

**Eastern Sociological Society
2007 ESS Candidate Bios and Statements**

Candidates for office were asked to supply biographical information about themselves and a brief statement about their goals and priorities if elected to office.

For President:

Kathleen Gerson is Professor of Sociology at New York University, where she recently served as Department Chair. She has held visiting positions at The Russell Sage Foundation (New York City) and the Center for the Study of Status Passages and Risks in the Life Course (Bremen, Germany). Kathleen was also Chair of the ASA Family Section and currently serves on the editorial boards of the *American Sociological Review* and *Work and Occupations* as well as on the ASA Committee on Nominations. The author or co-author of four books (with a fifth nearing completion) and numerous articles, her work has focused on the connections among gender, work, and family life in post-industrial America. Gerson's research has sought to combine the deep understandings of qualitative interviews with the rigor of systematically collected samples and carefully situated comparisons. Her theoretical concern has been to explain the interactive links between processes of social and individual change, with a special focus on how institutional conflicts and contradictions prompt creative human action.

Gerson's 1985 book, *Hard Choices: How Women Decide About Work, Career, and Motherhood*, provided an early framework for understanding women's paths and strategies amid revolutionary but contradictory shifts in work, marriage, and parenthood. Based on in-depth life history interviews with working and middle class women, *Hard Choices* was a finalist for the C. Wright Mills Award and the William J. Goode Distinguished Book Award (ASA Family Section) and continues to inform ongoing debates about women's work and family commitments.

Gerson's next book, *No Man's Land: Men's Changing Commitments to Family and Work* (1993), turned to the pervasive but often ignored changes in men's lives. This research examined men's responses to institutional shifts that have created uncertain options, including greater freedom to avoid family responsibilities and rising incentives to become more involved in family life. *No Man's Land* was chosen as an ASA "Author Meets the Critics" featured book and selected as a "new and noteworthy" paperback by *The New York Times Book Review*.

More recently, Gerson teamed with Jerry A. Jacobs (University of Pennsylvania) on *The Time Divide: Family, Work, and Gender Inequality* (2004), which draws on census, survey, and cross-national data to explain how and why growing inequality in working time is dividing Americans in new ways. *The Time Divide* was named a "best business book" by Strategy Business magazine, received honorable mention for the ESS Mirra Komarovsky Book Award, and was featured at "Author Meets the Critics" sessions for the ASA, the ESS, and the Southern Sociological Society. Work from this project also received the Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research.

Kathleen is now working on *Children of the Gender Revolution: Work and Family Change in the Lives of a New Generation*, a study of a new generation's experiences growing up in an era of changing families and blurring gender boundaries. This book analyzes the outlooks and strategies developed by young women and men in response to a growing clash between new ideals of gender flexibility and persisting institutional obstacles.

Gerson has participated in many research and policy initiatives related to these matters, including the Ford Foundation Project on Integrating Work, Family, and Community; the Sloan Foundation Research Network on Work-Family Issues; the Gender Module of the General Social Survey; the Council of Research Advisors for Purdue's Center for Families; and Catalyst's Advisory Board for "The Next Generation of Women Leaders." Kathleen also co-founded NYU's Program on Women's and Gender Studies and, in 1998, was named SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer on Women and Social Change. As a board member of the Council on Contemporary Families, she recently co-organized a national symposium (with Janet Gornick and Joan Williams) that brought experts and journalists together to consider cutting edge research on these critical issues.

Statement

It is an enormous honor to be nominated for the Presidency of the Eastern Sociological Society, which holds a special place in our profession. The ESS is one of our most exciting and supportive associations, with annual meetings that offer cutting

edge scholarship in a warm, even intimate setting. For this reason, it has been a pleasure to serve ESS over the years, including stints on its Executive Committee, Nominations Committee, and Committee on the Status of Women.

If elected, my goal – and responsibility – will be to enrich and extend the remarkable accomplishments of my predecessors. I envision doing this in at least three ways. First, I hope to enlarge our membership ranks by reaching out to constituencies outside the region as well as to all eligible members within it. With a first-rate journal and an annual meeting that is a high point of the Spring meeting season, ESS has much to offer sociologists around the country and, indeed, the globe.

