

# FAMILY FORUM

SUMMER 2010 ~ ASA SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

## SECTION COUNCIL, 2009-10

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Family Section Members,

I hope you are having a good summer and that your plans are shaping up for your trip to Atlanta for the ASA meetings next month. Our section day is Saturday, August 14, the first day of the conference, but we also have sessions on Sunday. This year the reception and awards ceremony will be "just Family" on Saturday evening, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Max Lager, a short walk from the Atlanta Hilton, where all of our sessions are scheduled. Section members will have drink tickets. Special thanks to Erin Ruel and Chris Knoester for organizing what promises to be a great reception. The business meeting will be at 3:30 Saturday afternoon immediately following the roundtables. It is a good opportunity to make suggestions about sessions for next year's program, which Jay Teachman will select. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

The business meeting is also a time when members suggest changes in section activities. Over the past few years several of you have recommended that we have a best article award to honor scholarly contributions to family sociology that are not recognized in our existing award structure: the William J. Goode book award, the Graduate Student Paper award, and the Distinguished Career award. This year the Council approved adding an article award to the honors we bestow, and they authorized me to appoint a committee to develop a plan to implement the new award. Jay Teachman chaired the committee, with members Wendy Manning, Natasha Sarkisian, Kathryn Tillman, and W. Bradford Wilcox. Recently the Section Officers approved in principle the procedures for the award, with a few loose ends to hammer out. Jay

and I are working to finalize the plan to present at the business meeting. I'll make sure the plan is also distributed in advance. The award would be presented for the first time in 2011. I think the new award is a wonderful example of grassroots efforts to improve the section. My thanks to Jay and his committee for such a well thought-out plan and to the section officers for their careful review. This will enable us to celebrate family sociology as it is presented in research articles.

The results of the recent election are in. Congratulations to Paul Amato (Pennsylvania State) the new Chair-Elect, who will officially take office at the end of the Atlanta meetings. Paul will become Chair in 2011-12 after Jay Teachman's term (2010-11). Congrats also to new Council members Lynne Casper (USC) and Philip Cohen (UNC-Chapel Hill) and Student Representative Jennifer Turchi (University of Iowa). Thanks to the nominating committee for a terrific slate of candidates: Molly Martin (chair), Julie Artis, Timothy Biblarz, Cecilia Menjivar, and Mignon Moore.

I want to acknowledge the dedicated service of the officers who have completed their terms and other section members who have contributed valuable service: Dan Lichter (Past Chair), Council members, Jennifer Glick and Megan Sweeney, and Student Representative Jennifer Holland. They have done both visible and behind the scenes work on the section's behalf and I thank them for their contributions. Sanjiv Gupta (webmaster) and Mary Noonan (newsletter) have done wonders helping us keep in touch and up to date. We are all grateful to you.

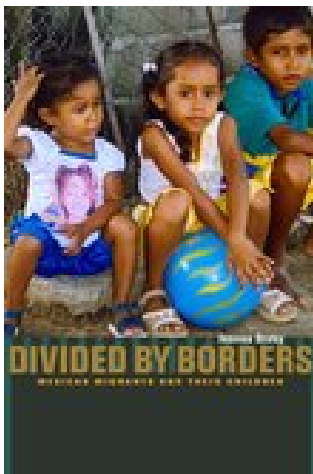
*(Continued on p.6).*

## Upcoming Conferences

“Early Adulthood in a Family Context” is the topic of **Penn State’s 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Family Issues**, to be held **October 12-13, 2010**, on the University Park campus. For information and registration, visit <http://www.pop.psu.edu/events/symposium/2009.htm>.

The **National Council on Family Relations** will host its 72st annual conference **November 3-6, 2010** in Minneapolis, MN. The theme of the conference is “**Families and Innovation**”. For a complete schedule of the conference program, go to <http://www.ncfr.org/conf/current/annual.asp>.

