## **TIMELINES**

## NEWSLETTER OF THE ASA HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY SECTION—JULY 2019

# FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

"How can he remember well his ignorance — which his growth requires — who has so often to use his knowledge?"— Henry David Thoreau

John Mohr's struggle with ALS prevents him from delivering a Chair's Message this year. However, John, David Swartz, Past Chair, and Gillian "Jill" Niebrugge-Brantley, Chair-Elect, working as a "committee of chairs" this past year, did think about the newsletter and about the Section's future prospects; this newsletter reflects that thinking. John was full of ideas, the enthusiasm of his emails overriding his health struggles. An idea that sparked John was for HoS outreach to other Sections. He suggested in a March email (which he was then doing via voice-recognition technology) that "we might . . . make a small announcement in the ASA publication (Footnotes?) but otherwise we could target other relevant sections...I was thinking we can get small

notes in their newsletters, either as a small add or perhaps by courtesy. But the best thing to do is to see if we can craft a short article that we can add to one or more of these newsletters." He then proposed an idea for the 2020 program—that idea, in John's words, is in "The Future of History" pp. 11-12 Reflecting on the liveliness of John's engagement with sociology and its history, we pause here to give each reader however briefly that rarest of gifts, an open moment in which to think about the task of history, which Tacitus described as being "to preserve the memory of virtuous actions, and to prevent evil words and deeds by instilling the fear of an infamous reputation with posterity."

Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to email requests for contributions to this issue of *TIMELINES*, and most especially to David Swartz and Patricia Lengermann; address questions and comments to Jill at <a href="mailto:niebran@attglobal.net">niebran@attglobal.net</a>

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Lauren Langman

## 2019 ELECTION RESULTS

Listed below are the officers elected in the 2019 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: Kevin B. Anderson, University of California, Santa Barbara

Council Member-at-Large: **Paul Joosse**, University of Hong Kong Council Member, Student: **Hannah Waight**, Princeton University

## 2019 HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY SECTION AWARDS

We are pleased to announce the 2019 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 presented at the HOS Business Meeting at the ASA in NYC Saturday August 10, 3:30-4:10 (Sheraton, 2nd floor, Central Park West). Do plan on attending our business meeting to congratulate the winners and thank the committee members.

## 2019 HOS Lifetime Achievement Award Norbert Wiley, Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois

Throughout his long and successful career, Professor Wiley has produced several dozens of texts, a considerable number of which have become cornerstones in scholarly fields concerned with the history of sociology and social theory in America. Yet, his interests were never with history per se. From his 1979 chapter on "The Rise and Fall of Dominating Theories in American Sociology" to his more recent papers on the Chicago tradition of social thought ("A Mead-Cooley Merger," and "The Chicago School: A Political Interpretation," both from 2011), Professor Wiley's writing has been characterized by an outstanding ability to integrate historical and theoretical argumentation in a way that allows both sides to profit from each other. This quality turns Professor Wiley's works into pioneering exemplars of scholarship that show how to circumvent the restrictions that result from the boundaries that are drawn and re-drawn virtually every day between disciplines as well as between disciplinary subfields.

Committee: Christian Daye (chair), Gary Alan Fine, Paul Joosse, and Kristin Luker

## 2019 HOS Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award

Stefan Bargheer's "The Invention of Theory: A Transnational Case Study of the Changing Status of Max Weber's Protestant Ethic Thesis" (Theory and Society, 46:497-541)

The committee widely agreed that Bargheer's article represents an innovative and insightful history of sociology in several different ways. Not only does he trace changing interpretations of Weber's canonical text within the U.S. and Germany throughout the 20th century, but he also maps how these developments are articulated with changing conceptions of sociological theory over the same time period. The result is a well-crafted case study that both reflects new avenues for how research can be conducted in the history of sociology as well as offers a more nuanced understanding of sociological theory more generally.

Committee Members: Bradley Nash (chair), Ira Cohen, Marcel Fournier, Amanda Maull, and Stan Morse

## 2019 HOS Graduate Student Paper Award

## Hannah Waight, PhD Candidate in sociology at Princeton University for her paper "Mobility Knowledge in the Anglo-American Social Sciences, 1887-1950"

Waight's paper shows a grasp of not only the history of the field of sociology but of some related social sciences as well during the time period of the late 1880s to 1950. Her analysis is firmly grounded in historical context and in a comprehensive treatment of the literature. In fact, as one committee member stated, The extensiveness of her treatment of the concept and genesis of social mobility is "remarkable." The committee was impressed with Waight's utilization of advanced computational and linguistic methods applied to the important concept of social mobility. The paper is well written and shows considerable scholarly promise for her future contributions to the history of sociology.

Committee: Joyce E. Williams (Chair), Michael Collins, Ben Merriman, and Mark Stobbe

## Remembering Guenther Roth

The Section notes the passing of Guenther Roth, recipient of the Section's 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. As of this date, Stephen Kalberg is writing the ASA *Footnotes* obituary and we are planning a formal reflection on Roth's life and career for the 2020 newsletter. We are pleased to be able to offer space here for the sharing of some personal recollections about Roth.