Next, I hope to raise the national profile of the ESS through media outreach efforts. Our region is the media center of the nation, providing an opportunity to highlight our work on important national and international issues. We are in a golden age of sociological research, producing a steady stream of pathbreaking work that can shed “light” in place of the “heat” that permeates so much of our social discourse. Sociology’s strength lies in its commitment to diverse intellectual approaches, methods, and theories, and I would like to see the ESS help disseminate that work, especially when it reaches beyond “conventional wisdom” to frame debates in new ways.

Finally, and most important, I hope to oversee an intellectually exciting, highly attended annual meeting that addresses a broad, inclusive theme and captures the scope, vitality, and importance of sociology at the outset of a new century. Some ways to accomplish this include extending the new tradition of mini-conferences that focus on topics of special interest; developing professional workshops on issues that speak to the challenges sociologists face within and outside the academy; expanding thematic and other special sessions, such as author-meets-critics panels; and showcasing work by those in the earliest career stages, including graduate students and others for whom the ESS often provides a first professional venue.

ESS embodies the best that sociology has to offer, combining the highest quality scholarship with openness and inclusiveness. Protecting and enlarging that tradition will be my most important goal.

Beverly J. Silver is currently Professor of Sociology at the Johns Hopkins University, where she also is on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Global Studies and coordinator of the Sociology

Department’s Program in Comparative Sociology and International Development.

Her most recent book—*Forces of Labor: Workers’ Movements and Globalization since 1870* (Cambridge University Press, 2003) won several awards—including the 2005 Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award of the American Sociological Association. The book has been translated and published in a number of languages, including Spanish, German, Portuguese, and Korean with forthcoming editions in Farsi and Chinese. The Korean edition recently won the Distinguished Academic Literature Award of the Korean Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Silver is also co-author of *Chaos and Governance in the Modern World System* (University of Minnesota Press, 1999), which won the 2001 Distinguished Publication Award of the Political Economy of the World System section of the American Sociological Association.

A unifying theme in Silver’s research is a concern to understand the origins and dynamics of the deep inequalities of wealth, welfare and power that characterize the contemporary world in which we live. In *Forces of Labor* her central question was whether labor movements—which, in the twentieth century, had been a significant, if complex, force toward equality—are now in a terminal crisis worldwide, as is widely assumed. In *Chaos and Governance* the central questions were whether the United States is poised to usher in a new American Century as the “world’s sole superpower”—as was widely argued in the late 1990s—or whether the underpinnings of US hegemony (including its social underpinnings) are unraveling; and, in either case, what are the implications for an increasingly intertwined (and conflict-ridden) world society.

Silver draws on a mix of quantitative, ethnographic and historical methods in her research. She has been a pioneer in the use of newspaper reports as a source of data for the construction of long-run time series of the incidence of labor unrest worldwide (a key empirical foundation for *Forces of Labor*). In collaboration with Lu Zhang, she is currently studying the changing nature of work at several major automobile factories in China. And, on “another table”, she is seeking to understand the relationship between recent transformations in the organization of warfare (automation, “outsourcing”, the end of conscription) and citizens’ rights (including welfare rights), through a comparative analysis with earlier periods in history.

Silver has been active in the ASA, serving as session organizer on numerous occasions, as well as serving on a number of award, nominations and website committees at the section level. In 1997-2001 she was elected council member, and in 2002-

2003 Chair of the ASA's Political Economy of the World System section.

Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the Presidency of the Eastern Sociological Society. If elected, I will put my best efforts into pulling together a lively and intellectually stimulating annual meeting for 2009 in Baltimore. We live in a time of dramatic social change, and it is our challenge and duty as sociologists to leverage the tools of the discipline to dissipate some of the "fog" that obscures the local and global processes shaping the world in which we live, to identify spaces for effective human intervention in restraining some of the more destructive forces at work, and to communicate these findings in an accessible way to a broader public. This is an enormous task that requires the collective energies of people coming from different corners of the discipline, focusing on a variety of empirical problems, and using a diverse array of methods and units of analysis.

