

# NEWSLETTER

## EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 17 No. 2 Summer 2003

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Phyllis Moen

(in transit from Cornell University to the University of Minnesota)

Mark your calendars now for *February 19-22, 2004*. For the first time in many years, the annual meeting of ESS is to be in beautiful, dynamic, downtown *New York City*. And for the first time in a while, our ESS organization is in terrific shape. Thanks to my predecessors, Jerry Jacobs and Judith Lorber, we have a smoothly functioning Executive Office staffed by a superb team, with Jim Mahon as Executive Officer and Emily Mahon as Assistant Executive Officer. Thanks to Jerry we ended up in the black this year, with record attendance in Philadelphia. My job is simply to make sure next year's meeting is as good as it can be, and that you all show up! Start singing, "my kind of town...."

The theme of the 2004 annual meeting of ESS is: *Rethinking Careers for a Changing Society*. We want sessions on both "rethinking careers" and "changing society," as well as the two together, so send me your suggestions (pem3@cornell.edu). We aim to emphasize and rethink what is happening to occupational careers, mobility, and inequality to be sure, but also would like sessions addressing health careers, family careers, civic careers, identity careers, and other transitions and trajectories across the life course. And we will spotlight the moving platform of social, organizational, economic and political change in which career choices and options are embedded. The 2004 Program will also focus on *rethinking the careers of sociologists*: their training, teaching, research, and professional development.

We have a terrific program committee, ably cochaired by Donna Dempster-McClain at Cornell University (did1@cornell.edu) and Kris Esterberg at University of Massachusetts, Lowell (Kristin\_Esterberg@uml.edu). They too would appreciate any program suggestions, especially as they relate to viewing the contemporary climate of social change through the dynamic prism of *rethinking careers*. The deadline for submissions of proposals will be *November 1, 2003*, but we need your ideas for plenary, thematic and regular sessions right away.

Following in the footsteps of Jerry Jacobs, we aim to hold other meetings of other groups in tandem with ESS. Any ideas for such synergistic possibilities? For instance, in line with my perspective that ESS is a state of mind, not tied to a particular geography, it would be nice if former graduate students return, especially if they still collaborate with their former mentors. And we hope local colleges will bring their undergraduates in to witness sociologists at work. We are also looking for volunteers who know New York (especially its restaurants) to serve on the local arrangements committee.

We will have a few innovations. For example, I want to have a *dance!* Would you come to it if we hold one? Would you actually get out on the floor? Any suggestions for sociologists-musicians who come cheap?

Other ideas include *Authors meet Authors* sessions on contemporary issues. And *Discussion Forums* on particular topics. We also want ways of pulling folks into the exhibits, and of showcasing recent books by ESS authors. But more on those in the next newsletter.

Together, the ESS officers, committee chairs, and members can make 2004 in New York a memorable event. But we need your ideas and your participation. Now is the time for your input into the program, the process, and the organization more generally. We appreciate your help!

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## INTRODUCING ESS PRESIDENT PHYLLIS MOEN

Moen was interviewed by Henry A. Walker, Professor of Sociology at the University of Arizona, about ESS and other topics.

**HAW:** *I know that you did not grow up as the wealthy child of Al Moen, of plumbing fixtures fame. Describe some of your early experiences.*

**PM:** Everyone asks me about Moen fixtures! But I was born poor, in South Georgia, and then an “army brat” from age six on...moving at least every three years, often more.

**HAW:** *Did (or how did) those experiences influence your early career choices?*

**PM:** I wanted stability. So I got married at age 18, and moved to a farm in northern Minnesota. (After all, I had already lived in Europe, Japan, San Francisco...what else was there? So I thought at age 18) Along with starting a family, I began taking correspondence courses, and eventually got my bachelor’s and then master’s degree at the closest university, the University of North Dakota. I commuted the 22 miles there and back through snow, sleet, storms...you get the picture. I “chose” sociology because I had enough credits to get my bachelor’s degree in it...after that, I was hooked.

**HAW:** *What led you to graduate training in sociology?*

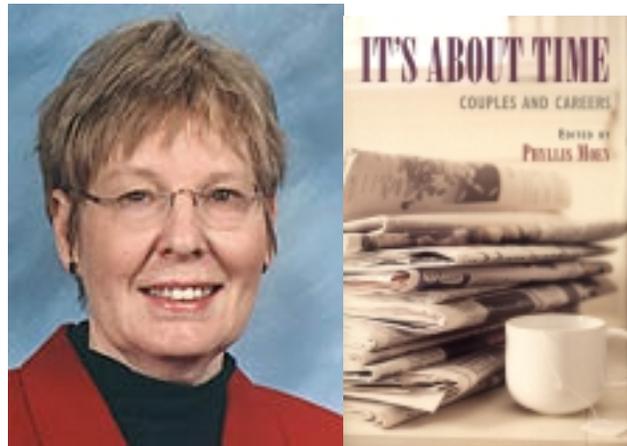
**PM:** I discovered there is no such thing as stability. My (first) husband died when I was 32. With two young daughters and no marketable skills, it was graduate school or welfare...I choose graduate school. I applied to only one...the closest...the University of Minnesota. Fortunately for me, I was awarded a fellowship.

