

NEWSLETTER

EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THINK NEW YORK

By Phyllis Moen, President, ESS

Plans for the Eastern Sociological Society 2004 Annual Meeting (in New York City!) are well underway, and I hope you are making plans to submit a paper and to come. This may well turn out to be one of the best ESS meetings ever. The theme is *Rethinking Careers for a Changing Society*, but feel free to submit papers on any topic. The dates are February 19 through 22, at the historic (and wonderfully refurbished) Roosevelt Hotel.

The 2004 theme incorporates both *careers as an object of study*—occupational careers, educational careers, health careers, family careers, civic careers, identity careers—and our own *careers as sociologists*.

Lots of interesting sessions, panels, suggestions have already appeared. Keep those wonderful ideas coming—to me (phylmoen@umn.edu) or to our program co-chairs **Donna Dempster-McClain** (did1@cornell.edu) or **Kris Esterberg** (Kristin_Esterberg@uml.edu).

We plan a *Celebrating Careers* program on Saturday afternoon, examining the “career” concept in sociology but also celebrating sociologists’ careers. Our *keynote* address will be given by **Howie Becker**, who may well be talked into playing jazz for us as well, along with, hopefully, other talented sociologists.

Thursday evening will celebrate the one thing almost all of us have in common. This is something we do on a regular basis, worry about often, rarely discuss, yet always wish we could do better, regardless of our specialty. **Maggie Andersen** has put together a wonderful kick-off celebration on our *Teaching Careers*.

Ronald Taylor is organizing a panel focusing on a transition that many established sociologists are making or may contemplate. The title of his session is *Midcourse Transitions: Should Sociologists Move To Administration?* **Guillermina Jasso** will have a session on *Sociologists in Transition: When Do Career Moves Make Sense?* I am hoping someone will address another transition, on the order of *Can/Should Sociologists Ever Retire?*

Ivy Kennelly and **David Warner** have some wonderful ideas for graduate students and those making the *transition to the first job*. Launching careers is always a bumpy process, made even more so by these uncertain economic times. Ivy is planning a session to revisit a topic from last year, *When to Have Children: Graduate School and Beyond*, a sort of *where are they now* longitudinal look, learning what happens year after year with young children. (See David’s description of other sessions in this newsletter.)

Kara Joyner is planning a session on *Alternative Sociological Careers: Interdisciplinary Departments, Government Agencies, and Non-profit Organizations*. This will include those in multidisciplinary departments, government employees, and researchers in nonprofit or for profit organizations, a topic that should be of interest to those in those settings, as well as those on the job market.

Stephen Sweet and **Norah Peters-Davis** have planned an *Undergraduates Day* on Friday, the 20th. When you read what they have planned (in this newsletter) you will surely want to get your students involved.

Last year, Jerry Jacobs initiated the practice of inviting and encouraging other meetings to be held conjointly with the ESS. As they did last year, **Morton Ender and colleagues** will organize sessions on *Military Sociology*. The **Cornell Careers Institute**, an
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LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS

**Kris Esterberg and
Donna Dempster-McClain
Program Committee Co-Chairs**

We are looking forward to receiving your submissions for the 2004 ESS conference on **RETHINKING CAREERS FOR A CHANGING SOCIETY**. We welcome submissions on all sociological topics. In addition to the thirty-eight regular ESS topics that range from Applied to Visual Sociology, we have added the following:

- **Careers**
 - Occupational Careers
 - Educational Careers
 - Caregiving Careers
 - Family Careers
 - Teaching Careers
 - Sociologists' Careers
 - Volunteer Service Careers
- **Transitions**
 - Employment Transitions
 - Early Career Transitions
 - Midcareer Transitions
 - Late Career & Retirement Transitions
 - Family Transitions
- **Changing Society:**
 - Demographic Changes
 - Cultural Changes
 - Economic and Political changes
 - Policy Changes
 - Organizational/Institutional Changes
 - Changes in Inequality
 - Technological Changes

The ESS website is the easiest way to submit papers and sessions. If you have suggestions for a workshop, roundtable or poster session please contact us at ess2004@cornell.edu. In addition, President Phyllis Moen (pem3@cornell.edu) and program co-chairs Kris Esterberg (Kristin_Esterberg@uml.edu) and Donna Dempster-McClain (did1@cornell.edu) welcome all your ideas.

