



NEWSLETTER

EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 15 No. 3 Fall 2001

PREVIEW OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

By Judith Lorber

The theme of the meeting is the sociological future-present. As I see it, "21st century thinking" bubbles up in our theories, research, and new perspectives on many topics. I've lined up people to organize thematic sessions on the university and the internet, the sociology of science today, bioethics, 21st century sexualities, masculinities, families, and workplaces. There will be sessions of futurists and sociologists of the future. Computers and their interface with humans will be examined in several sessions, and we will also have a session on animals and humans. Fanaticism, violence, children, care-taking, and body politics will get the 21st century treatment, as will the problematics of welfare, health care, disability, globalization, ethnicity, and religions. There will be sessions on African-American women and on feminist politics today. We'll look at urban and suburban spaces and at inner and outer realities. **Bonnie Thornton Dill** will give her Robin Williams Lecture, "Intersections, Identities, and Inequalities in Higher Education." And that's just the thematics and plenaries!

Susan Farrell is organizing the author-meets-the-critics sessions. She will have **Jay Demerath's** book on world religions, **Christine Bose's** on women in the early 20th century, **Helen Berger's** on witches, **Susan Reverby's** on rethinking the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, **Barbara Katz Rothman's** on the human genome map, **Joel Best's** on lies, damned lies, and statistics, **Carmen Sirianni's** on civic renewal, **Susanna Walters'** on gay visibility, and **Douglas Porpora's** on landscapes of the soul.

There's more – **Doris Wilkinson**, ESS Past-President and foremost scholar of African American studies, will be our honored Senior Scholar. Seven of her friends from around the country will celebrate Doris at a reception the first night of the meeting, March 7. They are **Delores Aldridge**, Emory University; **Rodney Coates**, Miami University of Ohio; **Rutledge Dennis**, George Mason University; **Leonard Gordon**, Arizona State University; **Harriette Pipes McAdoo**, Michigan

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Judith Lorber

Fifteen years ago, members of the World Future Society were predicting the shape and source of September's terrorism through analyses of the social patterns and trends of the late 20th century. This is the kind of prescient and incisive analysis of 21st century social patterns and trends I asked for in my call for participation in the March 2002 ESS Meetings. We are all despairing and depressed and angry. But I ask you to turn your feelings into some hard thinking about where we are, how we got here, and where we are going. Come to the Meetings and share your ideas with other sociological futurists – for that's what we all must be now.

ESS also needs some hard thinking about its own current state and future. The Annual Meetings, *Sociological Forum*, the Newsletter, and the website emerge from the day-to-day work of the ESS Officer, the Editors, the Officers, Executive Council, and Committee Chairs. All this work needs a solid financial base. And that is where ESS is in crisis and needs the support of every member.

ESS' income is almost entirely from membership dues and meeting registrations. This income covers the costs of the Annual Meeting and the subscriptions to *Sociological Forum* -- with too little left over for daily operating expenses. (The journal editorial office is supported separately by money from the publisher.) ESS

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EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY SEEKS DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT

By Charles W. Smith

We still need your assistance. Given our financial position we are attempting to save money by relying solely on email and our Newsletter. If you are a chair, we hope that you will respond positively to this appeal. If you are not a chair, we hope that you will bring this appeal to your chair's attention. As noted below, this is a follow-up to our initial appeal made last spring.

Date: September 20, 2001

From: Eastern Sociological Society's Fund Raising Committee: **Richard Alba, Jay Demerath, Cynthia Epstein, Mel Kohn, Judith Lorber** (ex officio), **Caroline Persell, Charles Smith** (chair), **Ivan Szelenyi, Chuck Tilly, and Viviana Zelizer**

To: Chairs of Sociology Departments within the E.S.S. geographical area

Dear Colleagues,

This is the follow-up "beginning of the budget year" letter requested by a number of Chairs. (For those of you who might not have seen our May 1st letter, please see below. There is also an invoice form to facilitate processing of your department's contribution. I am pleased to report that we have already received contributions and/or commitments from approximately 30 departments, and another dozen have made verbal promises to join up this semester. We want to thank all of these departments for their participation. A complete list of participating departments will be included in our next communication. Our goal is minimally to double this number by the end of this year and hopefully to double again by the time we meet for our annual meeting in March. That would give us over 150 department members and significantly alleviate, though not eliminate, our financial stress.