### Michael Burawoy (writing to Roth's wife Carolyn Bynum)

Dear Caroline, I met Guenther Roth once at a Polanyi conference at Davis when he was presenting his interesting account of Max Weber's family, but I was in correspondence with him when he prepared his bio for the alumni page. He was a key member of a group of extraordinary graduate students that populated the Berkeley department in the 1950s, including such figures as Art Stinchcombe, Bob Blauner, Bob Alford, Amitai Etzioni, and Dorothy Smith, and led by such redoubtable faculty as Reinhard Bendix and Philip Selznick. Sad to say Guenther was one of the last of the great intellectuals of sociology who came from Europe - a generation that has now passed, leaving sociology bereft of their vision and knowledge. I send you my condolences, Michael Burawoy.

Victoria Johnson, Associate Professor, Urban Policy and Planning, Hunter College, City University of New York

I first learned of Guenther Roth and his work in the early 1990s while studying sociology in Berlin, Germany, after I had earned a philosophy BA in the US. Professor Roth was the reason I applied to Columbia's PhD program in sociology; I took his Weber seminar and found him so erudite and interesting that I (timidly) asked if he would advise me in an independent study course. I loved going to his book-jammed office and discussing sociological theory and the history of sociology. His erudition in European and US history informed everything he said and wrote. Simply walking through the Morningside Heights neighborhood or across the Columbia campus with him was an education. He knew the history behind every monument and statue and had the rhetorical talent to make that history feel vital in ways I am still trying to channel for my own students. I will never forget the afternoon 25 years ago when we walked up the steps of Low Library along with some other PhD students after having lunch together on Broadway. Professor Roth pointed to the crown on top of

the Columbia flagpole and asked whether we knew why it was there. None of us did--so we learned about Columbia's founding as King's College before the American Revolution. I recently published a book (American Eden) in which Columbia's history played a major role, and I know the seeds for my book were planted, in part, by Professor Roth that day. When my book came out, Guenther (as I finally got used to calling him) wrote me a thoughtful and witty email after he finished each chapter. He was a wonderful mentor to male and female students alike; in my experience, his interest in the lives and the minds of the women in Weber's circle indirectly communicated to his female students a seriousness about our own minds and intellectual aspirations. In recent years, we met up from time to time for a meal and conversation, and I was genuinely awed by his equanimity and humor in the face of a grave illness. We were so lucky he came to the US all those decades ago to pursue his sociological work--and to be our teacher.

Victoria Johnson

Gert Schmidt, Professor of Sociology Emeritus, University of Erlange

Munich, July 2019

## 'Going Museum' in New York with Guenther

With the passing of Guenther Roth the fields of History and Sociology have lost an exceptional member, an outstanding intellectual of broad competence and wide-ranging research contribution. This loss is invaluable and immense.

I have lost an intellectual partner – and I am missing a great friend. As many others, I owe much to Guenther regarding essential insights into Max Weber's works and his intellectual surroundings in general. However, I have shared many more cultural realms with Guenther. I am deeply grateful for having had this opportunity. It has been one of the very special privileges of my life.

For almost three decades I have enjoyed the company of Guenther as guide and 'host' exploring the world of New York's museums. This world was Guenther's second home in the city, and it always was a great time of intellectual fascination, and 'fun' also, to study with Guenther new exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum (a space where Guenther could stroll around with closed eyes!), and to re-visit some of his beloved 'oldies' (for example in the Frick-Gallery). I have simply learned a lot from him, and with him. Guenther's eminent knowledge of art history in general, and his stunning – and very detailed -understanding of the socio-cultural background regarding innumerable paintings, was always enriching and a positive challenge for me. However, not only the overwhelming knowledge and his capacity to frame works of art again and again impressed me deeply, but also his very personal affection and passion. Especially in recent years, when his physical mobility was reduced and he was forced to 'economize' his time walking the halls of the Met and other museums, it was moving to watch Guenther spend long minutes facing – that is, re-visiting – familiar 'old' paintings. He seemed to be not just 'looking' at these 'specials'; indeed he appeared to communicate with them.

Our 'arts trips' regularly ended with lunch and an obligatory chardonnay - many times in the company of the heavy sculptures in the *gemuetliche* cafeteria at the Met (that unfortunately in the meantime has been 'downgraded'), sometimes at the Morgan Library restaurant, or at a restaurant on nearby Madison Avenue. At lunch we shared our thoughts about world affairs in general, and our desperation regarding the demolition of American Democracy – the 'America' for which we both felt affection – and its deterioration toward 'plutocracy' and 'populism' during the last decades – with 'Trump' only its most recent excess.

After lunch Guenther would head home by cab for his mid-day nap – and he would wish me well for my afternoon projects with the friendly phrase: "Vergnüg Dich" [Enjoy!]. As long as I am able, I will continue exploring the museums of New York City. Although the experience will never be the same again, Guenther will be my 'hidden partner' at many special places.

An Anecdote: "Guenther's Emphasis on Historical Correctness"

One day in the '90s Guenther and I visited a photo exhibition on one of the upper floors at the New York Public Library on New York's architectural projects during the Great Depression. Several pictures were dedicated to various construction stages of the Empire State Building. After reading the description of one of the photos, I concluded that it was incorrectly dated. Guenther expressed mild surprise regarding my 'finding' and took me spontaneously to the rather distant office of the responsible department in the PLNY. All there politely took up my 'intervention.' Unfortunately I never returned to check the date again. For me this short anecdote exemplifies Guenther's emphasis upon the obligatory 'ethic of responsibility' of all who labor in the field of public education.