Two reminders: Please limit abstracts to **250 words** and select **two keywords** that best represent your paper/session.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

David Warner, Penn State University

The 2004 Annual Meeting of ESS will feature three roundtable discussions geared toward graduate students that reflect our theme of "**Rethinking Careers for a Changing Society**." The roundtable format offers

graduate students the opportunity to meet with veterans of the discipline and get answers to the questions that are on all of our minds. This year's roundtables are:

1) **Launching an Academic Career in an Uncertain Economy: Advice from the Experts**

With Universities experiencing budget cuts, competition for tenure-track positions has increased. Come hear experts in the field give advice on how to be a top-notch applicant. Discussion topics will include different types of schools and the value of a post-doctoral position, as well as writing a vita, preparing for a job-talk and going on the interview.

2) **Teaching as a Calling: Developing the Materials, Skills and Confidence to be a Master Teacher**

Teaching is a demanding and daunting part of advanced graduate study and early academic positions. Learning how to create a syllabus and stick to it, formulate interesting classroom activities and deliver stimulating lectures is often a matter of experience. Get a head start on the process by listening to a panel of veteran teachers share their experiences, teaching philosophies and course materials.

3) **Students, Parents & Scholars: Balancing Work and Family Careers in Academia**

The decision to begin a family in graduate school or early in the tenure process, or to return to graduate school while raising a family, is one fraught with anxiety about balancing two demanding careers. Listen to graduate students and young professionals who have made that decision and get their advice on how to minimize conflict and make the most of two rewarding experiences.

We hope you are as excited about these topics as we are! See you in New York City.

ESS 2004

UNDERGRADUATE DAY EVENTS

Stephen Sweet, Ithaca College

Drawing on the success of last year, undergraduate events for the ESS Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, February 20, 2004. Two sessions will be devoted to undergraduate careers in sociology: "*Selecting and Applying to a Graduate Program in Sociology*" and "*Careers in Sociology*."

This year also will feature an undergraduate poster session, providing undergraduates with opportunities to present their research and observe work performed by

their peers. And we are planning an award for Outstanding Undergraduate Poster!

Norah Peters-Davis (Arcadia University (peters@arcadia.edu) and Stephen Sweet (ssweet@ithaca.edu) are co-chairing the undergrad day events.

FROM THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

New York City needs neither introduction nor fanfare. The lights are back on, but the Blackout of 2003 (just days ago as I write) demonstrated once again the resourcefulness, vitality, and, yes, compassion, of the "city that never sleeps" (for many an all-too-apt description of that night). The Local Arrangements committee is working to put together a set of activities that will give you an insider's view of the New York that we know and love, with a mix of sociological relevance and just plain fun. And in the place where Zagat's was invented, we'll have a list of affordable restaurant finds as well as budget-friendly outings when you need a break from meetings.

Post 9/11, New York is a more reflective city, its global centrality never more painfully underscored, yet still unsinkable and ever-fascinating. Please join us for what promises to be an outstanding program under President Phyllis Moen's leadership.

Pamela Stone
Associate Professor, Sociology
Hunter College and Graduate Center, CUNY

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The ESS Membership Committee urges all of our current members to encourage their colleagues, students, professors, and friends to join us at the New York City meetings. We also welcome any suggestions for ways to increase membership, to attract former members to rejoin, and to improve our outreach to sociologists who move into the Eastern region. This year's Membership Committee includes **Susan Farrell, Charley Flint, Laura Kramer, Duane Matcha, Roberta Spalter-Roth, and Julia Wrigley.**

BRINGING THE ROBIN M. WILLIAMS LECTURER TO YOUR CAMPUS

Colleges and universities in the region served by the Eastern Sociological Society are invited to apply to have Professor Higginbotham visit their campus and deliver

the lecture. The ESS will cover travel expenses, and the host institution will furnish food, lodging, and hospitality expenses. Applicants to host the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship should offer clear and thoughtful proposals, detailing a plan for the event (e.g., the extent to which the lecture is part of a larger academic program or process, intended audience, and expected outcomes). It is advisable to describe clearly the intended audience with specific levels and fields (e.g. undergraduate or graduate students from sociology or from a variety of disciplines, and/or the general public outside of the college/university community). Applications must be submitted by October 1, 2003. They should be mailed to: **Professor Ronald Taylor**, Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut, Manchester Hall, U-2068, Storrs, CT 06269. Phone 860-486-5848; Fax 860-486-5943.

The Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship Committee invites the names of leading scholars to be considered for appointment as the 2004-2005 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 18th 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 2004 ESS Annual meeting to receive the lectureship award at the Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address, and will present his or her lecture at the 2005 ESS Annual Meeting. In 2004 the annual meeting will be in New York City from February 19-22. Please send nominations in a letter detailing the reasons for the nomination along with supporting letters by **November 1, 2003** to the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship Committee Chair:

Professor Debra Renee Kaufman, Department of Sociology- 515 Holmes, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. Phone: 617 373 4270. Fax Number: 617 373 4270. Email: dkaufman@neu.edu.

