



# NEWSLETTER

## EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Volume 20, No. 2, Winter 2006*

### LOOKING FORWARD TO BOSTON

**Nancy Denton**

As I write to you, the New Year is just beginning and the annual meeting in Boston is next month! In mid-December the program committee met one Saturday afternoon for pizza and assembled sessions from the more than seven hundred papers submitted for presentation at the meeting. Now my program committee co-chairs, **Glenn Deane** and **Kirsten Lauber**, and I are busily putting the sessions into time slots and the preliminary program will be on line before you receive this newsletter. As each step is completed I find that my excitement grows, for each time I look over some aspect of the program, I become more convinced that this will be a great meeting. Though I was confident that interesting sessions could be organized around the theme, "Places in Our Lives," seeing them take shape is wonderful. The theme seems to have touched many people and so my vision of having the idea of place be interpreted broadly is becoming a reality.

In Thursday's opening plenary, **Thomas Gieryn**, **Elijah Anderson**, **Daniel Lichter** and **Richard Alba** will discuss the importance of place in sociology from various perspectives. **Gieryn** will present a theoretical overview, **Anderson** and **Lichter** will talk about place and inequality in the U.S., while **Alba** will discuss issues of place and inequality in France. Friday's plenary will look at what we learn from the various methods sociologists use as they study place: **Robert Sampson**, the systematic social observation of public spaces; **Douglas Massey**, neighborhood segregation; **Ronald Rindfuss**, spatially explicit data collection in Nang Rong, Thailand; and **Sharon Zukin**, spaces of consumption. Beyond these plenaries we have invited sessions looking at place and crime, churches, schools, inequality, quality of life, immigration, homelessness, community building, visual sociology, AIDS, housing, cyberspace—all with well-known scholars too numerous to list. **Barry Bluestone** has organized two sessions about Boston, the "place" for this meeting, and **Will Horton** will lead two tours, one to the Back Bay and the other to the Dudley Street Neighborhood. There is a

*Continued on Page 4, Column 2*

### INTRODUCING DEBRA LEMKE

**New Editor of ESS Newsletter**

**Debra Lemke** is Associate Professor of Sociology and Department Chair at McDaniel College (formerly known as Western Maryland College) where she is known for her outstanding service to the college and her stellar performance in the classroom. She has been recognized for her work in teaching historical sociological theory using popular film, a subject on which she has presented off-campus workshops. She has served on numerous faculty committees including the Admission, Retention, and Standards Committee; the Faculty Council, the Retention Committee Task Force on Diversity, the Affirmative Action Committee, the Grants Committee, and the Curriculum Committee. In 2001, she was awarded Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award. This is a bi-annual student nominated award determined by campus-wide student ballot.

*Continued on page 5, Column 2*



#### *Table of Contents*

<i>Looking Forward to Boston</i> .....	<i>Page 1, Column 1</i>
<i>Introducing Debra Lemke</i> .....	<i>Page 1, Column 2</i>
<i>The City of Boston</i> .....	<i>Page 2, Column 1</i>
<i>What's Happening in Boston</i> ... ..	<i>Page 2, Column 2</i>
<i>Election Results</i> .....	<i>Page 3, Column 2</i>
<i>Boston Hotel</i> .....	<i>Page 3, Column 2</i>
<i>Annual Meeting Survey</i> .....	<i>Page 4, Column 1</i>

## THE CITY OF BOSTON

Candice Botes

Brudnick Center, Northeastern University

Every year, over 12 million people discover the wealth of interesting and exciting activities that Boston has to offer. Boston may be small in size, but the city has much to offer. With such varied museum, retail, and dining options, you are sure to find something to peak your interest. The best way to explore the city is by foot or by hopping on the 'T' trolley. An aimless stroll around Boston will always lead to discovering one of the city's unique neighborhoods. If a more structured activity is your pleasure, you'll be glad to know that every site and activity in Boston is T-accessible.