I would build on the successful organizational initiatives introduced by previous office holders to enliven the meetings, including the practice of mobilizing personal and professional networks to bring to the meeting distinguished scholars from inside and outside the region. I would also build on the historical strengths of the ESS meetings—their collegiality and relative informality, the welcoming atmosphere for graduate students and junior presenters, the broad mix of participants at different career stages and from different institutional settings.

Finally, I should say that Baltimore is a great city for a meeting of sociologists, with many opportunities "to bring Baltimore to the meeting" and vice-versa. There is a wealth of sociological research focused on the city, as well as ongoing dialogues between basic researchers, practitioners and community activists, which can form the basis for dynamic local spotlight sessions. Moreover, local activist-intellectuals regularly sponsor a social history bus tour of Baltimore, which we can build on to offer several thematically focused sociological tours of the city for ESS meeting participants.

For Vice President:

Lynn S. Changer is Professor of Sociology at Hunter College of the City University of New York. She is also on the doctoral faculty in Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Prior to her appointment at CUNY, she was an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Sociology Department of Fordham

University (2000-2005) and an Assistant Professor at Barnard College, Columbia University (1992-2000).

She is the author of four books:

Sadomasochism in Everyday Life: The Dynamics of Power and Powerlessness (Rutgers University Press, 1992); Reconcilable Differences: Beauty, Pornography and the Future of Feminism (University of California Press, 1998, and winner of an honorable mention Distinguished Book Award from the Sex and Gender section of ASA); High-Profile Crimes: When Legal Cases Become Social Causes (University of Chicago Press, 2005); and Gender, Race and Class: An Overview (with Beverly Watkins, Blackwell, 2005). Gender, Race and Class is based on a large course that Chancer taught on this subject at Barnard/Columbia and on the graduate and undergraduate levels at Fordham University. Chancer has also written numerous articles in the overlapping areas of theory, culture, gender and sexuality, crime and social movements including articles on school violence cases, domestic violence, on the "playing of gender against race" through high-profile crimes from the New Bedford rape case through the Central Park jogger and O.J. Simpson cases, and on economic inequalities as seen through the lens of debates over guaranteed income.

From 2000 through 2006, Chancer has been the U.S., Canadian and Latin American co-editor of the Sage journal Theoretical Criminology, which remains in the top 10 ISI most cited journals in the fields of criminology, deviance, penology and law. She is currently co-editing a special issue of this journal on "Criminology, Public Policy and Public Intellectuals" and has helped to generate other special issues on a range of topics including feminist restorative justice, U.S. prison policy, crime and the emotions and crime and war. She has also reviewed for a range of other journals including Gender and Society and Social Problems. Chancer has also been involved in varied roles within professional organizations. She has been active in the American Society of Criminology's Division on Women and Crime, and in 2006 is the winner of this division's Distinguished Scholar Award for publications as well as service. She has also been involved in various capacities with the culture, gender, social movement and theory sections of the American Sociological Association, and is a regular participant in the Eastern Sociological Association meetings.

Statement

I am honored to have been nominated for Vice President of the Eastern Sociological Society. I think the Society is extremely important in

providing a forum for scholars, young and old and of widely diverse backgrounds and interests, to meet one another in a less overwhelming and relatively more personal forum than is provided by the American Sociological Association. At the same time, for graduate students, the Easterns provide professional practice for larger meetings like the ASA.

If elected, I would hope to work on several of the following areas. I am interested in planning panels that encourage junior and senior faculty, as well as graduate students, to attend and become involved with the Easterns because of the diversity of debate and the strong and vibrant intellectual content these panels provide. The Eastern meetings are already growing. I would like to further this process that is already occurring by asking diverse scholars to speak both about their own wide-ranging research projects and about issues outside the academy per se. I am interested in assuring that the Easterns, like the ASA, can be another outlet for public sociology – a goal that is particularly important at this historical moment nationally and internationally.

When I was a graduate student, and then an adjunct and junior professor, attending the Easterns was very important to me though (until I came to know people over the years) I also sometimes felt a bit lost. Secondly, then, I would hope to encourage graduate students' involvement not only through panel participation but also by promoting mentoring programs aimed at making sure that students find the meetings helpful and supportive for/of them. This can be especially germane for scholars who are women and people of color. Also, connecting students with particular faculty mentors who volunteer for this purpose might be one way to promote this goal; also important is to sponsor ongoing panels and receptions aimed at making prospects of job-hunting and publishing less frightening and mysterious.

