

# From the Left

The newsletter of the Section on Marxist Sociology, American Sociological Association



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#### 2008 ASA CONFERENCE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## ASA Summer Meeting Special

Hello,

For those attending the Boston Meetings:

We hope you will find the section in this newsletter on the ASA annual convention in Boston helpful. We have carefully reviewed pages and pages of ASA meeting schedules to highlight for you both the activities in which our section is actively involved in planning, and other events and meetings that our members are involved or may find interest.

The program of highlights which we have designed may be printed out and used as a reference while you are at the Boston meetings. Of course, there are many, many important topics covered at the meeting and only the ASA schedule itself can possibly be exhaustive. Have a great conference!

For All:

Throughout this summer it will be important for all of us to consider ways to increase the vibrance of this section, and the usefulness of our website and newsletter—letting we editors of *From the Left* know how we can help. Please consider writing for the newsletter, or asking a colleague or friend with something important to say to contribute to the newsletter. Also, please consider asking others to join the Section on Marxist Sociology and build one of the potentially most important sections of the (U.S.) American Sociological Association.

From corporate uranium wars in Niger to the White House's institutionalization of the "Freedom Agenda" (including the Doha trade agreement), sociologists in the U.S. should find no shortage of contemporary issues to both study and organize around. Developments in many Marxist traditions are invaluable in both undertaking necessary analysis of ongoing oppressions and pilaging and in informing and organizing resistance struggles.

Marxist traditions have a history of pushing a truly revolutionary social science that will not be bought off, silenced, or made to behave "appropriately" or "pragmatically" when this means putting the goals of human and ecological emancipation on the back burner. We hope you will see the vital necessity of maintaining our section as a challenging force within U.S. sociology, that you will join is if you haven't already, and that you will bring others along.

In solidarity,  
FTL editors

Join the  
**Marxist**  
**Graduate Collective**

[https://lists.riseup.net/www/  
info/marxist-graduate-collective](https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/marxist-graduate-collective)

## Can Sociologists Be Neutral On a Moving Train?

### Editorial

Recently scholars in environmental sociology presented a statement on the conflict between ecological sustainability and economic growth to the council of the Environment and Technology Section of the ASA for consideration. The council sent back a letter, signed by the chair, stating that sections could not make statements independent of the ASA, which is a rule, and *also*, that it was not the job of the section to make political statements. The second part of their response begs the question: what rights and obligations do social scientists have within our professional organizations to clarify the findings of our science and draw out the policy implications and meaning for socio-ecological well-being? Many professional societies do indeed make political statements, acting on good conscience and not shying away from the results of their professional inquiry and ethical convictions.

This experience with the ETS reminds *FTL* editors of the scandal within the (U.S.) American Psychological Association over psychologists participating in torture. The organization took years after the “War on Terror” began to clarify their position on this issue (other than the ostensible position shown by the participation of present and past APA members in the development and implementation of U.S. torture practices). The clarification took place just this year, after heated debate and escalating controversy. In analyzing the situation in the APA, one U.S. psychologist posed two questions that begged for answers:

“How did the APA form such an obviously close connection to the military? And why did the APA governance—the Board of Directors and the Council of Representatives—go along with the military interests? How could an organization of such bright and ethical people be rendered so incompetent to protect the profession from the horrible black eye they have given us?”\*

Two questions that we might ask of sociologists in a similar situation, given the evidence, might be:

Are sociologists too cozy with the main beneficiaries of continued growth, at all costs, both environmental and human/social? And, why hasn't the leadership of the ASA and relevant sections taken pains to bring attention to the ever-increasing research pointing to the conflict between a system geared toward incessant economic growth and the ecological and social well-being of the planet? Is it time for the ASA to consider a statement against Economic Growth?

This is a question Section on Marxist Sociology members may find relevant and even pressing. We hope that a review of the following statement that was presented to the ETS council will initiate what will perhaps be a long-term (if events within the APA are any indication) ethical and scientific issue on which sociologists will eventually be called to clarify: Which side are they on?

\*Quoting Dr. Bryant Welch. See article: <http://counterpunch.com/welch07282008.html>

### SECTION OFFICERS 2008-2009

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Center - CUNY

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University Chicago

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Joshua Howard, The Graduate  
Center - CUNY

#### Newsletter/Web Editors

Hannah Holleman & R. Jonna,  
University of Oregon

**FROM THE LEFT IS  
SEEKING SUBMISSIONS  
FOR ITS NEXT ISSUE.**

Please send proposals or texts  
by email to Hannah Holleman at  
[holleman@uoregon.edu](mailto:holleman@uoregon.edu)

## Position Statement on Economic Growth

Prepared for the Environment and Technology  
Section of the American Sociological Association  
by Rebecca Clausen and Richard York  
April, 2008

### Whereas:

- 1) Economic growth, as defined in standard economics textbooks, is an increase in the production and consumption of goods and services, and;
- 2) The economy grows as an integrated whole consisting of agricultural, extractive, manufacturing, and services sectors that require physical inputs and produce wastes, and;
- 3) Economic growth is often and generally indicated by increasing real gross domestic product (GDP) or real gross national product (GNP) - indicators that do not incorporate measures of social welfare and ecological sustainability, and;
- 4) Economic growth has been a primary, perennial goal of the majority of nations, and;
- 5) Based upon established principles of physics and ecology, there is a biophysical limit to economic growth, and;
- 6) There is increasing evidence that economic growth is having negative effects on long-term ecological and social welfare.

### Therefore, we take the position that:

- 1) There is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and both ecological sustainability and social justice. Therefore, we cannot fundamentally alleviate environmental problems and overcome social inequalities in growth-centric economies. And;
- 2) Technological progress may not be depended on to reconcile the conflict between economic growth and long-term ecological and social welfare, since improvements in efficiency have historically tended to accelerate growth. And;
- 3) Curbing economic growth does not preclude redistributive processes that seek to transfer wealth from rich to poor nations. For many nations of the global South, more equitable distributions of global wealth remains an appropriate goal for achieving poverty alleviation, gender equity, quality of social relationships, and ecological protection. And,
- 4) Self-determined goals of human development are encouraged and supported. Alternative measures of "development" focused on human quality of life and ecological sustainability may help meet human needs and

encourage creative human potential without contributing to ecological crisis.