If shopping is your passion, head over to Newbury Street (a block from the hotel) or the Prudential Center (connected to the hotel). Newbury Street offers an eclectic mix of today's leading retailers and one-of-a-kind specialty stores. The street also offers a wide variety of eateries, from chic city bistros to late-night hot spots. In addition to Newbury Street, the Prudential Center provides indoor shopping and eating options. Be sure to visit the Skywalk Observatory, located on the 50<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Prudential Center, which offers a stunning 360 degree view of Boston.

Cultural offerings are also abundant in Boston. The Museum of Fine Arts consistently hosts fascinating exhibits in addition to a comprehensive collection of over 400,000 works. The Boston Symphony Orchestra presents world-class musicians performing new and old pieces under the direction of James Levine. Other cultural offerings include the Boston Ballet, national and local theater productions, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and the Institute of Contemporary Art

With all the shopping and sightseeing, you are sure to build up quite an appetite and, fortunately for you, Boston has a multitude of dining options. The North End, Boston's Little Italy, offers a variety of excellent Italian restaurants and pastry shops. Legal Sea Foods and Cheesecake Factory are two visitor favorites, both of which are conveniently located in the nearby Prudential Center. On Boylston Street, you can also find excellent Mexican, Italian, Thai, Japanese, and American cuisine. The only difficulty when it comes to dining is deciding which fabulous restaurants to try.

So, no matter how you prefer to spend your free time, Boston will certainly satisfy. Come see what Boston has in store for you.

## What's Happening in Boston During the ESS Conference?

Kirsten Lauber

ESS Program Co-Chair, University at Albany

A partial listing of some special exhibits on during the ESS meetings:

**The Museum of Fine Arts** Numerous exhibits, including "West African Gold: Akan Regalia from the Glassell Collection", "Facets of Cubism" and "Degas to Picasso: Modern Masters" as well as two of Japanese art. All of these exhibits are free with admission, but the "David Hockney Portraits" exhibit which opens February 26, the last day of the ESS meeting, will require tickets purchased in advance. These go on sale to the public February 1.

[www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

### The Boston Symphony Orchestra

Concert of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder* Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and a free Community Concert on Sunday afternoon (requires advance ticket reservations).

[www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org)

### The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Exhibit: "Gentile Bellini and the East", which includes all of Bellini's surviving work. Museum will also have a Beethoven piano concert on Sunday.

[www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org)

### The Institute of Contemporary Art

Exhibit: "Living in Motion: Design and Architecture for Flexible Dwelling."

[www.icaboston.org](http://www.icaboston.org)

### The Mary Baker Eddy Library

Photography exhibit: "Fractions of Time Well Spent" of images, artifacts, and documentation to highlight the daily life in the Mary Baker Eddy household between 1890 and 1910, as seen through the lenses of three of her staff.

[www.marybakereddylibrary.org](http://www.marybakereddylibrary.org)

### Harvard University Museums

Exhibit: "'To Delight the Eye': French Drawings and Paintings from the Dunlap Collection" (Fogg Museum)

Exhibit: "Stratification: An Exhibit of Works Since 1960" (Busch Museum)

Exhibit: "Evocative Creatures: Animal Motifs and Symbols in East Asian Art" (Sackler)

<http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu>

**Boston Ballet** - No performances during conference.

**Sports:** Unfortunately, neither the Celtics nor Bruins will be home. For hockey fans, Boston College has a

home game on Thursday night and Harvard on Friday and Saturday nights.

<http://www.ticketsnow.com/Browse/Locations/EventsCalendar.aspx?ma=Boston,MA&m=2>

**From the hotel website:** The Sheraton Boston Hotel is centrally located in Boston's popular Back Bay and is just steps from some of the city's most popular attractions. Love to shop? The hotel is connected to the Prudential Center and upscale Copley Place Mall, offering more than 200 shops and restaurants, and is also just one block from famed Newbury Street, known for its designer boutiques.

A popular winter "hot spot", nearby Frog Pond in the Public Gardens offers outdoor ice-skating. For the historian in you, the Freedom Trail will lead you through Boston, stopping at Paul Revere's House, Old North Church, Old South Meeting House and many other sites. The Aquarium, Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Science are also all nearby. Distances from the Sheraton Boston to some local attractions can be seen below.

#### LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- Shopping - 0.1 mi/0.1km
- Berklee College of Music - 0.1 mi/0.1 km
- Prudential Tower Skywalk - 0.1 mi/0.1 km
- Copley Place Shopping Mall - 0.1 mi/0.2 km
- Newbury Street - 0.1 mi/0.2 km
- Frog Pond - 0.3 mi/0.4 km
- Museum of Fine Arts - 0.3 mi/0.4 km
- Boston Pops - 0.3 mi/0.4 km
- MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) - 1.0 mi/1.6 km
- Charles River - 1.0 mi/1.6 km
- Cambridge, MA - 1.0 mi/1.6 km
- Fenway Park - 1.0 mi/1.6 km
- Theatre District - 2.0 mi/3.2 km
- Fleet Center - 2.0 mi/3.2 km
- Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market - 3.0 mi/4.8 km
- North End of Boston - 3.0 mi/4.8 km
- Freedom Trail - 3.0 mi/4.8 km
- Filene's Basement - 3.0 mi/4.8 km
- Lexington/Concord, MA - 18.0 mi/29.0 km
- Salem, MA - 20.0 mi/32.2 km
- Marblehead, MA - 25.0 mi/40.2 km
- Rockport, MA - 35.0 mi/56.3 km
- Gloucester, MA - 35.0 mi/56.3 km



### 2006 ELECTION RESULTS

**Philip Kasinitz,**  
Nominations Committee Chair  
and President-Elect

- **President (2007-2008):** Katherine Newman, Princeton University
- **Vice-President (2007-2008):** Elizabeth Higginbotham, University of Delaware
- **Executive Committee (2006-2009):** Margaret Chin, CUNY Hunter College; Susan Ostrander, Tufts University
- **Executive Committee (2006-2007):** Mario Small, Princeton University

### Attention 2006 Annual Meeting Attendees!!! Regarding the Sheraton Boston Hotel

When you are attending the ESS 76th Annual Meeting in Boston, we urge you to stay at the Sheraton Boston 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 per night rate of \$179 for a single or double (\$189 for a triple) by calling 1-800-325-3535 and giving the name of the group "Eastern Sociological Society" -- or by using the link [EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY](#). You can also access the hotel link from our 2006 Annual Meeting page on our website: <http://essnet.org>

## 2005 Annual Meeting Survey

Shortly after our sessions in Washington, DC, last March, we distributed via email the link to an online survey. Of the nearly 900 attendees for whom we had useable email addresses, about 350 (38%) responded. We thank you all for your participation and assure you that we are paying attention to the input! We also would like to thank **Christel Hyden** who created the online survey and reported the results.

Among the findings:

- Breakdown of attendees:
  - Regular members: 51%
  - Graduate Student members 31%
  - Undergraduate Student members 10%
  - Non-members: 8%
- 40.4% were attending for the first time
- Nearly 15% had attended more than 7 ESS Annual Meetings
- 44% found the meeting to be “average”
- 29% found the meeting to be “among the best”
- Most (58%) were pleased with the hotel facilities (Washington Wyndham)
- Anywhere from 75% to 93% did not attend special sessions like Awards, Plenaries, Author Meets Critics
- Most (95%) found there to be a balance of topics
- While Most (77%) thought nothing had been under-represented, among the topics recommended for more emphasis were Theory, International, Teaching Workshops...
- Most did not use AV (51%)
- Most (66%) would not be willing to pay for AV
- 83% thought the Book Exhibit an important part of the conference
- 48% suggested Book Sales would draw them into the exhibit
- 74% either did not care or were not in favor of having receptions every evening
- 58% would not be interested in a banquet/gala at extra charge
- An overwhelming majority (89%) felt that their cohort’s interests were sufficiently addressed
- Suggestions for improvement:
  - Fewer sessions/less overlap
  - Don’t overcrowd roundtable rooms
  - Bring in more top scholars
  - Increased student/undergraduate involvement

Should you be interested in the detailed findings, email [ess@wpunj.edu](mailto:ess@wpunj.edu) and a copy will be sent out via return email.