Third, I would also be interested in having scholars develop better connections between Easterns conferences. The range of knowledge of faculty and students in particular subfields fields is extremely impressive. The organization might want to better facilitate faculty and students connecting 'between meetings' on a variety of topics and issues wishing to be explored in greater depth than can happen only at the meetings themselves.

Vincent Parrillo is a Professor in the Department of Sociology at William Paterson University, where he was honored by his University with its first Excellence in Scholarship Award in 2004. His work focuses on immigration, minority rights, and urban

issues. His national social distance study (*Social Science Journal*, 2005), in the tradition of Emory Bogardus, is the largest such study ever conducted. Since its initial appearance in the December 1994 issue of *Sociological Forum*, his *Dillingham Flaw* sociological concept has been widely cited worldwide as an effective means for understanding misconceptions about immigration and minorities.

Some of Professor Parrillo's most recent books are *Cities and Urban Life*, with John Macionis (Prentice-Hall, 2007), *Strangers to These Shores* (Allyn & Bacon, 2006), *Diversity in America* (Pine Forge Press, 2005), *Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations* (Allyn & Bacon, 2005), and *Contemporary Social Problems* (Allyn & Bacon, 2005). He is General Editor for the forthcoming Sage publication, *Encyclopedia of Social Problems*, a two-volume, interdisciplinary reference work. His work, some of it translated and published in eight languages, has appeared in the *Journal of Human Rights*, *Social Science Journal*, *Sociological Forum*, *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, *Small Group Behavior*, and *Vital Speeches of the Day*. In addition, he wrote and produced two award-winning PBS TV documentaries: *Smokestacks and Steeples: A Portrait of Paterson* (1992) and *Ellis Island: Gateway to America* (1991). He has served on the editorial board of *Sociological Perspectives*, and he has been quoted in numerous major newspapers throughout the United States, including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Houston Chronicle*, and *Miami Herald*.

A Fulbright scholar at Palacky University, Czech Republic, and Fulbright Senior Specialist at Roehampton University, London, Professor Parrillo has been on a dozen assignments for the U.S. State Department on minority rights issues, most recently in Romania. Listed in the *International Who's Who in Education*, he was a scholar-in-residence in 2006 at the University of Pisa. An invited lecturer to dozens of universities in Canada, Europe, and the United States, he has also been the keynote speaker at international conferences in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, and Poland. He also regularly conducts diversity and leadership training sessions for senior NCOs and officers at various military bases and at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Professor Parrillo was primarily responsible for securing a home for ESS at William Paterson University in 1999, and in negotiating even more favorable terms in 2005 for its continuance there. In 2005-2006, he was the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Distinguished Lecturer, giving talks on diversity at Marywood University, Rochester Institute of Technology, and at the 2006 annual meeting. He has served ESS in numerous

leadership capacities, including Program Co-Chair; Papers Committee Chair; organizer of a half-dozen thematic sessions; and presider, presenter, or discussant at numerous thematic and paper sessions. He served on the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award Committee and on the Committee on Minorities. Also active in ASA, he formerly served as organizer of roundtable sessions and worked through ASA to secure a Ford Foundation grant for his University to become one of fifteen sites for the ASA program, Minority Opportunities through School Transformation (MOST).

Statement

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for ESS Vice President. From my first experience three decades ago as a self-conscious, newly minted sociologist giving his first paper, to my presentation last February as the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Distinguished Lecturer, I have consistently found the annual meetings to take place within a collegial, nurturing, and intellectually stimulating environment. In between those two memorable times, I have been active in our organization in a variety of roles, but nothing has pleased me more than each year bringing a group of my students to an ESS meeting as presenters and hearing them talk afterwards about their experiences and the positive impact from their exposure to all that an ESS program can offer.

