It is a great honor to write to you as the 2009-2010 President of the ESS. I take on this role with equal measures of delight, trepidation and anticipation. I hope that I can honor the Presidents who have preceded me.

I look forward to attending the ESS yearly because it always feels like a “good” family reunion – a time to catch up with colleagues about their personal and professional lives and to meet new scholars. Attending the ESS meetings renews my commitment to the profession (some years more successfully than others) and gives me time to hear the voices of the sociologists whose research I read and taught during the prior year. The ESS meetings are always welcoming and our membership is extremely approachable, even for someone shy like myself.

At this year’s meeting I was impressed by the synergy we have created between generations. There was a tangible openness to learning that transcended professional hierarchy. We are not a profession in which rank immediately trumps ideas or knowledge. Finally, the ESS region (whose membership is not limited to the “East”) proved once again that it has the ability to produce a lively, engaging and spirited conference that demonstrates the myriad ways in which sociology is critical to the present and future.

Of course, the zest and sparkle of this year’s meeting owes a great deal to Kathleen Gerson’s outstanding leadership. Her energy and enthusiasm were contagious and her committee, Pamela Stone, Lynn Chancer, Vince Parillo and Sarah Damaske gave us a truly first-rate conference at the Baltimore Inner Harbor. They provided an intellectually exciting program and three evening events that were extraordinary including the 79th awards ceremony and presidential address, the Robin Williams Lecture delivered by William Kornblum, and an evening honoring William Julius Wilson. Huge thanks are due to Emily Mahon. Her dedication to the ESS has truly transformed the many ways in which our Society’s business is conducted. She knows every trick of our trade … and then a few!

Looking forward, I am delighted to have a talented group of sociologists who has graciously agreed to organizing the 2010 program committee. Christopher Winship (co-chair), Jonathan Imber (co-chair), Anita Garey, Nazli Kibria and William Julius Wilson have promised intellectually vibrant sessions that will provide deep and provocative insights. Pamela Stone, this year’s VP and Christine Bose, the incoming President, are organizing the author meets critics sessions which have become a popular part of the ESS meetings. Jennifer Giroud and Clare Hammonds are the Program Coordinators. We will be posting on the website mini-conferences, evening programs and social events that are in various stages of discussion for our 80th meeting. Please note that paper submissions are due October 15, 2009.

Our theme for 2010, “Economic Crisis and New Social Realities” poses questions meant to bring our best sociological thinking to bear on our futures and those of our children. The 2010 Meeting will focus on the economic crisis and its’ implications for the U.S. and other societies around the world. How will the global economic crisis change the American Dream as well as the aspirations of those in other countries? What new patterns of consumption, work, and family seem most likely to emerge? What will be the role of government in economic markets? What will be the nature of government responsibility to its citizens in areas such as health care, social security, employment, housing, and family benefits? How will citizens define responsibilities to their government and to each other? What kinds of economic and social inequalities will emerge and will they feel legitimate or even acceptable? How will
Editor’s Corner

I can not tell you how thrilled I am that Baltimore was such a success. I saw many of you and you truly seemed to be enjoying your time there. I hope that means many future successful meeting in the “Inner Harbor”.

I also want to share with you some of my thoughts generated by that meeting. I find that attending the annual meeting gets my creative intellectual processes going and always leaves me with more future projects than I can possibly manage. Currently on my mind is the question “what does it mean to be an educated person in this new century”. I remember reading about a 17th century scholar who simply read all the books in the field of engineering and became an engineer. Today it would simply be impossible to “read all the books in a field or even a subfield. It is also impossible to believe that simply reading about a subject prepares one sufficiently to practice in any field. This begs the question: What does it mean to be an educated person in the 21st century. What does it mean to be an educated person in the era of YouTube, BlackBoard, Wikipedia, and GoogleScholar? What must we do as scholars to become experts in our field and as educators and to prepare young scholars to enter into the field? This is an issue I would like to explore in the pages of this newsletter. Please submit your responses to me at dlemke@mcdaniel.edu. Submissions should be no longer than 800 words. Include the subject line: Reflection. The best of the submissions will be included in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

From the Exec Office

Emily Mahon

Oh what a time it was! The 79th Annual Meeting took place March 19-22 at Baltimore’s Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel – There will be highlights elsewhere, but to give you a behind-the-scenes view: Over 1150 people registered – a record in “my lifetime” – and they came from as far as Italy if one takes to the water and as far as California if one remains on land.

