu/~nesa/> (401) 232-6317 President - Mel Manson, Endicott College mman-son@endicott.edu; Executive Director - Michael Fraleigh, Bryant University fraleigh@bryant.edu:
- North Central Sociological Association <http://www.ncsanet.org> (419) 352-1928 President - Jay Howard, Indiana University Purdue jhoward@iupui.edu; Program Chair - Jay Weinstein, Eastern Michigan University weinsteinjay@sbcglobal.net; Executive Officer - Dean A. Purdy, Bowling Green State University dpurdy@bgnet.bgsu.edu
- Pacific Sociological Association <http://www.csus.edu/PSA/> (916) 278-5254 President - Charles Hohm, CSU-Dominguez Hills Executive Director - Dean S. Dorn, CSU-Sacramento, psa@csus.edu
- Southern Sociological Society <http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/> (662) 325-2494 President - Judith R. Blau, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; jrblau@email.unc.edu, sss@Soc.MsState.edu
- Southwestern Sociological Association <http://www.swsociology.org/> President - W. Allen Martin, University of Texas-Tyler; Email: Alen_Martin@mail.uttyl.edu

2006 ASA

History of Sociology Section
Distinguished Scholarly Book Award



Diverse Histories of American Sociology edited by Anthony J. Blasi and published by Brill was selected to receive the 2006 ASA History of Sociology Section's Distinguished Scholarly Book Award. This collection of scholarly articles, a project of the History of Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association, was produced to coincide with the ASA centennial year. With the exception of an initial chapter authored by Jane Addams, all of the articles in the collection represent original work produced for and first published in this volume. In addition to eighteen groundbreaking articles, many tables and graphs and an extensive bibliography provide a wealth of rich resource material which will undoubtedly inform and inspire further research.

Diverse Histories of American Sociology not only expands our knowledge of the discipline and its history, it also illuminates the diversity of our history, practices, perspectives and practitioners. In sum, this volume significantly contributes to our understanding of the nature of sociology as well as its past.

Send articles and news items for
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TRUTH, ERROR, AND THE HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY

Irving Louis Horowitz

While I am deeply appreciative at being selected as distinguished historian of sociology (for at least one year) by my esteemed professional colleagues, I am no less aware of the need to see this award as an opportunity to remind you that our struggles for a science of society continue unabated. We are really not so much archivists interested in the past history of a specialized field, as activists interested in the future condition of human affairs- in its intimacies and universalities alike.

To use the word activism is not to reduce theory to an afterthought, or those who came before us to a footnote; nor is it to raise the flag of fanaticism as a rallying cry to a cause. It is rather to appreciate that the present always and everywhere has a loud vote. Our activities are professional. They enlist us in the struggle for an honest social science, a sociology that is true to the calling of Max Weber, for a field in which evidence trumps ideology, reasonable discourse holds in check unbridled passion and truth is respected without it becoming a source for punishing error. That is how we serve our professional calling.

The history of sociology is, after all, a history of both truth and error: of sharp observations and theories about the human condition, and abusive sentiments about measuring intelligence by cranial size and facial expression. It is a field in which the sense of the "public" serves the needs of democratic advancement, and no less, the aims of demented dictatorial regimes that capriciously determine who shall live and who shall die. In the past, it lived off the gratuities of the wealthy, and alas, justified the conditions of the suffering. If I am not mistaken, the first American text that employed the word "sociology" in its title was a defense of the slave system. In short, sociology stands atop classical social theory, but in turn, sociology is itself a relatively recent demarcation point in the history of classical ethical theory. This is a lesson learned by physics in the production of nuclear power, by medicine in drugs and techniques for extending human life, by chemistry in the legitimate and illicit uses of bacteriological devices on human

beings, by every field in which empirical observation and generalization is used to advance the cause of science.