### Attachment 1: Environment and Technology Section member who Support the Position Statement:

Brett Clark, North Carolina State University

Rebecca Clausen, Fort Lewis College

Zsuzsa Gille, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Kenneth A. Gould, Brooklyn College of CUNY

Richard York, University of Oregon

### Attachment 2: Organizations that Have Adopted a Position Statement on Economic Growth

#### Professional Organizations:

1. United States Society for Ecological Economics
2. Society for Conservation Biology – North America Section
3. The Wildlife Society
4. British Columbia Field Ornithologists
5. American Society of Mammalogists
6. Lillooet Naturalist Society
7. Arrowsmith Naturalists

#### Non-profits and Political Organizations:

1. Earth Economics, Seattle, Washington
2. Coast Range Association, Corvallis, Oregon
3. Conservation Planning Institute, Corvallis, Oregon
4. Sisk-a-dee, Gunnison, Colorado
5. Sustainable Obtainable Solutions, Helena, Montana
6. Ecological Internet, Inc., Denmark, Wisconsin
7. Work Less Party, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
8. The Land Institute, Salina, Kansas
9. Genersys PLC, London, UK
10. Qualicum Institute, Parksville, British Columbia, Canada
11. Sustainable Scale Project, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
12. Forrest Hill for Secretary of State, Oakland, California
13. Fodor and Associates, Eugene, Oregon
14. Gaia Preservation Coalition, Picton, Ontario, Canada
15. Coos County Alternatives To Growth, Coos Bay, Oregon
16. Share The World's Resources, London, United Kingdom
17. Gaian Economics, Stroud, United Kingdom
18. National Center for Conservation Science and Policy, Ashland, Oregon
19. Campaign for Sustainable Economics, Indianapolis, Indiana
20. Martin Environmental Services, Heriot Bay, British Columbia, Canada

21. Nature and Wildlife Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal
22. Sustainable Saratoga Springs, Saratoga Springs, New York
23. Statistical Design, Inc., Seattle, Washington
24. Rushing Rivers Institute, Amherst, Massachusetts
25. Inspiring Green Leadership, Bay Area, California
26. Raedeke Associates, Inc, Seattle Washington
27. La Fundacion Neotropica, Turrialba, Costa Rica

### Organizations Considering Position Statements on Economic Growth

- Sierra Club
- American Fisheries Society
- Society for Range Management
- North American Benthological Society
- Raptor Research Foundation
- Society for Human Ecology
- Central Plains Society of Mammalogists
- Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
- Pacific Seabird Group
- Association of Professional Biologists of British Columbia

### Attachment 3: Previously published:

Clausen, R. E. Edwards, H. Holleman, R. Jonna, S. Longo, and P. Mancus. 2008. "Can Sociologists be Neutral on a Moving Train? Professional Society Positions on Economic Growth." *Environment, Technology, and Society*, Winter: 1-2.

The year 2007 witnessed important breakthroughs in the professional fields of the natural sciences. In addition to identifying 700 new species of organisms in Antarctica and the remnants of a large, birdlike dinosaur in Mongolia, natural scientists also discovered a voice of consensus among their colleagues concerning an often-overlooked area of research – the economy. Those who study the natural world most closely have taken a broader view of the threats that face ecological integrity, namely the impact of economic growth. These biologists have drafted position statements that recognize a fundamental conflict between economic growth and the conservation of biodiversity, taking a significant stance on issues of multidisciplinary relevance. Seven organizations have already approved related position statements, including The Wildlife Society and the Society for Conservation Biology (NA Section). The American Fisheries Society, American Society of Mammalogists, Ecological Society of America, Society for Range

Management and others are considering similar proposals. These position statements clarify – for the public, the firm, and the policymaker – the trade-offs society faces between increasing production and consumption of goods and services and environmental protection.

Brian Czech, a wildlife biologist and position statement author, explains that the scientific community first needs to confront the fear that by taking positions on economic growth their professional societies will be deemed "advocacy organizations." In *BioScience* (2007: 7), Czech makes it clear that, "The position taken by a professional society is designed to clarify the scientific evidence about an issue relevant to public policy. It may go so far as identifying alternative policy goals...and even policy tools. Clarifying science and identifying policy alternatives are a far cry from advocacy." In addition to citing numerous biological and ecological studies to support these positions, interdisciplinary scholars from the social sciences have offered complementary analyses that address issues of equity for the global South, incorporating considerations of race, class, and gender into the statements. For example, the Social Science Working Group of the Society for Conservation Biology qualified the position statement by adding that an opposition to economic growth in wealthy nations does not preclude necessary economic development in other regions due to the potential for redistribution.

The significant effort that fellow scientists and researchers have offered to address the issue of economic growth and sustainability begs an important question of our professional society: *Has the time come for ASA to consider a position statement on the fundamental conflict between continued economic growth and issues of ecological and social justice?*

The most reasonable audience to address this question is the group of scholars who research the relationships between human organization and the environment in socio-economic context. Therefore, we propose that the Environment and Technology membership consider a discussion of such a position statement for the following reasons:

1. The foundation of Environmental Sociology rests on the works of scholars willing to make clear state-

[HTTP://WWW2.ASANET.ORG/SECTIONMARXIST/](http://www2.asanet.org/sectionmarxist/)

ments regarding the social drivers of environmental problems in the 1970-80s (e.g., Catton and Dunlap 1978). The seminal works of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Barry Commoner's *The Closing Circle*, and William Catton's *Overshoot* are based on cumulative research from economics, sociology, and ecology. The clear positions taken in these works addressing the myth of unlimited material prosperity inspired a generation of scholars to pursue lifelong research in our field. As new scientific research emerges informing society of the scale, scope, and pace of global environmental change, environmental sociologists should be prepared to continue the legacy of engaged discussion beyond academic publications and provide summary statements of use and value to the general public and to decision-makers.