The SUNY system captured the attendance honors with 101 students and professors present. CUNY came in next with 91 – 33 of whom were from the Graduate Center alone. Rutgers and the University of Delaware also sent over 30 people each.

As for undergraduates, they came in droves – over 180 attended, with 120 posters on display. Kutztown and Skidmore topped the list of colleges so represented with 12 undergrads each. Although the noise was deafening, it was the joyous sound of sociological enthusiasm and good nature – and who will forget the obliging undergrad exhibitors (helped by parents, teachers and significant others) moving their posters from one side of the exhibit hall to the other to give the session in the adjoining room a fighting chance!

In addition to the Poster Sessions and the Book Exhibit, there were a few other non traditional events worth mentioning. Thursday night,
...undergraduate sessions, graduate sessions, sessions on the Status of Minorities...

in honor of Baltimorean John Waters, was Movie night featuring Cry Baby. Friday night sociological owls were treated to their very own jazz jam session organized by Tim Wolfe of Mount St. Mary’s University. And on Saturday, Neil Hertz of Johns Hopkins gave a special tour of Baltimore to twenty-some ESSers, returning just prior to the Awards session and Presidential Address.

Saturday was also the time for colleagues to discuss their latest works during the New Book Reception held in and around the Book Exhibit -- about 20 participated, displaying new publications ranging from encyclopedias to texts.

And finally, the administrative view would not be complete without a profound thank you to our grad student volunteers and to Christel Hyden who tirelessly manages them and the registration desk. Christel has been at this since before Leah (pictured here in intense training) was even thought of. Thanks also must go to Brad Smith of MeetingSavvy who maintains our abstract system and website and also to Karl Alexander and his wife Kathy who did amazing work in preparing and printing the Restaurant Guide we all used so well. And the list goes on -- headed by President Kathleen Gerson and her unflappable graduate assistant Sarah Damaske, the program committee headed by Pamela Stone and Lynn Chancer, all of the ESS Committees who contributed to Undergraduate sessions, Graduate sessions, session on the Status of Minorities and the Status of Women, and our award committees who read books, papers, testimonials and applications deep into February. What a time it was..... and what they all did! Many thanks!

Presidential Letter (continued from pg 1)

societies define the balance of individual rights versus communal concerns? How will the reduction of government programs affect education and the criminal justice system? To what degree will societies look inward and as opposed to looking outward toward more global issues such as the environment, immigration, terrorism, and international conflict? What new social policies will be needed to adequately deal with this changed reality?

I am delighted by the level of volunteerism demonstrated by our organization’s members already. We are keen to hear your thoughts on how you would like to be involved in the 2010 meetings as well as ideas for things we can do better as an association. We are also looking for creative ideas to discuss as we approach this decade’s end and the beginning of a new one. We welcome suggestions related to a series of potential conversations that challenge us to think about the transformation of the 21st century in our everyday lives from the classroom to home and in private and public spaces.

We are already gearing up for 2010 which will take place at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, MA (the other side of the Charles River from our usual Boston locale). You can breakfast while watching early season crew practice, take a walk along the river or enjoy the views from your hotel room. We are taking over the entire hotel! We look forward to hosting you in Boston and to the 80th ESS conference.
ESS Awards for 2008

ESS Merit Award:
The winner of the ESS Merit Award is Cheryl Townsend Gilkes of Colby College. Professor Townsend Gilkes is the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies at Colby. She was the 1998-1999 Robin Williams Lecturer for the ESS.