*Continued from Page 1 Column 1*

### Looking forward to Boston, Continued

mini-conference on Culture and Cognition, as well as one on the Sociology of the Military, thirteen authors meet critics sessions, where distinguished authors **Prudence Carter, Lynn Chancer, Lee Clarke, William Falk, Nancy Foner, Sherri Grasmuck, Judith Lorber, Douglas Massey, Jeffrey Olnick, Joel Podolny, Barbara Katz Rothman, Viviana Zelizer** and **Kathryn Zippel** will face their equally distinguished critics. There are also “conversations with...” sessions with **Peter Berger, Patricia Hill Collins, Mark Gottdiener, Stanley Lieberman, Theda Skocpol, and Eviatar Zerubavel**. I could go on and on but space (and your reading patience) precludes that – visit [www.essnet.org](http://www.essnet.org) to see the preliminary program.

In putting the program together we have tried very hard to be responsive to some of the concerns we heard at last year’s meeting and from the survey. In particular, the issues of space and noise for roundtables have been addressed. We also have attempted not to schedule sessions on similar topics against each other so much and highlight the special events such as the Robin Williams Lecture, to be presented this year by **Vincent Parrillo**, and the ceremony for the Presentation of Awards. The ASA sponsors regional meetings to host the Sorokin Lecture so we are fortunate that this year **Charles Willie** of Harvard will be giving that special lecture for us, titled “A New Look at Situation Analysis in Sociology.”

Before I leave the topic of the annual meeting, I want to express my gratitude for all the help that I have received in planning the meeting and in carrying out my other duties as ESS president. First are the people who have submitted their work to the conference. Their submissions of their sociological work are the foundation of the whole meeting, without which there would be no conference. Next, there are the many people who have agreed to participate in special sessions: plenaries, thematic sessions, invited sessions, authors meet critics, panels, workshops—they give the conference a special life. Many of these people were selected because their work illustrates some aspect of the conference theme “places in our lives” and I appreciate their agreeing to participate. Vice President **Karen Cerulo** organized several invited sessions and **Kathy Newman** arranged many “Author Meets Critics” sessions, so I am very grateful to both of them. And the committees, hard at work putting together sessions and choosing award winners, deserve thanks as well. Finally, special thanks to **Glenn Deane** and **Kirsten Lauber** who are overseeing the program committee, and of course, to **Emily Mahon**, without whom the whole enterprise would collapse. Not only is she very efficient

at running the society, but she and Jim also have a store of invaluable institutional knowledge which greatly limits the mistakes I make as president. So as I watch the program for the annual meeting taking shape, I am keenly aware of the efforts and generosity of many people, including many not named here.

While planning for the annual meeting is taking much time, other activities are ongoing as well. We are in the process of electing the 2006-2007 ESS officers, an effort organized by incoming president **Phil Kasinitz**. **Leslie Miller-Bernal**, together with the publications committee and executive committee is soliciting proposals from publishers for *Sociological Forum* as our contract with Springer ends in 2006. Springer has been a very good publisher for us, placing *Sociological Forum* in more than 400 libraries, over a thousand individuals, and will be one of the leading contenders to continue as publisher. Another issue related to the journal is that the editor's term expires at the end of 2006, so Phil and his executive committee will be thinking about soliciting proposals from editors. **Robert Max Jackson** has led the journal well and deserves our gratitude.

On a more bittersweet note, this newsletter will be the last that **Janet and Steve Alger** edit for the ESS. They have been doing a wonderful job of putting out the newsletter for the society since 1996. On behalf of all of you, I extend our deepest gratitude. Even in the age of the Internet, where much information is communicated via email and listservs, the organized information appearing in a newsletter still has an important place. It allows people to read a coherent document and provides a written record of events in a way that scattered emails and listserv announcements cannot. But gathering the material and putting it together requires a lot of effort, and the Algers have done a wonderful job. Fortunately, they will still be part of ESS as they enjoy their well-deserved break from editing the newsletter. We will publicly recognize their service in Boston. In the short term, the Algers will be helping with the transition of the newsletter to the new editor, **Debra Lemke** of Mc Daniel College. Deb, who introduces herself in this issue, will take over as editor for the next newsletter. During the meetings in Boston, I'm sure she will be talking to many of you about her new role, her ideas for the newsletter, and will be eager to hear your ideas as well. As we were with Janet and Steve, ESS is fortunate that Deb has stepped forward to perform this important service for the society. Many thanks to Deb!