We have created three suggested categories of membership, though some departments have given more:

Category	Suggested Annual Dues
PhD granting graduate departments:	\$150.00
MA/BA departments:	\$100.00
BA/AA departments	\$50.00

Given our present precarious financial situation and the need to plan for our March Boston Meeting, we would be most appreciative if you could make a departmental commitment as soon as possible and follow up by sending a check, made out to the Eastern Sociological Society: Departmental Fund, to the address in the invoice.

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Copy of May 1st Letter

May 1, 2001

Dear All,

I am writing to you in your capacity as chairs of Sociology departments within the Eastern's geographical area. (If you are not presently chair, we would greatly appreciate it if you would forward it to your present chair.) My message is quite simple. The Eastern Sociological Society is in a state of financial crisis that jeopardizes its very existence with decidedly adverse consequences for your own departments. Why your departments? Because the ESS fills a number of important functions for all of us: It provides opportunities for faculty members and students to present their research findings to appropriate professional audiences; it is an important network for the academic placements - both jobs and graduate schools; and it supports faculty and student awards. Most importantly, it constitutes, in a very real sense, our most intimate professional family. Its loss would harm all of us.

The good news is that comparatively modest sums of money, managed in the manner described below, can rectify matters now and for the foreseeable future. What I would like from each of you is similarly quite modest, namely, that you use your good offices to support a new category of departmental membership in the ESS along the lines of a similar program of the ASA. Before spelling out what this will entail, I think it is appropriate that I give you a little background information on the crisis we now face. This information may be of some assistance if you elect to seek some financial support from your administration in this effort.

Why is the ESS in debt?

Historically, we have maintained comparatively low dues to encourage a broad based membership. Unfortunately this leaves little room for increased costs or loss of income. We have suffered both within the last few years. While hopefully we will not experience another "bad year" in the near future, it is incumbent that we build some reserves for unexpected financial reversals. Given that we want to maintain our modest dues structure, this will require developing new forms of income.

Why departmental memberships?

The main reason for instituting departmental memberships is that, as noted above, departments are a major beneficiary of the ESS. At a small cost to individual departments, they represent an institutional constituency that can provide much needed ongoing support.

How will the new system work?

In order to insure the long-term financial health of the ESS, minimally fifty percent of departmental dues will be set aside as a financial reserve. Additional voluntary

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EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY ROBIN M. WILLIAMS, JR. LECTURESHIP

The Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship Committee invites the names of leading scholars to be considered for appointment as the 2002-2003 Robin M Williams, Jr. lecturer. The Eastern Sociological Society established the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship in 1992 to honor the many contributions of Robin Williams to the discipline and the Society, particularly as founding editor of its journal, *Sociological Forum*, now in its sixteenth year. The original announcement states:

As part of the Society's attempt to enhance the sharing of ideas, one of our colleagues will be invited to spend time and give lectures on two or three campuses within the Society's jurisdiction during his or her year as Williams lecturer. The Executive Office will provide transportation and honoraria: the host institution will take care of local arrangements, bed and board.

The individual chosen for the lectureship will receive an honorarium and will present two lectures on campuses in the ESS region during the term of his or her appointment. (These campuses will be selected on a competitive basis.) The lecturer will attend the 2002 ESS Annual Meeting to receive the lectureship award at the Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address and will also present his or her lecture at the 2003 ESS Annual Meeting. In 2002, the annual meetings will be in Boston from March 7 to 10. Please send nominations in a letter detailing the reasons for the nomination along with supporting letters by December 1, 2001 to the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship Committee chair: **Professor Catherine White Berheid**, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, Skidmore College, 815 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Phone: 518-580-5415. Fax: 518-580-5429. E-mail: cberheid@skidmore.edu

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Society Seeks, *Continued from Page 2, Column 1*