2. Theoretical development within Environmental Sociology has resulted in robust conceptual frameworks that relate directly to this position statement across multiple levels of analysis. Advances in Environmental Justice highlight how the wastes from an ever-expanding production process are unequally distributed based on social location of class, race, and gender. Schnaiberg's (1980) Treadmill of Production confronts the conflict between economic growth and ecological sustainability at both the level of the firm and the nation-state. Cross-disciplinary research of Unequal Ecological Exchange locates the contradiction of growth and conservation within the realm of global trade. The cumulative accomplishments of environmental sociologists leave us well-prepared to locate a position statement on economic growth within a larger theoretical framework.

3. Empirical studies of the connection between economic growth and environmental problems guided by various theoretical positions have appeared in prominent peer-reviewed sociology outlets and other social science journals (e.g., Jorgenson 2003; Shi 2003; York, Rosa, and Dietz 2003). This body of empirical research has strongly suggested that the expansion of the global economy is a key driver of global environmental problems.

4. The theme for ASA's 2007 Annual Meeting asked sociologists to consider: "Is Another World Possible?" This invitation for the larger social science community to focus research around possible future paths of social development demonstrates a significant opportunity to present such a position statement to the larger membership. Instrumentally, the time is right and the issue is ripe.

We ask that the Environment and Technology section dedicate a working group to draft a position statement addressing the conflict between economic growth and ecological and social justice. The statement could then be discussed and voted on by the section's membership.

This proposal is put forth by a collective of Sociology graduate students at the University of Oregon:

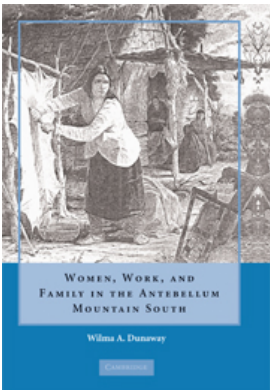
Becky Clausen  
Eric Edwards  
Hannah Holleman  
R. Jonna  
Stephano Longo  
Philip Mancus

**Join**  
**the Progressive Sociologists**  
**Network (PSN) by following the link:**

[http://www.colorado.edu/Sociology/  
gimenez/psn2](http://www.colorado.edu/Sociology/gimenez/psn2)

# Books/Film

## New/recent books or films of interest



### *Women, Work and Family in the Antebellum Mountain South.*

By Wilma A. Dunaway (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

Mar. 2008, Cambridge University Press, ISBN-13: 9780521886192 (hardback), 312 pp.

This is the first study of 19th-century Appalachian women. Wilma A. Dunaway moves beyond the black-white dichotomy and the preoccupation with affluent females that handicap antebellum women's histories. By comparing white, American Indian, free black, and enslaved females, she argues that the nature of a woman's work was determined by her race, ethnicity, and/or class positions. Concomitantly, the degree to which laws shielded her family from disruption depended upon her race, her class, and the degree to which she adhered to patriarchal conventions about work and cross-racial liaisons.

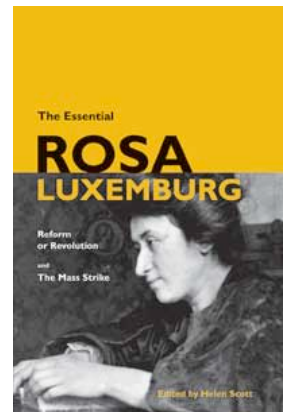
"Wilma Dunaway presents a path-breaking theoretically and empirically grounded analysis of the diversity among women in the antebellum Mountain South that challenges the patriarchal, racist, and classist mythology and ideology found in scholarship and popular culture. She centers this powerful and compelling book around women, work and family, illuminating the racial and ethnic cleavages, and class contradictions among these women, and making visible working class women, including those of European, Indigenous, and African descent. Dunaway meticulously documents the deep difference and division in the daily experiences of women – in their work and family lives and struggles, and of the complexity and richness of the Southern and especially Appalachian reality in U.S. history. This work is a critically important contribution to feminist and gender/race/class analysis, and to American and Southern studies in the context of global capitalism and imperialism." -Walda Katz-Fishman, Howard University

### *The Essential Rosa Luxemburg: Reform or Revolution and The Mass Strike.*

Edited by: Helen Scott

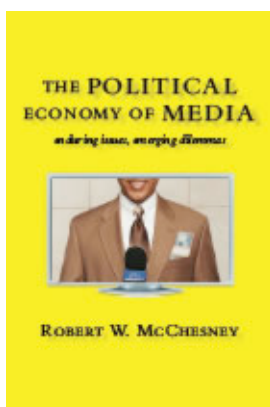
Mar. 2008, Haymarket Books, ISBN 978-1931859-36-3 (paper), 194 pp.

This new, authoritative introduction to Rosa Luxemburg's two most important works presents the full text of *Reform or Revolution* and *The Mass Strike*, with explanatory notes, appendices, and introductions. One of the most important Marxist thinkers and leaders of the twentieth century, Rosa Luxemburg is finding renewed interest among a new generation of activists and critics of global capitalism. One of the most important Marxist thinkers and leaders of the twentieth century, Rosa Luxemburg is finding renewed interest among a new generation of activists and critics of global capitalism.



"At first view the title of this work may be found surprising. Can the Social-Democracy be against reforms? Can we contrapose the social revolution, the transformation of the existing order, our final goal, to social reforms? Certainly not. The daily struggle for reforms, for the amelioration of the condition of the workers within the framework of the existing social order, and for democratic institutions, offers to the Social-Democracy an indissoluble tie. The struggle for reforms is its means; the social revolution, its aim."

