



# NEWSLETTER

## EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 20 No. 1 Summer 2005

### Letter from the President Nancy Denton

#### State University of New York, Albany

It gives me great pleasure to write my first letter to you as president of the Eastern Sociological Society. These first months of being president have been both fun and challenging, and I want to share some of my experiences during this time with you.

Upon returning from the great 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting President Bob Wuthnow organized for us in Washington, D.C., my thoughts immediately turned to planning my meeting in Boston next February. My program Chair, Glenn Deane, and my graduate program chair, Kirsten Lauber, and I are sketching out ideas for plenary sessions that fit with the theme I have chosen, "Places in Our Lives" and I have started to contact people to participate in them. We are also beginning work on the thematic sessions. On a more mundane level we have been exploring the use of different meeting time slots to address some of the concerns raised at this year's business meeting about conflicts that prevented many from attending the awards ceremony and the Robin Williams Lecture. The three of us, together with Executive Officer Emily Mahon, will also be visiting the 2006 meeting hotel in Boston to make sure that the sessions are assigned to rooms in the most appropriate way. Many more details of meeting plans will be forthcoming in the next issue of the newsletter, as well as through announcements on the ESS listserv. Meanwhile, I thank all of you who have volunteered to organize parts of the meeting and/or made other suggestions to make the meeting better fit your needs. What I ask you to do over the summer is continue to reflect on the meeting theme so that you are ready to submit some of your work to the program. In addition, you should send me ideas as they occur to you.

One of the first duties of the president is to appoint committees. The importance of this task becomes clear when one realizes that the committees actually perform much of the work that needs to be done in the ESS. I have introduced an innovation to this process by putting out a general call for volunteers to serve on the committees. The response to this was wonderful: over 120 people responded within the first week. Even more gratifying was the number of positive comments received by people who appreciated the open call for volunteers. All of this potential new blood involves me in appointing committee members as well as chairs. Chairs have  
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### Introducing ESS President Nancy A. Denton

[Denton was interviewed by Dr. Bridget J. Anderson a sociologist at the New York State Department of Health, Emerging Infections program.]



**BJA:** I'll bet many people don't know that you worked for the U.S. Census Bureau and you once thought about working in Africa.

**NAD:** Yes, after three years of post-doc work with Doug Massey, I was faced with the choice of moving to Chicago to continue working with Doug or working in West Africa in Nigeria as a post-doc for the Rockefeller Foundation – two really great opportunities. As part of making this choice, I went to Nigeria for several weeks to attend a conference and  
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# CALL FOR PAPERS 2006 EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

Sheraton Boston Hotel  
Boston, MA

*February 23 – 26, 2006*

## *Theme: The Places of Our Lives*

*"There are places I remember all my life....." (The Beatles, In My Life).*

In recent years sociologists have been paying increasing attention to the importance of place in people's lives—from ethnic enclaves, to underclass areas, to studies of the effects of neighborhoods on child outcomes. In a sense, what used to be viewed as largely the concern of urban or community sociology is becoming important to a larger share of the sub-disciplines of the field. Since every social action occurs somewhere, this greater emphasis on the role of place in sociology may be overdue.

The 2006 ESS Annual Meeting will offer an opportunity for us to reflect on the importance of place to the field of sociology. Place will be defined broadly – from a room (as in Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*), to neighborhood, school, city/suburb, state, region, country (of particular importance given the large numbers of immigrants to the U.S.) and the non-spatial Internet world. The essential question is whether or not the sociological variables that interest us in our respective sub-fields—family, organizations, crime and deviance, political, population, theory, culture, urban sociology (to name but a few)—have the same meaning and the same effects for people in different locations.

Submissions on all sociological topics are welcome, whether they specifically relate to the theme or not. We are eager to have them in such varied forms as:

- Individual papers (please provide one-page abstracts; longer drafts are also welcome)
- Thematic forums (panels of two or more scholars engaged in debate or exchange)
- Author-meets-critics sessions (please identify all participants)
- Workshops on specific topics and techniques (indicate the expert in charge)
- Conversations or master classes featuring a prominent scholar
- Round-table and poster-session presentations
- Wholly constituted sessions, though sessions where all presenters are from the same institution are discouraged

All submissions must include all identifying information for all participants, including telephone number, complete mailing address, and email address. The submission deadline will be **November 1, 2005**.

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 the 2006 ESS program to: [ess2006@albany.edu](mailto:ess2006@albany.edu) so that President Nancy Denton, Program Chair Glenn Deane and Graduate Program Chair Kirsten Lauber can include them in their planning.

## ESS Executive Office to Remain at William Patterson University Emily Mahon Assumes Post as Executive Officer

William Paterson University is home to one of the largest Sociology Departments in the country. It therefore is most fitting that it is also home to the Eastern Sociological Society. Since 1999, the Executive Offices of the ESS have been located on WPU's campus, and from these offices have been managed the daily operations for the society and its annual meetings for over 1000 sociologists. On May 11, 2005, Provost Chernoh Sesay hosted a luncheon to reaffirm the relationship between WPU and ESS. Dr. Nancy Denton, current ESS President, was present as the Provost expressed WPU's appreciation to Jim Mahon, the current Executive Officer of the society who will be stepping down from that position at the end of June. The occasion also welcomed Emily Mahon who will succeed Jim as the EO. Emily, who currently serves as the Associate Executive Officer, is a member of WPU's Adjunct Faculty and a PhD student in Sociology at the City University of New York in Sociology. Also present at the luncheon were Vince Parrillo, Sociology Chair, who was instrumental in bringing ESS to WPU, and Mary Pat Baumgartner, the first of the WPU Executive Officers for ESS, and other members of the Sociology faculty



WPU Provost Chernoh Sesay & ESS  
President Nancy Denton



Mary Pat Baumgartner, Chernoh Sesay,  
Emily Mahon, and Jim Mahon



Emily Mahon, Chernoh Sesay, Nancy  
Denton and Jim Mahon

## ROBIN M. WILLIAMS JR. LECTURESHIP 2005-2006

Vincent N. Parrillo, Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Sociology Department at William Paterson University, has been selected as the 2005-2006 Robin M. Williams Jr. Distinguished Lecturer. He received this award in recognition of a well-rounded record in research, pedagogy, and documentary filmmaking.



