

## Eastern Sociological Society 2004 ESS Candidate Bios and Statements

Candidates for office were asked to supply biographical information about themselves and a brief statement about their goals and priorities if elected to office.

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### For President

**Nancy A. Denton** is Associate Professor of Sociology and Associate Director of the Center for Sociology and Demographic Analysis at The University at Albany, State University of New York. She received her undergraduate education at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY and earned an MA from Fordham University before completing her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to coming to Albany in 1990, she did post doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago. Her research and teaching interests focus on issues of race, place, and inequality and she has published numerous articles on these topics in sociology journals as well as law reviews. Together with Douglas Massey she is the author of *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Underclass* (Harvard, 1993), which won the 1995 Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the ASA. She recently edited *American Diversity: A Demographic Challenge for the Twenty-first Century* (SUNY Press, 2003) with Stewart Tolnay. Some recent articles include: "Housing as a Means of Asset Accumulation: A Good Strategy for the Poor?" (In *Assets for the Poor: The Benefits of Spreading Asset Ownership*, Shapiro and Wolff, editors, 2001, Russell Sage) and "Half Empty or Half Full: Segregation and Segregated Neighborhoods 30 Years After the Fair Housing Act" (In *Cityscape* 4:107-122). One of her current projects is the examination of the geography of opportunity for the nation's children, focusing especially on immigrant children. Because of her research on race, segregation, and housing issues, she has frequently appeared as a keynote speaker for local Fair Housing organizations, as well as at numerous national public conferences. In the ASA she was elected to the Council for a three-year term, and to the Committee on Committees. A member of the Community and Urban, Racial Minorities, Population, and International Migration sections, she has chaired the Community and Urban Sociology section and helped to found its new journal *City and*

*Community*; she also chaired the Duncan award committee for the Population section. In ESS she served as the Program Chair for the 1998 meeting and the Chair of the Graduate Committee for the last two years.

"ESS was the first professional meeting I ever attended. I had finished my MA and was teaching at a small liberal arts college. I can still remember how in awe I was at seeing all the "big names" whose work I had been reading. Little did I know then that I would one day have the honor of running for President of the ESS. From that time, now about thirty years ago, I have always had a special fondness for the ESS. There is something about the group of scholars who attends the meetings that always serves to challenge me intellectually, at the same time as I renew old friendships and make new ones. In part, I think this is because the meetings of the society focus so heavily on two essential components of the sociological enterprise: fostering the careers of graduate students and assisting sociologists to stay intellectually vital and engaged. Should I be fortunate enough to be elected President, I would try to maintain the positive momentum of the society in several ways. First, I would seek to increase membership, largely because I want others to have the wonderful experience of being part of this organization. Reaching out to sociologists in our area who are not currently members could also lead to new ideas as to what the society might do. Second, I would continue the practice of recent presidents of attracting prominent sociologists to attend the annual meeting, both from the U.S. and abroad, as a way of spurring discussion on the latest research and ideas. Together with *Sociological Forum*, the annual meeting is really the heart and soul of the ESS. Third, I want to work with the officers and members to find new ways to continue the wonderful job ESS does of enhancing the dialogue between new and established scholars. All three of these things are essential because ESS covers a region where immigrants from around the world are rapidly changing the

demographic and social landscape in places large and small. We must work not only to include these new groups, but understand how race/ethnicity-gender-and class operate in our changing region, and how we can best study and teach about it.'

**George Ritzer** is currently Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland (in March, 2004 he will receive an Honorary Doctorate in Sociology from LaTrobe University in Australia). He has his doctorate from Cornell University (1968) and is especially proud of his diploma from the Bronx High School of Science and his Bachelor's degree from CCNY. Ritzer has been a Professor at Maryland since 1974. Previously, he was Associate Professor at the University of Kansas (1970-1974) and Assistant Professor at Tulane University (1968-1970). He has held a Fulbright at Erasmus University in the Netherlands, a Fulbright Chair at York University, Canada, the UNESCO Chair in Social Theory at the Russian Academy of Sciences, and was Fellow-in-Residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study and the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences. He has been a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Shanghai (China), Surrey (England), Tampere (Finland), Bremen (Germany) and Nuoro (Sardinia, Italy). In addition, he has given innumerable invited speeches throughout the United States and the world, including the 2003 keynote address to the meetings of the British Sociological Association. The American Sociological Association honored him with its Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award in 2000 (relatedly he has won all of the major teaching awards at the University of Maryland) and he has served the Association in various capacities, including Chair of its sections on Theoretical Sociology and Organization and Occupations.