--From *Reform or Revolution*



### *The Political Economy of Media: Enduring Issues, Emerging Dilemmas*

By Robert W. McChesney

Feb. 2008, Monthly Review Press, ISBN: 978-1-58367-161-0 (paper), \$19.95 paper, 589 pp.

More than any other work, *The Political Economy of Media* demonstrates the incompatibility of the corporate media system with a viable democratic public sphere, and the corrupt policymaking process that brings the system into existence. Among the most acclaimed communication scholars in the world, Robert W. McChesney has brought together all the major themes of his two decades of research. Rich in detail, evidence, and thoughtful arguments, *The Political Economy of Media* provides a comprehensive critique of the degradation of journalism, the hyper-commercialization of culture, the Internet, and the emergence of the contemporary media reform

movement. The Political Economy of Media is mandatory reading for anyone wishing to understand and change media, and the political economy, in the world today.

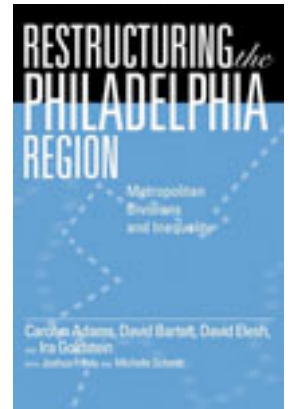
### ***Restructuring the Philadelphia Region: Metropolitan Divisions and Inequality***

By Carolyn Adams, David Bartelt, David Elesh, Ira Goldstein

Aug. 2008, Temple University Press, ISBN: 1-59213-897-7, 248 pp.

Restructuring the Philadelphia Region offers one of the most comprehensive and careful investigations written to date about metropolitan inequalities in America's large urban regions. Moving beyond simplistic analyses of cities-versus-suburbs, the authors use a large and unique data set to discover the special patterns of opportunity in greater Philadelphia, a sprawling, complex metropolitan region consisting of more than 350 separate localities. With each community operating its own public services and competing to attract residents and businesses, the places people live offer them dramatically different opportunities.

The book vividly portrays the region's uneven development paying particular attention to differences in housing, employment and educational opportunities in different communities and describes the actors who are working to promote greater regional cooperation. Surprisingly, local government officials are not prominent among those actors. Instead, a rich network of third-sector actors, represented by nonprofit organizations, quasi-governmental authorities and voluntary associations, is shaping a new form of regionalism.



## Review of ¡Salud! (DVD, 93 minutes, 2006, saludthefilm.net)

by R. Jonna

In 2000 at the Miami Beach Summit, the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank (WB) and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) paved the way for the exportation of “managed care” to third world countries, emphasizing the privatization of health care services. The managed care industry is no exception to the rule that growth and return on investment tend to decline as markets become saturated, thus explaining the rush to expose national economies to this form of “multinational finance capital, and [to restructure] the state via privatization and decreased public expenditures.” The brutal results of managed care are well-documented here in the U.S. (e.g. in *SiCKO*) where corporations have reaped huge profits on capitated reimbursement plans by keeping services to patients at bare minimum and then closing shop after a few years. Since such opportunities have dwindled, managed care corporations have set their sights on the countries of Latin America where, indeed, they have reported much higher rates of return.\*

Also in 2000, during a visit by the Congressional Black Caucus, Fidel Castro learned from U.S. congressman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.)† that there wasn't a single doctor in large areas of his district and that the “infant mortality rate [was] second in the United States only to Washington D.C.” Castro responded with a challenge: full scholarships for American students to attend medical school in Cuba, so long as they pledged to practice in poor U.S. communities.‡ The intensive, exclusively Spanish language program, which requires one year of language immersion and science classes in Spanish, targets U.S. students with little financial resources or support. In July 2007, after six years of free tuition, the first class of U.S. students graduated (pictured below).

\* Waitzkin, Howard and Celia Iriart, “How the United States Exports Managed Care to Third- World Countries,” May 2000, *Monthly Review* 52:1, p. 26, 28.

† “Of 23 counties that I represent, 22 of them are medically underserved. ... One of the reasons the Congressional Black Caucus wanted to go to Cuba is that as we traveled around the world, in some of the most remote places we would always run up on Cuban doctors. So we went to Cuba.” —Hon. Bennie Thompson in *¡Salud!*

‡ “Castro offers to train U.S. doctors from poor areas,” Associated Press, June 4, 2000 and Garcia, Gina “Americans in Cuba...” *MSNBC allDay Family Blog*, June 11, 2007.

“The Americans were among more than 2,100 students from about 25 countries who received diplomas this week in a high-profile ceremony at Havana's Karl Marx theatre.”\* Cuba's social health care system with its emphasis on “community medicine” is undoubtedly a crowning achievement of the Revolution and is the subject of the recent documentary, *¡Salud!*

Centering on Cuba's example and lead this timely documentary provides a detailed picture of the socialist alternative to managed care and shows why so many developing countries have worked with Cuba to develop similar models. As Dr. Yaha A. J. J. Jammeh, president of Gambia, says in the film: “The best pilot for a route is the one who is very familiar with that route... If you are really interested in development, the alpha of it is health.” Despite enthusiasm for Cuba's model and demand for Cuban physicians worldwide, *¡Salud!* also documents the backlash generated by the juxtaposition of socialized and private medicine in several countries. More interesting, perhaps, than the conflict generated by glaring systematic differences is the way such conflicts manifest among health professionals themselves (at all levels) as result of radically different patterns of education and socialization. Thus, *¡Salud!* offers intriguing lessons, not simply about health care in particular, but about the influence of post-revolutionary societies struggling within and against a global capitalism.