Those students represent not only the future of our profession, but of ESS as well, and we must continue to make our meetings a positive experience for our young scholars. At the same time, the allure of our meetings and the vitality of our sessions depend heavily on the rest of us—whether academics or applied sociologists, tenured or non-tenured, rising stars or established veterans—as we share our research, learn from one another, gain new insights, develop new relationships and nurture old ones. What determines the degree of success of our meetings then, are not only careful planning and strong organization, not only building on the solid foundation of what has worked well for us in the past, but also in increasing the attraction and satisfaction levels through innovative approaches to our sessions and events. I would be gratified to be part of that leadership process to make ESS an even stronger association than it already is.

As someone who has dedicated his professional career as an advocate of diversity and promoting sociological visions both within academia and to the general public, I would bring that commitment to the vice presidency. Working with our new president, I would seek to find ways we can further advance 1) the empowerment of

women and minorities; 2) a greater appreciation of diversity; and 3) awareness among the general public of the research findings and social policy implications that emerge from so many presentations at an ESS meeting.

For Executive Committee:

David E. Lavin is Professor of Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center. He works mainly in sociology of education. He focuses mainly on issues of higher education and social inequality, looking especially at the role of college access policy on life chances among racial and ethnic minority students. Among his books are three that are concerned with this topic. The first, *Right Versus Privilege: The Open Admissions Experiment at The City University of New York* (1981, The Free Press; with Richard Alba and Richard Silberstein), showed that disadvantaged students did much better academically than many had expected. Fifteen years after college entry, they also achieved beyond expectations in the labor market as reported in *Changing the Odds: Open Admissions and the Life Chances of the Disadvantaged* (1996, Yale University Press; with David Hyllegard). In a just completed volume with Paul Attewell, *Passing the Torch: Does Higher Education for the Disadvantaged Pay Off Across the Generations?* (forthcoming 2007, by Russell Sage Foundation as a volume in the ASA Rose Monograph Series), the long-term effects of college access on former students and their children are assessed. Lavin, a long-time member of ESS, has presented many papers at its meetings and often served as an organizer, presider, and discussant at sessions.

Statement

Because of its smaller scale relative to ASA, the ESS serves as a place where graduate students, senior scholars, and others can interact more easily. It provides an especially good opportunity for students to connect with broader trends in scholarship within the field. It provides opportunities as well for faculty in smaller colleges to engage with events in the larger research settings. These activities need further encouragement. The ESS could also broker new research projects in areas that are currently less developed.

Sharon Sassler (Ph.D. 1995, Brown University) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell University. She joined Cornell in 2005. Before coming to Cornell, she was an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at The Ohio State University (2000 – 2005) and at Hunter College (CUNY)

(1997-2000). She also spent two years as an NICHD Postdoctoral Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University Population Center.

Professor Sassler is a social demographer who employs quantitative and qualitative methods to study changes in American families. Her research examines factors shaping the activities of young adults and their life course transitions into school and work, relationships, and parenthood, and how these transitions vary by gender, race/ethnicity, and class. Some current projects examine various facets of relationship progression, including the processes underlying entrance into sexual relationships and cohabiting unions, the meaning cohabitators assign to their unions, and the impact of family experiences while young on subsequent union transitions into marriage or cohabitation. She is also engaged in several historical studies of immigrants, focusing on gender differences in adaptation to life in the United States. Her recent research has appeared in *Sociology of Education*, *International Migration Review*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Social Science History*, and *Journal of Family Issues*.

Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the ESS Executive Council. As someone who has taught in a range of schools, and having recently returned to the East Coast, I am excited to build deeper connections to sociologists working in a wide variety of educational and institutional settings. If elected, I would work to incorporate scholars at all different levels, and build ties between graduate students, junior faculty, as well as their more established counterparts in academia and other settings.

Milton Vickerman (Ph.D. 1992, New York University) is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia. His main areas of research are race, immigration, and processes of minority adaptation to American society. Reflecting the latter, currently, Professor Vickerman is completing a manuscript in which he argues for the reincorporation of African Americans and black immigrants into the discourse on assimilation. This theoretical and empirical work draws from original research among blacks in the Washington, D.C. suburbs. Most recently, he has written on immigration and assimilation for the *Virginia Journal of Social Policy and the Law*.