In this extraordinary moral drama played out in the history of sociology we each play a role, but none of us should exaggerate his or her contribution. The founding Carlyle-like age of sociology has been overtaken by mechanizations of all sorts. The keen insights of the past emerged in contexts in which individualism was the order of the day. Ours is a field that emerged from the world of letters, literature, philosophy, and culture, at least as much as physics, biology and mathematics. The distinctive characteristics of individuals who were in constant - sometime friendly but more often conflictual relations-served to underwrite the rewards of sociology, no less than emphasize its presumed high purposes.

The new era, the twenty first century, is one in which people of talent are part of fields of research, life saving, policymaking, and specific measures to alleviate specific ailments and sufferings. Creative people still matter, but these people are part of collectivities of scholars and that is what we call associations, societies, and professional cohorts large and small. Modesty is thus the order of the age. In that activity, there are more than 7,000 authors of Transaction books and serials, and more than 10,000 contributors involved in the production of Transaction journals and monographs, a number of whom are members of this section of the American Sociological Association. It is only in their honor that I can accept this award with equanimity.

One of the unusual by-products of my time spent in Latin America in the late 1950s was the realization of how closely connected academic life was with publishing activities. The work of Enrique Butleman at *Editorial Paidos* and Jose Boris Spivakov at the *University of Buenos Aires Press* was for me a baptism of fire more than a process of socialization. That experience was vital in the start-up of Transaction in 1962. It also equipped me during my Washington University days in the 1960s to serve as external advisory editor in social science for Oxford University Press. That was feasible since Transaction did not have a book program during its first decade of existence. In that connection, my OUP series published such amazing people as C. Wright Mills, Cesar Grana, Arnold M. Rose, Robert A. Nisbet, Elwin H. Powell, Seymour Martin Lipset, Pablo Gonzalez Casanova, Helena Znaniecki Lopata, and Hugh Dalziel Duncan (among others).

After that long initiation period into the wonderful world of academic publishing, and with the steady and unwavering support provided at Rutgers University, I applied lessons learned to Transaction Publishers. Now as then, at OUP then and TA now as my friend and publishing mentor, Sheldon Meyer taught me, we publish good social science by good social scientists. I am but one of those 17,000 authors, one of those fleeting moments in time and space. How important one or another of these laborers in the social science vineyards is

Irving Louis Horowitz is Hannah Arendt University Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Political Science at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, where he has been since 1969. He also serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of Transaction-Aldine Publishers, which is also located at Rutgers. Before that, he served from 1962 to 1969, as Professor of Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis. He has also served as visiting professor at Stanford, Wisconsin, Queen's University in Canada, and the University of California. He has been a Fulbright Lecturer in Argentina, Israel, and India.

will be determined by those who come after us. This award focuses attention on a tradition, a culture, and its practitioners. It serves as a bench mark telling us how far we need to go, even more than how far we have come.

As the imperfections of life draw closer to the perfection of death, we are compelled to define ourselves and our lives with an uncomfortable precision. There is a line on our tax forms that needs to be filled out annually and for various layers of government that asks that we identify ourselves by occupation. In my entire lifetime and through a variety of jobs ranging from New York taxi cab "hack" driver to power press operator at the Pontiac division of General Motors to junior clerk at London Character Shoes to book-keeper accounts assistant at Peerless-Willoughby Cameras, to research analyst at J .J. Berliner Associates-and God alone knows how many other places in between to make ends meet -I always printed on those infernal forms, the words: social scientist. That was true in 1944 (my first memory of securing a social security card, for summertime work at the American Red Cross national offices in New York) and it remains now as highbrows call an *emeritus* professor but ordinary clerks properly identify as a *retiree* at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Happily, I still worry less about titles and identifications than mind and body. Going to work everyday reminds me of the wonder-ful remark attributed to Pliny the Elder in 325 BC, only slightly before my time, "Cobbler, stick to your last." Whatever is your area of teaching and working, I urge you all to do likewise: Social scientist, stick to your people.