**HAW:** *So, can we consider WOMEN'S TWO ROLES autobiographical and sociological?*

**PM:** We always sort of study ourselves, don’t we? I wanted to go back to school and to be a good mother, and couldn’t figure out how to do both simultaneously, until my girls were school-age. I became a feminist in the early 70s...a key event was being required to have my husband’s signature before I could get a student loan. What I have learned as a sociologist and as a woman is that life course scripts are heavily gendered and that this continues to be reproduced, given existing “rules of the game” characterizing life in the U.S.

**HAW:** *Would you like to comment on your decision to run for ESS president while preparing to leave the east for the midwest?*

**PM:** Actually, when I ran for president of ESS I was firmly ensconced at Cornell University, and had no ideas



about moving. It was only after the fact that my husband, Dick Shore, and I decided it was time for a change, in tandem with the offer of a McKnight presidential chair in Sociology at the University of Minnesota. Shows how quickly one’s life path can shift. But I believe that “Eastern” is a state of mind...and Cornell will always feel like home...as does Minnesota.

**HAW:** *What is the focus of the new book?*

**PM:** Glad you asked! *It’s about Time: Couples and Careers* (Cornell University Press 2003) draws on data from the Cornell Couples and Careers Study to show that 1) time is a scarce commodity in dual-earner households; 2) time is built into jobs and career paths such that continuous employment and full-time (40 or typically more) hours are rules of the career game; 3) the multiple strands of life -- occupational, family, and personal -- unfold over time and in tandem with significant others’ life paths; and, most important, 4) it is about time for the United States to confront the realities and needs of what is a new workforce, far different from that of the middle of the 20<sup>st</sup> century, when career policies and practices were standardized. *It’s about Time* argues that our nation must re-imagine and reconfigure work hours, workweeks, and occupational career paths in ways that address the widening gaps between the time needs and goals of workers and outdated workplace and career rules and routines.

**HAW:** *What are your plans for the 2004 ESS meetings?*

**PM:** I am excited about the 2004 meetings...they will be in New York (February 19-22) and the theme is *Rethinking Careers for a Changing Society*. I would like to see new and former “Easterners” there, along with current members. After all, “Eastern” is not a place but a state of mind...Hope you come, Henry!

# CALL FOR PAPERS

**2004 EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS**  
**The Roosevelt Hotel**  
**New York, NY**  
**February 19-22, 2004**

**Theme: *Rethinking Careers for a Changing Society***

The notion of *career* is central to the discipline, providing conceptual and methodological guidance to the sociology of work and occupations, to organizational sociology, to the study of social stratification, deviance, roles, inequality, mobility, economy, land, and labor. The notion of career also informs the social psychology of work, motivation, and identity. There is a widening mismatch, however, between institutionalized career patterns, policies and cultures on the one hand and the realities of contemporary life course and society on the other. Examples include new workforce and "retired force" demographics, workplace restructuring, gender and age expectations, new information technologies, globalization, etc. These discontinuities have not been fully addressed and are further compounded by the fact that the mismatch occurs on a moving platform of social change. We invoke the career concept to capture life course dynamics, not only around paid work, but also around unpaid care work, leisure, family, community participation, faith, relationships, retirement, education. The "rethinking careers" theme also applies to sociologists' own career paths, as teachers, scholars, writers, practitioners, administrators.

Submissions on all sociological topics are welcome, and we are anxious to have them in such varied forms as:

- individual papers (please provide one-page abstracts; if you have a longer draft, by all means send it along);
- wholly constituted sessions (please include the names and affiliations of all participants, and their abstracts, if appropriate);
- thematic forums (panels of two or more scholars engaged in a debate or exchange over an important issue);
- author-meets-critics sessions (please identify all participants);
- workshops on specific topics and techniques (please note the expert who is to be in charge);
- round-table and poster-session presentations.

All submissions must include all identifying information for all participants, including telephone number, complete mailing address and e-mail address. The submission deadline will be October 1, 2003.

Details about electronic submission will be posted in the next ESS newsletter, will be announced on the ESS Announce List, and will be available at the ESS website:

<http://www.essnet.org>

In the meantime, please send any ideas or suggestions for papers, sessions, or other ideas about the 2004 ESS program to:  
[ess2004@cornell.edu](mailto:ess2004@cornell.edu)

## 2003-2004 ROBIN M. WILLIAMS, JR. LECTURER

**Elizabeth Higginbotham**, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware, has been selected as the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Distinguished Lecturer for 2003-2004. She received the award in recognition of her outstanding scholarship in the areas of race, class, and gender. Her work has contributed importantly to the literature on women and work and, more specifically, on the experiences of African American women and work. The breadth and richness of her body of work have earned her national recognition as a leading scholar in gender studies.

Dr. Higginbotham's lecture topic will be "Working for the City: Focusing on Employment Issues for Black Professional Women". The lecture will focus on employment issues of professional African American women and how they negotiate issues of race and racism in the workplace. Dr. Higginbotham is a dynamic speaker and has lectured widely on various topics within her specialty before professional audiences and on college campuses across the country.

Dr. Higginbotham received her MA in 1975 and her Ph.D. in 1980 from the Brandeis University. Her published works include her most recent book **Too Much to Ask: Black Women in the Era of Integration, an edited volume (with Mary Romero), Women and Work: Exploring Race, Ethnicity, and Class**, as well as many book chapters and journal articles. In addition, Dr. Higginbotham is the recipient of the American Sociological Association's Jessie Bernard Award and the Distinguish Contribution to Teaching Award. She serves as an advisory editor to *Gender and Society* and has been a member of the Editorial Board of *SIGNS: Journal of Women and Culture in Society*.