## New Books by Section Members

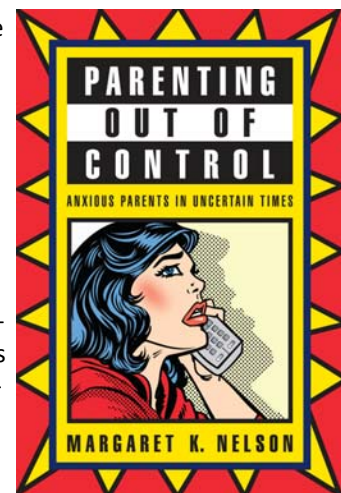


**Dreby, Joanna. 2010. *Divided By Borders: Mexican Migrants and their Children*. Berkley: University of California Press.**

Since 2000, approximately 440,000 Mexicans have migrated to the United States every year. Tens of thousands have left children behind in Mexico to do so. For these parents, migration is a sacrifice. What do parents expect to accomplish by dividing their families across borders? How do families manage when they are living apart? More importantly, do parents' relocations yield the intended results? Probing the experiences of migrant parents, children in Mexico, and their caregivers, Joanna Dreby offers an up-close and personal account of the lives of families divided by borders. What she finds is that the difficulties endured by transnational families make it nearly impossible for parents' sacrifices to result in the benefits they expect. Yet, paradoxically, these hardships reinforce family members' commitments to each other. A story both of adversity and the intensity of family ties, *Divided by Borders* is an engaging and insightful investigation of the ways Mexican families struggle and ultimately persevere in a global economy.

**Nelson, Margaret. 2010. *Parenting Out of Control: Anxious Parents in Uncertain Times*. New York University Press.**

They go by many names: helicopter parents, hovercrafts, PFHs (Parents from Hell). The news media is filled with stories of well-intentioned parents going to ridiculous extremes to remove all obstacles from their child’s path to greatness . . . or at least to an ivy league school. From cradle to college, they remain intimately enmeshed in their children’s lives, stifling their development and creating infantilized, spoiled, immature adults unprepared to make the decisions necessary for the real world. Or so the story goes. Drawing on a wealth of eye-opening interviews with parents across the country, Margaret K. Nelson cuts through the stereotypes and hyperbole to examine the realities of what she terms “parenting out of control.” Situating this phenomenon within a broad sociological context, she finds several striking explanations for why today’s prosperous and well-educated parents are unable to set realistic boundaries when it comes to raising their children. Analyzing the goals and aspirations parents have for their children as well as the strategies they use to reach them, Nelson discovers fundamental differences among American parenting styles that expose class fault lines, both within the elite and between the elite and the middle and working classes.



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## Job Announcements

### **Associate or Full Professor, Demography or Population Studies, Cornell University**

The Department of Policy Analysis and Management in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University is seeking an Associate or Full Professor in Demography or Population Studies. The position will involve 50% research and 50% teaching in demography or population studies. There will be opportunities to advise and teach undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management and to work with graduate students in allied doctoral fields (e.g., Sociology, Development Sociology, and Human Development) in the University community. This position is in an applied multidisciplinary department with core concentrations in the areas of family and social welfare, health, and consumer policy. Faculty members are drawn from economics, sociology, health services, public policy, and other related multidisciplinary fields. The department offers a bachelors degree and Ph.D. in public policy and a masters degree in health administration. The research environment offers ample opportunity for faculty collaborations, both within the department and across the university as part of the NICHD-funded Cornell Population Program. Application deadline is September 1, 2010 or until position is filled. Send vita and samples of written work to: Daniel T. Lichter, Co-Chair, Demography Search Committee, Mailbox 32, Department of Policy Analysis & Management, 119 MVR Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4401. Phone: 607-607-255-1961. Fax:607-255-4071.

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## Special Journal

### **Special Issue of *Social Science Research* Memorializes Steven L. Nock ~ by James Wright and Paul Amato**

Steven L. Nock (1950-2008) was a leading sociologist of marriage and the family, the former Chair of the ASA Family Section, and a long-term member of the Board of Advisory Editors of *Social Science Research*. To memorialize Steve's contributions to the journal and the discipline, the September 2010 issue of *SSR* (Volume 39, Issue 5) contains thirteen original scholarly papers each pursuing some aspect of Nock's scholarship plus a personal reminiscence by James D. Wright (*SSR*'s editor and Steve's long-time friend) and a concluding essay by Paul Amato.