His books (he has also authored over 80 articles, many in refereed journals) fall into four broad areas. He is perhaps best known for a series of books over the last decade that involve the application of social theory to the contemporary world, especially the realm of consumption. Those works include *The McDonaldization of Society* (soon to be published in its 4<sup>th</sup>, "revised new century" edition, translated into more than a dozen languages, and featured in virtually all current introductory sociology textbooks and excerpted in most anthologies for that course and

many others); *Enchanting a Disenchanted World: Revolutionizing the Means of Consumption* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition forthcoming in 2005); *Expressing America: A Critique of the Global Credit Card Society* (1995), as well as the most recent addition to that list, *The Globalization of Nothing* (2004). Also in this realm, Ritzer is co-founding editor of the *Journal of Consumer Culture*.

The work in the sociology of consumption is derived from a prime interest in theory and metatheory. In terms of the latter, he published a series of monographs including *Sociology: A Multiple Paradigm Science* (1975; 1980), *Toward an Integrated Sociological Paradigm: The Search for an Exemplar and an Image of the Subject Matter* (1981), and *Metatheorizing in Sociology* (1991). His most recent effort in this area is the co-authored "The Nature of Metatheory" in Jonathan Turner (ed.), *Handbook of Sociological Theory* (2001). Also in that year, Sage published two volumes of his collected works, one in theory (and metatheory), the other in applications of theory to the sociology of consumption.

The third domain of his work is a series of textbooks and anthologies for a number of different courses, especially introductory sociology and sociological theory. His co-authored introductory sociology text went through seven editions, and his various texts in sociological and social theory have been standards for decades and, in two cases, are in their sixth editions. He also authored texts in social problems and the sociology of work (three editions).

Finally, there are a number of edited volumes for the profession including *Frontiers of Social Theory* (1990), the *Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists* (2000), the co-authored *Handbook of Social Theory* (2001), the *Handbook of Social Problems* (2004), and the forthcoming, two-volume *Encyclopedia of Social Theory*. He has recently completed negotiations with Blackwell to edit a six-volume *Encyclopedia of Sociology*.

The ESS (indeed all professional societies) faces a new and very severe round of crises with the budgetary problems in most states and the resulting economic problems at state-supported, and many private, universities. We must address the challenge of finding new ways for undergraduates, graduate students and faculty members to be able to afford to attend our meetings. The obvious alternatives are to find

new funding sources and/or to explore new, less expensive sites (e.g., university campuses) for at least some, or some part, of our meetings. While virtually all members would benefit from such innovations, it would be especially beneficial for those least able to afford to attend, in particular graduate students and junior faculty members. At the same time, there is the continuing challenge of getting greater participation from a broader range of colleges and universities in the East. I would appoint an ad hoc committee to investigate new ways of encouraging attendance. What is needed, I believe, is for sociologists in the region to come to see attendance at the ESS annual meeting as normative. We must invite and encourage their regular participation including organizing sessions, presenting their work, serving as discussants, and so on.

Relatedly, I am told that the major book publishers are now more likely to eschew participating in the book exhibits at the ESS meetings than at the other major regional meetings. For many, the exhibit area is not only an important place to catch up on new books and to explore whether there is any interest in publishing their work in book form, but also a comfortable spot to meet and to socialize with colleagues. I would work with my extensive network of contacts in the publishing business to increase their participation in future meetings. Of course, success in this endeavor depends, at least in part, on increasing the participation of sociologists in the meetings.

Thematically, I am interested in pursuing the issue of the role of sociology in the larger public discourse. As Herbert Gans showed a few years ago, sociologists, judging by the sales of their books, have not (albeit with a few exceptions) played a significant role as public intellectuals. Should I be elected, I would make the issue of sociologists as public intellectuals the theme of the 2006 meeting. While this would be discussed in general terms and in various ways, I would like to focus specifically on the issue of consumption, especially because it is an issue of great interest to the larger public and it is one that American sociologists have tended to ignore.

#### **For Vice President:**

**Steven Barkan** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Maine. He received his Ph.D. from SUNY at Stony Brook and his B.A. from Trinity College in Hartford. His research interests include criminology, law and society, political sociology, and social movements, and he has published widely in these areas in journals such as *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Crime and Justice*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Race & Society*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Forum*, and *Sociological Inquiry*. He also wrote *Protesters on Trial: Criminal Justice in the Southern Civil Rights and Vietnam Antiwar Movements* (Rutgers University Press, 1985) and has authored or co-authored books for courses in criminology, criminal justice, collective violence, and introduction to sociology. His early work focused on legal aspects of the civil rights and antiwar movements, while later work examines the correlates of commitment and participation in social movement organizations. More recently, he has investigated in several publications the role that racial prejudice among whites plays in their support for the punitive treatment of criminal suspects and defendants. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, chaired SSSP's Law and Society Division and Editorial and Publications Committee, and served on the editorial board of *Social Problems*.