### 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

Anita Garey  
Universit of Connecticut  
School of Family Studies, U-58  
348 Mandfield Road  
Storrs, CT 06269  
Phone: 860 486 6266  
Fax: 860 486 3452  
Email:anita.garey@uconn.edu

*Deadline for  
Submission of articles  
For next issue is  
August 15th*

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Nominations Committee welcomes suggestions for nominees for the following offices to be voted on this fall: President-Elect, Vice-President-Elect, Secretary and two members of the Executive Committee (each of whom will serve three-year terms). When suggesting a candidate, please provide your name and contact information as well as that of the person you are recommending and please indicate the office for which the person would be a good candidate. (Please remember that this does not guarantee that your suggested person will actually be chosen as a nominee.) Suggestions should be sent by July 1, 2003, to the committee chair: Robert Wuthnow, Department of Sociology, Wallace Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544; wuthnow@princeton.edu

*Congratulations to  
past ESS President Jerry Jacobs  
upon his assumption of  
the editorship of the  
American Sociological Review.*

## Highlights of the Philadelphia Meetings

### Headline News from the 2003 ESS Meeting James Mahon, Executive Officer

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society convened at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel February 27-March 2, 2003. The theme *Sociological Success Stories* gained additional meaning through the success of the conference itself. Over 950 sociologists from all over the region, the country, in fact, the world participated in 228 sessions held over the four-day period.

Heralding a major sociological success, the conference kicked off with a dessert reception on Thursday evening to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GSS. The plenary session that followed honored investigators **James Davis**, **Tom Smith** and **Peter Marsden**. The session was presided over by **Joanne Miller** of Queens College, CUNY, and speakers included the honorees as well as **Earl Babbie** of Chapman College, **Mark Chaves** of the University of Arizona, and **Linda Waite** of the University of Chicago.

The conference featured a wide range of thematic sessions, sessions clustered around a particular focus, workshops, and roundtables. As has become customary, Author Meets Critics panels were plentiful. Conferees had a chance to hear discussions on the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award winners, as well as such wide-ranging works as **Steven Seidman's** *Beyond the Closet*, **Miguel Centeno's** *Blood and Debt* and **Frances Polletta's** *Freedom is an Endless Meeting*, to sample just a few of the 12 sessions.

Special topic sessions included a series on "Jewish American Life" with sessions on the "Catskills Experience", "Techniques for Counting American Jews" and the "Digital Media." Another cluster of sessions on Military Sociology was organized by **Morten Ender** and his colleagues at the US Military Academy with panelists coming from as far as Chile and Greece to discuss "International Perspectives", "Changes and the Military Family", "Diversity", and "Military Culture." Sessions collected under the title "Focus on Philadelphia" included offered perspectives on "Structures of Growth and Continuity", "Philadelphia's Neighborhood High Schools" and "Research for Whom" -- all capped off by a well-attended sociological tour of the host city with **Elijah Anderson** of the University of Pennsylvania as the guide.

In addition to the usually lively graduate student roundtables, special efforts were made this year by the Committee on Undergraduate Education co-chaired by **Norah Peters-Davis** and **Adam Weinberg** to attract and engage undergraduate students from the region. Thirteen roundtables scattered over two days showcased the work of over 70 undergraduate students. **Earl Babbie** presented a special session on "Becoming a Sociologist" designed for the undergraduate set as well.

Thematic sessions were many addressing topics like New Directions in Social Theory and Perspectives on Women in the World. The Millennium Hall was the setting for the Centennial Reflections on WEB duBois's *The Souls of Black Folk* organized by **Elijah Anderson** and **Cheryl Townsend**

**Gilkes** (Colby College). **Ivar Berg** and his contributions to industrial sociology were honored in a special session with **Randall Collins** and **Douglas Massey**, both of the University of Pennsylvania.

Nested within the ESS sessions were two conferences within a conference. The two-day Sloan Conference on Work, Family and Gender Inequality included sessions on the Constraints of Work, Understanding Family Time, Caregiving and Cross National Perspectives. One Friday luncheon speaker **Sharon Hays** of the University of Virginia spoke on being "Flat Broke with Children" and on Saturday **Joan Williams** of American University presented "The Case for Restructuring Work." Equally lively parallel sessions were offered on Saturday by the Third Annual Penn Economic Sociology conference. Sessions included "Ethnographic Approaches to Economic Sociology" with **Mark Zbaracki** of the Wharton School as presider, a keynote address by **Carol Heimer** of Northwestern University, and -- in keeping with the Sloan focus -- a session on Work, Family and Economic Sociology.

No matter their path during the day, conferees came together in the evenings for a series of plenary sessions and receptions. On Friday a gala reception preceded the presentation of the ESS Merit Award to **Bernard Barber**. Introduced by **Viviana Zeliger** of Princeton University and honored by **Jeffrey Alexander** of Yale, Barber presented some retrospective remarks. The keynote address was presented by Christopher Jencks of Harvard University. His talk "The Changing Effect of Family Background on the Income of American Adults" was then commented upon by **Claude Fischer** of UC Berkeley.