## 2019 ASA HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY EVENTS

Saturday August 10, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. 2019 Council Meeting Sheraton NY Third Floor: Liberty 5

## Sat, August 10, 8:30 to 10:10am, Sheraton New York, Second Floor, Metropolitan Ballroom West. PRESIDENTIAL PANEL: Sociology's Roots in Social Justice - Part One: Locations

N.B. While this Panel is not under the direct control of the Section, its organization and many of its presenters are a result of the activity of the History of Sociology Section affirming the importance of that history—and this year we are fortunate to have had that work recognized by ASA President Mary Romero.

Session Organizers: Patricia Lengermann and Gillian Niebrugge-Brantley, The George Washington University Presider: Gillian Niebrugge-Brantley

American Social Science Association and the Social Science Movement

Craig Calhoun, Social Science Research Council

The Social Settlements

Joyce Williams, Texas Woman's University and Vicky MacLean, Middle Tennessee State University

Black Sociology: Roots in Scientific Social Justice at HBCUs

Kalasia Daniels, University of Cincinnati

Feminism and Social Research Methods

Shulamit Reinharz, Brandeis University

## Sat, August 10, 10:30am to 12:10pm <u>Section Paper Session</u> Social Science and Social Justice: Engagements Past, Present and Future, Sheraton New York, Lower Level, Chelsea

Organizer: John Mohr, University of California Santa Barbara

Presider and Discussant: Lawrence T. Nichols, University of West Virginia

The History of 'Culture of Poverty' and Implications for Contemporary Scholarship

-Elizabeth K. Seale, State University of New York College at Oneonta

Rich in Needs: the forgotten radical politics of the Welfare Rights Movement

S. Wilson Sherwin, CUNY Grad Center

Intersections in Innovation: Jane Addams' Model for Participatory Research

Petina JeanDell Powers, Texas Woman's Univeristy

Subverting the Empire's Thought from the Colony. How the South Shaped Social Theory

Amin Perez, Université du Québec à Montréal

Empirical Colony: Visions of American Social Science in Puerto Rico, 1913-1968

Vanesa Ribas, University of California, San Diego

## Sat, August 10, 2:30 to 3:30pm Section ROUNDTABLE SESSION, Sheraton New York, Second Floor, Central Park West

Session Organizer: Hans Bakker **Table 1** Presider: David L. Swartz

Escape from (Academic) Freedom: Towards a Social, Personal and Realist Heuristic for Evaluating Academic

Freedom

Kerby Goff, Pennsylvania State University

On the Evolution of European Attitudes toward America's Class System

Jerome Braun

The Influence of the Bucharest School of Sociology on Sociology in Czechoslovakia

Maria Skovajsa, Charles University Prague

Table 2 Presider: J. I. Hans Bakker, University of Guelph

Historical Sociology and Our Positivist Unconscious: A case study of relational sociology

Paul David Erb, University of Massachusetts

Patriarchy Writ Large: Patrimonialism as an Ideal Type Model (ITM)

J. I. Hans Bakker, University of Guelph

The Interstitial Ascent of Talcott Parsons: Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration and Careerism at Harvard 1927-1951

Lawrence T. Nichols, University of West Virginia

### SATURDAY AUGUST 10 3:30-4:10 P.M 2019 BUSINESS MEETING. SHERATON NEW YORK, SECOND FLOOR, CENTRAL PARK WEST.

Please try to attend as attendance at Business Meetings is one of the criteria by which ASA evaluates Section vitality—see "The Future of History" pp. 11-15 below.

## Sun, August 11, 8:30 to 10:10am, Sheraton New York, Floor: Third Floor, Liberty 4

## Regular Session on the History of Sociology/Social Thought: The Problematic Influence of the American Canon

Organizer: Laura Martinez Livesey, University of Houston

Presider: Anne Kane, University of Houston

Seeing the Strings: Sociological Theory and the Epistemic Break.

Shadrick Andrew Small, UC Berkeley

The role of social class analysis in promoting emancipatory systemic alternatives: How context matters.

Karin Doolan, University of Zadar; Dražen Cepić, University of Zadar; Danijela Dolenec, University of Zagreb

The American Field of Sociology between the Global and the Local

Thomasz Warczok, Pedagogical University of Cracow; Stephanie Beyer, Leibniz University of Hanover, LCSS Making Trouble in, for, and with "the canon"—Towards a sociology of possibilities

Alexander J. Stingl, Collége d'études mondales

Discussant: Eleanor Townsley, Mount Holyoke College

## Sun, Aug. 11, 2:30 to 4:10pm PRESIDENTIAL PANEL: Sociology's Roots in Social Justice-Part Two: Achievements Sheraton New York, Second Floor, Metropolitan Ballroom West

Organizers and Presiders: Patricia Lengermann and Gillian Niebrugge-Brantley, The George Washington University

Florence Kelley—Incorporating Sociological Research into Judicial and Legislative Processes Jan Doolittle Wilson, University of Tulsa.