Professor Parrillo received his doctorate in Sociology from Rutgers University in 1971. For nearly 35 years, he has devoted his energies to the study of Race and Ethnic Relations. He has authored an impressive number of books, refereed articles, and paper presentations addressing issues such as ethnic and racial conflict resolution, global migration patterns, and immigrant identity.

His recent books include *Strangers to These Shores*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Allyn & Bacon, 2005); *Diversity in America*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Pine Forge Press, 2005); *Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Allyn & Bacon, 2005), and *Contemporary Social Problems*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Allyn & Bacon, 2005). He has authored several articles as well. Using a new national sample, Professor Parrillo published a major update of the classic Bogardus study of social distance (*The Social Science Journal* 42:2 2005). Other recent articles have been published in the *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, *Journal of Human*

*Rights*, *Small Group Behavior*, and *Sociological Forum*. Several of his books or papers have been translated into Chinese, Czech, Danish, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, and Swedish. His proposals for educational reform, from pre-school through college in the Czech Republic, were published in Czech, distributed to clergy, educators, and politicians throughout that country, and endorsed by one of its leading political parties.

Professor Parrillo is both a Fulbright Scholar and a Fulbright Senior Specialist. He was also a Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Pisa. He has been a consultant to several European government agencies and/or officials on affirmative action, immigration policies and race relations. Listed in the *International Who's Who in Education*, he has been a keynote speaker at six international conferences held throughout Europe, as well as an invited lecturer to dozens of universities throughout Canada, Europe, and the United States. One of his keynote speeches at a U.S. bilingual conference appeared in *Vital Speeches of the Day* (2001), a rare inclusion for an academic.

Professor Parrillo has made a number of television and radio appearances, including those on PBS, 1010WINS, Voice of America, the Canadian Broadcasting Company, and Czech National Public Radio. More importantly, he has used broadcast media to bring sociological research to a broad public. In this regard, he wrote, narrated, and produced two PBS documentaries: *Ellis Island: Gateway to America* (winner of two CAPE Awards – Cable Award for Programming Excellence), and *Smokestacks and Steeples: A Portrait of Paterson* (nominated for three CAPE awards). Currently, he is at work on *Gaetano Federici: The Artist as Historian*, a documentary funded, in part, by the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Over the past 15 years, Professor Parrillo has delivered many public lectures and diversity leadership workshops under the auspices of the U.S. Information Agency, U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Department of Defense. A recipient of numerous grants, he also received an *Outstanding Educators of America* award, a commendation from the New Jersey State Legislature for his peace studies activism, and his university's Award for Excellence in Scholarship.

Professor Parrillo demonstrates an amazing capacity to translate the sociological complexities of race and ethnicity in ways that allow multiple audiences to consider cultural diversity and the problems and opportunities it raises. As such, his lectures will be equally engaging for faculty, students and local community members. The title of his talk as the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Distinguished Lecturer will be "U.S. Diversity: Its Past, Present, and Future." Drawn from his research and writings, this presentation offers sociological insights into commonly held myths about our past, misunderstandings about our present, and anxieties about our future.

## HOW TO BRING THE ROBIN M. WILLIAMS LECTURER TO YOUR CAMPUS

All ESS Colleges and Institutions are eligible to apply for a campus visit and lecture from Dr. Vincent Parrillo, the 2005-2006 Robin M. Williams lecturer. The ESS will cover travel expenses, and the host institution will furnish food, lodging and hospitality expenses. Applicants to host the Robin M. Williams 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 project, the intended audience, and expected outcomes). As this is a competitive proposal, 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 communities). Colleges and Universities with fewer resources and therefore less able to afford to bring such distinguished professors to campus will be given preference. Applications must be submitted by **November 1, 2005**. They should be mailed to:

**Professor Karen A. Cerulo**

Department of Sociology  
Rutgers University  
343 Spruce Avenue  
Garwood, NJ 07027

Phone: 908 317-9727 Fax: 908-317-9727 and sent via email with the proposal in an attached file:

[mailto:cerulo@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:mailto:cerulo@rci.rutgers.edu)

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## NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR 2006-2007 ROBERT M. WILLIAMS LECTURESHP

The Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship Committee invites the names of leading scholars to be considered for appointment as the 2006-2007 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 20th 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 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 terms

of his or her appointment. (These campuses will be selected on a competitive basis.) The lecturer will attend the 2006 ESS Annual meeting to receive the lectureship award at a special session, and will present his or her lecture at the 2007 ESS Annual Meeting. In 2006, the annual meetings will be held in Boston, February 23 – 26.

Please send nominations in a letter detailing the reasons for the nomination along with supporting letters by **November 1, 2005** to the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship Committee Chair:

**Professor Annette Lareau**

Department of Sociology  
2112 Art-Sociology Bldg  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742  
Phone: (301)-405-6394  
Fax: (301)-314-6892

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## SUBMISSIONS INVITED FOR 2006 CANDACE ROGERS AWARD

The winner of the Candace Rogers Award for 2005 was **Sangeeta Parashar** of the University of Maryland, College Park.

The Candace Rogers Award Committee invites submissions for the 2006 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 publication in a professional journal 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 may not be co-authored, and its author must be a graduate student at the time the paper is submitted. The recipient must be a member of the ESS at the time the award is presented. In 2006, the annual meetings will be held in Boston, February 23 – 26. The award will be announced and presented at a special session at the annual meeting. Eligible students are encouraged to submit three hard copies or an electronic version of their paper postmarked by **November 1, 2005** to the committee chair. No papers postmarked after this date will be accepted for any reason.

**Sarah Rosenfield, Candace Rogers Award  
Committee Chair**

Department of Sociology  
Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and  
Aging Research  
30 College Avenue  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903  
e-mail: [slrosen@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:slrosen@rci.rutgers.edu)

Students should include their address, institutional affiliation, phone number, and e-mail address with their submission.