Notes Remarks delivered at a special convocation honoring Irving Louis Horowitz as distinguished recipient of the lifetime service award in sociology by the history of sociology section of the American Sociological Association. 101 Annual Meeting of the ASA in Montreal, Canada, August 13-14, 2006.*

Section on History of Sociology Mission Statement

The purpose of the Section on the History of Sociology is to provide a forum for sociologists and other scholars interested in the study of the historically specific processes shaping the development of sociology as a profession, an academic discipline, an organization, a community, and an intellectual endeavor. The Section serves its members as a structure 1) to disseminate information of professional interest, 2) to assist in the exchange of ideas and the search for research collaborators, 3) to obtain information about the location of archival materials, 4) to support efforts to expand such research resources and to preserve documents important to the history of sociology, and 5) to ensure that the scholarship of this group can be shared with the profession both through programming at regional and national meetings.

A New Archival Source of Interest to Sociologists

Between 1924 and 1927, the League of Nations sponsored an international inquiry on trafficking in women and children funded by the New York Bureau of Social Hygiene, i.e. by John D. Rockefeller Jr. The League of Nations archives contain two sets of very interesting documents on this. These offer an unique insight into the American conception of social inquiry at that time, and the use of undercover methods in order to complete the information furnished by the authorities. It raises fundamental questions about the link between social science methods and police patterns of inquiry, the deontology of research, the role of experts in shaping public policies and many other important issues.

First, there are most of the *field reports* (partly "undercover" in the "underworld") written by the American Social Hygiene Association's inquirers "on the spot", and numerous "exhibits" (S 171 to S 181, Section Files, Field Report, Argentine to Yougoslavia) and, second, the *Verbatim Records of the seven sessions held by the Special Body of Experts*, chaired by Dr. William Snow (S 149, S 169, S 170). Some other files relating to the inquiry are also available (Expenses, Government answers to various `questionnaires', appointment of the Special Body of Experts and so on : see R 671, R 686, R 673).

This inquiry, which was followed 3 years later by another inquiry "in the East" whose archives are also available, has had important historical consequences; it was assumed that it had scientifically proven the continuing existence of world-scale trafficking, and the causal influence of the public regulation of prostitution in sustaining it. It was thus a powerful weapon for the abolitionist movement. As a matter of fact, the inquiry failed to sustain either of these conclusions, and it is very interesting to see precisely how the experts did manipulate the "data" in order to put their ideological and nationalist agendas forward. Contact Jean Michel Chaumont (National Fund of Scientific Research, Belgium) and Bernardine Pejovic (League of Nations Archives, Assistant Archivist, UNO Library, Geneva)

Section Officers 2006-2007

Chair: Eleanor Townsley, Mount Holyoke College

Past Chair: Edward A. Tiryakian, Duke University

Secretary-Treasurer: Mikaila Marial Lemonik
Arthur, New York University

Council: Uta Gerhardt, Heidelberg University; Betsy Lucal, Indiana University-South Bend; Lawrence T. Nichols, West Virginia University; Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan; Jack Nusan Porter, The Spencer Institute for Social Research; Alford A. Young, Jr. University of Michigan

Recent Member Publications

Jack Nusan Porter of Newton, MA (jacknusan@earthlink.net) is working on several projects: including:

"*The Genocidal Mind*", his first book, has come out in April 2006. Go to [www.univpress.com/sociology/The G Mind](http://www.univpress.com/sociology/The_G_Mind) for more information. The book contains the background to his present project, "Jewish Sociologist Inside and Outside Nazi Germany: Those Who Left and Those Who Stayed Behind."

His next book, due out in 2007, is called "*Is Sociology Dead? Social Theory and Social Praxis in a Postmodern Era.*"

He is also working on an essay on genocide and art/literature dealing with the treatment of gays and

Nichols, LT. "The Rise of Homans at Harvard: Pareto and the English Villagers," pp. 43-62 in *George C. Homans: History, Theory and Methods*, ed. Javier Trevino. New York: Paradigm Publishers, 2006.

Nichols, LT. "The Diversity of Sorokin's Integralism: Eastern, Western, Christian and Non-Christian Variants." In *Integralism, Altruism and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of Pitirim A. Sorokin*, ed. Elvira Del Pozo. Valencia, Spain: Universitat de Valencia Press, 2006.