We really hope that each of you will do your best to join this effort. The Eastern Sociological Society is in so many ways a critically important organization for all of us, especially our graduate students and junior faculty. Moreover, what we are requesting really does work out, as the ads say, to only a few pennies a day. If you have any questions about this initiative, please feel free to call, (718-997-2840), email (charles_smith@qc.edu), or drop me a note (Charles W. Smith, Department of Sociology, Queens College, CUNY, Flushing, NY 11367). I'll do whatever I can to help. Looking forward to your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles

Charles W. Smith, Chair

Preview, *Continued from Page 1, Column 1*

State University; **Ronald Taylor**, University of Connecticut; and **Sandra Taylor**, Clark Atlanta University.

Now that's just the beginning of the richness of the 2002 Annual Meeting. Submissions of papers and sessions from the membership and Committee Chairs will be in by the time you read this, and I will be able to tell you about those presentations in my next letter.

For now – let us work for a better world and put it to use!

* * * * *

Letter, *Continued from Page 1, Column 2*

is a very prestigious organization and our region includes major universities, but we have almost no endowment or financial investment and have been in debt for several years.

ESS needs to build up its financial reserves. To this end, Charlie Smith and the members of the Fund-Raising Committee have developed the idea of Departmental Memberships in ESS. The cost of such a membership is modest and graded by type of institution. What it would give ESS is another dependable source of income. ESS provides faculty and graduate students with a journal and professional meetings. Both are important ways of participating in a community of scholars. What this program needs from our members is to take responsibility for making sure their home department signs up for a Departmental Membership, so that ESS can continue to be a viable scholarly community. *Please look for the details of the Departmental Membership elsewhere in this issue, and sign up your department!*

ESS also needs an expanded membership base that will include faculty and graduate students in all the institutions in the Eastern region – four-year and two-year colleges as well as Ph.D. and M.A. granting universities. I know that everyone is faced with proliferating memberships in professional organizations at multiple levels – national and regional – as well as specialty societies. ESS is really a national, multi-specialty professional organization. We have members from other parts of the country and our members have multiple interests. **Duane Matcha** and his Membership Committee have produced a handsome and much-needed brochure about ESS. We will be sending every current member copies with the request to recruit new and lapsed members. *Please look for the ESS membership-brochure.*

Society Business

Report from the Committee on the Status of Women

by **Laura Kramer**

At the meetings in March, our Committee had an opening meeting at which we discussed both the role of this Committee, and of the Society more broadly, in engaging with issues related to stratification of (including gender) the sociology profession. Our recommendations are outlined below. This letter is based on an earlier draft, circulated to and approved by the full Committee in the spring. I set the draft aside (while only a few revisions were needed!) because of the impact of my mother's illness and death on my time and my energy. Ironically (or perhaps appropriately), the priority I gave to this Committee's work mirrored its position in the Society.

Carole Marks, Helen Raisz, and Rosemary Wright shared fully in planning and executing our sessions in March, 2000, and in developing the recommendations that follow. However, they are in no way responsible for the tardiness of this letter.

Our recommendations, aimed at the functioning of the Society in general rather than at this committee in particular, reflect concerns about stratification in the profession (using both the employing organization and the individual as units of analysis). They also reflect our concern that ESS tends to (although less so than ASA) reproduce this stratification system in its own committee memberships and otherwise in its distribution of scarce and desirable positions and rewards.

1. Future meetings should:

- ?? have more sessions for people who work in applied settings, not just for those considering a move into applied settings. Consider cosponsoring events with professional organizations of applied sociologists (SAS? SPA?).
- ?? routinely have "how to" sessions on career-related topics (something national SWS often sponsors for August meetings, and which ASA and ESS sometimes run, "professional workshops").
- ?? offer round table settings for informal conversations of junior sociologists and department chairs or others with experience and authority.
- ?? have session chairs and discussants who are chosen from volunteers, not just at the last minute to fill unassigned sessions, but to open the process up earlier.