In the first part of the film we hear Cuban health professionals discuss the growth and development of the system, detailing the challenges represented by the embargo, for example, and also explaining why very few Cuban doctors leave for more profitable employment in advanced capitalist nations. As Dr. Fitzhugh Mullan of the George Washington University Medical School says of Cuba's workforce, there are “more than 60,000 physicians which makes [Cuba] one of the best resourced countries in the

world.” Former president Carter also notes in the film how advanced Cuban medical researchers are in developing new, innovative medicines. This is in stark contrast with countries like South Africa, which, despite significant support for the public health system, have suffered a “brain drain” so significant that one South African physician reported eighty percent of those trained in his generation had left the country.

By now Cuba has gained a reputation worldwide not only for its excellent training programs and medical research but its numerous healthcare missions following several recent natural disasters (e.g. Hurricane Mitch in Honduras). However, this international effort has also involved much more intensive, long-term programs in countries such as Gambia, South Africa, Honduras and Venezuela (“host countries” hereafter). Throughout the film we are taken to each of these countries and receive first-hand account of the structure of programs, types of facilities, effectiveness of long-term projects (such as malaria eradication), and the experiences of Cuban and indigenous doctors on the ground. Dr. Joaquín García, Deputy Director of the Cuban Medical Team in Gambia provides the simplest explanation for why there is so much interest in the Cuban medical model: “Gambia can't mimic England—it doesn't have the resources.” The incredible effectiveness and resourcefulness of the Cuban system is indeed related to the (resource-poor) context in which it developed, but far more important is that it's basic goal is health, not profit. Thus Cuba is not only on par with advanced capitalist nations in terms of national health but achieves this result at a fraction of the cost.

The focus on ‘community health’ is the secret to the model. As the film marches us through several daily routines, we see that doctors do not wait for people get sick in contrast to the “combat warriors” of managed care systems; they are dispersed throughout the country, living and working locally,



Eight US medical students pose for a graduation picture at the ELAM in Havana, Cuba. Photograph: Javier Galeano/AP

\* “Eight Americans graduate in boost for Cuban health care,” *The Guardian*, July 26, 2007.



making visits to families daily, and filling out extensive health surveys (called “community health analyses”), which form the foundation for long-term treatment plans. Thus, in the host countries we find Cuban doctors in the most isolated villages and neglected barrios. It is here—at the core of a system designed to be “accessible and affordable to the common man” (Minister of Health, Gambia)—that tensions have arisen. “No to the Cubanization of Medicine” thundered the placards of protesting Honduran physicians, rejecting government plans to keep Cuban doctors in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch support efforts. Similar protests came in reaction to Barrio Adentro, Venezuela’s health care mission aimed at providing free medical services to the entire population. In each case large union-based rallies and popular disgust with the insolent rejection of medical aid countered the demonstrations and kept projects running. Once Cuban-led systems had been established, however, host governments were confronted with yet another, more ingrained form of protest.

Naturally, Cuban health professionals in host countries sought to train local doctors in the practice of community health. Yet this means that young doctors must sacrifice the comfort of living in the city and move to small rural towns or depressed barrios for extended periods of time. There were revolts among the younger doctors as the tension between broader societal needs and personal choices flared. In Honduras and Venezuela, the young doctors were afraid of the barrios; in South Africa and Gambia, service meant moving long distances away from urban comforts. Dr. García explains that “Cuban doctors have grown up with a different way of seeing the world. We’ve lived with hardships and scarcities unlike professionals in other countries who belong to a higher social class.” Indeed, in many cases the Cuban doctors were the only ones willing to bring health care to the poorest in the country. In Gambia, having doctors living in the community proved crucial in the malaria eradication program, as the doctors not only encouraged the use of bed nets (%60 of homes—highest in Africa) but provided essential education about the disease and how it could be avoided. From 2002 to 2004, the number of malaria cases was reduced from 600,000 to 200,000—an incredible drop.

The conflict between the young doctors and community health reveals the class-inflected bias of university-trained physicians, even in poorer countries. In one of the most intriguing parts of *¡Salud!* we catch a glimpse of the proposed solution to the class issue in medicine. In a section called “The New Doctor” we tour the establishment of medical schools in rural areas and barrios. In these schools, there is a strong effort to recruit locally with the idea that such students will know their own and not be as resistant to community care. Indeed, the entire curriculum is structured differently. Venezuela is setting up these “micro-medical schools” around the country, *in* communities of need so that medical school “is taken out of the ivory tower” (Samuel Moncada, Minister of Education, Venezuela). Their motto is ‘three days in the classroom, three days in the clinic.’

A similar pattern of recruitment is used by the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Havana—possibly the largest medical school in the world with more than 12,000 international students enrolled—whether the students are coming from Honduras or the United States. The interviews with ELAM students are impressive. One U.S. medical student said that “people don’t go to the doctor where I am from;” another said that this was their only chance to get into med school and they had a strong interest in serving their community upon returning to the U.S. A Honduran medical student from a rural area was interviewed extensively on the fear that most young doctors in Honduras have of living in remote community, such as his own. The same student perhaps captured the essence of *¡Salud!* when he said that if you see the patient as a customer, “he becomes an economic necessity for your own livelihood. When you see him as a human being who needs your help, that’s a big difference.” We can only hope, as Dr. Paul Farmer of Harvard Medical School says at the end of the film, “we have a concerted effort to make healthcare a right among the poor in Latin America” or else “the full promise of those students [at ELAM] is not going to be realized.”

*R. Jonna is a graduate student at the University of Oregon studying environmental sociology and political economy.*

## Section Announcements

### Membership

As of September 30, 2007 there are 408 members in the section.

### Section Awards

**Lifetime Achievement Award:**

**Stanley Aronowitz, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Urban Education, City University of New York**

**Paul Sweezy Book Award Winner:**

**Geoff Mann, Simon Fraser University:**

*Our Daily Bread: Wages, Workers and the Political Economy of the American West* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007).