Black Social Justice Sociology: Politics, Internal Colonialism, Double-Consciousness, and Reparations from Plessy vs. Ferguson to "Black Lives Matter"

Ravi K. Perry, Virginia Commonwealth University; Robert L. Perry, Bowling Green State University and Eastern Michigan University,

The Strange Career of Feminism in Early American Sociology

Barbara Finlay, Texas A & M University

Theorizing Social Change: The Concept of Social Ethics in Classical American Sociology and Beyond Javier Trevino, Wheaton College

## Sun, August 11, 2:30 to 4:10pm, Sheraton New York, Floor: Third Floor, Liberty 3 Regular Session: History of Sociology/Social Thought: Fresh Perspectives on Classic Works

Organizer: Anne Kane, University of Houston-Downtown Presider: Laura Martinez Livesey, University of Houston

The Polish Peasant as a Study of Nation-Building

Chad Alan Goldberg, University of Wisconsin—Madison

Global Ethnography—Lessons from the Chicago School

Victoria Reyes, University of California—Riverside

One Migration, Two Perspectives: Black and White Sociologists on the Great Migration' 1890-1930

Angel Alfonso Escamillo Garcia, Northwestern University

Karl Polanyi's vision of sociology and knowledge of society in the age of data analytics.

Silvia Rief, Harvard University

Discusssant: Anne Mische, University of Notre Dame

Reception Monday, August 12, 2019 6:30pm - 8:30pm Papillon Bistro & Bar 22 E 54th St, New York, NY 10022.

## RECENT AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES BY SECTION MEMBERS

Hans Bakker spoke at the International Social Theory Consortium (ISTC) conference, June 5-7, in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on the importance of using Ideal Type Models (ITMs) when doing Comparative Historical Sociological (CHS) research and theorizing. The goal of the talk was to discourage thinking of categories as "real types" when they are in fact not true for all times and all places. Max Weber put forward the epistemological notion that our typologies are "ideal" in the sense that they are educated guesses which we then have to carefully assess in terms of the specific historical information we can gather. The full title of his talk is: "Systems" versus Ideal Type Models (ITMs): A Neo-Marxian/Neo-Weberian/Neo-Peircean Perspective. The conference was organized by Harry Dahms (US) and Frank Welz (Austria) and held at the Inter-University Centre for Advanced Studies in Dubrovnik, but outside of the Old City. It was well attended and there was animated debate on the concept of a "system" in the work of thinkers like Talcott Parsons and Niklas Luhmann. Bakker will be submitting his presentation for publication and would love to receive feedback. hbakker@uoguelph.ca

**Hans** recently (2019) edited a special issue of *Sociological Focus 52 (3): 1 - 16,* on Grounded Theory. He contributed an essay on the more philosophical aspects of GT. Many people are interested in GT as technique but Glaser and Strauss (1967) were interested in more than just recipes.

**Gary D. Jaworski**, Professor of Sociology (retired), Fairleigh Dickinson University, is working on a manuscript titled, "Secrecy and Society in Erving Goffman and other post-World War II Sociologists." His article, "Erving Goffman as Sorcerer's Apprentice: A Reappraisal of the Schelling-Goffman Relationship" is available online in The American Sociologist via the Springer website at <a href="https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12108-019-09418-z">https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12108-019-09418-z</a>

**Jason Mueller** was just awarded the 2019 Albert Szymanski-T.R. Young Marxist Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASA section on Marxist Sociology, for a paper entitled: "What Can Sociologists of Globalization and Development Learn from Nicos Poulantzas?"

Our Lifetime Career Achievement Award recipient **Norbert Wiley** writes, "I am doing a monograph on George Herbert Mead's ideas. I use Nancy Chodorow's ideas to make a feminist critique."

Andrea Ploder reports on Section members participation in the publication of the three German language Handbuch Geschichte der deutschsprachigen Soziologie (Handbook History of Sociology in the German Speaking Countries) as part of the Springer Reference Sozialwissenschaften. Andrea coedited Volume 1 (2018) and Volume 2 (2017) with Stephan Moebius and co-authored Volume 3 (2019) with Nicole Holzhauser, Andrea Ploder, Stephan Moebius and Oliver Römer. Other Section members who contributed to this project are:

**Christian Dayé** Soziologische Konzeptualisierungen von wissenschaftlichen Kollektiven und ihr Einsatz in der Soziologiegeschichte (Sociological Concepts of Scientific Collectives and their Use in Sociology's Historiography), Volume 2

**Christian Fleck** Soziologie in Österreich zur Zeit des Nationalsozialismus (Sociology in Austria during the NS Era), Volume 1

Intellektuelle Exilanten in Österreich – österreichische Sozialwissenschaftler im Exil (Refugee Intellectuals in Austria – Austrian Social Scientists in Exile), Volume 1

Soziologie in Österreich nach 1945 (Sociology in Austria after 1945), Volume 1

Geschichte der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Soziologie (History of the Austrian Sociological Association), Volume 1 Geschichte des Instituts für Höhere Studien in Wien (History of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna), Volume 1

Grundlagen der Archivrecherche in der Soziologiegeschichte (Basics of Archival Research in the History of Sociology), Volume 2