Saturday offered an equally full slate, beginning with the presentations to the 2003 ESS Award Winners presided over by ESS Vice President **Catherine Berheide**. **Rosanna Hertz** presented the Candace Rogers Award to **Gretchen Livingston** of the University of Pennsylvania. **Ronald Taylor** then announced the 2003-4 Robin Williams Lecturer as **Elizabeth Higginbotham** of the University of Delaware and **Steven Messner**, the chair of the Rose Laub Coser Award Committee, then presented **Karen Albright** of NYU with her award. The Mirra Komarovsky Book Award was given by Chair **Magali Sarfatti Larson** to **Eric Klinenberg** of NYU for *Heatwave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago* and Honorable Mentions were given to **Kathleen Blee** for *Inside Organized Racism* and to **Mounira Charrad** for *States and Women's Rights*. **Jerry A. Jacobs** of the University of Pennsylvania then gave the 2003 ESS Presidential Address, "The Faculty Time Divide" to a standing room only crowd. The evening was topped off by a reception on the glass-enclosed 33<sup>rd</sup> floor Terrace of the Loews.

After the ESS Annual Business Meeting brought attendees up to date on the direction and financial health of the organization, conferees scattered to the waning sessions of the conference. With the handing off of the leadership baton from **Jerry Jacobs** to **Phyllis Moen** and the 2003-4 Officer Slate, the planning for 2004 was well underway. The final Executive Committee Meeting and the conference came to a close.

With nearly 1000 sociologists from all over the world to discuss topics of mutual interest, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting was itself a success story both professionally and financially. Donations from the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell Careers Institute, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Harvard, NYU, NORC and the University of Chicago as well as a grant from the Sloan Foundation helped create that success -- but our members were critical to the conference's profitability. Registration well exceeded the forecast and the many ESS members who stayed at the Loews helped ensure that we made our hotel room commitment (always a concern given the hefty penalties for undersubscription). And so many contributed time and energy to make the meeting possible. **Terry Labov** and the Program Committee under the leadership of **Jerry Jacobs** and with the technical wizardry of **Brad Smith** delivered a remarkable program. **Kim Goyette** and the local arrangements committee delivered AV equipment, staffed the hospitality table and recruited and organized the student volunteers who so ably helped **Emily Mahon** of the ESS Offices at the registration booth. And of course **Harvey Horowitz** and Exhibits Promotions Plus managed the book and exhibition hall.

Next year ESS will return to New York City. The 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held February 19-22 at the Roosevelt Hotel in the heart of downtown Manhattan. The theme is a timely one: Rethinking Careers for A Changing Society. Please plan to join us there.

### Christopher Jencks Gives Keynote Address By Adair Crosley

Following the ESS Gala Reception on Friday, February 28, over one hundred conference-goers gathered in the Regency Ballroom of the Philadelphia Loew's Hotel for the Keynote Address. After a brief introduction from ESS President **Jerry A. Jacobs**, Harvard Professor Christopher Jencks presented findings from recent work done in collaboration with colleagues **David J. Harding**, **Leonard M. Lopo**, and **Susan E. Mayer** in *The Changing Effect of Family Background on the Incomes of American Adults*. That intergenerational mobility increased in the 1960s and has remained constant or declined since was the central empirical finding motivating much of the latter half of the talk. **Jencks** questioned the normative assumptions underlying most discussions of changes in intergenerational mobility. In essence, he argued that even in a system of distribution based solely on merit and not inheritance-what many sociologists tend to view as most fair and just-the correlation between family background measures and adult outcomes would not converge to zero. If this is true, a failure to find substantial increases in the rates of intergenerational mobility, as was the case here, must be interpreted with caution as such findings are not necessarily indicative of a failure in the movement toward a more just and fair society. Instead, if researchers want to understand the extent to which the opportunity structure in American society has changed for the better or worse, Jencks proclaimed that we need to stop looking at these numbers and start looking out into the real world. Immediately following the presentation, UC-Berkeley Professor **Claude Fischer** applauded this recent contribution to the

understanding of stratification and mobility, but highlighted potential methodological and theoretical shortcomings. First, **Fischer** argued that recent work examining the role of wealth has convincingly demonstrated the importance of this measure of financial well-being in stratification and mobility. If wealth had been included in the models estimated by **Jencks** and his colleagues, **Fischer** contended, they would likely have found the correlation between family background and current economic position increasing over time. In response to **Jencks'** central arguments about interpreting the correlation between family background and adult outcomes, **Fischer** argued that previous work has demonstrated a connection between higher rates of intergenerational mobility and equal opportunity. In other words, these findings can be seen as evidence of slowed progress to equal opportunity. In all, **Fischer** maintained that the work of **Jencks** and his colleagues represented a significant contribution to the debate on contemporary patterns of stratification in the United States.

Dear Readers,

We have received several wonderful articles commenting on various presentations and events from the 2003 annual meeting. Because of space limitations we cannot print all of them in this issue. Thus, we are placing them online so you can read them without delay and will print as many of them as we can in the next issue as space permits. Our thanks to all the authors of those pieces. *The Editors.*

## Society Business

**Beth B. Hess**

**September 13, 1928 – April 17, 2003**

Tragically, Beth B. Hess died at her home in Mt. Hope, New Jersey, on April 17, of a brain tumor. Beth was an accomplished feminist sociologist and gerontologist whose leadership, scholarship, service, and mentoring will be remembered by many.