## THE 2006 ROSE LAUB COSER AWARD

The recipient of the Rose Laub Coser Award for 2005 was **Salvador Vidal-Ortiz** of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York with honorable mention to **Minjeong Kim** of the University at Albany, State University of New York.

The Rose Laub Coser Award Committee invites submissions for the 2006 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:

- (1) 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;
- (2) a two-page summary or abstract of the proposal;
- (3) 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.

In 2006, the annual meetings will be held in Boston, February 23 – 26. The award will be announced and presented at a special session at the annual meeting.

Eligible students are encouraged to submit four copies of their proposal by the deadline of **November 1, 2005** to the committee chair:

**Professor Nancy Naples**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Connecticut  
344 Manchester Road, Unit 2068  
Storrs, CT 06269-2068.  
Phone: 860-486-3049.  
Fax: 860-486-6356  
[Nancy.Naples@uconn.edu](mailto:Nancy.Naples@uconn.edu)

## THE MIRRA KOMAROVSKY BOOK AWARD

The winners of the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award for 2005 were **Richard Alba** and **Victor Nee** for their book *Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration*.

The Eastern Sociological Society welcomes nominations of outstanding scholarly books in sociology to be considered for the 2006 Mirra Komarovsky Book Award. Books on any sociological subject are eligible. To be eligible for consideration, a book must have been published during the three years ending March, 2006, and at least one of its authors must be an ESS member. Nominations submitted by publishers alone, however, will not be considered. Self-nominations are accepted. In 2006, the annual meetings will be held in Boston, February 23 – 26. The award will be announced and presented at a special session at the annual meeting. Nominators and/or authors are responsible for arranging review copies to be sent to committee members. Nominations should provide full publication information (including date of publication), a 1-2 paragraph rationale for the nomination, and should be sent by **November 1, 2005** to:

Mirra Komarovsky Book Award Committee  
c/o Eastern Sociological Society  
Department of Sociology  
William Paterson University  
300 Pompton Road  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
973-720-3689  
<mailto:ess@wpunj.edu>

The committee chair is **Barrett Lee** at Penn State University [bal6@psu.edu](mailto:bal6@psu.edu).

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## The 2006 ESS Merit Award

The winners of the ESS Merit Award for 2005 are **William A. Gamson** of Boston College and **Caroline Hodges Purcell**, New York University.

For the 2006 award, the ESS Merit Award Committee invites members to recommend candidates. Those suggested should be distinguished scholars who have made outstanding contributions to the discipline, the profession, and the ESS. Recommendations should include a brief statement in support of the nominee and should be sent by **November 1, 2005** to the committee chair:

**Professor Robin Leidner**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Pennsylvania  
3718 Locust Walk  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6299  
Phone: (215) 898-6711  
Fax: (215) 573-2081  
Email: [rleidner@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:rleidner@sas.upenn.edu)

## 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, and three members of the Executive Committee (two of whom will serve three-year terms, one will serve a one-year term). 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 as we receive more nominations than needed. Suggestions should be sent by **September 1, 2005**, to the committee chair: **Philip Kasinitz**, CUNY Graduate Center, Program in Sociology, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016, [pkasinitz@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:pkasinitz@gc.cuny.edu).

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### *Continued from Page 1 Column 1--President's Letter*

done a wonderful job of staffing their committees in the recent past, but we are all limited by our social networks. My hope is that this process will get even more people involved in the ESS (and give some of those who have worked diligently for many years a well-deserved rest).

Let me say as well, that I am looking forward to working with Emily Mahon as our new Executive Officer. Not only is Emily great, but the continuity she brings means that the transition from one Executive Officer to the next will be seamless. The recent survey about the annual meeting, which Emily will report on in the next newsletter, is a great innovation and will help in the planning of future ESS meetings. I recently visited William Paterson University to thank their Provost, Dr. Chernoh Sesay, in person for all the support the university has given ESS. During that visit I was also able to attend a lunch that they were giving to honor Jim Mahon for more than three years of outstanding service as Executive Officer. Thanks Jim! The ESS is very lucky to have the support of such a fine institution as William Paterson.

So, as you reflect on the meaning of place to your own lives and your sociological work, and study the "Call for Papers" later in this issue, mark your calendars to attend the 2006 ESS Annual Meeting at the Sheraton hotel in Boston, MA February 23-26! I look forward to seeing you there.

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### *Continued from Page 1 Column 2--Introducing Denton*

to visit the researchers at the university there. Much of my work with Doug to this point involved data preparation and preliminary analysis, and I really wanted to be involved in the data analysis and writing up of results. Had I gone to Africa, I would have had to change topics, and felt I would have lost those three years of work on US segregation. Still, much as I love what I do, it is interesting to think of how different my life would have been had I made the other choice.

**BJA:** So you worked for Census before you started working with Doug?  
*Continued Next Column*

**NAD:** Yes, I worked with the Census while finishing my Ph.D. It was a great job – I used to train people how to use data from the 1980 Census. I trained librarians, urban planners and business people on using census data for their specific needs. We had a five state region and there was lots of travel. I left after a year and two weeks because of Ronald Reagan's Reduction in Force (RIF).

**BJA:** So you have always been a teacher?

**NAD:** Yes, I began teaching in 1972 at a small liberal arts college in central Pennsylvania. I had small classes and I really got to know my students and their lives. Teaching at SUNY Albany has fostered similar relationships with graduate students, but because of the size of undergraduate classes, it has been more difficult to really get to know the undergrads, who often take only one course with me.

**BJA:** What is the focus of your current research?

**NAD:** My current research is still on spatial inequality, but now focuses not only on blacks and whites, but includes the new immigrant groups. A lot of it also looks at children.