Dan R. Huebner German Speaking Sociology in the Chicago Archives (in English), Volume 2

Jennifer Platt (Auto)biographies as Data for the History of Sociology (in English), Volume 2

**Andrea Ploder** (with Stephan Moebius): Einführung in das Handbuch Geschichte der deutschsprachigen Soziologie (Introduction to the Handbook), Volume 1

Geschichte Qualitativer und Interpretativer Forschung in der deutschsprachigen Soziologie nach 1945 (History of Qualitative and Interpretive Research in German Speaking Sociology after 1945), Volume 1

Christian Dayé,. 2018a. "A Systematic View on the Use of History for Current Debates in Sociology, and on the
Potential and Problems of a Historical Epistemology of Sociology." The American Sociologist 49(4):520–47.
2018b. "How to Train Your Oracle: The Delphi Method and Its Turbulent Youth in Operations
Research and the Policy Sciences." Social Studies of Science 48(6):846–68.
2018c. "The Expert as Messenger: Media Philosophy and the Epistemology of the Inexact
Sciences." Pp. 239–58 in Dynamiken der Wissensproduktion. Räume, Zeiten und Akteure im 19. und 20.
Jahrhundert, edited by W. Göderle and M. Pfaffenthaler. Bielefeld: transcript.
Gil Eyal. 2019 "Trans-Science as Vocation." Journal of Classical Sociology. 19: 3 August: pp. 254-274
Laura R. Ford. 2019. "Law and the Development of Capitalism" in Edith Hanke, Lawrence Scaff, & Sam
Whimster, eds., The Oxford Handbook of Max Weber. Oxford: Oxford University Press (digital edition published
in February 2019; completed edition forthcoming)
<b>Wynne Walker Moskop</b> 2019. Jane Addams on Inequality and Political Friendship. New York: Routledge.
Jason C. Mueller and Steven Schmidt. 2019. "Revisiting Culture and Meaning-Making in World-Systems
Analysis: A Proposal for Engaging with the Cultural Political Economy Approach." Critical Sociology. Online first
doi: <u>10.1177/0896920519856074</u>
Anne Rawls (2018) "The Wartime Narrative in US Sociology 1940-1947: Stigmatizing Qualitative Sociology in the
Name of "Science". The European Journal of Social Theory, 59(1).
and Jason Turowetz (2019) "Discovering Culture" in Interaction: Solving Problems in Cultural
Sociology by Recovering the Interactional Side of Parsons' Conception of Culture". The American Journal of
Cultural Sociology.
Joyce E. Williams and Vicky M. MacLean (2018) "The Sociology of Social Class: Recovering the Contributions

## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

## Friday, Aug. 9, Sat. Aug. 10, 2019 SELF & SOCIETY: ANNUAL ASA PRE-CONFERENCE, NYC,

The Graduate Center-Anthropology Lounge, The City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue New York, NY The foundations of sociology that included Marx, Weber, Freud and the SI tradition have been integrated and carried on by various critical theories. As some may know, every year before ASA, a small group of folks have been meeting under the rubric Self and Society, organized by Lauren Langman and Lynne Chancer (their

of the Women Founders." Sociology Between the Gaps: Forgotten and Neglected Topics. Vol 4: pp. 1-10.

work includes Lauren's new book, God, Guns, Gold and Glory-a psycho cultural history of US and the role of character. [Note: Lauren was one of the original members of the conference when Ted Kemper started it.] and Lynne's classic study Sado-Masochism in Everyday Life., By pure co-incidence, the plenary speaker this year will be Kevin Anderson, our new HoS chair-elect. All are invited, but do RSVP. <a href="mailto:llang944@aol.com">llang944@aol.com</a> and or <a href="mailto:lchancer@gc.cuny.edu">lchancer@gc.cuny.edu</a> There is no charge for admission. BUT RSVP is required by GC security. RSVP by emailing co-organizer(s)
Lynn Chancer at <a href="mailto:lchancer@gc.cuny.edu">lchancer@gc.cuny.edu</a> or Lauren Langman at <a href="mailto:llang944@aol.com">llang944@aol.com</a>
THE FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAM LISTING IS APPENDED.

## ISA Research Committee on the History of Sociology—

Stephen Turner has had an invitation from Marcia Consomil to co-organize a session for the ISA RC08 (History of Sociology Research Committee) Brazil meetings in 2020. The RC08 Interim Conference (2020) will take place from July 20th to July 22nd in Rio de Janeiro. It will be hosted at the Institute of Social and Political Studies (IESP) of the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) in Botafogo Beach (Praia de Botafogo). Professor Consomil has suggested as a theme "the influence of American sociology in diverse ways worldwide-translation, funding, intellectual circulation, journals or foreigners publishing in US scientific journals." The RCHS would very much like to encourage participation from the US and welcomes expressions of interest and paper ideas. Please be in touch with Stephen Turner if you have questions, interests, ideas: <a href="mailto:turner@usf.edu">turner@usf.edu</a>.