**Albert Szymanski-T R Young Student Paper Award:**

**Brian J. Gareau, University of California - Santa Cruz:**

"Dangerous Holes in Global Environmental Governance: The Roles of Neoliberal Discourse, Science, and California Agriculture in the Montreal Protocol." (Dissertation)

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## Recent Publications

Robert Perrucci, Chair; Kathleen Ferraro; JoAnn L. Miller; Glenn Muschert (editors), *Agenda for Social Justice, Solutions 2008*

The SSSP is pleased to offer you the *Agenda for Social Justice, Solutions 2008*, which represents an effort by our professional association to nourish a more "public sociology" that will be easily accessible and useful to policy makers. It is also a way to give something back to the people and institutions that support our scholarly endeavors. We hope that you find it helpful in your challenging work of crafting successful solutions to contemporary social problems. In all, it contains 11 pieces by SSSP members, covering a variety of social problems in three sections: global issues, Americans at risk, and health & welfare. This is an effort on the part of scholars at the Society for the Study of Social Problems to disseminate the findings in social problems research as freely and as widely as possible. The web page for the project is located here: <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323>. On that page, you can download the full version, and you can link directly to the one-page briefs and individual chapters, which may be suitable as cost-effective supplementary readings in many social problems-related courses.

*New Politics* (11:44, Winter 2008), an independent socialist journal, published a special section on Latin America and an article by Martin Oppenheimer, "Does Immigration Hurt American Workers?" among other interesting pieces and reviews. See [newpol.org](http://newpol.org).

Ray Elling. 2007. "Reflections on the Health Social Sciences -- Then and Now," *International Journal of Health Services* 37:4:601-618.

Krase, Jerome. 2007. "Visualisation du changement urbain," *Societes*, 1:95: 65-87.

Krase, Jerome and Ray Hutchinson (eds.), *Ethnic Landscapes in an Urban World* (London: Elsevier 2007). In the same volume, with Tarry Hum, "Ethnic Crossroads: Toward a Theory of Immigrant Global Neighborhoods," 97-119

Krase, Jerome, "The Blending of America," (photo essay) pp. 47-49 in Joseph F. Healey, *Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class* (Sage/Pine Forge, 2007)

Krase, Jerome, Suzanne Nicoletti-Krase, and Kathryn Krase. July 2007. Research Report: "Community Needs Assessment, New York City's Arab American Community," TAMKEEN, The Center for Arab American Empowerment.

Anderson, Kevin B. "The Rediscovery and Persistence of the Dialectic: In Philosophy and in World Politics," pp. 120-47 in *Lenin Reloaded: Toward a Politics of Truth*, edited by Sebastian Budgen, Stathis Kouvelakis, and Slavoj Zizek (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007).

Brenner, Johanna. "Socializing Care, Reinventing Family Life," pp. 211-230 in *Toward a New Socialism*, eds. Anatole Anton and Richard Schmitt (Lexington Books, 2007).

Burawoy, Michael. "The Field of Sociology: Its Power and Its Promise." pp. 241-258 in *Public Sociology: Fifteen Eminent Sociologists Debate Politics and the Profession in the Twenty-First Century*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007).

Fridell, Mara, Ian Hudson and Mark Hudson. 2008. "With Friends Like These: The Corporate Response to Fair Trade Coffee." *Review of Radical Political Economics* 40(1):8-34.

## 2008 Annual Meeting of the ASA Program Highlights

(you can print page 11 thru 15 for your own program to carry)

We highlight at least one event for each time slot at the ASA convention. Marxist section activities are included along with others in which our members participate or may find interest. There are, of course, many brilliant meetings to choose from in the official ASA program.

### Thursday, July 31st

**7:00pm to 9:00pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

#### *Opening Plenary Session. Future of the American Labor Movement*

Session Organizer:

*Arne L. Kalleberg*, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

President:

*Marshall Ganz*, Harvard University

- ◆ Panel: *Steven Greenhouse*, The New York Times  
*Sara Horowitz*, Freelancers Union  
*Bruce Raynor*, Unite Here
- ◆ Discussant: *Marshall Ganz*, Harvard University

### Friday, August 1

**8:30am to 10:10am**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

#### *Section on Marxist Sociology Paper Session. New Marxist Theories of Social Change*

Session Organizer and President:

*William DiFazio*, St. John's University

- ◆ History in Reverse: Marx's Theory of Human Development. *Joshua Howard*, City University of New York Graduate Center
- ◆ Is Social Change Still Possible in Global Capitalism? Four Theories: Giddens, Foucault, Negri and Lefebvre? *William DiFazio*, St. John's University
- ◆ Proletarianization of China: 1979-2005. *Thung-hong Lin*, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Discussant: *Heather D. Gautney*, Towson University

**10:30am to 12:10pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

#### *Section on Marxist Sociology Paper Session. Marxism and Globalization*

Session Organizer:

*Lauren Langman*, Loyola University of Chicago

- ◆ Business Power and Neoliberal Globalization in Mexico (1970-2000): Theorizing Business Power in the Semiperiphery. *Leslie C. Gates*, Binghamton University
- ◆ Labor, Race, Gender and Revolutionary Process: Marxist Theory/Practice in Age of Globalization and Electronics. *Walda Katz-Fishman*, Howard University; *Jerome Scott*, Project South.
- ◆ Marx's Scientific Dialectics - Explanation and Defense. *Paul B. Paolucci*, Eastern Kentucky University
- ◆ The Dynamics of Globalization and Its Impact on Society in the 21st Century. *Berch Berberoglu*, University of Nevada-Reno

**Also at 10:30am**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

#### *Section on Labor and Labor Movements Paper Session. The Alliance Between Labor and the Democratic Party: Who Benefits?*

Session Organizer:

*Michael Schwartz*, State University of New York-Stony Brook

President:

*Rhonda F. Levine*, Colgate University

- ◆ Class Conflict, Policy Development, and the State: Explaining the Postwar Divergence of Canadian and U.S. Unions. *Barry Eidlin*, University of California-Berkeley
- ◆ Why the Democrats Have Never Supported the Worker Cooperative Model. *Joyce Rothschild*, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- ◆ Post-civil Rights Politics and Party Realignment: Race Religion, Class, and Culture. *Nancy DiTomaso*, Rutgers University

**Friday, August 1, continued from previous page...**

**2:30pm to 4:10pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Section on Marxist Sociology  
Invited Session. After Adorno: The  
Legacy of the Frankfurt School for  
Today***

Session Organizer and President:

*Jeffrey A. Halley*, University of Texas-San Antonio

- ♦ Panel: *C. Fred Alford*, University of Maryland  
*Stanley B. Aronowitz*, City University of New  
York Graduate Center  
*Douglas M. Kellner*, University of California-  
Los Angeles,  
*Lauren Langman*, Loyola University-Chicago

**4:30pm to 5:30pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Section on Marxist Sociology  
Roundtable Session (one-hour)***

Organizer:

Arthur J. Jipson, Dayton University

Table 01. Breaching the Lines of the College campus

Table 02. Marx and Marxism in the Classroom.

Table 03. Marxist Analysis of the Assumptions and Practices of Development.

Table 04. Mediation of Media and Finance within Contemporary Capitalism

Table 05. Pushing the Limits of Hegemony in the Capitalist World System

Table 06. Research on the Critical Rethinking of the Nation State

Table 07. Theorizing the Use of Theory: Marxist Analyses of Conflict and Agency.

Table 08. Facilitating Immigrant Incorporation and Partnerships On and Off Campus

Table 09. Fractions and Dissonance of Late Capitalism

Table 10. Future of International Marxist Analysis: Research in Gender, Class, and Location in Turkey, Sweden, and South Korea

Table 11. Critical Theory Reconsidered

Table 12. Post Soviet Studies in the Millennium

Table 13. La Creciente Crisis De Hegomona De Estados Unidos/ The Deepening Crisis of U.S. Hegemony (Roundtable in Spanish/ Mesa redonda en espanol)

Table 14. Dynamics of Racial/Ethnic Subordination in Late Capitalism

Table 15. Topics in Discrimination and Subordination

Table 16. Gender, Race, and Class in Late Capitalism

**5:30pm to 6:10pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Section on Marxist  
Sociology:  
Business Meeting***

**Saturday, August 2****8:30 am**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Special Session. If Rome is  
Burning...Sociological Perspectives  
on Global Climate Change***

Session Organizers:

*Joane Nagel*, University of Kansas

*Jeffrey Broadbent*, University of Minnesota

President:

*Jeffrey Broadbent*, University of Minnesota

- ♦ Panel: *Jeffrey Broadbent*, University of Minnesota

*Penelope Canan*, University of Central Florida

*Riley Dunlap*, Oklahoma State University

*David Pellow*, University of California-San Diego

*Richard F. York*, University of Oregon

**Saturday, August 2, continued from previous page...**

**10:30am**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Career Workshop. Career Advice for Sociologists***

***Committed to Public Sociology***

Session Organizer and Leader:

*Leslie H. Hossfeld*, University North Carolina-Wilmington

Co-Leaders:

*Philip Nyden*, Loyola University-Chicago

*Susan H. Ambler*, Maryville College

*Roberta M. Spalter-Roth*, American Sociological Association

**12:30pm**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Thematic Session. Production and Consumption, Workers and Consumers: Rethinking Their Relationships***

Session Organizer and Presider:

*George Ritzer*, University of Maryland

♦ Panel: *Daniel B. Cornfield*, Vanderbilt University

*Kevin T. Leicht*, University of Iowa

*Juliet Schor*, Boston College

*Barry Smart*, University of Portsmouth

♦ Discussant: *Randy Hodson*, Ohio State University  
University of Michigan

**Also at 12:30 pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Author Meets Critic. L.A. Story: Immigrant Workers and the Future of the US Labor Movement (Russell Sage, 2006)***

Session Organizer and Presider:

*Howard A. Kimeldorf*, University of Michigan

♦ Critics: *Frances Fox Piven*, City University of New York

*Steven H. Lopez*, Ohio State University

*Beverly Silver*, Johns Hopkins University

♦ Author: *Ruth Milkman*, University of California-L.A.

**2:30pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Special Session. Open Forum: The Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Persons in Sociology***

Session Organizer:

*Betsy Lucal*, Indiana University-South Bend

**3:30pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***ASA Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address***

Presider: *Douglas McAdam*, Stanford University

Presidential Address: *Arne L. Kalleberg*, North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**Sunday, August 3**

**7:00am**

Building: Hilton Boston Back Bay

***Community College Faculty Breakfast***

**8:30am**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Professional Workshop. Public Sociology from the Bottom-up: Teaching for Social Justice and Social Change***

Session Organizer and Leader: *Walda Katz-Fishman*, Howard University

Co-Leader: *Rose Brewer*, University of Minnesota University

**10:30am**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Meeting: Section Officers with the Committee on Sections***

**Also at 10:30am**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Meeting: Task Force on Academic Freedom and Research Integrity***

**10:30am events continued on next page...**

**Sunday, August 3, continued from previous page...**

**Also at 10:30 am**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Thematic Session. Labour Process Theory:***

***Contemporary Debates and Issues***

Session Organizers: *Christopher Dudley Smith*, Royal Holloway

*Paul Thompson*, University of Strathclyde

Presider: *Peter Meiksins*, Cleveland State University

- ◆ The State of the Labour Process Debate after 25 Years. *Paul Edwards*, University of Warwick
- ◆ Core Theory and Contemporary Practice Re-evaluated. *Paul Thompson*, University of Strathclyde; *Christopher Dudley Smith*, Royal Holloway
- ◆ Service Work in the Global Economy. *Phil Taylor*, University of Strathclyde
- ◆ Extension of the Commodity Form: New Sources of Labour Power. *Sharon Bolton*, Strathclyde University