2. All year long, ESS should:

- ?? be an advocate for changing the structure of workplaces for sociologists to remove well known obstacles to the achievement of people with primary responsibilities for family – children, elder, or other dependent care, in particular; exploring possibilities of slowing the tenure clock, having part time appointments on a tenure track line, etc.
- ?? serve as an information conduit about these sorts of working conditions (e.g., child care on campus or other workplaces of sociologists) - contacting other professional organizations – e.g., APA, APSA - to pool information and for greater impact in advocating for change. Possible resources for this role include the Institute for Women Policy Research, and the Women's Studies Electronic List.
- 3. Finally, the Society needs to develop A REGULAR system for soliciting self-nominations for participation. These need to be actually used rather than resorted to only in moments of desperation.

Report from the Minority Section

By **Gordon M. Robinson**

The Minority Section at the meetings involved a socially diverse discussion group composed of president: **Gordon M. Robinson**, Springfield College; **Peter Stein**, William Paterson University; **Marlese Durr**, Wright State University; and **Augustin Lao Montes**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The topic of discussion was "Critical Issues Facing Minorities in and Through Sociology." The breadth of the Topic allowed for discussions on a wide range of issues, although they were generally restricted to the academy. Panelists focused on personal experiences ranging from promotion and tenure decisions, to majority student reaction to minority professors and the presumed favoritism received by minority students in the classroom. Members in the audience, including graduate students, enthusiastically participated in the discussions and well received the diverse experiences and perspectives contributed by each panel member.

Report of Committee on Graduate Education

By **Valerie Moore**

Pat Duffy, Chris Himes, Kathy Walker, Bill Yancey and I were panelists for a discussion on Changing and Persisting Issues in Graduate Education that took place at the March ESS meetings in Philadelphia. We felt the ideas we generated were important enough to share with the society. Thus, I have tried to organize the main ideas we discussed to make them useful spurs to

discussion for others. If these ideas yield insights that folks in the society would like the Graduate Education Committee to explore, please drop us a line: Valerie Moore, Graduate Education Committee Chair, vmoore@zoo.uvm.edu

Persisting Issues in Graduate Education:

1. Vulnerability of Grad Students (what are big issues to students are often minor to faculty)
 - ?? students have to learn how to manage the fact that big decisions are out of their hands
 - ?? students have to figure out what's important
 - ?? students have to figure out who their allies are
2. Funding (are always gaps in support and stipends may be comparably low)
 - ?? funding affects success
 - ?? data from one school suggests that:
 - those who align with professors with research funding finish dissertations quickly (because of funding and available data) (would improve if more faculty got external funding)
 - those who teach as part-time adjuncts are on a slow path to finishing (and this may be bad practice for the university's future)
 - highest percentage get research/data analysis jobs in non-profits which provide good wages but low probability of finishing due to disconnect from department

Changing/New Issues in Graduate Education:

1. Growing Trend of Unionizing Among Graduate Students
 - ?? allows reflection upon role of the academy in the community, including connections to service sector
 - ?? helps address competing role obligations:
 - employee/mentee/colleague/student
 - unions help systematize and regulate responsibility for tasks (may be especially useful for first-year students); help think out what want role to be as a professor (balance between teaching, research, service)
 - ?? must ask are there parts of the political spectrum NOT represented by unions?
 - ?? do public and private university graduate students face the same struggles with regard to unionizing?
 - ?? what is the effect of a large presence of activists in departments/disciplines?
- 2a. Professionalization: Student Challenges
 - ?? potentially problematic self-interest attitude: students don't want to do what doesn't fit narrowly

into interest (perhaps because of perceived job market pressure to focus early) (but may lead to gaps in students' professionalization, losing opportunities for unanticipated doors to open, don't become good dept. citizens)