Stephen, a past President of RC08 who (and the HOS Distinguished Career Award in 2017), notes that "the "Research Committee on the History of Sociology," RC08, was as its number suggests, one of the first of the research committees of the International Sociological Association, which organizes its meetings through these committees. The meetings include the quadrennial World Congress and interim meetings, both a smaller meeting of the ISA itself and meetings of individual committees, which mostly meet separately. The RCHS is an active group, with a strong international basis. In the past it has had many prominent sociologists as Presidents and officers. But the greatest contribution of the committee is that it is the place in which young scholars can meet and form the friendships with other future historians of sociology who will be their peer group for decades. Because of the intensity and close social interaction of these meetings, relationships get formed that are both personally and professionally rewarding. It is the single most important point of access to the larger world of international history of sociology. And perhaps surprisingly, there is a high level of work done all over the world on American sociology itself, often from perspectives that are illuminating and not to be found in the world of American Sociology. But the most interesting current work being done reflects the coming to historical self-consciousness of sociologies in the "Global South." This topic intersects with the history of American sociology in interesting ways: American sociologists often had a presence and influence in these countries, whose intellectuals were more often oriented to Paris than New York or Chicago. More important, they represent distinct sociological traditions and disciplinary trajectories well worth learning about in their own right. The ISA webpage has information on membership, which is not required for participation, but which is desirable for its other benefits, including participation in governance. Members of the HOS Section are encouraged to become involved: the RCHS is a perfect opportunity to get out of the American academic cocoon and engage with serious and interesting scholars on a personal basis. And the long-term relationships are invaluable."

## THE FUTURE OF HISTORY

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 2018 (the date on which session allocations for 2019 is based), there were eight small sections--Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco 158, Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity 235, Animals and Society 148, Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis 136, Evolution, Biology and Society 96, **History of Sociology** 168, Mathematical Sociology 212, Rationality and Society 124.

In his response to the threat of probationary status, David argued, "The HoS section vigorously opposes such a measure because we exhibit considerable vitality and offer an important service to the profession of sociology in spite of our small size as I will document below." It is worth looking at the documentation David reproduces there in order to understand the challenges that will face the Section again in 2022 when the next audit of small section activities will occur. The activities reported in this current newsletter are part of the evidence of the vitality of HoS. As we stressed in the email to the Section of June 13, 2019 from the Committee of Chairs (John Mohr, David Swartz, Gillian Niebrugge-Brantley), the Section must continue to give evidence of vitality and to offer service to the profession.

**ON THE VITALITY FRONT**, this newsletter makes clear that we are home to an active scholarly community both in the United States and abroad. Our gift membership drive seems to be bearing fruit and we may have recruited close to 50 new members through it. Especial thanks go to Taylor Paige Winfield, one of our graduate student members of Council, for her leadership in recruiting graduate students. We would be much aided in these efforts if each current member tries to reach out to one new member—we will be circulating a list shortly so you can know who they are.

One way to maintain our vitality is to make use of this newsletter as a resource and to do this **we need to find a newsletter editor**. Because it is an online publication, the newsletter admits of expansion and creativity in its features and we could try as early as next year to move to two issues. But this cannot happen without a dedicated editor. Please email Jill at <a href="niebran@attglobal.net">niebran@attglobal.net</a> if you are interested in serving as newsletter editor.

One strategy 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 (our hope is to get close to 200 members but we would 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. Looking ahead, Jill is thinking about three possible topics. One, "Sociology in the Political Life of the Society" would be in tune with the election in the US and would allow for exploration of both sociologists who have held political office and sociological research that has been influential in public policy and judicial rulings; this should be attractive to scholars in other sections. "The Body in the History of Sociology" would

explore the ways that illness and physical embodiment have affected the careers of individuals and the work of departments and associations as well as the way sociologists have treated (or ignored) the body. A third possibility would be a more in-house consideration, "What Is the Distinctive Subject Matter of the History of Sociology?"

Another possible topic for the 2020 Paper Session, suggested by John Mohr in an email exchange, is to begin looking at the history of various subfields and that a first field could be organizational sociology. John writes, "Maybe a general topic for 2020 might be something like new applications of the history of sociology to recent developments and other subfields of sociology. Not very catchy but you get the idea." He narrows that proposition to "Some of the general developments is in the new institutional approach . . . . John Meyer's and John Boli's would be applicable. But the person we might want to contact is Marc Ventresca. He's done some great work in this area and he is very close friend of mine. He would be happy to help. Of course, the classic text is the book by DiMaggio and Powell. But since you are enthused I will spend some time writing down a few thoughts and citations. It will take me at least a week to do this but I will enjoy doing it." John envisions the Section being able to offer in TIMELINES or the newsletter of another Section

a short piece that talks about the revival of Historical Sociology in the profession today. In that article, we could talk about the resurgence of Historical work in Organizational Sociology because of the way that new Institutionalism has highlighted the importance of how data is collected and analyzed at different Historical moments through the interest in explaining how new institutional forms are created. The same kind of argument could be made about Computational Soc. Some of the best new work uses corpora of Historical material and this raises a lot of questions about how these forms of data, much of it from the 19th century, came to be created as a part of new types of control and surveillance activities which really was a very important part of the History of Soc. Lots of the new intellectual histories, and I am thinking in particular Aldon Morris's new work. We could also right [write] about the connection between feminist studies and the History of Soc. Anyway, you get the idea. And, maybe more work than we want to take on but If we did it I think it would be a perfect vehicle to add on a paragraph about this new initiative and a quick summary of the panel we are organizing for ASA and so on.