**11:30am**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Plenary Session. Globalization and Work:***

***Challenges and Responsibilities***

Session Organizer: *Arne L. Kalleberg*, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Presider: *Michael J. Piore*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- ◆ Panel: *Rosabeth Moss Kanter*, Harvard University  
*Erik Olin Wright*, University of Wisconsin

**2:30pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Teaching Workshop. Teaching Sociology from a Marxist Perspective***

Session Organizer and Leader: *Rhonda F. Levine*, Colgate University

- ◆ Panel: *Rhonda F. Levine*, Colgate University  
*Angela J. Hattery*, Wake Forest University  
*Earl Smith*, Wake Forest University  
*Warren S. Goldstein*, University of Central Florida  
*Craig Reinerman*, University of California-Santa Cruz  
*Rob Rosenthal*, Wesleyan University

**Also at 2:30pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Meeting: Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology***

**4:30pm**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Thematic Session. Comparative Gender Theory:***

***Power, Politics, and Work Transformation***

Session Organizer: *Heidi Gottfried*, Wayne State University

Presider: *Judy Wajeman*, Australia National University

- ◆ Comparing Gender Regimes: Globalisation, Complexity and Contested Modernities. *Sylvia Walby*, Lancaster University
- ◆ Gendered Capitalism, Corporate Non-Responsibility, and Neo-Liberal Restructuring. *Joan R. Acker*, University of Oregon
- ◆ Framing Gender Equality: Contextual Constraints and Strategic Choices? *Myra Marx Ferree*, University of Wisconsin
- ◆ Revisiting Agency in Feminist Theory: Global Lessons from Organizing Domestic Workers. *Raka Ray*, University of California-Berkeley

**5:45pm-7:00pm**

Building: Stanbro Room, on Mezzanine Level

***Marxist Sociology Section Joint Reception with Critical Sociology***

**6:30pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Plenary Session. Barriers and Bridges: A Dialogue on U.S.-Mexico Immigration***

Session Organizer: *Arne L. Kalleberg*, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Presider: *Julia Preston*, The New York Times

- ◆ Panel: *Douglas S. Massey*, Princeton University  
*Jorge Germán Mexico*

**Monday, August 4**

**8:30am**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Thematic Session. The Second Bill of Rights Revisited (co-sponsored with Sociologists without Borders)***

Session Organizer: *Judith Blau*, University of North Carolina  
 Presider: *Keri E. Iyall Smith*, Stonehill College

- ◆ Panel: *Brian Gran*, Case Western Reserve University  
*Thomas W. Pogge*, Columbia University  
*Sheila Rothman*, Columbia University  
*Judith Blau*, University of North Carolina

**10:30am**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Section on Political Economy of the World System Paper Session.***

***Ecological Unequal Exchange***

***(co-sponsored with Section on Environment and Technology and the Section on Marxist Sociology)***

Session Organizer:

*Andrew K. Jorgenson*, North Carolina State University

Presider:

*Jeffrey D. Kentor*, University of Utah

- ◆ Ecologically-Unequal Exchange, Ecological Debt, and Climate Justice: History and Implications of three Linked Ideas for a New Social Movement. *J. Timmons Roberts*, College of William & Mary; *Bradley C. Parks*, Millennium Challenge Corporation
- ◆ The Metabolic Rift and Unequal Exchange: Marx and the Age of Guano/Nitrate Imperialism. *Brett Clark* and *John Bellamy Foster*, University of Oregon-Eugene
- ◆ Toward the Thermodynamics of Ecological Degradation in the World-System. *Kirk S. Lawrence*, University of California-Riverside
- ◆ World Polity and Unequal Ecological Exchange: A Cross-National Analysis of Water Pollution. *John M. Shandra*, State University of New York-Stony Brook; *Bruce London*, Clark University
- ◆ Global Commodity Chains: Starting at the Source and Moving From There. *David A. Smith*, University of California-Irvine  
*Paul S. Ciccantell*, Western Michigan University

**Also at 10:30am**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Special Session. Setting Agendas for the Comparative and Historical Sociology of Latin America***

Session Organizer and Presider: *Jonathan Eastwood*, Washington and Lee University

- ◆ Panel: *Diane E. Davis*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
*Fernando Lopez-Alves*, University of California-Santa Barbara  
*Natividad Gutierrez Chong*, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico  
*Jeffery M Paige*, University of Michigan
- ◆ Discussant: *Susan Eckstein*, Boston University

**12:30pm**

Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

***Teaching Workshop. Teaching Sociology of the Middle East***

Session Organizer and Leader: *Ali Akbar Mahdi*, Ohio Wesleyan University

- Panel: *Ali Akbar Mahdi*, Ohio Wesleyan University  
*Charles Kurzman*, University of North Carolina  
*Mansoor Moaddel*, Eastern Michigan University

**Also at 12:30pm**

Building: Sheraton Boston

***Section on Political Economy of the World System Paper Session. Emerging Peripheries: Brazil, Russia, India and China***

Session Organizer and Presider: *Paul K. Gellert*, University of Tennessee

- ◆ Brazilian Iron, Russian Oil, and Chinese Factories: Emerging Peripheries Fundamentally Restructuring the Capitalist World-Economy? *Paul S. Ciccantell*, Western Michigan University
- ◆ The New Surgical Colonialism: China, Africa, and Oil. *Albert J. Bergesen*, University of Arizona
- ◆ Sweatshops in China and the "Race to the Bottom" in Global Labor Standards. *Robert J.S. Ross*, Clark University
- ◆ Can China Survive Success? The Political Sociology of a Developmental Miracle. *Ho-Fung Hung*, Indiana University-Bloomington

**2:30**

Building: Hilton Boston Back Bay

***Section on Race, Gender, and Class Paper Session. Race, Gender, Class & Capitalism***