“I am honored to be nominated to be Vice President of ESS. My first two paper presentations as a graduate student in the mid-1970s were at ESS meetings, and I have long been grateful for the venue that ESS provided to present my work to the sociological community. As I think about the goals I would pursue as Vice President, I find myself drawing on my own professional background and research for inspiration. As Vice President I would thus encourage greater opportunities at the ESS annual meeting for the professional socialization of graduate and undergraduate students. I would also encourage various kinds of sessions that explore the continuing relevance of race and ethnicity for so many aspects of American life and politics. Next, I would encourage sessions to explore and advance the relevance of sociology for social policy. Our discipline has a lot to say about the many social problems facing our society, but too often what we do say goes unnoticed. Finally, I would explore ways of increasing attendance at the annual meeting and

other involvement in ESS from sociologists like myself in undergraduate departments and living at some distance from the cities in which the ESS usually meets.

**Karen A. Cerulo** is a Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. She completed her undergraduate work at Rutgers and went on to Princeton University where she earned both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology. Her areas of specialization include culture and cognition, symbolic communication, media and technology, comparative historical studies, and research methods. Her more than 40 articles and essays in these areas appear a wide variety of journals, including the *American Sociological Review*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Poetics*, *Social Forces*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Communication Research*, and annuals such as the *Annual Review of Sociology* and *Research in Political Sociology*. She is the author of four books: *Identity Designs: The Sights and Sounds of a Nation*, a work that won the ASA Culture Section's Award for the Best Book of 1996 (The Rose Book Series of the ASA, Rutgers University Press, 1995), *Deciphering Violence: The Cognitive Order of Right and Wrong* (New York: Routledge, 1998), and *Second Thoughts: Seeing Conventional Wisdom Through the Sociological Eye* (with Janet M. Ruane, Thousand Oaks: Sage/Pine Forge, 1<sup>st</sup> edit, 1997; 2<sup>nd</sup> edit, 2000; 3<sup>rd</sup> edit., 2004) Her latest book, *What's the Worst That Could Happen?: Conceptualizing Calamity, Catastrophe, and Ruin* will be published by the University of Chicago Press. She also has edited a collection of essays and articles entitled *Culture in Mind: Toward a Sociology of Culture and Cognition* (New York: Routledge, 2002), and has organized a number of regional and national conferences at Rutgers designed to forward intellectual inquiry in this area. She served as an officer in the American Sociological Association's Culture Section from 1993 to 2003, first as secretary-treasurer, then as newsletter editor, and finally as a member of the section council. She also directs two of the section's research networks: the Identity and Culture network, and the Culture and Cognition network. She currently serves on the editorial board for *Poetics* and is a former member of the editorial boards for *Sociological Inquiry* and *Sociological Theory*. She is an active graduate and undergraduate teacher and mentor at Rutgers University and has won the Rutgers University Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education.

"In 1983, as a third year graduate student, I walked through the doors of the then Statler Hilton, and took a major step in my sociological career. With butterflies in my stomach, I waited to present my first professional paper. The forum was the Eastern Sociological Society's Annual Meetings. And during the 20 years since that first presentation, the ESS has provided me with some of my most engaging and exciting intellectual experiences. I'm sure many of you have similar memories as so many sociologists were socialized to the profession via the ESS. If elected, I will work to build on the strong traditions of this organization, and expand its visibility among sociologists nationally. My specific goals include 1) continuing efforts designed to expand ESS membership, 2) exploring new ways to develop network and community building opportunities for sociologists with similar interests, 3) developing new opportunities for the socialization and mentoring of graduate students and junior faculty members, 4) increasing diversity in the annual program, thus assuring an inclusive forum for sociologists working in a wide variety of specialties, and 5) continuing efforts designed to attract distinguished scholars to the annual meetings."

#### **For Secretary:**

**Michele Dillon** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire, and previously was on the faculty at Yale University where she received the Graduate School's Distinguished Mentoring Award. A native of Ireland, she graduated with a B.A. and M.A. in Social Science from University College, Dublin before embarking for the University of California, Berkeley where she received her Ph. D. Dillon's recent research has focused on questions of meaning, authority and pluralism in the Catholic Church (e.g., *Catholic Identity: Balancing Reason, Faith, and Power*). Her earlier publications examined how religion and national culture shape public moral debates --on divorce in Ireland (Debating Divorce: Moral Conflict in Ireland, University Press of Kentucky, 1993), and abortion in the United States and cross-nationally. She recently edited a *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion* (Cambridge University Press, 2003). Currently, she is using extensive life course data spanning adolescence and late adulthood from a sixty-year longitudinal study of Americans to investigate

the meaning and social implications of religion over time.