- ?? continual trial and error process in learning when/where can one challenge faculty (students being completely deferential can lead to faculty mistrust)
 - ?? need to understand how to market themselves (& how to serenely accept the job you get)
- 2b. Professionalization: Departmental /Disciplinary Challenges
 - ?? more students interested in non-academic careers and careers in non-research universities: how do we value and plug them into those markets?
 - ?? more pressure now to have publications and teaching experience when graduate: how do we help?
 - ?? if could hook students into good mentorships, success! (need more than just a handbook)
 - faculty need rewards for mentoring; need to separate mentoring that's about intellectual connection v. mentoring that is more info- or task- or skill-oriented
 - students need faculty and older grad student mentors departments need professional seminars for first year students (a way to institute mentorship by older grad students; grad student allies can help socialize students to want to participate in departmental and other activities)
 - ?? remember: students need to know how to be a grad student before knowing how to be a sociologist
 - ?? need to understand there are/will be different masters students serve: department; university/college; discipline
 - ?? students need training:
 - teacher training
 - academic job training: teach about committees; issues regarding joint appointments; demystify publishing (e.g. show whole publication process including rough drafts, submitted drafts, reviewer comments, how responded to comments) (e.g. how to consider articles v. book)
 - conference training: issues regarding fear of and funding for conference presentations (and then take care of students at meetings, e.g. introduce them to others; student meeting room with free refreshments where faculty can interact with students)
 - grant writing training (e.g. fill out an actual NIH or NSF application instead of a semester term paper)

News of Members

FORMER ESS PRESIDENT HONORED WITH A DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP

The African American Studies and Research Program at the University of Kentucky recently named a distinguished lectureship for **Doris Wilkinson**, former President of the Eastern Sociological Society. Described as a pioneer in the desegregation of the University of Kentucky, she is also credited with having established the university's first African American Studies and Research Program. In presenting the lectureship honor, she was also recognized for having founded an historic "Black Women's Conference" at the university which was held for its eighth consecutive year this past spring.

Wilkinson's creatively critical analysis and initiation of a professional dialogue about the "minority" concept has gained national attention. [Her discussion does not pursue the "political correctness" of the word.] Titled "Rethinking the Concept of "Minority": A Task for Social Scientists and Practitioners," the article was published in the *JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WELFARE* VOL. 27 (MARCH 2000): 115-132.

Bulletin Board

THE 2002 SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Theme: Equality and Diversity

Place: Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel

Dates: April 3-6

What does equality mean when people and organizations are very different? How do we take into consideration--and even maintain--diversity while trying to increase equality of opportunity and outcomes? How do we recognize different skills, talents, and needs? Debates over Affirmative Action, English-as-a-Second-Language in public schools, family-friendly work places, and the age, race, and gender of medical research subjects illustrate some of the public policy discussions about equality and diversity. In our own teaching, we may need to try to reach students from different backgrounds and with different learning styles. In our professional societies, including the SSS, we talk about how to be responsive to members from different sorts of institutions and types of jobs. By emphasizing "equality" rather than "inequality," we can think about what could be in addition to what is and be more conscious of the models of equality behind the various

debates and our own teaching, research, and professional service.

The Call for Submissions for the 65th Annual Meeting of The Southern Sociological Society, along with instructions and submission forms, is now available at:

<http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/02Meet/Publish/>

The site may also be reached through the Society's Main Web Page at:

<http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/>

by clicking on the Maryland State Flag. Doing so will take you to a general site containing additional information about the hotel and the meeting along with a link to the call for submissions. We will be adding to this site as the program planning process progresses.

Of Special Interest to ESS and DCSS Members:

The requirement that those who attend the SSS be current SSS members will be waived for members of the DCSS and ESS. Of course, members of these societies who aren't SSS members and who want to join will be more than welcome to do so. Membership includes a subscription to the journal *Social Forces*.

Association for Humanist Sociology: CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The 2002 meetings of the Association for Humanist Sociology will be held October 10-13 in Madison, WI. The deadline is April 15, 2002. Theme: "Decaying Empire/Exuberant Alternatives." Presentations do not need to be directly related to the conference theme. Various forms of participation are possible, including single presentations, organization of sessions, panel discussions, and presentations on teaching. Send a three-sentence summary to **Diane Schaefer**, AHS Program Chair, Department of Sociology, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920; Phone: 217-581-7831; Fax: 217-581-7067; Email: cfds2@eiu.edu. Please include phone and fax numbers and e-mail address, if applicable.

For more information about AHS or the annual meetings see the website at:

<http://www.humanistsoc.org>

or contact **Steve McGuire** at 740-826-8288.