So as I, like you, begin the New Year, I find much to be thankful for, in my personal life, as well as my life in ESS. Being ESS president is both challenging and enjoyable, and I thank you for having elected me. I can't wait to see you in Boston.

## So Happy New Year ... ...and COME TO **BOSTON!!!!**



*Continued from page 1 Column 2*

Lemke was a Maryland Representative to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Violence toward Arab-Americans of the United States Commission on Civil Rights during 2001-2002. She is a longstanding member of the Maryland Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. She has served as the secretary of that committee since 1998.

Lemke's research is primarily in the area of aging, social stratification, and pedagogy. Currently she is involved in analyzing data on living arrangements of the elderly and in analyzing the current study habits of undergraduates. Lemke has also published on aging in China, attitudes toward dieting, and on attitudes toward homelessness and hunger.

She is certainly not unknown to ESS. She first served the Society by volunteering to serve as photographer for the Baltimore meetings in 1997. She has been an active member ever since, serving for three years on the Coser Committee (chaired in 1999). Lemke served as the chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee during Judith Lorber's term as president of ESS and was a member of the Executive Committee in 2004. Most recently, she was instrumental in organizing Best Teaching Practices with Claire Renzetti for the 2003 and 2004 meetings.

Lemke is excited about this new avenue of service to the ESS.

**Editors, Steven F. Alger and Janet Alger**

The College of Saint Rose  
Department of Sociology  
432 Western Avenue  
Albany, New York 12203

Siena College  
Department of Sociology  
Loudon Road  
Loudonville, New York 12210

**Typing & Layout**

Virginia VonBehr  
The College of Saint Rose  
Administrative Secretary  
[vonbehrv@strose.edu](mailto:vonbehrv@strose.edu)

*Call for Articles/Photos for Next Issue: April 1, 2006*

**Society Officers 2005-06**

President:	Nancy Denton	<a href="mailto:n.denton@albany.edu">n.denton@albany.edu</a>
President Elect:	Philip Kasinitz	<a href="mailto:pkasinitz@gw.cuny.edu">pkasinitz@gw.cuny.edu</a>
Past President	Robert Wuthnow	<a href="mailto:wuthnow@princeton.edu">wuthnow@princeton.edu</a>
Vice President:	Karen Cerulo	<a href="mailto:cerulo@rci.rutgers.edu">cerulo@rci.rutgers.edu</a>
Vice President Elect:	Annette Lareau	<a href="mailto:alareau@socy.umd.edu">alareau@socy.umd.edu</a>
Secretary	Michele Dillon	<a href="mailto:michele.dillon@unh.edu">michele.dillon@unh.edu</a>
Treasurer:	Claire Renzetti	<a href="mailto:crenzeti@sju.edu">crenzeti@sju.edu</a>
Executive		
Committee:	Ivy Kennelly, Barrett Lee, Robin Leidner, Nancy Naples, Francesca Polletta, Sara Rosenfield	
Newsletter		
Co-Editors:	Janet M. Alger	<a href="mailto:alger@siena.edu">alger@siena.edu</a>
	Steven F. Alger	<a href="mailto:algers@mail.strose.edu">algers@mail.strose.edu</a>
Executive Officer:	Emily Mahon	<a href="mailto:ESS@wpunj.edu">ESS@wpunj.edu</a>
Executive Office:		<a href="mailto:ESS@wpunj.edu">ESS@wpunj.edu</a>

**Future Meetings**

2006 February 23-26, Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, MA

2007 Philadelphia