I have recently gotten involved in two new projects. The first involves my work with the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities. The focus of this is smaller cities in upstate New York and one emphasis of the center is the use of participatory action research which is a new research methodology for me. The community is a partner in helping design the research, collecting data and writing up results – from beginning to end. The second new project involves looking at new immigrants who are settling outside of the gateway cities. With some of my colleagues I plan to investigate how they are faring, as well as the reaction of the native population to them. We are starting this in two counties in the Hudson Valley of New York, which have had very little immigration since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is particularly interesting to me because the Hudson Valley is where I grew up, so in a way it is almost like returning home to conduct this research.

**BJA:** Why did you run for ESS office?

**NAD:** Primarily because I was so honored to be asked. I have always had a lot of respect for the ESS – it was the first professional meeting I attended and I like the people who are associated with it.

**BJA:** What are your plans for the 2006 ESS meetings?

**NAD:** The theme I've chosen is "Places in Our Lives." This choice grew out of my own work on segregation and neighborhoods, as well as the work of others. I want people to reflect on the role that place has played in their lives and how it affects their research. Everything sociologists study takes place somewhere and I don't think we pay enough attention to where things happen and how variations in these places affect outcomes. Put another way, do our standard variables like age or education have different meanings depending on where we are located? I am hoping for a really good turnout in Boston and that we have a lot of sessions to help graduate students and young sociologists advance their careers.

# ESS 75th Annual Meeting Washington, DC

Although we were too early for the cherry blossoms, the weather was kind to the Eastern Sociological Society as we met in Washington for the 75<sup>th</sup> annual meeting March 17-22 at the Wyndham Washington DC Hotel. With a crowd of nearly 1000 registrants participating in over 235 sessions, the conference, which focused on "Sociology and Public Policy," was indeed a success.

The Annual Meeting centered around three plenary sessions. On Thursday evening, a panel



moderated by **ESS President Robert Wuthnow** discussed Social Science and Public Policy. Lawrence Bobo, Amitai Etzioni, David Harris and Harriet Presser served as panelists. On Friday night Wuthnow presented his Presidential address "Cultural Inertia and Democratic Renewal: Why Our Best Efforts Fall Short." The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Saturday evening looked at "Sociology in 2005 -- What Have We Accomplished, Where Are We Headed". Four leading sociological scholars, all past presidents of ESS, brought their unique perspectives to bear on the topic: William Gamson, Suzanne Keller, Richard Alba, and Cynthia Fuchs Epstein.

Several other special sessions showcased the talent resident in the society. The 2004-2005

Robin M. Williams, Jr., Lecturer, Jack Levin of Northeastern University, presented "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage: The Sociology of Preventing Hate Violence," the same lecture that has been so well received on several campuses this year as part of the RMW Lectureship series. A series of "Conversations with...." sessions gave sociology students (and their professors) the opportunity to gain rare insights from Sergio DellaPergola, Donald Black, Charles Tilly, Cynthia Fuchs Epstein and Randall Collins. "The Success of Women in the Eastern Sociological Society" on Saturday brought together Nancy Denton, Phyllis Moen, Judith Lorber and Cynthia Fuchs Epstein to comment on their experiences as Presidents of the ESS and their observations on changes in the Society and society.

Also on Saturday, the 2005 ESS Awards were presented at a session chaired by ESS Vice President Debra Kaufman.

The Candace Rogers Award for an outstanding student paper on a current social issues (Sarah Rosenfield, Committee Chair) was presented to Sangeeta Parashar of the University of Maryland, College Park. The Rose Laub Coser Award for an outstanding doctoral dissertation proposal in the area of the family or gender and



society was given by **committee chair Nancy Naples to Salvador Vidal-Ortiz** of the CUNY Graduate Center, with Honorable Mention going to Minjeong Kim of SUNY at Albany.

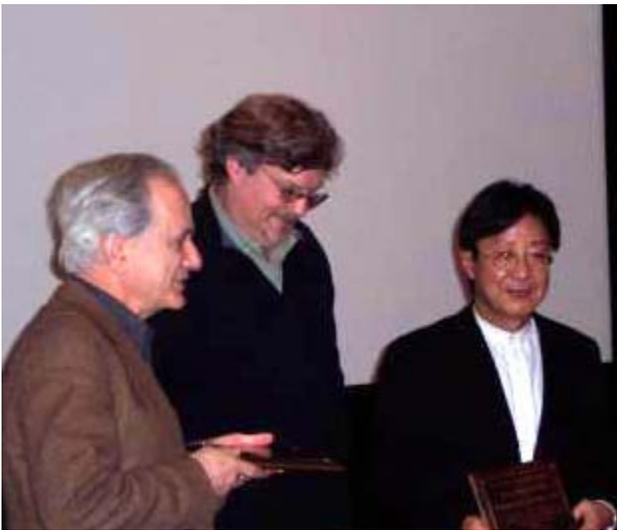
### College, and to Caroline Hodges Persell, New York University.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting included almost a score of Thematic Sessions drawing not only on Society members but also on experts from a variety of fields, many located (not surprisingly) in the conference city of Washington, DC. There were also "mini-conferences" on Catholicism and Public Policy, on Economic Sociology, on Public Policies for Working Families, on Sociology and the Internet, on Sociology and Bioethics, and on War, Peace, and Military Institutions. As has become the custom, the Author Meets Critics sessions were lively and provocative. Organized by Mitch Duneier of Princeton and the CUNY Graduate Center and Magali Sarfatti Larson of Temple University, the sessions featured Loic Waquant, Jeffrey Alexander, Sharon Zukin, Vivek Chibber, Katherine Newman, Viviana Zelizer, Frances Fox Piven, Karen Hansen, Kevin Delaney and Rick Eckstein, Randall Collins, and Paul Starr.

Over 15 workshops were organized on topics ranging from Data Analysis to Civic Engagement in the Classroom to Sociologists and Activists. Several of the workshops focused on issues of concern to graduate students including one on "Learning to Teach Sociology -- Graduate Student Experiences" and one on "Careers in Sociology." Not to be overlooked, the Society's newest members -- the undergraduate students -- were featured in two Poster Presentations on Friday during which over 65 outstanding poster displays dominated the Upper Mezzanine Hallways causing sociologists and casual passersby alike to stop and learn.