Statement of intent: I believe our professional associations serve a very important role in keeping us personally connected to one another as sociologists as well as strengthening our discipline through the various opportunities the associations provide for intellectual engagement. I am honored to be able to contribute to the smooth running of our various associations. Last year, I served as chair of the ASA sociology of religion section; I have just completed my term as book review editor for the journal of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR); I was conference program chair for SSSR a few years ago, and have also served on the executive committee of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. If elected as Secretary of the ESS, I am confident I will execute my duties in a responsible manner. I see my obligation to assist other ESS officers in preparing the meetings' agendas and my role as official minute-taker at our business meetings as important to ensuring the accuracy and transparency of the ESS's current deliberations, as well as a long-term contribution to its institutional memory.

**Richard Lachmann:** I have taught at the University at Albany since 1990. My research has been concentrated in the areas of comparative historical sociology and the sociology of culture. My book, *Capitalists In Spite of Themselves: Elite Conflict and Economic Transitions in Early Modern Europe* (Oxford 2000) is the winner of the 2003 American Sociological Association's Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award. I currently am researching state fiscal crises and the private appropriation of public resources and am writing a comparative study of the decline of dominant economic powers in early modern Europe and the contemporary United States. The first results of that project were published as "Elite Self-Interest and Economic Decline in Early Modern Europe" in the June 2003 *American Sociological Review*.

I have been active in the comparative historical sociology section of the ASA and have organized various panels at ASA annual meetings. I have served as deputy editor for *Sociological Forum* (1995-2001) and consulting editor for the *American Journal of Sociology* (1991-93).

I want to help foster the intellectual vibrancy of the ESS. I hope that the ESS can continue to make its annual meeting an occasion for the presentation of interesting new work and that the meetings will be seen by more of our colleagues in this region as a place to come together for intellectual nourishment and excitement. I am especially eager to help broaden the reach of *Sociological Forum*, making social scientists nationally and internationally aware of the outstanding articles and reviews available in our journal.

#### **For Executive Committee:**

**Eva Marie Garrouette** is an assistant professor at Boston College, having received her MA and Ph.D. in sociology from Princeton University in 1992. Dr. Garrouette's main areas of interests include race/ethnicity (with a focus on Native American Studies), health and aging, religion, and science. As an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation, she is especially concerned with making her work in these areas responsible not only to the values and interests of the academy, but also to those of American Indian communities. Her book, *Real Indians: Identity and the Survival of Native America* (2003, University of California Press) explores ways that modern American Indian racial-ethnic identity is negotiated, challenged, modified, and revoked. It then develops the emerging intellectual perspective of "Radical Indigenism." Current research focuses on American Indian health. Her main, ongoing project, funded by the National Institute on Aging, examines ethnic disparities in patient outcomes and their relationship to patterns of interaction between doctors and elder patients. It is the first attempt to apply objective measure to explore barriers to doctor-patient communication among American Indians. Other work addresses the linkage of health and spirituality in tribal contexts, the professionalization of scientists in the nineteenth century, and contemporary, multicultural science education.

Dr. Garrouette has experience with administrative and advisory duties related to disciplinary organizations. She has served one year as Acting co-chair for the Native Traditions in the Americas section of the American Academy of Religion and is in her fifth year of service as a member of the Steering Committee for the same section. Years of university service related to minority issues and a term as area Commissioner

of Indian Affairs in Tulsa, Oklahoma have provided her with experience in representing the interests and concerns of American Indian people within different types of organizations.

As an American Indian woman, I have benefitted from awards and intensive mentoring from organizations such as the Ford Foundation, the Association for Women in Science, the School of American Research, and the Resource Center on Minority Aging Research (University of Colorado Health Science Center). Because these experiences were instrumental in helping me complete my PhD and grow within the field, I make it a personal project to help others gain access to the same advantages. I am also strongly motivated to make the academy a welcoming and barrier free environment for minority students. I hope that service to the Executive Committee of the ESS, with its pronounced concern for fostering the work of students and junior faculty, will allow me to expand my efforts to assist emerging scholars toward professional advancement.