SUBMISSIONS INVITED FOR 2004 CANDACE ROGERS AWARD

Submissions are invited for the 2004 Candace Rogers Award. This award is given annually at the ESS meeting to a graduate student for an outstanding paper on any current social issue. The paper should be in a style suitable for journal publication and should not exceed 7,500 words or 30 double-spaced pages. The paper may not be previously published or forthcoming in a professional journal. It must be sole-authored, and its author must be a graduate student at the time of submission and a member of ESS at the time the award is made. During a special session at the 2004 annual meeting, all award winners will have an opportunity to present their work. (The 2004 meeting will be held in New York City, Feb. 19-22.) Eligible students are encouraged to submit three hard copies or an electronic version of their paper no later than November 15, 2003, to the committee chair: Barrett Lee, Department of Sociology, Penn State University, 211 Oswald Tower, University Park, PA 16802 (e-mail: bal6@psu.edu). Students should include their address, institutional affiliation, phone number, and e-mail address with their submission.

THE ROSE LAUB COSER AWARD

The Rose Laub Coser Award Committee invites submissions for this award, given annually to a graduate student for an outstanding doctoral dissertation proposal in the area of the family or gender and society. The award was established by the family, friends, and former students of the late Rose Coser, a former president of ESS and recipient of its Merit Award. To be eligible for consideration, the proposal must have been approved by the student's department prior to submission, and the dissertation cannot have been completed or published when the proposal is considered. Proposals should include:

- a cover sheet indicating the title of the dissertation, the student's name, the university with which the student is affiliated, and the names of the doctoral committee members;
- a two-page summary or abstract of the proposal;
- a narrative, which should include a statement of the problem to be addressed in the dissertation, a justification of the importance of the research problem for the field, a description of the methods to be employed in the study, and a statement of the anticipated outcomes and their significance; the narrative must not exceed 15 double-spaced pages (excluding references).

Ancillary material such as budgets, work schedules, and human subjects review documentation should not be included. A special session will be held at the annual meeting during which award winners will have the opportunity to present their work. In 2004, the annual meetings will be held in New York City, February 19-22.

Eligible students are encouraged to submit four copies of their proposal by the deadline of October 15, 2003 to the committee chair: Professor Mary Ruggie, Kennedy School of Government, 79 JFK Street, Harvard University, Cambridge MA 02138. mary_ruggie@harvard.edu.

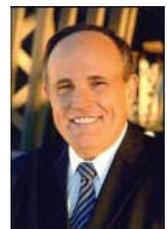
THE MIRRA KOMAROVSKY BOOK AWARD

The ESS welcomes nominations of outstanding scholarly books in sociology to be considered for the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award. Books on any sociological subject are eligible. To be considered, a book must have been published during the three years ending March 2004 and at least one of its authors must be a current member of ESS; self-nominations are accepted but books submitted only by their publishers *are not accepted*. In 2004, the annual meetings will be held in New York City, February 19-22. The awards will be announced and given at a special session. Nominations should provide full publication information (including date of publication), a 1-2 paragraph rationale for nomination and should be sent by October 1, 2003 to

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HELP!! All Dancing Sociologists!

We want to hold a dance for Friday night at the conference. Know any musicians in the NY Metro area? Or in the Eastern area who are attending? The Program Committee needs suggestions for sociologists who play dance music (50s-NOW, or at least a wide variety of styles). Email ESS2004@cornell.edu with contact information.



News of Members

Judith Lorber, Professor Emerita, Brooklyn College and Graduate School, CUNY, was Visiting Professor in the Dynamics of Gender Constellations Research Program, University of Dortmund, Germany in May-June 2003. She gave a lecture, "Paradoxes of Gender Identity and Feminist Politics," at the official opening of the program and the keynote address, "Using Gender to Undo Gender," at a day-long workshop. She also lectured at 7 other universities in Germany.

Dr. Mounira M. Charrad, University of Texas at Austin, received the following awards for her book, *States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco* (University of California Press, 2001): the Distinguished Book Award for the Outstanding Book in Political Sociology, American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section, 2002; the Hamilton Award for the Outstanding Book in Any Field, University of Texas at Austin, 2002; the Award for Best First Book in History (co-winner), Phi Alpha Theta International Honor Society in History, 2002; and Best Book in Sociology Komarovskiy Award (honorable mention), Eastern Sociological Society, 2003. Showing how Islamic law is mediated by political power and different processes of nation-building, the book discusses the diversity of state policies on women's rights in several countries of the Middle East.

