



NEWSLETTER

EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 19 No. 3 Winter 2005

**Eastern Sociological Society 2005
Annual Meetings
“Sociology & Public Policy”
March 17-20, 2005
Wyndham Hotel, Washington, D.C.**

2005 Program Highlights

It has been a pleasure to watch the 2005 program come together, and you can see for yourself at www.meetingsavvy.com/ess/program. With eighteen thematic sessions – including 3 sessions on religion & public policy (organized by **Laura Olsen** of Clemson), 3 sessions on culture & public policy (organized by **Stephen Tepper & Jennifer Lena** of Vanderbilt, and **Larry McGill** of Princeton), 2 sessions on the Iraq war (1 by **Michael Schwartz** of SUNY/Stony Brook and 1 by **Morton Ender** of US Military Academy), 2 sessions on poverty policy (1 by **Brad Wilcox** of UVA, and 1 by **Brian Steensland** of Indiana), and individual sessions on aging (by **Deborah Carr**, Rutgers), AIDS (by **Susan Cotts Watkins**, UPenn), American Muslims (by **Yvonne Haddad**, Georgetown), children & inequality (by **Annette Lareau**, Temple), civil society (by **Jason Kaufman**, Harvard), same-sex marriage (by **Brad Wilson**, UVA), social policy—retrospect and prospect (by **Brian Steensland**, Indiana), and under-represented minorities in higher education (by **Tom Espenshade & Marvin Bressler**, Princeton) – discussions of sociology & public policy will be prominent throughout the meetings. Further underscoring this theme are 3 plenary sessions: Thursday’s plenary “Social Science and Social Policy,” featuring **Lawrence Bobo** (Harvard), **Amatai Etzioni** (GWU), **David Harris**
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Robert Wuthnow

The Program Committee has finalized an exciting program for the ESS meetings in Washington this spring (see the accompanying article). Building on the popularity of “conferences within the conference” in recent years, there will be a number of multi-session mini-conferences as part of this year’s program. Many of these are related to the conference theme: Sociology and Public Policy.

This is the 75th anniversary of the ESS. Plan on joining us for a special anniversary celebration during the meetings. Four former presidents of the ESS – Suzanne Keller, William Gamson, Cynthia Epstein, and Richard Alba – will offer reflections about how sociology has progressed during this period and opportunities for future research and teaching.

As usual, there will also be a rich offering of author-meets-critics sessions, workshops on teaching, panels discussing special topics (such as the 2004 election), roundtables, and poster sessions.

Register now at www.essnet.org!

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(Cornell), and **Harriett Presser** (Maryland); Friday's presidential plenary "Cultural Inertia and Democratic Renewal: Why Our Best Efforts Fall Short" by **Robert Wuthnow** (Princeton); and Saturday's "75th Anniversary of ESS" plenary featuring past ESS Presidents **William Gamson** (Boston College), **Suzanne Keller** (Princeton), **Richard Alba** (SUNY/Albany), and **Cynthia Epstein** (CUNY Graduate Center). Rounding out our attention to the meeting theme will be **Jack Levin's** (Brudnick Center, Northeastern, & the 2005 Robin M. Williams Lecturer) Thursday address, "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage: The Sociology of Preventing Hate Violence."

The ESS President and Program Committee are also pleased to announce that seven mini-conferences have been organized for the 2005 meetings. **Erin Kelly** (Minnesota) organized 8 sessions around the theme "Public Policies for Working Families." **John Evans** (UC San Diego), **Ray DeVries** (St. Olaf), and **Joe David** (UVA) organized 4 sessions on "Sociology & BioEthics." **Miguel Centano, Sara Curran**, and associates at Princeton organized 3 sessions on "Globalization," **Victor Nee** (Cornell) organized 3 sessions on "Economic Sociology," **Eszter Hargittai** (Northwestern) organized 3 sessions on "Sociology & the Internet," and **Melissa Wilde** (Indiana) organized 3 sessions on "Catholicism and Public Policy." All of these mini-conferences feature exciting papers by well-respected scholars, and deserve your close attention as you plan your day at the meetings.

Meeting attendees will also enjoy 10 terrific "Author Meets Critics" sessions in D.C., thanks to the efforts of **Magali Sarfatti Larson** (Temple) and **Mitch Duneier** (Princeton). An outstanding array of scholars will be offering perspectives on *The 9/11 Commission Report*, **Frances Fox-Piven's** *The War at Home* (New Press 2004), **Jeffrey Alexander's** *The Meanings of Social Life: A Cultural Sociology* (Oxford 2003), **Katherine Newman's** *Rampage: The Social Origins of School Shootings* (Basic 2004), **Kevin Delaney & Rick Eckstein's** *Public Dollars, Private Stadiums: The Battle Over Building Sports Stadiums* (Rutgers 2003), **Loic Wacquant's** *Body and Soul:*

Notebooks of an Apprentice Boxer (Oxford 2003), **Paul Starr's** *The Creation of the Media* (Basic 2004), **Randall Collins' Interaction Ritual Chains** (Princeton 2004), **Sharon Zukin's Point of Purchase: How Shopping Changed American Culture** (Routledge 2003), **Vivek Chibber's Locked in Place: State Building and Late Industrialization in India** (Princeton 2003) and **Karen Hansen, Not-So-Nuclear Families: Class, Gender, and Networks of Care** (Rutgers 2005). As an added bonus, **Hilary Leigh Levey** (Princeton) organized a 20 year anniversary panel on **Viviana Zelizer's Pricing the Priceless Child** (Princeton 1985) that should not be missed.