Conferees were able to enjoy several breaks from the sessions to catch up with old friends, meet new colleagues, and debate current issues. Coffee hours offered in the Book Exhibit located on the Conference Level drew many in to browse and socialize. Receptions were held both Thursday and Saturday evenings after the plenary sessions, allowing members to unwind and debrief before heading out to the attractions offered by the capital city.

On Sunday the traditional Business Breakfast was served up with a heavy portion of Society news and financials. President Robert Wuthnow, Executive Officer Jim Mahon and Treasurer Claire Renzetti reported on the health and well-being of the Society. In 2004, the Society had over 1000 members and annual meeting registrants. Thanks



**Committee Chair Jeff Goodwin presented the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award to Richard Alba and Victor Nee** for *Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration*. Because of the particularly rich field this year, three other books were given Honorable Mention: *Locked in Place: State Building and Late Industrialization in India* by Vivek Chibber; *The Time Divide: Work Family, and Gender Inequality* by Jerry A. Jacobs and Kathleen Gerson; and *Villa Victoria: The Transformation of Social Capital in a Boston Barrio* by Mario Luis Small. Jack Levin, the 2004-2005 Robin M. Williams, Jr., Lecturer, was acknowledged with plaque and honorarium by Debra Kaufman and the 2005-2006 RMW Lecturer, Vincent Parrillo of William Paterson University, was announced by Committee Chair and incoming VP Karen Cerulo.



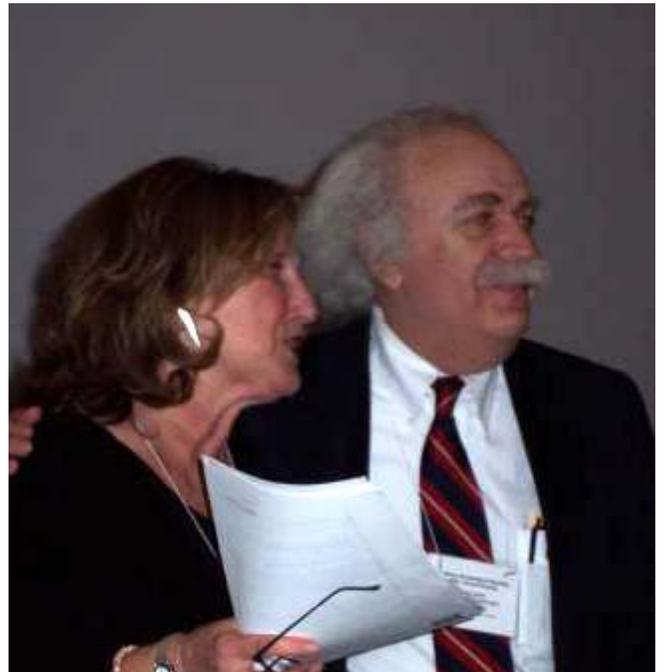
In an unusual move, *two* 2005 ESS Merit Awards (**Rosanna Hertz committee chair**) were presented for outstanding contributions to the discipline: to **William A. Gamson, Boston**

to the underwriting of the Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center and the Careers Institute, both located within Cornell University (former home of 2004 President Phyllis Moen) and several other institutions, many of the costs of the 2004 conference were defrayed allowing ESS to close the year substantially in the black. In recent years, thanks to the support of our members, the creativity of our Presidents, the draw of the annual meetings, and the generous contributions of institutional and individual donors, the Society has been able to bounce back from its past financial difficulties and to establish a contingency fund for the future. At the conclusion of the Breakfast, Bob Wuthnow thanked Tim Clydesdale, this year's Program Chair, for his outstanding work and thanked Jim Mahon, the Society's Executive Officer since the end of 2001, for his contribution to the Society. Jim will be stepping down this June and Emily Mahon will become the new EO.

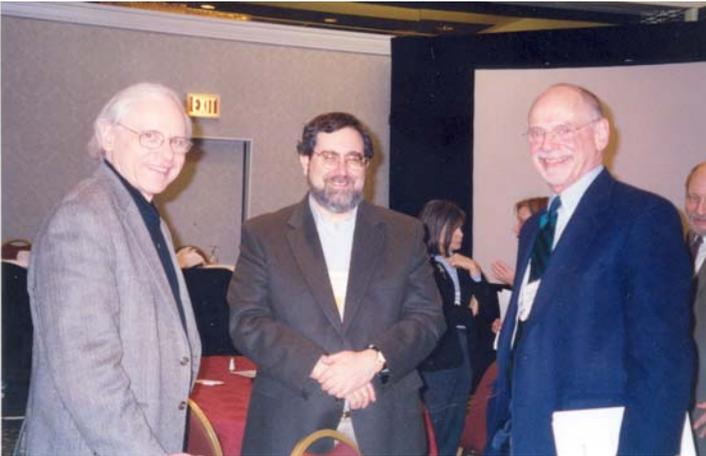


**Wuthnow then passed the ceremonial gavel to Nancy Denton** of SUNY Albany who, with the introduction of her Program Chair, Glenn Deane, and the announcement of the 2006 meeting "The Places of Our Lives", February 23-26, 2006 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel, closed the meeting.

## *Scenes from the 2005 Meetings*



## More Scenes from the 2005 Meetings



# MINUTES

## Eastern Sociological Society, Executive Committee Meeting 3/17/2005.

Attendance: R. Wuthnow, D. Kaufman, M. Dillon, C. Renzetti, P. Moen, N. Denton, K. Cerulo, B. Lee, L. Miller-Bernal, T. Clydesdale, E. Mahon, J. Mahon.

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM by ESS President, Robert Wuthnow. R. Wuthnow expressed relief and gratitude that his term was coming to a close with the conference. He was especially thankful to all of those who along with Conference Program Chair, T. Clydesdale, helped organize conference sessions, mini-conferences and other special features. R. Wuthnow raised some financial planning considerations for ESS to consider: (i) Given high hotel conference costs, ESS needs to keep registration and membership fees at a level that will enable ESS to be self-sustaining; (ii) ESS should also consider taking out event hazard insurance in case some unanticipated events (e.g. major snow storm) dampen conference registration and thus decrease the hotel registrations available to ESS to pay the hotel expenses.