Mirra Komarovsky Book Award:

Candace Rogers Student Paper Award:
Asia Friedman of Rutgers University was this year’s winner.

Rose Laub Coser Dissertation Proposal Award:
The recipients were Ashley Mears of New York University and Lauren Rivera of Harvard University.

Call for Papers: Technology and New Social Expectations

ESSays in coordination with President Hertz is calling for the submission of papers for a series of sessions at the annual meeting in Cambridge on “Technology and New Social Expectations.” We are interested in how technology is transforming our lives from how we communicate, play, work and raise our families. There are new expectations for teaching, communicating with our colleagues, contact with our children and meeting strangers -- on and off line.

The papers could include the following topics: Please send paper proposals to Debra Lemke dlemke@mcdaniel.edu Subject line: Technology

(1) In the Classroom and with students
(2) On the internet -- from dating to Avatars to blogging
(3) In the family: New ways of monitoring children, communicating with family members (texting, Facebook groups etc).

Deadline: September 1, 2009.
Bio: Rosanna Hertz

Rosanna Hertz is the Luella LaMer Professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies at Wellesley College where she has taught for the past 26 years. She received her BA at Brandeis University and her PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University. She completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Presently, she is also an affiliated Professor at Haifa University and Bar-Ilan University.

Rosanna has always been fascinated with how understanding how people stitch together the fragments of their lives – work, family, education, community involvement, and politics – to make something whole … even under the constraints of time scarcity, unequal pay and power, and dominant (sometimes crushing) societal expectations. For example, in her groundbreaking 1986 book, More Equal Than Others: Women and Men in Dual-Career Marriages, she provided an early framework for examining the dual-earner marriage. Using in-depth interviews with a select group of middle level corporate employees she found that when faced with the choice between demanding relief from inflexible work schedules from their employers and purchasing services to substitute for "home-made" originals, dual-earner couples almost invariably met the demands of employment.

Rosanna continued her exploration of the dynamic interaction between family and economy in studies of how military shiftworkers cope with temporal dislocation and how economic circumstances affect marital decisions about childcare and family finances. She published these studies in major sociology journals.

Her 2006 book, Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice: How Women Are Choosing Parenthood Without Marriage and Creating the New American Family explored a new dimension of the relationship between family and economy: the phenomenon of women electing to bypass the stried passage from love to marriage to motherhood and instead to become mothers through donor-assistance, adoption and chance pregnancy. This book was the culmination of a ten-year during which she conducted two rounds of interviews with middle-class single mothers in order to render visible the interplay between women’s strategies to become mothers and the still dominant two-parent cultural model.

Rosanna has had a long-standing interest in qualitative methodology as a field of inquiry that crisscrosses the borders of various disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. She was the editor of Qualitative Sociology from 1991-1999 (with Jonathan Imber, 1991-1994) and the co-editor (with Naomi Gerstel) of the Backstage Column for Contexts (2004-2007). Her interest in epistemology also led to a series of edited collections. Her embrace of multiple research methods has also provided the foundation for her effort to build Wellesley College’s interdisciplinary department in Women’s Studies while she retains deep roots in the ethnographic traditions of Sociology.

The advantage of having worked in a small college for many years is that she has served on committees that address many of the most important issues an educational institution can face: budgets, admissions, curriculum and long-range planning. This service – in addition to an active career of teaching and research – has taught her how to balance the desires of vital constituencies for better representation and recognition, a more equitable sharing of resources, and elimination of discrimination. She brings to the ESS a deep understanding of our workplace and the conflicts between teaching and research that most of us face. She hopes that sociologists will be crucial contributors to the national conversation about the evolving role of higher education.

ESSay Submissions

ESSays is an open submission publication. Send submissions to the Editor at: dlemke@mcdaniel.edu

Submission Deadlines for upcoming issues:

Winter Issue  December 1, 2008
Spring Issue   April 1, 2008
Fall Issue     August 1, 2008
Call for papers: Journal of Modern Italian Studies

“Second-Generation Immigrants in Italy: Segregation or Social Advancement?”