Karen Cerulo (Rutgers) organized four special sessions, featuring interviews and conversation with each of these distinguished scholars: **Charles Tilly, Cynthia Epstein, Donald Black, and Randall Collins**. These sessions will be a special treat for those who have benefited from the contributions these individuals have made to the discipline. **Claire Renzetti** (St. Joseph's) and **Debra Lemke** (McDaniel) helped coordinate fifteen (15!) teaching workshops that span uses of technology, civic engagement, development of honors programs, undergraduate research assistants, and graduate teaching assistants – come and benefit from your colleagues' experiences and expertise. Lastly, **Stephen Sweet** (Ithaca) and **Norah Peters-Davis** (Arcadia) have coordinated a terrific line-up of workshops and poster sessions for undergraduates on Friday, March 18th.

The program committee extends our sincere thanks to all who have submitted sessions, papers, workshop, and posters to the 2005 meetings. We are looking forward to a great time in D.C.!

The ESS 2005 Program Committee: **Tim Clydesdale** (Chair), **Diane Bates, Elizabeth Borland, Roger Finke, Elizabeth Gorman, Regina Kenen, Laura Kramer, Rebecca Li, and Cynthia Osborne**

Attention 2005 Annual Meeting Attendees!!! Regarding the Washington DC Wyndham Hotel

When you are attending the ESS 75th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, we urge you to stay at the Wyndham Hotel where the conference is being held. In order to get hotel conference space,

ESS must commit to a stated level of hotel room nights from our participants. If you decide to stay elsewhere, our contractual commitment is jeopardized and the financial penalties to the ESS are substantial. You can register with the hotel at the ESS rate of \$157 per night by calling (202) 429-1700 and mentioning the conference or by using the link available on our website: <http://essnet.org/hotelandroom.htm>

QUANTITATIVE LITERACY WORKSHOP

The American Sociological Association (ASA) and the Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN) are collaborating on a National Science Foundation-funded project to close the quantitative reasoning gap in sociology. The project, called Integrating Data Analysis (IDA), involves curricular change to add research experiences "early and often" in the non-research methods and statistics courses in sociology.

As part of the dissemination phase of the IDA project, ASA is sponsoring two workshops on "Integrating Data Analysis Throughout the Sociology Curriculum." These workshops are intended for faculty in sociology departments (with preference given to departments sending two or more faculty) who want to engage in curricular change to close the quantitative literacy gap.

Thursday, March 17, 2005, Washington, DC, at the ASA Executive Office 10:00 am - 4:30 pm. [This workshop links to the Eastern Sociological Society meeting, March 17-19]. Staff: **Carla B. Howery**, ASA; **Havidán Rodríguez**, University of Delaware; **Kerry J. Strand**, Hood College; **Jeffrey Lashbrook**, SUNY-Brockport; **William H. Frey**, University of Michigan.

Thursday, March 31, 2005, Minneapolis, MN, at Augsburg College 10:00 am - 4:30 pm. [Co-sponsored by Augsburg College Sociology Department, this workshop links to the Midwest Sociological Society meeting, March 31-April 2]. Staff: **Carla B. Howery**, ASA; **Diane Pike** and **James Vela-McConnell**, Augsburg College; **Steven Ruggles**, University of Minnesota.

Each workshop will acquaint sociology faculty with resources and approaches to closing the quantitative literacy gap for their majors. Drawing on the materials developed under the IDA grant, the staff will demonstrate ways departments can set and meet research goals for their students. The emphasis is on lower-division courses and courses outside the research methods-statistics sequence. Faculty do not need to be methodologically or technologically sophisticated to participate.

To register: Send a letter with full contact information and a check for \$40 made payable to the American Sociological Association, 1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington DC, 20005. There are 20 spaces in each workshop and registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. The registration fee includes all materials and lunch. Further, all workshop attendees will have access (after the workshop) to the Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN) staff to develop course modules using Census data, and to the Integrating Data Analysis staff for consultation on curricular cha

2005 ELECTION RESULTS

Nancy Denton,

Nominations Committee Chair
and President-Elect

- **President:** Philip Kasinitz, CUNY Graduate Center
- **Vice-President:** Annette Lareau, Temple University
- **Executive Committee:** Ivy Kennelly, George Washington University; Robin Leidner, University of Pennsylvania
- **Treasurer:** Claire Renzetti, St. Joseph's University
- **Amendment for filling Executive Committee vacancies:** Approved

We have an outstanding leadership slate to lead ESS in the coming years. Thanks to the nominations committee and all of those who volunteered to be candidates.

Editors, Steven F. Alger and Janet Alger

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Call for Articles for Next Issue: April 20, 2005

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Future Meetings

- 2005 March 17-20, Wyndham Hotel, Washington D.C.
- 2006 Boston
- 2007 Philadelphia