**Conference Program.** T. Clydesdale, Conference Program Chair, thanked all of his committee and others who contributed to organizing the program. He suggested the possibility of initiating a more thorough review of conference abstracts prior to acceptance. After some discussion of the various reasons why individuals need to be able to participate on the program rather than simply attend the conference, a consensus emerged that a more selective acceptance policy might deplete conference registration, and thus decrease a core revenue stream for ESS. R. Wuthnow and the committee members present expressed their thanks to T. Clydesdale for his hard work as Program Chair.

**Nominations.** N. Denton, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the election results (President-elect: P. Kasinitz; Vice-President elect: A. Lareau, Treasurer, C. Renzetti; Executive Committee: R. Leidner and I. Kennelly). N. Denton commented on how fortuitous the election of C. Renzetti for a second term as Treasurer was to maintaining continuity in the management of the society's financial matters. The Executive Committee expressed their affirmation of this continuity.

**Executive Officer (E.O.) Search.** N. Denton reported on the search for a new Executive Officer. She stated that it was very hard to find suitable candidates, largely because of considerations that a junior faculty member not assume this demanding service position. Fortunately, William Paterson University reversed its decision to end its relationship with ESS and offered not only to accommodate the office but also to host and maintain the website. While Jim Mahon's tour as EO will end June 30, 2005, after some discussion with E. Mahon, currently the Associate E.O., E. Mahon agreed to

assume the duties of the E.O. ESS will pay her a stipend directly for this rather than continuing the previous arrangement whereby ESS reimbursed WPU for the adjunct necessary to fill in for Jim Mahon's release time. Further, at the end of E. Mahon's tour, ESS, not WPU, will be responsible for finding a successor. The Executive Committee expressed their enthusiasm for this outcome, and the resolution to appoint E. Mahon as EO was unanimously approved. There will no longer be an Associate Executive Officer, but it was the sentiment of the committee that if the ESS could award a scholarship to a Graduate Student to act as an assistant to the E.O., that would be very helpful. No action was taken on this idea. The Executive Committee also agreed that the new ESS President (N. Denton) should write to express thanks to the Provost of William Patterson University for the university's ongoing housing of the ESS Executive Office. R. Wuthnow thanked N. Denton for chairing the Nominations Committee and the E.O. Search Committee.

R. Wuthnow reported that the 2006 ESS conference will be in Boston, '07 in Philadelphia, and '08 in New York. J. Mahon pointed out that holding the conference in D.C., though a popular location, costs the Society 15% more than in other cities because there is no nonprofit tax exemption available to ESS in D.C.

**Budget and Finances.** Jim Mahon (E.O.) reported on the Society's finances. ESS has a reserve of \$10,000 in the contingency fund established in 2004 and the EO would like to add \$5000 (20% of the 2004 Net Income) to that amount this year as agreed. J. Mahon also proposed that ESS close our Putnam fund (\$3,000) and put the money in a more conservative money market fund that ESS will dedicate to awards and related expenses. The Committee authorized this proposal.

**Treasurer's Report.** C. Renzetti reported that the Society was doing very well financially at this year's conference; there is a noticeable increase in the number of members registered for the meeting and in new members. Additional money will be forthcoming toward the reception from publishers using the book exhibit space.

Departmental memberships cost from \$50 to \$150 per year. The Committee agreed to publicize this option in the newsletter and on the website. One advantage of departmental memberships is the recognition given to individual departments in the conference program, and another is that undergraduate students from member departments who present at the Annual Meeting do not have to pay the membership fee. The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously. The Budget for 2005-2006 will be submitted for review and approval at the September meeting of the Executive Committee.

**Executive Officer's Report.** J. Mahon reported that after the D.C. meeting he would send membership solicitation letters to lapsed members in the Society's database. He also reported that electronic distribution of the newsletter was working well but that a sizable proportion of the membership still requested a paper copy and thus these printing and

mailing costs continued to be an expense. The E.O. informed the Committee that the WPU Provost was willing to move the ESS website within the purview of WPU web maintenance. There was a brief discussion of the purpose of the newsletter given that so much ESS-related information is made available on an ongoing basis on the website and via the broadcast ListServe. The EO also noted that there will be a turnover in the position of newsletter editor next year. In regard to conference organization matters, the E.O. noted the expense associated with overhead projection/power-point costs, and the importance of having the Local Arrangements Committee organized as soon as possible. The E.O. also drew attention to the need for an upgrade on the E.O.'s office computer.

**Publications Committee.** L. Miller-Bernal provided an update on continuing contract discussions with Springer and other potential publishers as ESS reviews its options in regard to the future of *Sociological Forum*. L. Miller-Bernal has set up meetings with Springer, Duke and California Presses over the course of the conference and she emphasized that executive committee members are welcome and encouraged to attend some or all of these meetings. The Executive Committee agreed that it would be good to have a copyright lawyer offer ESS some advice on the matter of copyright ownership.

R. Wuthnow adjourned the meeting at 2:55pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Michele Dillon, Executive Secretary

## Eastern Sociological Society, Business Meeting, 3/20/2005

The meeting was called to order by ESS President, R. Wuthnow at 8.40am. There were 22 people in attendance.

**President's Report.** R. Wuthnow reported that ESS had another very good year in terms of maintaining a stable membership, good finances, and high levels of conference registrations and participation. He thanked all the people who volunteer a lot of time to ESS and publicly recognized Committee Chairs and Conference program and session organizers by name.

**2005 Conference Program Committee Chair's Report.** T. Clydesdale thanked all of those who helped in organizing the conference and especially his program committee and E. & J. Mahon of the Executive Office.

**Nominations Committee Chair's Report.** Nancy Denton thanked the Nominations Committee members by name ( M. Durr, J. Friedman, C.Gallagher, R. Levine, V. Parillo and R. Wuthnow) and announced/introduced the new ESS President-Elect (P. Kasinitz), Vice-President-elect (A. Lareau), Treasurer (C. Renzetti), and Executive Committee members (I. Kennelly & R. Leidner).