***Deadline for Submissions
for the Winter Issue
December 15, 2001***

Association of Black Sociologists Undergraduate and Graduate Student Paper Competition

Undergraduate Deadline: 4/15/02

Awards of \$300, \$200 and \$100 for the top three papers submitted by undergraduate students of Sociology. Student winners will present their papers and award presentations will be made at the Association of Black Sociologists' Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., August 14-17, 2002.

Papers must be no more than 20 pages in length (including references). Submit 5 copies of the paper (indicate undergraduate status) with an abstract of no more than 200 words to: Prof. John B. Diamond, School of Education & Social Policy, Northwestern University, 2115 North Campus Drive Rm. 217, Evanston, Illinois 60208-2610; jdiamond@northwestern.edu.

Graduate Deadline: 4/15/02

Awards of \$300, \$200 and \$100 for the top three papers submitted by graduate students of Sociology. Papers must not be under consideration for publication at the time of submission. Student winners will present their papers and award presentations will be made at the Association of Black Sociologists' Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., August 14-17, 2002.

Papers must be no more than 35 pages in length (including references). Submit 5 copies of the paper (indicate graduate status) with an abstract of no more than 200 words to: Professor John B. Diamond, School of Education & Social Policy, Northwestern University, 2115 North Campus Drive Rm. 217, Evanston, Illinois 60208-2610; jdiamond@northwestern.edu.

CRITICAL DEMOGRAPHY

A New Biennial Series from Plenum Press

Manuscripts Welcomed

Theme for Volume 2: Critical Demography, Gender Inequality and Sexism

Critical Demography, the new biennial series by Plenum Press solicits original manuscripts for its second volume. *Critical Demography's* purpose is to showcase new and innovative approaches to the study of population with an emphasis on the manner in which the social structure differentiates dominant and subordinate populations. Thus, consistent with the new paradigm, *Critical Demography* the series welcomes manuscripts that explore the issues of power, control, and/or

inequality relative to population phenomena. Future issues of the series are expected to address topics such as: A Critical Demography of the Holocaust; Global Population Development and Third World Exploitation; Critical Demography and New Methodological Approaches: Quantitative and Qualitative.

The theme of the second issue of *Critical Demography* is "Critical Demography, Gender Inequality and Sexism." Specifically, this volume is seeking cutting-edge papers that explicitly address gender inequality and sexism in the context of the changing demography and industrial economy of the United States and the world. Theoretical, quantitative and qualitative papers are welcome. Submitted manuscripts will be peer reviewed. Manuscripts should be double-spaced, approximately 25-30 pages, with a 100-150 word abstract. Submit six copies of the manuscript along with an electronic copy in WordPerfect or MS Word on a 3-inch diskette by March 31, 2002 to:

Hayward Derrick Horton, Editor
Critical Demography
Department of Sociology
SUNY-Albany
Albany, NY 12222

For further information contact the editor at hdh@csc.albany.edu; phone: 518-442-4907; fax: 518-442-4936.

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May 1st Letter, *Continued from Page 2, Column 1*
contributions to this reserve will also be solicited annually from our membership at large as part of our normal membership renewal process along the lines now used by the ASA.

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I urge you to take this request seriously. The Eastern Sociological Society is in serious financial difficulty and it would be a loss to all of us if it ceased to exist. The plan outlined above can work if everyone joins in. If you have any questions about any of the above, including strategies that might be appropriate at your particular institution, please feel free to call. I don't know whether I can be of any help, but I'll try. Looking forward to your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles
Charles W. Smith, Chair

**EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
DEPARTMENTAL MEMBERSHIP
INVOICE**

November 6, 2001

Institution Name

Chair's Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone and Fax

E-mail or Web Address

Membership Status (Please check appropriate line)

Category	Annual Dues	
PhD granting graduate departments:	\$150.00	_____
MA/BA departments:	\$100.00	_____
BA/AA departments	\$ 50.00	_____

Send payment to:

Dr. Mary Pat Baumgartner, Executive Officer
Eastern Sociological Society
William Paterson University
300 Pompton Rd.
Wayne, NJ 07470
E-mail: ess@wpunj.edu
TEL: 973-720-3689
FAX: 973-720-3522