Beth Bowman Hess was born in Buffalo, N.Y. She graduated from Radcliffe College with a B.A. in Government in 1950 and received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Rutgers University in 1971. She was Professor of Sociology at the County College of Morris from 1969 to 1997. While she had no illusions about the status of this position in the elitist hierarchy of academia, she valued her students and the opportunities to combine her teaching with her family life.

Despite the rigors of teaching at a community college, Beth was a prolific writer. In addition to numerous articles on aging, gender, and the family, Beth was the author and editor of many pathbreaking books, including *Aging and Society* (1968) with Matilda White Riley, *Aging and Old Age* (1980) and *Growing Old in America* (four editions, 1976-1991) with Elizabeth Markson, *Sociology* (five editions, 1982-1996) with Elizabeth Markson and Peter Stein, *Controversy and Coalition: Three Decades of the Feminist Movement* (three editions, 1985, 1994, 2000) and *Analyzing Gender* (1987) with Myra Marx Ferree, *Social Structure and Human Lives* (1988) with Matilda White Riley and Bettina Huber, *Revisioning Gender* (1998) with Myra

Marx Ferree and Judith Lorber, and *The Essential Sociologist* (2001) with Susan Farrell and Peter Stein.

It was always Beth's style to enlist co-authors and co-editors into her many writing projects, and to work with her was to learn more about sociology and more about effective writing. Beth had no patience with obfuscation and pretension, whether in person or in prose. For her, good writing was a political act: it raised consciousness, made connections between issues, and illuminated the relation between individual life stories and public policies. She was a pioneer in integrating gender into the analysis of aging, and her introductory sociology textbook broke new ground in bringing race, gender, and class out of the ghetto of separate chapters into the overall analysis of all dimensions of society.

Beth Hess held a number of honors including the Presidency of the Association for Humanist Sociology (1986-87), Sociologists for Women in Society (1987-1989), the Eastern Sociological Society (1988-89), Society for the Study of Social Problems (1994-95), Secretary of the American Sociological Association (1989-92) and Executive Officer of ESS (1978-1981). She became a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (1978) and was Chair of the Behavioral and Social Science Section of the Gerontological Society (1987-88). She was listed in Who's Who of American Women (1987) and was awarded the SSSP Lee Founders Award in 2000.

The list of honors does not begin to capture the full scope of her contributions to many sociological organizations. She labored in the unsung vineyards of associational maintenance for decades, taking on the Executive Office role at the Eastern Sociological Society in a time of crisis and steering it through, putting her home and her good judgment into the service of Sociologists for Women in Society to plan the launching of *Gender & Society* and selecting its first editor, and helping many organizations to face their fiscal and structural issues more constructively.

Beth also served as editor and member of the editorial boards of *Society/Transaction*, *Research on Aging*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Gerontology Review*, *Teaching Sociology*, *American Sociologist*, and *Gender & Society*. But her editing and reviewing was never limited to such gate-keeping roles. She gave generously of her time and red pencil to help both junior and senior colleagues to sharpen their arguments and get their dissertations and papers finished promptly and with style. At annual meetings of all the many associations to which she belonged, Beth reached out to graduate students and junior faculty and encouraged them to send her drafts to review. Her rewrites were not only tighter and more elegant, but she challenged all the weak spots of an argument. She believed that sociology had something worth saying to the world and cared deeply about getting it said effectively, no matter whose name was on the manuscript in the end. The saying that a person could accomplish great things if one did not care who got the credit was her motto (along with the realistic warning to junior scholars that the reward for service is more service).

Beth's research and writing reflected a broad-based and humanistic perspective, with an emphasis on contemporary social problems. As she presented her work, we sociologists

and thousands of undergraduates who have used her books in their courses have been led to see that these social problems are not those of the elderly, women, and wives, but of the social order that marginalized, exploited, and diminished them. She was a feminist who was committed to thinking about gender as a social construction, a relationship of power, and a structural factor with massive material consequences, and she was a humanist who celebrated the effective agency and life-long potential for change in every individual.

Beth's husband, Richard Hess, died on December 25, 1986. She is survived by her mother, Yetta Bowman, her son, Larry, her daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Gary Robinson, and three grandchildren.

We had the privilege of working with Beth and we will miss deeply her insights, energy, friendship, cooperation, and support.

**Myra Marx Ferree**, University of Wisconsin, Madison

**Susan Farrell**, Kingsborough Community College, City University of New York

**Judith Lorber**, Brooklyn College and Graduate School, City University of New York (Emerita)

**Elizabeth Markson**, Boston University

**Peter Stein**, William Paterson University

## Minutes

### Minutes of Business Meeting

May 2, 2003

Philadelphia, PA

Submitted by **Joanne Miller, Secretary**

(Committee reports are submitted separately and are not reported here)

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am by President **Jerry Jacobs**, welcoming the membership and recognizing the excellent work of Past-President **Judith Lorber** who provided a solid foundation for the work of the Presidency this year. He expressed his thanks to **Terry Lobov**, Chair of the 2003 Program Committee, for a job so well done that there was no need for an errata sheet and to **Jim Mahon** and **Emily Mahon** who took full responsibility for office and meetings management, including new procedures increasing the efficiency and completeness of our operations.