Contributors to the memorial issue include Bradford Wilcox, Laura Sanchez, Daniel Lichter, Wendy Manning, Sharon Sassler, Susan L. Brown, Norval Glenn, Kristen Springer, Kelly Musick, Matthijs Kalmijn, and numerous other established and rising figures in family sociology.

Hard copies of the memorial issue can be ordered online at <https://authororders.elsevier.com/>. The entire contents of the issue are also available online via Elsevier's online journal portal, ScienceDirect (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/0049089X>)

## FAMILY SESSIONS AT THE 2010 ASA MEETING

### Couple Relationships in Comparative Perspective

Time: Sat, Aug 14, 8:30-10:10am

Organizer: Elizabeth Thomson (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Presider: Michelle J. Budig (University of Massachusetts)

*Real Men Don't Do Laundry? Avoidance of Female-Typed Household Tasks in 34 Countries.* Tsui-o Tai (University of California, Irvine), Judith Treas (University of California, Irvine)

*Sequence Constraints on Family Formation.* Anette Eva Fasing (Yale University), Joerg Luedick (Yale University), Karl Ulrich Mayer (Yale University)

*Response Effects to Attitudinal Questions about Domestic Violence against Women: A Comparative Perspective.* Kathryn M. Yount (Emory University), Nafisa Halim (University of New Mexico)

*Marital Power Structure in Two Chinese Societies: Mechanisms and Measurement.* Wen-Yin Chien (Survey Research Center, United Daily News), Chin-Chun Yi (Academica Sinica-Taiwan)

Discussants: Jennifer Ann Holland (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Michelle J. Budig (University of Massachusetts)

### Families and the Economic Recession

Time: Sat, Aug 14, 10:30am-12:10pm

Organizer/Presider: Judith A. Levine (Temple University)

*Economic Distress and Relationship Quality: Evidence from the Great Recession.* Daniel J. Schneider (Princeton University), Kristen S. Harknett (University of Pennsylvania)

*Family Change and Poverty in Appalachia.* Daniel T. Lichter (Cornell University), Lisa Cimbalk (Cornell University)

*Gender Differences in Response to Economic Hardship among Young Couples.* Amy E. Lucas (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Jessica Halliday Hardie (Pennsylvania State University)

*Low-income Women's Use of Debt as a Financial Coping Strategy.* Kristin Seefeldt (University of Michigan)

Discussant: Steven P. Martin (University of Maryland)

### Roundtable Session

Time: Sat, Aug 14, 2:30-3:30pm

Organizers: Jessica Halliday Hardie, Pennsylvania State University and Christine Percheski, Harvard University

See program for details.

### Families in Later Life

Time: Sat, Aug 14, 4:30-6:10pm

Organizer/Presider: J. Jill Suitor (Purdue University)

*Intergenerational Ambivalence among Mother-Adult Child Dyads in the Longitudinal Study of Generations.* Jessica Penn Lendon (University of Southern California), Merrill Silverstein (University of South Carolina), Roseann Giarrusso (California State University, Los Angeles)

*Adult Child Caregiving Tasks and Gendered Division of Labor.* Stacy Tiemeyer (Wichita State University), Twyla J. Hill (Wichita State University)

*Returns on Lifetime Investments in Children in Ismailia, Egypt.* Solveig Argeseanu Cunningham (Emory University), Kathryn M. Yount (Emory University), Michal Engelman (Johns Hopkins University), Emily M. Agree (Johns Hopkins University)

*Remembering the Father: The Paternal Relationships of Middle-Aged and Older Women.* Edythe M. Krampe (California State University-Fullerton), Rae R. Newton (California State University-Fullerton)

Discussant: Jori Alyssa Sechrist (Purdue University)