**Deadline
For Winter Issue Submissions
November 15, 2003**

Think New York!



Continued from page 1 column 2

Alfred P. Sloan Working Families Center, is also convening a multidisciplinary research and policy forum in tandem with ESS, with a similar theme: *Sustainable Careers: New Options for a New Workforce*. This means that sociologists attending ESS get to attend sessions sponsored by these different programs for free. **Herbert Schaffner** and **Carl Van Horn**, Rutgers, are arranging a panel on *Layoffs and Displaced Workers: New Policy Ideas*. And **Richard Burkhauser**, Cornell, will speak on *Disability Careers: What We Know And What It Means for Policy Development*. There will also be international speakers on the subject of careers, including **Peter Blossfeld**, **Catherine Hakim**, **Haya Stier**, **Blair Wheaton**, **Karl Ulrich Mayer**, and **Barbara Hobson**. Others – including **Jerry Jacobs**, **Pat Martin**, **Fran Goldscheider**, **Roz Barnett**, **Florence Bonner**, and **Joan Williams** -- will be speaking on the American experience.

To date, we have in the works a plenary session, organized by **Rosanna Hertz** on *Our Studies, Ourselves*. Still other thematic sessions and their organizers: **Pam Tolbert** on *Integrating Institutions: Family and Work*; **Michael Farrell** on *Circles, Mentors, and Careers*; **Elaine Wethington** on *Work, Stress and Gender*; **John Wilson** on *Careers of Volunteer Work*; **Lindy Williams** on *Fertility Careers, Employment Careers: Can we Bridge the Divide?*

Anita Garey is putting together some fantastic *Author Meets Critics* and maybe some *Author Meets Author* sessions.

Now is the time for **you** to get on the program! Visit the ESS website (www.essnet.org/annualmeeting.htm) and fill out a submission form and abstract. That is all there is to it. See you soon!



Think New York!

Editors' Note: In the last issue we noted that we had additional material on the 2003 meeting that we couldn't carry for lack of space. The following article summarizes the very interesting panel on the work of W.E.B. DuBois.

Race and Ethnicity: The Sociology of W.E.B. DuBois' "The Souls of Black Folk": Centennial Reflections By Gniesha Dinwiddie

President: **Donald Cunnigen**, University of Rhode Island
 Panelists: **Elijah Anderson**, University of Pennsylvania
Howard Winant, University of CA, Santa Barbara
Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, Colby College
Ronald Taylor, University of Connecticut

Participants in this panel all contend DuBois's work is an example of exemplary intellectual achievement. The depth of DuBois' career as sociologist and political activist speaks volumes about his critical role in his contributions toward the discourse on race in America and throughout the modern world. The depth of this work and implications for social research are the topics of this session.

Elijah Anderson, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Anderson opened with a quote directly from DuBois' first chapter *Of Our Spiritual Strivings*:

"Between me and the other world there is ever an unasked question: unasked by some through feelings of delicacy; by others through the difficulty of rightly framing it. All, nevertheless, flutter round it. They approach me in a half-hesitant sort of way, eye me curiously or compassionately, and then, instead of saying directly, how does it feel to be a problem? they say, I know an excellent colored man in my town; or, I fought at Mechanicsville; or, Do not these Southern outrages make your blood boil: At these I smile, or am interested, or reduce the boiling to a simmer, as the occasion may require. To the real question, how does it feel to be a problem: I answer seldom a word."

Dr. Anderson is working on a new book about how people live race in everyday life. By sitting in taxi's, restaurants, symphonies, barber shops, universities, and riding trains, his next project attempts to tackle the duality of Black middle class life to observe how this segment of the population internalizes race in social spaces. The book focuses on how middle and upper class blacks make sense of one another, how they deal with lower and middle class blacks, not in abstract ways in which our theories are organized, but through their experiences. A chapter of the book will highlight the

dynamics of how Blacks and Whites sort themselves out in public transportation, mainly on trains.