Report of the President: **Jerry Jacobs** outlined the initiatives he undertook for this year's meetings and asked for feedback from the membership. These included:

- More systematic involvement of undergraduates in the program entailing greater support of faculty to bring students to the ESS (following the model exemplified by **Catherine White Berheide** at Skidmore College), a special deadline for their submissions, and undergraduate roundtables
- Graduate student workshops specifically targeting issues pertinent to their training and preparation for the job market.
- Using the ESS meetings as a hub for other meetings both of formal associations and informal meetings around subject areas.

Election Results. **Phyllis Moen**, President-Elect and Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that nominations for the elected offices were readily accepted. The 2003-2004 officers newly elected are: **Robert Wuthnow**, President-Elect; **Debra Kaufman**, Vice-President Elect; **Claire Renzetti**, Treasurer; and Executive Members **Barrett Lee**, **Debra Lemke**, and **Nancy Naples**.

Program. **Terry Labov**, Chair of the Program Committee, reported 940 participants and 640 hotel rooms picked up, exceeding the contract minimum of 459 room nights. The publishing of e-mail addresses in the program greatly enhanced the ease of communication among session participants.

Budget and Finances. **Mary Holley**, Treasurer, and **Jim Mahon**, Executive Director, reported that revenue from meeting registration (\$34,075) and reception donations (\$10,400) had exceeded budget expectations and the grant for the Sloan Foundation Conference included \$8,700 in support for the ESS meeting. Revenue from membership (\$45,100) was slightly under the budgeted amount of \$46,000. **Jerry Jacobs** noted that membership income would likely increase with reminder letters and continuing outreach through departments. **Andrew Beveridge** former Chair of the Membership Committee, noted that we are not near the membership potential indicated by the number of ASA members in the Eastern region. **Charles Smith** urged ESS to continue the initiative to attract groups of subfield specialists at the annual meeting.

Executive Office. **James Mahon**, Executive Officer, overviewed progress in building an electronic information system that can better support the work of the officers and committees of the ESS and improve communication with the membership. The current "announce list" includes 1417 names. The Office is planning how to better use the website for information and management and will review the operations of the annual meetings. He noted the work and expertise of **Emily Mahon** in business and meetings management that is making these improvements possible—contributions applauded by the membership present.

#### New Business/Discussion.

*Sociological Forum:* **Charles Smith** asked about the revenue potential of *Sociological Forum*. **Jerry Jacobs** noted the problem of declines in library subscriptions, especially for new journals. He indicated that the Publications Committee, chaired by **Robert Zussman**, was investigating current contractual arrangements of sociology journals with other publishers and the potential for packaging *Sociological Forum* within a group of subscriptions offered to libraries, with the intention of getting competitive bids for the journal.

Prospects for Growth: **Ted Mills** projected that the next year's meeting in New York City should help to recover membership in that area. **Jerry Jacobs** estimated that the final budget for 2003 should end up securely in the black, indicating the health of ESS. **Rosanna Hertz** raised the issue of undergraduate registration fees. **Mary Ertel** noted that registration fees can sometimes be covered by student government. **Debra Lemke**, suggested further incentives for groups of students from a department attending the annual meetings, possibly through department memberships. **Jerry Jacobs** reported that the Undergraduate Education Committee,

co-chaired by **Norah Peters-Davis** and **Adam Weinberg**, had been working on involving undergraduates in the program and that these issues would be forwarded to their attention. **Judy Gordon** noted the cost of meetings for retired members and suggested highlighting older living sociologists in the program.

Turning Over the Gavel to the President-Elect. **Jerry Jacobs** introduced **Phyllis Moen**, the new President of the Eastern Sociological Society. She voiced her commitment to build upon the excellent record of this year's meetings in the 2004 meetings of ESS in New York City, at the Roosevelt Hotel, February 19-22 and invited involvement of the membership. The theme of the 2004 Program is Rethinking Careers for a Changing Society.

## Highlights of Executive Committee Meetings Joanne Miller, Secretary

Meetings of the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 Executive Committees were held on February 27, and March 3, 2003 in Philadelphia at the annual meetings of ESS. The 2002-2003 Executive Committee members **Susan Farrell**, **Cheryl Townsend Gilkes**, **Jeff Goodwin**, **Rosanna Hertz**, and **Steven Messner** are congratulated for their dedicated oversight of the affairs of the ESS over the past year as are the elected officers, **Jerry Jacobs**, President; **Catherine White Berheide**, Vice-President, **Joanne Miller**, Secretary; **Mary Holley**, Treasurer; **Judith Lorber**, Past President; **Phyllis Moen**, President Elect, and **Ronald Taylor**, Vice-President-Elect. This was the last meeting for **Susan Farrell** and **Steven Messner** whose terms expire having served since 2000. **Joshua Gamson** resigned from the Executive Committee earlier in the year upon his move out of the Eastern region. **Mary Holley** finishes her two-year term as Treasurer. Many thanks for their excellent work and sound judgment

**Jerry Jacobs**, 2002-2003 President, presided over the February 27 meeting thanking all the committees for diligently completing the work at hand.

*Election Results.* **Phyllis Moen** announced the new officers for 2003-2004: **Robert Wuthnow**, President-Elect; **Debra Kaufman**, Vice-President-Elect; **Claire Renzetti**, Treasurer; and Executive Committee members **Barrett Lee**, **Debra Lemke**, and **Nancy Naples**.