## FAMILY SESSIONS AT THE 2010 ASA MEETING

### Class and Race-Ethnic Variation in Family Life

Time: Sun, Aug 15, 12:30-2:10pm

Organizer/Presider: Andrew S. London (Syracuse University)

*Normative Evaluations of Transracial Families.* Justine Eatenson Tinkler (Louisiana State University), Christine Horne (Washington State University)

*A Multi-level Analysis of Interracial Relationship Characteristics among Young Adults.* Rhiannon A. D'Souza (The Ohio State University)

*The Specter of Divorce: Views from Working and Middle Class Cohabitators.* Sharon L. Sassler (Cornell University), Amanda Jayne Miller (The Ohio State University), Dela Kusi-Appouh (Cornell University)

*"Race Isn't What Defines Me" Exploring Identity Choices in Transracial, Biracial, and Monoracial Families.* Colleen C. Butler-Sweet (Boston University)

Discussant: C. Andrew Christie-Mizell (Kent State University)

**Families and Health** (co-sponsored with the Section on Sociology of Population)

Time: Sun, Aug 15, 2:30-4:10pm

Organizer/Presider: Margot Jackson (Brown University)

*Complexity of Insurance Arrangements among Siblings.* Christine M. Percheski (Harvard University), Sharon Bzostek (Princeton University)

*Family Instability and Child Mental Health Trajectories: Evidence from the Canadian NLSCY.* Lisa A. Strohschein (University of Alberta), Lucia Tramonte (University of New Brunswick), Douglas Willms (University of New Brunswick)

*The Influence of Spousal Work Hours Across the Health Spectrum.* Sibyl Keiner (Indiana University), Eliza K. Pavalko (Indiana University)

*Did You Sleep Well?: An Examination of Family Ties, Relationship Quality, and Troubled Sleep.* Jennifer A. Ailshire (University of Michigan)

Discussant: Deborah Carr (The State University of New Jersey- Rutgers)



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*(Continued from p.1)*

The ASA meetings have some terrific family sessions. They illustrate the diverse theoretical and methodological approaches sociologists take to study families. I chose topics based on your suggestions and with an eye toward areas in which there are new challenges to address – either because of changes in our social world or potential mismatches between theoretically important questions and the availability of appropriate data. At 8:30 on Saturday morning, we will explore theoretical and data challenges in the session on Couple Relationships in Comparative Perspective organized by Elizabeth Thomson. The 10:30 session poses the highly topical question: How are families responding to the economic recession? (Judith Levine). After lunch, head to the roundtable sessions followed by the business meeting. Jessica Halliday Hardie and Christine Percheski put together a wonderful, thematic collection of topics with interesting papers and presider/discussants. The last session of the day is on Families in Later Life (Jill Suitor) at 4:30 p.m. Papers in this session consider aging families in and outside of the United States to encourage us to think about what aspects of family in later life are common across settings. Then come to the reception at Max Lager's to celebrate with the annual award winners!

There also are exciting sessions on Sunday. At 12:30 p.m., we have Class and Race-Ethnic Variation in Family Life (Andrew London), where we will hear papers on classic themes in family sociology re-framed for the contemporary world. Our last official session is at 2:30 on Families and Health (Margot Jackson). This session is motivated by debates about health care reform and family and public responsibility for health care. It is co-sponsored with the Sociology of Population.

And these are only the opening days of the meetings! I wish you all a happy, productive summer and safe travels to Atlanta. I'll look forward to welcoming you to the section activities.

Best wishes,

Judith A. Seltzer  
Chair, ASA Family Section  
Professor, Dept. of Sociology, UCLA

### Please Join Us! The 2010 Family Section Reception and Awards Ceremony

**Time:** Saturday, August 14th, 6:30-8:00 pm

**Place:** Max Lager's Wood-Fired Grill & Brewery,  
320 Peachtree Street, Atlanta

Come and Congratulate the Winners of our  
Annual Section Awards

- \*Distinguished Career Award\*
- \*William J. Goode Book Award\*
- \*Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award\*