Turner, S. *Defining a Discipline: Sociology and its Philosophical Problems, From its Classics to 1945. The Philosophy of Anthropology and Sociology, (1st ed.)*. Stephen Turner and Mark Risjord, eds. New York: Elsevier.

Turner, S. "*Sociology*" in *World Fascism: An Historical Encyclopedia*, Cyprian Blamires, ed. (1st ed.). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, vol. 2, pp. 6120614.

Pitirim A. Sorokin, *Russia and the United States*, with a new introduction by Edward A. Tiryakian. Transaction Aldine has just reissued this work, originally published in 1944 at the beginning of the Cold War, in which Sorokin emphasized fundamental similarities between the two societies and predicted a peaceful "convergence."

--*Integralism, Altruism and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of Pitirim A. Sorokin*, edited by Elvira del Pozo Avino, Biblioteca Javier Coy D'Estudis Nord-Americans (University of Valencia, Spain). Includes essays by Elvira del Pozo Avino, Vincent Jeffries, Barry V. Johnston, Jose Beltran Llavador, Lawrence T. Nichols, Samuel P. Oliner, Stephen G. Post, Edward A. Tiryakian, and Jay Weinstein & Jennifer Hasker Corwin.

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis at Boston University: A Brief History, in W. Leeds-Hurwitz (ed.), *The Social History of Language and Social Interaction Research: People, Places, Ideas*, Hampton Press, 2007 (forthcoming).

Abstract: This chapter traces the history of the development of a program in ethnomethodology and conversation analysis at the Department of Sociology, Boston University, from 1968-2000. The focus is on institutional structures and arrangements, including the faculty involved, rather than the characteristics of the theoretical and methodological perspectives. A small core faculty, aided by extended collegial and research relationships in the local area and with visiting and part-time faculty, was able to develop and sustain a program over several decades. Names of students and their dissertation titles are included as are detailed listings of articles published in *Human Studies*, a journal which supported publications in these areas of specialization and the contents of the book series, *Studies in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis*, co-published by the International Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis and the University Press of America.

G. Bakhaus and G. Psathas (eds.) *The Sociology of Radical Commitment: Kurt H. Wolff's Existential Turn*, Lexington Press, 2006 (forthcoming).

Kurt H. Wolff (1912-2003), who was born in Europe and taught at Ohio State University and Brandeis University, is known as the scholar who wrote significant and insightful introductions and commentaries as well as made translations of works by the important German sociologists, Georg Simmel and Karl Mannheim. He continued the sociological tradition of his teacher, Karl Mannheim, in the sociology of knowledge as well as developing his own innovative contribution, "surrender-and-catch," which represents both a theory and a distinctive qualitative research methodology.

This volume includes original contributions from his former students (Joy Gordon, Jonathan B. Imber, and Eleanor Godway), European and American scholars (Nico Stehr, Volker Meja, David Kettler, Peter Ludes, Stephen Kalberg, Gary Backhaus, and Richard Zaner), interviews of Wolff by two social scientists, and memorial remembrances by Guenther Roth, Maurice R. Stein, Jim Ostrow, Robert S. Smith, and his son Carlo Wolff. Also included is a selection from the diary and travel writings of his wife, Carla, which provides insights into their life together.

Upcoming Events.

Cheiron Conference, University College, Dublin, Ireland. From June 26th to 29th, 2007, Cheiron (International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences) will hold a joint, international conference with The European Society for the History of the Human Sciences. Submissions (limited to 8 pages) are due by January 11th. For further details, visit the Cheiron web page.

HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY SECTION

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Graduate Student Paper Award

The award will be made for a seminar paper, an article submitted or accepted for publication in a sociology journal, or a single chapter from a thesis or dissertation. The paper should focus on an empirical or theoretical issue in the history of sociology. Students actively enrolled (full or part time) in a graduate sociology program on December 15, 2006 are invited to submit papers for consideration for this award. (Only one paper may be submitted; members of the current Graduate Student Paper Award Committee are ineligible.) Eligible students are invited to submit their paper electronically, with a cover letter, to the committee chair Mikaela Mariel Lemonik Arthur (mikaila.arthur@nyu.edu) to arrive no later than March 1, 2007

Distinguished Scholarly Book Award

This award honors sociologists who have made significant contributions to the history of sociology by writing books on the 'cutting edge' of sociological inquiry. Monographs and edited scholarly works published in 2005, 2006, or 2007 are eligible for consideration. The book's author(s) or editor(s) must be sociologists. (Members of the current Distinguished Scholarly Book Committee are ineligible.) Books submitted for consideration should be proposed in a letter of nomination; self-nominations are welcome if accompanied by a letter of support from another member of the ASA. To nominate a book, write highlighting the book's significant contribution to the history of sociology to the committee chair Prof. Larry Nichols (larry.nichols@mail.wvu.edu) to arrive no later than March 1, 2007. Please give an e mail address for his reply indicating where the necessary three copies of the book should be sent.

Distinguished Achievement Award

This award recognizes sociologists who have made outstanding contributions to the history of sociology throughout their careers, or who have made ground-breaking innovations or produced significant bodies of scholarly work in the history of sociology. Nominees must be sociologists. (Members of the current Distinguished Achievement Award Committee are ineligible for the award.) Letters of nomination should highlight the nominee's outstanding innovation(s), career and contributions to the history of sociology. Self nominations are welcome if accompanied by a letter of support from another member of the ASA. To nominate a person, send (in electronic form or in 3 copies) a nomination letter, vitae, and samples of the nominee's work to the committee chair Prof. Jennifer Platt (j.platt@sussex.ac.uk) to arrive no later than March 1, 2007.

2007 History of Sociology Awards Committees

Distinguished achievement

Jennifer Platt (chair)

Alford Young

Jack Nusan Porter

Distinguished scholarly book

Larry Nichols (chair)

Alan Sica

Sylvia Pedraza

Graduate student paper

Mikaila Arthur (chair)

Bart Bonikowski

Yolanda Johnson

Anna Xiao Dong Sun

2007 Section Candidates

Below is our slate of candidates for open positions in the section this year -- Chair elect and 2 Council seats. Its a great line-up and I want to thank Ed Tiryakian and the other members of the nominations committee for their hard work.

For Chair-elect:

Charles Camic, Northwestern University

Terry Clark, University of Chicago

For Council, 2 seats of 3-year terms:

Ira Cohen, Rutgers University

Marcel Fournier, University of Montreal

Richard Swedberg, Cornell University

Joyce Williams, Texas Women's University

HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Edward Tiryakian

Duke University, Durham, N.C.

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James Faught

Marymount Loyola

Los Angeles, CA

jfaught@lmu.edu

Vera Zolberg,

New School for Social Research

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zolbergv@newschool.edu

Doyle McCarthy

Fordham, New York, NY

mccarthy@fordham.edu

Vera Zolberg,

New School for Social Research

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The 2006 Graduate Student Paper Award

Jonathan VanAntwerpen of UC Berkeley

"Empiricism, Interactionism, and

Epistemological Authority:

Reexamining Blumer's Early Sociological Practice."

This essay reconsiders Herbert Blumer's early texts on the movies, comparing the rhetoric and practice of sociological authority employed in these texts with Blumer's later theorizing. Drawing on recent work on the history of American sociology, the author positions Blumer's academic trajectory and intellectual project in a sociological field that was both dominated by perspectives other than Blumer's own and increasingly influenced by his interactionist program. An unrelenting critic of the discipline's methodological predilections and theoretical grandiosity, Blumer was once called "the gravedigger of American sociology." Yet his early writings on the movies might be subjected to the same form of critique he leveled at others. Blumer's familiar reflections on sociological interpretation and authority, VanAntwerpen argues, amounted to an implicit repudiation of his relatively less familiar early sociological practice. A consideration of the disconnect between Blumer's early practice and later theorizing highlights the limited and problematic mode of sociological authority practiced in Blumer's early work. As the research on the movies was transformed from a private and technocratic articulation to a popular misappropriation, VanAntwerpen concludes, the potential for a more critical public sociology was bypassed.