*Proposed Change to By-Laws.* After carefully reviewing the ESS By-Laws, **Judith Lorber** discussed the need for more comprehensive directives for filling vacancies on the Executive Committee to ensure 1) a full complement of officers and Executive Committee members and 2) continuation of the staggered terms for Secretary and Treasurer and rotation on the Executive Committee in the case of vacancies. At present the By-Laws only address the circumstance whereby reason of election to another ESS office, a person holds double membership on the Executive Committee. In this case, "the seat on the Executive Committee will be treated as a vacancy and will be filled by an interim appointment by the members of the Executive Committee." The proposed change to the By-Laws specifies that vacancies on the Executive Committee will be filled by the non-winning candidate or runners up (in decreasing rank order) from the previous election for the office, to serve for the remainder of the term. Should the candidate(s)

be unwilling or unable to serve the President will appoint an ESS member to serve, with the approval of the Executive Committee. In the next election, additional candidates will be added to the ballot to run for the remainder of the term of office. The Executive Committee unanimously recommended the proposed change in the By-Laws and directed that it appear on the next ballot of the membership for their vote.

*Site Selection for Annual Meetings.* Phyllis Moen, Chair of the 2004 Site Selection Committee, announced New York City's Roosevelt Hotel as the site for the 2004 meetings February 19-22. The hotel has been recently refurbished and offers the requisite space at a cost more affordable than other places in the City. The Committee also recommended that ESS move ahead in determining the future sites, recommending that Washington, DC be considered for 2005, before returning to Boston in 2006 and Philadelphia in 2007. The Executive Committee authorized solicitation of bids from hotels in the DC area for March, 2005 and planning for subsequent meetings as recommended. Outreach to smaller groups that might organize to meet with the ESS was strongly encouraged.

*Publishers' Participation in the Annual Meetings.* There has been a decline in the number of publishers attending ESS. Members recommended careful attention to the location for the book exhibit to encourage publishers' participation, early contact with publishers through personal relationships, authors attending the meetings, notification of book awards and author meets critics sessions. **Debra Kaufman** suggested a special session on the publishing world involving publishers as participants.

*2003 Program.* **Terry Labov**, Chair of the Program Committee, reported 829 presentations, 992 presenters, and 228 sessions. Approximately 52% of the presenters are faculty members, 26% graduate students, 11% independent and applied researchers, and 8% undergraduate students. **Jerry Jacobs** congratulated **Catherine Berheide** for Skidmore College having the highest number of undergraduate presentations at the meetings. He offered special thanks to **Terry Labov** for her remarkable work putting together the 2003 Program and **Jeff Goodwin** for the number and quality of author-meets-critics sessions he organized.

*Budget and Finances.* **Mary Holley** reported that 2002 ended with a net income of \$5,954 bringing the Society out of the red. The projected budget for 2003 anticipates a net income of \$7,215 which will probably be exceeded. **Jim Mahon**, Executive Officer, overviewed the budget process that provides a quarterly statement of budgeted income and expenses versus actual to allow closer monitoring of our finances. **Jerry Jacobs** initiated dues reminders which was very successful and secured support for the program from the Sloan Foundation grant for the Conference on Work, Family, and Gender Inequality and for receptions. Together with the number of registrations expected from the program the 2003 budget will be solidly in the black, allowing the Society to begin to address the absence of a reserve.

The March 3 meeting marked the beginning of the work of the 2003-2004 Executive Committee. President **Phyllis Moen** presided over the meeting welcoming the continuing members and those newly elected.

*2004 Meeting Program.* Phyllis Moen announced the theme of the meetings, Rethinking Careers for a Changing Society, that will be held in New York City. **Donna Dempster-McClain** (did1@cornell.edu) and **Kristin Esterberg** (Kristin\_Esterberg@uml.edu) are the Co-chairs of the Program Committee and reported on plans to continue this year's initiative to increase the involvement of undergraduates and new Sociologists' Careers Workshops highlighting employment options and career progressions. Authors-meet-authors sessions on important issues are also being planned. The membership is asked to forward suggestions for topics, special events and outreach to groups who might organize sessions around special themes to the Program Committee.

*Financial Outlook and Management.* **Jim Mahon** reported that **Jerry Jacobs** was very successful in securing funding for 2003 program expenses including receptions, support for the Program Committee, and software development. The development of such support for the 2004 program will be essential. The Executive Office will also investigate the decline in book exhibitors and develop a plan to increase their participation. Membership dues and meeting registration remain the core support of the Society. This year's increase in the number of meeting participants will hopefully be expanded. Communication with the membership has improved dramatically with the Announce List and Access databases that allow targeted communication for membership reminders, committee participation, and department chairs. There are also plans to further improve the utilization and maintenance of the website and thereby decrease mailing expenses. **Jerry Jacobs** emphasized that it is absolutely essential to avoid penalties paid to hotels when hotel registration for the annual meetings does not meet the contractual minimum, making site selection and registration through the duration of the program critical. In the longer term, the income potential of the journal in future contracts should be reevaluated.