**Roger Finke** is Professor of Sociology at Penn State University, where he is also affiliated with the Social Science Research Institute. His areas of interest include sociology of religion, historical sociology, complex organizations, and social theory. Roger's most recent co-authored book, *Acts of Faith: Explaining the Human Side of Religion*, received the 2001 American Sociological Association's Sociology of Religion Section Book Award and his earlier co-authored book, *The Churching of America, 1776-1990*, received the 1993 Distinguished Book Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. He has published in numerous social science journals, including the *American Sociological Review*, *American Economic Review*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociological Analysis*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Journal of Church and State*, the *Annals*, and others. He is also the founder and Director of the Internet-based American Religion Data Archive ([www.TheARDA.com](http://www.TheARDA.com)). Roger served on the executive council of the ASA Section on Sociology of Religion from 1995-97 and is currently the chair elect of this section. In addition, he has served on the executive boards of the Association for the Sociology of Religion and the Religious Research Association, and as the program chair for the Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting. He

received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1984 and has been the recipient of four teaching awards.

“As an ESS Executive Committee member I would strive to improve organizational health and stimulate more vibrant annual meetings by increasing the size and diversity of the society. I would strongly support ESS efforts to recruit and socialize graduate students and young scholars. This would include attracting distinguished scholars to the annual meetings, increasing organizational visibility to young scholars, and providing a friendly environment for presenting research and discussing new ideas. Building on an existing ESS strength, I would also seek to increase discourse between teaching, research, and the application of social scientific knowledge. Improving this dialogue should serve to strengthen networks within and outside the academy. ”

**Francesca Polletta** is Associate Professor of Sociology at Columbia University (BA Brown, 1984; Ph.D. Yale, 1994), where she studies social movements and institutional experiments in democracy. She is the author of *Freedom Is an Endless Meeting: Democracy in American Social Movements* (University of Chicago, 2002), which won the 2003 Distinguished Scholarly Book Award of the Collective Behavior/Social Movements section of the ASA, and is the editor, with Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper, of *Passionate Politics: Emotions and Social Movements* (University of Chicago, 2001). She was the Evelyn Green Davis Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study in 1999-2000 and an Open Society Fellow (Soros Foundation) in 2000. She is currently working on two projects: an NSF-supported study of public participation in the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site after September 11<sup>th</sup> and a study of the role of storytelling in protest and politics. In the last few years, she has published widely on collective identity in social movements; on law and legal mobilization; on collective memory; on narrative in contention; on emotions; and on the civil rights, women's liberation, new left, and contemporary anti-corporate globalization movements. She is currently Chair-Elect of the Collective Behavior/Social Movements section of the ASA and is on the editorial board of *Social Movement Studies* and the Rose Monograph Series.

“One of the strengths of ESS, its annual meetings, and *Sociological Forum* has been a willingness to tackle big, controversial issues that have real import for public policy as well as academic scholarship. I would like to build on that tradition by strengthening ongoing networks and discussion forums that involve scholars before and after the meetings, encouraging panels that bring people together across sociological subfields, and working to bridge the academic/practitioner divide with panels, presentations, and workshops on issues of pressing public concern.”

**Sarah Rosenfield** is an Associate Professor of Sociology and a core member of the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers University. She received her Ph.D in sociology from the University of Texas, and received training in epidemiology at Columbia University and at Yale University in a postdoctoral fellowship. Her work focuses on the effects of culture and inequality on individual well-being. More specifically, she is interested in the ways in which macro social forces, including differentiation among various groups, affect mental health and the quality of mental life. She has, for example, investigated how the social positions of men and women differentially affect dimensions of the self and how gendered concepts of the self in turn lead to gender differences in well-being. More recently, she has traced differences in self-conception to their origins in adolescence, examining how race and ethnicity as well as gender hierarchies shape the development of the self and mental health. Finally, in separate investigations, she has examined the effects of dimensions of the self on the quality of life among stigmatized populations, in particular those with serious and persistent mental disorders. The significance of her contributions is reflected in the high quality journals in which her work appears. She has published papers in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Problems*, and *Social Psychology Quarterly*. She has also published several articles in the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. In addition, she was selected to contribute to the most recent handbooks on the sociology of mental health. One of her published articles won the Award for Best Publication from the Mental Health Section of the American Sociological Association in 1999. She has been elected chair of the Mental Health Section of the Society for the Study of Social Problems as well as chair of

the Mental Health Section of the American Sociological Association. She has also served as publications chair, membership chair, and nominations chair of the Mental Health Section of the ASA. She has been nominations chair and membership chair of the Medical Sociology Section of the ASA as well. She has organized, presented, and served as discussant in many sessions at the ASA and the ESS. “I think that the ESS is crucial for getting to know the people in the field in a smaller, more informal setting compared to the ASA. This setting is also vital for trying out new ideas and for nurturing young scholars and integrating them into the field. It would be a privilege to nourish such worthwhile aims.”