The Journal of Modern Italian Studies (JMIS) is a leading English language forum for debate and discussion on modern Italy. Many issues are thematically organized, and the JMIS is especially committed to promoting the study of modern and contemporary Italy in international and comparative contexts.

A special issue devoted to second-generation immigrants in Italy is scheduled for publication in early 2011. Jeffrey Cole (Connecticut College) and Pietro Saitta (University of Messina) are serving as co-editors of the issue.

The theme of immigrant youth is important at this time for a number of reasons. With immigrants comprising almost 7% of the Italian population (and a much higher percentage of young people) and with mass immigration now 20 years old, the numbers of immigrant youth in Italy warrant serious attention. Immigrant youth can act as influential agents of culture change, their identities speak to emerging forms of identity, and their encounters with the institutions and culture of their new homes have profound implications for the shape of the future. Will Italian youth of foreign origins feel disenfranchised and alienated from Italian society, in the manner of North African youth in France? Or will they resemble the “immigrant paradox” of the US, where despite being clustered in poor schools newcomer youth outperform their peers and enjoy on average good opportunities for upward mobility?

Potential contributions to the issue could address the following topics:
- Parent-child relations
- Youth culture, especially music, art, and literature
- Identity, including ethnic/racial/religious/hybrid identity
- Mixed couples and marriages
- Gender
- Geographical and occupational mobility
- Political recognition and activity and legal/cultural citizenship
- Employment and future prospects
- Deviance, incarceration, and crime

Scholars interested in participating in the issue should send a short CV together with a title and 200-300 word abstract to Jeffrey Cole (jeffrey.cole@conncoll.edu) and Pietro Saitta (pisait@gmail.com) by July 1, 2009. Completed manuscripts should be submitted no later than November 15, 2009.

Editorial criteria (references, tables, spaces, etc.) are available on: http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/rmisauth.asp.
Call for Paper: Spiritually, Morality and Social Justice

**Topic: Spirituality, Morality and Social Justice: East and West**

This is an international and interdisciplinary conference to be held in Kolkata, India on Dec. 28-30, 2009.

Some suggested subtopics are:

**Advisory Board:**
- Kisor Chakrabarti (USA)
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- Helen Benigni (USA)
- Mark D. Wood (USA)
- Panos Eliopoulos (Greece)
- Maria Marczewska (Poland)

Please send 150 words abstract by email to Chandanachak@gmail.com

Selected papers from Conference will be published subject to editorial review

Deadline for Abstract: **August 10, 2009**

**Contact:**
Chandana Chakrabarti, Ph.D.
Dean of International Programs
Director of the Center for Spirituality, Ethics and Global Awareness
Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia
26241, USA
Phone: 304-637-1293
E-mail: Chandanachak@gmail.com

1968: A Dramatic Movement in U.S. History and Political Culture

The timely public humanities project was designed and researched by Doris Wilkinson (ESS President - 1993-1994) who received a mini-grant from the Kentucky Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. This social history exhibit and a symposium at the University of Kentucky last February was housed in the W.T. Young library titled “1968: A Dramatic Moment in U.S. History and Political Culture.”

Wilkinson states that nineteen-sixty eight represented a dynamic finale to the generation of the 1960s when change was a constant feature of the society. In 1968 alone, movements swept across U.S. college campuses with Civil Rights and Anti-War activities framing their core. Among the many social movements that found their “home” in university environments, several themes dominated: peace, civil rights, justice, anti-war and women’s liberation. The 1968 “moment” was as has been noted - “the best of times and the worst of times.” Wilkinson feels that unparalleled year imprinted a permanent mark on the political history and social culture of the United States. "In some ways," she notes, "it may have set the stage for the major transitions in the current political order." Nineteen-sixty-eight ("1968") takes the visitor on a journey to one aspect of the recent past in American political history. Through newspapers, historical documents, and narratives from the voices of "representatives of the 1960s era beginning with the lunch counter sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina," Wilkinson prepared a creative and informative exhibit. A recipient of the "Great Teacher Award", Wilkinson feels that her project represents an extension of the teaching role beyond the boundaries of the classroom.
New Global Gender Research Text