*Sociological Forum.* **Robert Zussman**, Chair of the Publications Committee, provided the annual report prepared by **Robert Max Jackson**, Editor, and **Danielle Bessett**, Managing Editor. During the transition year to New York University, the journal has shifted to electronic processing of all reviews and manuscripts and has made significant changes to the review process and editorial guidance to authors. By expanding the pool of reviewers, the journal is not only upgrading the caliber of reviews but using the review process as a means of outreach to advertise itself. The journal arrived with a backlog of over a year's worth of accepted articles. The Fall, 2002 through Spring, 2003 issues of the journal group these into the following themes with a brief editorial introduction: gender, race and ethnicity, boundaries and links, and organizations and institutions. In addition to the regular processing of submissions, in the coming year, the Editor will focus on the development of symposia, special topic columns, and a format for professional exchange on debates within the profession. All back issues of the journal through 1996 are available from JStor.

Special recognition was given to **Victor Lidz**, who serviced as Interim Editor of *Sociological Forum*, prior to the transition to NYU. The Executive Committee unanimously approved special commendation of **Victor Lidz** for extraordinary service to the Eastern Sociological Society.

The Publications Committee recommends that ESS pursue alternative publishing options for *Sociological Forum*; the current contract with Kluwer/Plenum expires in 2006. **Robert Zussman** found that other regional and specialty journals have much more aggressive marketing for institutional subscriptions through “packaging” of science journals and financial arrangements that are more favorable to these journal than was negotiated with Kluwer/Plenum. It does not appear that the current publisher is eager to sell the contract prior to expiration but no specific offer has ever been made. In any case, it would be sensible to continue dialogue with other publishers prior to 2005 negotiations. The Publications Committee will keep abreast of the trends and practices affecting publishing contracts in preparation for these negotiations.

*Executive Office Staff.* **Emily Mahon** has been formally employed by the Executive Office. She played a critical role in the management of both the 2002 and 2003 meetings and developed the Quicken and Access databases that are used in budgeting, communication, and analysis of the membership. **Jerry Jacobs** reported that her management and software expertise has been critical to office operations over the past year and that she has taken responsibility for functions that extend far beyond the clerical work of an office assistant. In recognition of her contributions, **Joanne Miller**, Chair of the Executive Office and Budget Committee, recommended that the title of her position be changed to Associate Executive Director. The recommendation was unanimously supported by the Executive Committee with heartfelt appreciation for her excellent work and professional commitment to ESS.

*Robin Williams Lectureship.* **Ronald Taylor** and **Catherine White Berheide**, current and past chair of this award committee, reported that the number of schools seeking to be the site of the Robin Williams Lecture continues to be extremely low. Cost-sharing and information requirements may dissuade some schools from applying. **Rosanna Hertz** asked if there was a need to clarify the purpose of the award and priority given to particular types of schools and **Debra Lemke** suggested that the Committee review how outreach to schools might be improved. In addition, **Jerry Jacobs** recommended that the Committee consider ways to revitalize the lectureship through new options such as an undergraduate lecture at the meetings that provides access to prominent sociologists. The Executive Committee moved that **Ronald Taylor** and **Catherine White Berheide** review the procedures of the Robin Williams Lectureship Committee and possible transformation of the lectureship and provide their recommendations.

### News of Members

*Policing World Society: Historical Foundations of International Police Cooperation* by **Mathieu Deflem** has been published by Oxford University Press.

*Keeping the Faith in Late Life* by **Susan Eisenhandler** has been published by Springer Publishing Co.

**JUDITH LORBER** (Professor Emerita, Brooklyn College and Graduate School, City University of New York) spent two weeks in Israel in January as a Fulbright Senior Specialist. She gave a workshop in the Gender and Women's Studies Program at Bar Ilan University, which sponsored her visit, and gave talks at Haifa University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bar Ilan University, and Tel Aviv University.

### Bulletin Board

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) will hold its 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Atlanta in the Wyndham Hotel from August 15-17, 2003. This year's theme is “Justice and the Sociological Imagination.”

The Conference will offer special workshops for graduate students and new professionals on job search, publishing and tenure. There is a new member/student reception and AIDS fundraiser dance on August 15 (Festivities start at 8 pm).

A plenary session on August 15, “Universities and Communities: Partnerships for Justice and Social Change”, features noted media expert, Frank Gilliam of UCLA, and feminist legal scholar Jane Harris Aiken of Washington University St. Louis.

There are also thematic sessions on the following topical areas:

- Feminism and Justice (featuring Patricia Yancey Martin, Mary Romero, Valerie Anne Moore, and Dana Britton).
- Masculinities and Justice (featuring James Messerschmidt, Michael Messner, Stephen Tomsen, Marino Bruce and Martin Silverstein).
- Institutional Ethnography (two sessions that include Paul Luken, Dorothy Smith, Suzanne Vaughan, and Liza McCoy).

We will also have an art exhibit: “Imagining Justice Through Art” and an accompanying session as well as a film viewing and discussion session of “*Brother Outsider: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin.*”

These are just a few of the highlights of this year's conference.

If you are not a member, consider joining. SSSP's goal is “scholarship in pursuit of a just society.” The journal *Social Problems* comes with your membership. SSSP offers a LOW INTRODUCTORY RATE OF \$35 FOR FIRST-TIME PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS AND A RATE OF \$20 FOR STUDENT MEMBERS.

Please join us now and in Atlanta!  
Nancy Jurik, President <http://www.sssp1.org/>

***Deadline for  
Submission of articles  
For next issue is  
August 15th***