Please contact Jill (<u>niebran@attglobal.net</u>) with your thoughts on these topics and ideas for topics you would like considered for 2020.

A second outreach strategy is to revisit the curriculum issue of how and why the history of sociology is not more widely taught. HOS labors under a real handicap in the fact that most departments do not offer a course specifically in our specialty; thus, recruiting students is a consistent challenge. A "Committee on the Curriculum" might begin to formulate a plan for greater incorporation of the history of sociology into course requirements.

A third outreach strategy might be to have a designated publication on the history of sociology. At this time our membership numbers are too low to qualify for even proposing an ASA journal but there is perhaps the possibility of an annual publication—something like "Papers in the History of Sociology X date." A first step in exploring this would be to form a committee of volunteers to look into **publication possibilities**.

**Finally, there remains the possibility of a name change or expansion** to give people a better sense of the relevance of the history of sociology for its daily practice. When this was raised at the 2018 Business

Meeting, we generated x ideas about name changes and one more was added after the June email on the future of the Section. Here are the current ideas for modifying our name:

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)

Andrea Ploder shared this thought: "I love the idea to rename the section "Section on the History and Sociology of Sociology". I always try to address the history of sociology sociologically, and I think it is an effort of most sociologists in HoS. In this light, the new name would make visible and reinforce an agenda that is already on the table. A systematic reflection of the methodological consequences of this approach could be on our agenda throughout the next meetings and would probably attract the interest of the members of other sections. This name would also invite collaboration with the SKAT section within the ASA, and might be of interest to some sociologists of sociology within the broader field of STS who are organized in other sections (e.g. Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis) or have not been members of the ASA so far."

If there is enough interest, we can establish a committee to explore this possibility of editing the Section name.

THE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY. We have-- more than any other Section perhaps—the opportunity to secure our position through service activities to the profession and it is this opportunity that will be the focus for discussions at the Section Meetings on Saturday, August 10 (Council 7 to 8 a.m. Sheraton NY Third Floor: Liberty 5, Business 3:30 to 4:10 Sheraton NY, second floor, Central Park West.)

The Moment. In 2020 HOS marks its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Section—a status achieved only after significant struggle (see Lengermann and Niebrugge in Fall 2018 newsletter on a the founding of HOS). One of the things promised at the time of the founding was that HOS would be useful to the profession and we need now as a Section to make good on that promise. We make this attempt at a fortuitous moment in terms of our relations with ASA: the current ASA President Mary Romero has reached out to our members to provide two Presidential panels looking at "sociology's roots in social justice" (as noted in the ASA event listing, a number of our members are active in these panels); the ASA President-elect Aldon Morris, a Section member, is a major scholar in the history of sociology (last year's recipient of HoS Awards for career achievement and for distinguished publication), we have active and committed past ASA Executive Director Sally Hillsman, and, as noted above, Steven Turner, a past President of RC08 of the ISA. There are people who will speak for us in ASA governing deliberations and also people who can help us plan our approaches to these deliberations. And we have been directly presented with an opportunity for service by current ASA Executive Director Nancy Kidd.

1. Revision of the ASA Online Presidential Biographies. Nancy has turned to us in response to comments ("complaints") that she has received from ASA members about the current state of the Presidential biographies. You can look at these for yourselves online <a href="https://www.asanet.org/about-asa/asa-story/asa-history/past-asa-officers/presidents">https://www.asanet.org/about-asa/asa-story/asa-history/past-asa-officers/presidents</a>. On July 3, 2019, Jill, David, Dan Huebner, and Kevin Anderson had a conference call with Nancy to discuss how HoS might be of use in this revision project. We established an agreement that the current biographies are inconsistent and occasionally inaccurate in their presentation of information and that the Association needs a more professional statement of our history in terms of these biographies of past leaders. We concluded the call with an agreement that at our Council and Business meetings this year we will consider the formation of an Exploratory Committee on the Revision of the ASA Presidential Biographies, that Committee would be charged with outlining a process for doing this revision, that plan would be sent

to the Executive Director to be forwarded to the ASA Council. Please let Jill know what questions you have about this project and if you might be interested in participating (niebran@attglobal.net).

2. In response for our call for ideas, Stephen Turner reminded us of the work being done by ASA on the archiving of journal reviews. Alan Sica was one of the originators of this concern and Section member Patricia Lengermann has been serving (though not as a representative of HoS) on the ASA Committee headed by Roberta Spalter-Roth, former Director of Research for ASA. Stephen's note leads to the more general issue of ASA's keeping and storage of records. This may be the time for HoS to establish a "Committee on Archives" and to begin to work with ASA on storage and access issues.

Working on the page of memories of Guenther Roth, David, Jill and Stephen Kalberg began to think about the possibility of building an "archives" section for the HOS website. This might be another concern of an Archives Committee if we have enough member interest.

**3.** Christian Dayé suggested that we revisit Neil Gross's proposal from 2015 to get more historical information on departmental websites. We have a good opportunity in that Margaret Vitullo, Associate Executive Officer, regularly runs a pre-conference chairs workshop at which it would be possible to present the case to chairs for so doing and give some discussion about how to do a department history. Again, it seems that we need to establish a committee to follow up on Neil's suggestion ("Committee on Departmental Histories").