Global Gender Research: Transnational Perspectives
Edited by Christine E. Bose and Minjeong Kim
Routledge Publishers, February 2009

WEBSITE--http://www.routledge.com/books/Global-Gender-Research-isbn9780415952705

Global Gender Research provides an in-depth comparative picture of the current state of feminist sociological gender and women’s studies research in four regions of the world--Africa, Asia, Latin America/Caribbean, and Europe--as represented by many countries. It contrasts the threads of similarity and strands of difference in feminist concerns globally, covers the breadth of gender research, and facilitates understanding of national contexts. The introductory essay to each region explains how social science research on women and/or gender issues has been shaped by economics, politics, and culture, and by trends that are simultaneously local, regional and global. It familiarizes readers with the wide range of salient issues, research methods, writing styles, and leading authors from around the globe. Each regional section also includes chapters on gender research in specific countries that represent the region’s diversity and cover the major theoretical and empirical trends that have emerged over time, as well as the relationship of key research questions to feminist activism and women’s or gender studies. Next each section illustrates this scholarship with translated samples of research articles from additional countries in the region, covering a wide range of global topics—such as work, sexuality, masculinities, childcare and family issues, religion, violence, law and gender policies. Finally, an appendix provides a listing of web sites for women’s and gender research centers in 85 countries.

OUTLINE

I. Africa
Covers gender research in English-speaking Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as on Trading in Ghana, Violence in Mozambique, and Islamic Family law in Senegal

II. Asia and the Middle East
Covers gender research in the nations of China, India, and Iran, as well as on the Masculinity of Korean Soldiers, HIV/AIDS in Vietnam, and Japan’s Movement to Retain Women’s Family Names

III. Latin America and the Caribbean
Covers gender research in the nations of Central America, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Anglophone Caribbean, as well as on Trade Unions in Argentina, Sexuality in Brazil, and Reproductive Rights in Puerto Rico

V. Europe
Covers gender research in the nations of Germany, Spain, and Hungary, as well as on Lesbianism in Poland, Childcare in the Nordic Countries, and Gender Mainstreaming Strategies in the European Union.
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Start Planning your Trip!

Cambridge, MA
Hyatt Regency
March 18-21, 2010

Tourism: http://www.cambridge-usa.org/
Conference Hotel: http://www.cambridge.hyatt/hotels/index.jsp
The Eastern Sociological Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in sociological scholarship and instruction. It has approximately 1000 members, most of whom live and work in the Northeastern United States. The ESS sponsors a professional journal (Sociological Forum), a four-day Annual Meeting in the spring, a newsletter, numerous award competitions, an employment service, and a listserv.

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Rosanna Hertz  
Wellesley College  
rhertz@wellesley.edu

**Vice President**  
Pamela Stone  
CUNY Graduate Center  
pstone@hunter.cuny.edu

**Secretary**  
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jspade@brockport.edu

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kathleen.gerson@nyu.edu

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SUNY at Albany  
c.bose@albany.edu

**Vice President Elect**  
Karen V. Hansen  
Brandeis University  
khansen@brandeis.edu

**Executive Committee**

**David E. Lavin**  
CUNY Graduate Center  
dlavin@gc.cuny.edu

**Sharon Sassler**  
Cornell University  
ss589@cornell.edu

**Rebecca S.K. Li**  
The College of New Jersey  
lirebecc@tcnj.edu

**Arthur Paris**  
Syracuse University  
aeparis@maxwell.syr.edu

**Zine Magubane**  
Boston College  
MAGUBANE@bc.edu

**Margaret K. Nelson**  
Middlebury College  
mnelson@middlebury.edu

**Executive Officer:**  
Emily H. Mahon  
William Paterson University  
ess@wpunj.edu

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Debra C. Lemke  
McDaniel College  
dlemke@mcdaniel.edu