Recently, **Dr. Anderson** wrote a piece on the social stratification of the black executive and connected their experiences to DuBois and the concept of duality- "what it feels like to be a problem" in a corporate setting. Moreover, he elaborates on the implications of Affirmative Action and the stigma of incorporating Blacks into the system. For example, George who works in a fortune 500 corporation and makes more than \$400,000 per year is one of **Dr. Anderson's** subjects. George was asked to join a predominantly white country club and agreed to be a member so that he and his family could become exposed to a different culture. Also, George chose to enroll his children in a predominantly White secondary schools because he wants them to be exposed to Whites. In this sense, "exposure" could be the analog of "double consciousness" coined by DuBois. Although George realizes exposure is a double-edged sword, issues of identity and not knowing their heritage in a white dominated society will be problematic. He is well aware that his kids will run into problems because they are not white but George contends that exposure is a form of human capital that will benefit them later in life. These issues speak volumes about the black middle class that has been privileged historically, but also face similar discrimination throughout their lifetime. Howard Winant, University of California, Santa Barbara, "Dialectics of the Veil"

The dialectic of the veil needs revisiting in the philosophical sense not as Marxian doctrine as in the past. DuBois' theoretical works on the veil have contained the most powerful theory of race and racism in American society. The dialectic of the veil characterizes the relationship that embodies antagonism and the philosophical definition of macro and micro dimensions of social life that operates on the interpersonal, intrapsychic and institutional levels. The conflict, exclusion and alienation, interdependence and knowledge of the other based on skin color are characteristics of race and racism, which Blacks face today. DuBois's most famous point, racial dualism, afflicts and transfigures the black soul interjecting racism into the self. At the

individual level, the veil has a fully-fledged dialectical which divides the individual self and world. Moreover, it splits the self and world along the colorline and divides the self and defines the social world.

The meaning of *The Souls of Black Folk* changes overtime. When first read as a teenager, the veil was seen as a symbol of barriers that could be lifted. Today the concept is a metaphor of a racial barrier of the color line. In his work, DuBois sought not only to lift the veil but also employ a means to transform the veil by preserving demarcations, complex metaphors for dynamics of race; the veil keeps the races apart and mediates between them.

The concept of the veil is effective in that it links numerous sites that distinguish divisions in the human psyche and at the same time concepts of nation, polity, history, and culture are partitioned by race and racism. In essence, at the macro level, the veil is a metaphor for the profound social structure, which shapes identities and social organizations. Moreover, the weight the veil exerts on subjects affects their integration in social structure. DuBois' emphasis on racial politics is best understood in terms of macro-social understanding of the veil. On the macro level the identification of how the social structure undergoes profound reorganization and ruptures are integral to understanding disenfranchisement and ramifications of the veil.

The new agenda is to explain, organize and situate where the veil is ruptured and re-consolidated. The significance of the dialectic of the veil continues today.

Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, Colby College
"Sorrow Songs as Cultural Theory"

Sociology would be different if scholars would have taken DuBois more seriously. The discipline would have been different. When he is added in the sociological discourse, we tend to identify the "cannon" of his work; we praise the historical sociology, i.e.-Philadelphia Negro. If we are to appreciate his work in its entirety, we must examine the work that doesn't resemble the "typical" contribution to sociology, particularly the "sorrow songs."

DuBois' sorrow songs are ethnography. He depicts what it was like to walk through a rural south



community in Blacks' quest for education. The internal worlds of the people caught in the structure. His work is gender; women's voices are always acknowledged, women and men work together, women's voices are validated. It's historical; he talks about formal organizations and their role in perpetuating racism. DuBois' critique of the structural and social psychology into the black experience through "stand point" is tantamount. Moreover, DuBois assumes every group caught in imperialism has something to convey about racial oppression- implications are global.

DuBois also articulates how blacks see the world and what messages they have to convey through the sorrow songs-view from within and the veil-view from without. As a "cultural tool kit" this type of proper sociology is done by people who are experiencing turmoil through experience. In *The Dawn of Freedom*, DuBois discusses problems of the color line; *Faith of the Fathers*, the importance of power in mobilizing where blacks gather to engage in visionary retrieval without interruptions; *Sorrow Songs*, the true meaning of the Black experience.

In conclusion, cultural theory by the use of spirituals examines texts from the sorrow songs. The importance of reflexive experience by the researches is important for "good sociology." Moreover, the position of the observer to that of the deserved in terms of thinking about society is essential for effective sociology. DuBois reminds us that we need to take seriously cultural theory to understand what Black folks have for the world and colonial history has a lot to do with current politics.

Ronald Taylor, University of Connecticut

DuBois has had the most influence on examining Black intellectual life and *The Souls of Black Folk* has not lost intellectual power since its development. Had the discipline of sociology given more credence to his work we could have avoided embarrassment in the ways sociology interprets racial crisis. DuBois' writings still conjure debate about society, for example double consciousness appropriated by scholars from different disciplines. His concept of "double consciousness" has been misinterpreted by integrationists, who contend DuBois advocated eventual assimilation, Nationalists and Academics.