**Budget and Finances.** Budget figures were updated by ESS Treasurer C. Renzetti. She reported that ESS was financially healthy and acknowledged the role of the E.O. in

maintaining this stability. She also noted that a solicitation letter will be sent to lapsed members asking them to renew their membership. Members present had no questions in regard to the budget.

J. Mahon reported that ESS will meet its annual budget, and indeed will be receiving additional money from conference exhibitors that will add to the Society's good finances. Job Fair. Two employers availed themselves of the job fair service at the conference. Each paid \$50 and there were 18 student job hunters who each paid \$10. The introduction of an electronic newsletter has resulted in some cost reduction but because a substantial number of members (approx. 250) prefer a hard copy, newsletter printing and mailing continues to be an expense. J. Mahon pointed out that the mailing costs associated with the annual solicitation of lapsed members usually results in additional membership fees that exceed the cost of the mailing. J. Mahon reported that ESS currently has \$10,000 in a reserve contingency fund and expects that the Society will be in a good position to add to that fund in order to build it up to \$40,000 as a buffer against any future financial contingencies. This year ESS contracted for 550 hotel room nights and the conference resulted in 776 hotel room nights.

**Executive Officer Search.** N. Denton reported on the complications and challenges in the search process to find a new E.O. After negotiations with William Patterson University where the Executive Office is housed, the Committee (Denton, R. Alba and K. Cerullo) succeeded in getting E. Mahon (currently the Associate E.O.) to accept the position and this will ensure a seamless transition.

R. Wuthnow thanked J. Mahon for his extensive contribution to ESS at its E.O. and members in attendance gave him a warm ovation.

**Publications Committee.** L. Miller-Bernal highlighted a number of big changes that are on the horizon for *Sociological Forum (SF)*. Among these is the termination of the *SF* contract with Springer in Dec. 06 and the ongoing negotiations with Springer and other interested publishers in regard to a new contract. One contentious issue is title copyright ownership and ESS needs a good publications lawyer with whom to consult. Another transition is that the *SF* editorship term expires this summer and consequently the process of finding a new editor needs to be set in motion.[It was subsequently clarified that the present editorship extends through to December 31, 2006.] L. Miller-Bernal also pointed out that the Committee needs more members because it essentially has just two active members currently. Questions: One person present asked whether the current *SF* editor was interested in continuing; the answer to this question was unknown.

**Employment Committee.** J. Shin reported this year there were fewer positions advertised at the conference and this may be in part a function of job application deadlines and the later timing of this year's conference. Six interviews were conducted during the conference job fair. J. Shin expressed his desire to make ESS more proactive in promoting employment opportunities. A member present asked whether any positions

in applied sociology were advertised; the response was in the affirmative. Another member present suggested that the incoming ESS President could perhaps appoint new members to both the Employment and Publications Committees.

**New President.** Wuthnow introduced the incoming President, N. Denton. He highlighted her distinguished scholarship and exceptional organizational skills. N. Denton thanked R. Wuthnow and said she was both happy and stunned to be ESS President and aware of the large shoes she had to fill. N. Denton stated that one of her goals was to be inclusive of all kinds of people in running ESS and thus will be contacting the committee Chairs to inquire about seeking/appointing new members. N. Denton also announced that the theme for the 06 conference in Boston will be "The Places of Our Lives," a theme that will draw sociological attention to how place plays a role in whatever we do. N. Denton introduced Glenn Deane as the 06 Program Chair, and also indicated she was looking forward to working with E.O., E. Mahon.

**New Business.** There was a question of clarification regarding the dates for the 06 Boston conference (Feb. 23-26). One person expressed concern about the scheduling overlap of awards ceremonies with other sessions. After some discussion it was recognized that ESS would like to accord greater prominence to award winners and perhaps include, for example, a special session devoted to dissertation award nominees, but that these ideas would have to weighed against time and other scheduling considerations. There was also a request that future conferences provide email access; E. Mahon explained that this was quite costly (\$100 per computer per day) and even if ESS charged email users a small fee, someone would need to be hired to monitor the line of users.

N. Denton adjourned the meeting at 9:38am.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Michele Dillon, Executive Secretary

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## Eastern Sociological Society, Executive Committee Meeting, 3/20/2005

Attendance: N. Denton, R. Wuthnow, D. Kaufman, M. Dillon, C. Renzetti, K. Cerulo, P. Kasinitz, A. Lareau, N. Naples, I. Kennelly, R. Leidner, E. Mahon, J. Mahon.

The meeting was called to order at 12.05pm. by ESS President, N. Denton. N. Denton welcomed everyone and after self-introductions, she discussed the 06 Conference theme "The Places of Our Lives." N. Denton introduced the Program Chair (G. Deane) and noted that the Program Committee would comprise faculty and graduate students from SUNY-Albany's large sociology department. The Conference Program Chair said that he felt confident about the upcoming task and had spoken with the 05 Program Chair about organizational issues during the meeting.

**Finances and Executive Office (E.O.).** C. Renzetti stated that the final budget figures would be available in the summer. J. Mahon said he had nothing to add to what he had reported at the Business Meeting other than that there were 929 registrants at the 05 meeting and it was a successful meeting. E. Mahon discussed the annual meeting support costs, noting the great value in the Meeting Abstract data base (ESS gets it at a bargain price of about \$1,000); the expense of providing AV equipment; and the need for a computer upgrade in the E.O. A proposed motion to give \$2,250 toward a new computer for the E.O. was passed unanimously.