#### **Grace Notes**

Visit the delightful (and envy-making) webpage <a href="https://www.americaneden.org/">https://www.americaneden.org/</a> introducing American Eden, a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in history, authored by Victoria Johnson, whose recollection of Guenther Roth is given on p. 3; American Eden is a study of David Hosack, physician, educator and botanist who in 1801 created the Elgin Botanic Garden (on the then-outskirts of New York City and now the site of Rockefeller Center).

Wynne Walker Moskop whose new book on Jane Addams is reported above is not a member of the Section but was a participant in last year's well-attended commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mary Jo Deegan's 1988 watershed book, Jane Addams and the Men of the Chicago School.

As positive note to end on, **Taylor Winfield** sends this tribute to the Section from a graduate student she had contacted about renewing but who could not rejoin because she has left ASA: "I very, very much appreciate the History of Sociology and Social Thought section, and I agree that the section is a fantastic place for graduate students. The older faculty there are amazingly encouraging and welcoming. Every graduate student would benefit from the opportunity to interact with established scholars in an environment like the HoS section."

### APPENDIX TO 2019 NEWSLETTER TENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR SELF AND SOCIETY

#### TRACK A 9:30

## OPENING DISCUSSION: WHY DOES THE PSYCHOSOCIAL MATTER IN THEORY AND RESEARCH? PANEL 1 PSYCHOSOCIAL POLITICSCONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS

Elisabeth Lackner, The Politics of Othering in Contemporary Austria CULTURE: LUKÁCS & ADORNO

Dean Ray, Framing Conflict: The Social Psychology of Secular

Colonialism in a Comparative Historical Perspective

Vikash Singh, Studying South Asia in Motion: The Importance of a Psychodynamic Perspective

Andrew Shapiro, Splitting and Subjection in Palestine/Israel and the Jewish Diaspora

LUNCH

### PANEL 2. POLITICAL DEPRESSION AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT?

Christian Chur chill, Educational Politics as Manic Defense: How Redemptive Promises Activate Depressive Stasis in the Academy and Politics

Linda Luu, Viral Cries and the Trouble with the Trauma of Migrant Detention

Josephine Barnett, Psychosocial & Vi sual Sociology: The Power of Images

### PANEL 3. THE 'PSYCHOSOCIAL' POLITICS OF TRUMPIAN AMERICAA

John Andrews, Fantasies of the Left: Trumpism and the Transformational Object

Omar Montana, A Tale of Authoritarianism & Punishment: "MigrantCenters", (Dis)Order, and The Resistance

Lynn Chancer, Sadomasochism and Contemporary Authoritarianism

#### Panels B Track

### PANEL 1 CRITICAL THEORY, GLOBAL SOCIETY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Moderator: Michael Sukhov

Alex Stoner, Planetary Crisis, the Dynamic of Capital, and Contemporary Ecological Subjectivity

Harry Dahms, Planetary Sociology and Critical Theory Bob Antonio, Climate Crisis: Biophysical Limits to Capital Bertell Ollman, Alienation and the Environment –Tentative

#### PANEL 2 DIALECTICAL THEORY AND CULTURE: LUKÁCS & ADORNO

Moderator: Michael Thompson

Jeffrey Halley, The Modernist Critique of Realism and the Culture Industry Ilaria Riccioni, Reconsidering Weber, Lukács, and Adorno on Culture

Charles Thorpe, Anxiety and Human Freakishness

## Lunch

## PANEL 3. AUTHORITARIANISM, POPULISM AND THE RIGHT TURN

Moderator: Lauren Langman

Jeremiah Morelock,

David Smith, Divided by Class, United by Hate? The Paradoxical Unity of Trump's Base

Dan Bursten, Fromm's theory of Authority and the Postmodern University

#### PANEL 4. SOCIALISM AND SUBJECTIVITY

Steve Bronner, What is Socialism Today?

Michael Thompson, Toward a New Materialism: Marxism and the New Individual

Lauren Langman, From Domination to Freedom -From Subject to Agent

### PLENARY SESSION 6:00 PM

KEVIN ANDERSON AND JANET AFARY -FROMM, SEXISM, AUTHORITARIANISM AND FEMINISM, NEIL MCLAUGHLIN HOW FROMM'S PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY CAN HELP US RESPOND TO TRUMPISM AND JORDAN PETERSON'S POLITICS,

### SATURDAY AUGUST 10TH 9:30 AM

## PANEL 1: FROMM, MARCUSE AND THE PSYCHOSOCIAL

KIERAN DURKIN,

NEIL MCLAUGHLIN,

JOAN BRAUNE

ROGER SALERNO,

### **PANEL 2: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER**

HARRIET FRAAD, MASCULINITY UNDER ASSUALT

NAOMI SNIDER- THE PERSISTENCE OF PATRIARCHY

SHAWN VAN VALKENBURGH, GENDERED CYBER AGGRESSION AND NEOLIBERALISM

ROSE BREWER, FROM MARX TO INTERSECTIONALITY (TENTATIVE)