**The Robin Williams Lecture Committee.** D. Kaufman (Committee Chair) suggested that the Williams Lecturer be required to commit to two rather than three lectures at separate institutions because of the logistical and travel demands associated with extensive traveling. This year there were six nominations and one withdrawal; this was a significant increase compared to the preceding year. All were excellent candidates and the Committee had a very close vote in making their decision. The Committee was very energetic in pursuing nominations; after some discussion it was decided that nominees from one year would not automatically carry over to the following year. The incoming Committee Chair (K. Cerulo) indicated her commitment to actively recruit colleges/nominees for this year's award. The question of giving increased prominence to the scheduling of the Williams award lecture—and to the Coser and Rogers awardees—during the ESS conference was also discussed. Concerns were expressed that because of other important parallel sessions, fewer conference registrants have the opportunity to attend these various awards sessions and they should be given a higher profile during the conference. One suggestion was to hold more evening sessions and another was to rethink the time limits of various sessions.

**Conference: Local Arrangements.** D. Kaufman indicated her willingness to help with local organizing matters for the '06 Boston conference and mentioned university centers in the area that might be willing to assist ESS efforts. There was much discussion of the importance of the local organizing challenges, the importance of drumming up local support for the conference, and the strategies by which to recruit local faculty and students to take on specific responsibilities (e.g., registration, tours, restaurant guide, maps, AV support, tote bags, general program assistance). It was decided that a formal list of tasks and an accompanying organizing/planning timetable would be developed and used as a guide to assist the Local Arrangements Committee. It was also decided that the Arrangements Committee could have input into developing locally-focused conference related themes.

**Rogers Award Committee.** The Committee Chair (N. Naples) indicated that the deadline for award nominees should be moved up to January 8<sup>th</sup> in order to ensure that the Committee has sufficient time before the conference to make their decisions and to contact the award winner. N. Naples

## Bulletin Board

indicated her agreement with the idea of featuring nominees more prominently during the conference program and also suggested that a reception be organized for graduate students.

**Committee on the Status of Women.** I. Kennelly reported that this year's program had a nice session featuring women past-presidents of ESS. She inquired into the possibility of ESS funding a mentoring program that would connect senior and junior scholars during the conference. She also wondered whether ESS could survey members' conference-related child-care needs and whether ESS could award a scholarship to someone to attend the conference that would otherwise be unable to attend on account of child-care expenses. The E.O. explained that the budgetary constraints on ESS made such initiatives (and additional receptions etc.) difficult to fund and that additionally, liability insurance costs make on-site child-care at ESS too expensive. I. Kennelly stated that her Committee would like to see ESS make a commitment to inclusivity. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested that ESS can support initiatives (e.g., mentoring) without necessarily having to draw significantly on the ESS centralized budget. Another concern expressed was that the boundaries of mentoring relationships need to be demarcated clearly because there can be mismatched expectations on both sides.

**New Business.** N. Denton reported that F. Polletta is moving to California and has indicated that she will be unable to attend future E. C. meetings and seeks advice as to her continuing status on the E.C. It was agreed that F. Polletta should resign and be thanked for her contributions to ESS. (She will be replaced using the procedure just approved as an amendment in the last election -- the nominee with the highest vote count after those declared the 2005 winners will be asked to serve -- should that person choose not to, the next runner up will be asked. In the event that none choose to serve, the President will appoint an ESS member to serve with the approval of the Executive Committee) The Executive Committee also approved the authorization of \$3,000 toward a lawyer consultation fee in regard to reviewing the contract status of *Sociological Forum*. The E.C. mid-year meeting will be held in Albany on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Members should send N. Denton names of 5 potential ESS members who might be willing to serve on committees, who will be reviewing the by-laws to check on terms of service. She will also contact the *SF* editor in order to get a clearer sense of the terms of the editor's contract and of the journal's status (submission/acceptance rates etc.). Appreciation for the service of Robert Max Jackson's editorship was expressed. R. Leidner asked that a larger font be used for conference name-tags at future meetings.

N. Denton adjourned the meeting at 1:25pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Michele Dillon, Executive Secretary.

## News of Members....

**Judith Lorber** (Professor Emerita, Brooklyn College and Graduate School, City University of New York) has published a new book, *Breaking the Bowls: Degendering and Feminist Change* (W.W. Norton, 2005) and the third edition of *Gender Inequality: Feminist Theory and Politics* (Roxbury, 2005). In October-November 2004, she was a Fulbright Senior Specialist Visiting Scholar at Carl von Ossietzky University, Oldenburg, Germany.

**Helen A. Berger** has published *Witchcraft and Magic: Contemporary North America*. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005).

**Arnold Dashefsky** has been appointed Director of the Berman Institute North American Jewish Data Bank, which has moved to the University of Connecticut as a collaborative project of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life and the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research and in cooperation with the United Jewish Communities of New York, which provides major grant support. The Data Bank's website ([www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org)) provides access to local and national studies of the North American Jewish population, including the National Jewish Population Survey of 2000-01, several other national studies, and over 90 local Jewish community studies.

**Robert J. Stevenson** has published *A Mexican Border Prostitution Community During the Late Vietnam Era: La Zona* (New York: The Edwin Mellen Press). Winner of the Adele Mellen Prize for its distinguished contribution to scholarship.

## Positions Available...

### CALL FOR EDITOR For RACE IN SOCIETY

The Publications Committee of the Association of Black Sociologists welcomes applications for the next editor of **RACE IN SOCIETY**. The editor serves a three-year term. Your application should include a preliminary discussion of the monetary and/or in-kind resources your institution would provide to the editor, including office space, furniture, networked computers, printer(s), telephone and e-mail access, graduate student assistance stipend(s), and faculty release time. Additional items that should be discussed are expenses for photocopying, postage, supplies, a managing editor (including summer salary), and funding for a book review editor(s) and summer staff. Applicants should send a letter of application, curriculum vita, and documentation of institutional support by **July 15, 2005**. Members of ABS are encouraged to apply and/or nominate colleagues who might be encouraged to apply. Please send applications and nominations to: *Donald Cunnigen, Department of Sociology-Anthropology, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881-0808*. For more information, contact *Donald Cunnigen*, ABS Publications Committee Chairperson, at: [Dcunn@uriacc.uri.edu](mailto:Dcunn@uriacc.uri.edu).

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*Call for Articles for Next Issue: September 15, 2005*

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**Future Meetings**

- 2006 February 23-26, Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, MA
- 2007 Philadelphia
- 2008 New York