Vickerman has also written extensively on West Indian immigrants in a wide variety of publications. These include his book, *Crosscurrents: West Indian Immigrants and Race* (Oxford University Press, 1999) and chapters in *The*

New Americans (Harvard University Press, 2006), *Contemporary Ethnic Geographies in America* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), *The Changing Face of Home* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2002), *New Immigrants in New York* (Columbia, 2001), *Islands in the City* (California, 2001), and *Migration, Transnationalization and Race in A Changing New York* (Temple 2001).

Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the ESS Executive Committee. The ESS provides an invaluable service to the Sociology community by facilitating intellectual exchange and by being accessible. In my experience, faculty and graduate students look forward to presenting their ideas at the ESS because they view the organization as being very supportive of their efforts. If elected, I would endeavor to build on these strengths by maintaining the high quality of the annual meetings and increasing the membership base. At the same time, I would also try to keep the intimate feel that participants in the organization find so appealing.

King-To Yeung is a faculty member of the Department of Sociology at Princeton University. He received his graduate training in sociology from Rutgers University and Texas Tech University (M.A.). He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Guam. Among his primary interests is understanding how formal organizations provide platforms for social actors to construct the meanings of their actions and relations. Using bureaucratic internal memos and career records of state elites, his recent work traces the bureaucratic mechanisms by which the Chinese state in the mid-nineteenth century coped with one of the most devastating social rebellions during the Qing dynasty. Studying another form of social organization, he has analyzed how gay fraternities emulate the traditional fraternal institutions and innovate new styles of organizational practice (findings were published in *Social Problems* and *Gender & Society*). Investigating yet another kind of semi-formal group, he has used Benjamin Zablocki's urban commune data to develop a way to understand the meaning of "love," and to map out the social network culture in sixty American communes during the mid-1970s (findings were published in *Social Forces*).

Statement

One of the best features in a regional sociological society is the opportunity to meet a tightly-knit network of scholars from diverse fields, during and outside the ESS annual meetings. As a member of

the executive committee, I will further this great tradition of the ESS by working to bridge diverse scholars in the search for innovative theoretical ideas and their practical applications.

For Secretary:

Nadia Kim is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's & Gender Studies at Brandeis University. Before receiving her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 2003, Professor Kim was an ASA Minority Fellow (1999-02), a Northeast Consortium Predoctoral Fellow (2002-03), and a visiting faculty member at UCLA. In her postdoctoral years she has been an SSRC Summer Institute junior scholar and a visiting research fellow at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at U.C. San Diego. Her program of research lies at the intersection of "race"/ethnicity, gender, and immigration. She studies the ways in which U.S. racial and racialized gender inequalities have extended beyond national borders and how immigrants are influenced by these before and after they arrive in the United States. One of her co-authored works was recognized as best graduate student paper by the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS). Since, she has published in refereed journals (e.g., *Social Problems*, *Critical Sociology*) and anthologies and is currently completing a book manuscript tentatively titled *Guests in Another's House?: Korean Americans, "Race," and Citizenship Across Borders*. Her future projects examine race/ethnic and gender relations, dynamics of group position, and environmental justice movements among immigrant and native-born people of color.

Professor Kim has experience in elected office as she is currently serving her final year as Council for ASA's Section on Asia and Asian America. In related experience, she worked in the executive office of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) and served as an undergraduate representative on the Chancellor's Advisory Task Force at U.C. Santa Barbara. She has also served in leadership roles in three community organizations (two of which she co-founded).

Statement

I am sincerely honored to be nominated to run for secretary of ESS, in part because I have been impressed by the society's vibrant activity and community of scholars. It is a venue in which it is possible to have intellectual exchange and to get to know other scholars, both of which are crucial to the discipline and to an academic's life. Moreover, ESS's commitment to graduate student

professionalization is impressive and I have consistently encouraged my graduate students to present papers at the meetings. I embrace the opportunity to be a part of maintaining, and building on, this intellectual energy. If elected as secretary of ESS, I will fulfill my duties with great care and verve. I consider my tasks of assisting with the preparation of meeting agendas and minute-taking at business meetings as central to the smooth operation of ESS. And as my minutes will apprise ESS members of executive committee deliberations, I will fulfill this role responsibly.

Joan Z. Spade has been Professor and Chair of Sociology at SUNY Brockport for six years. Previously she was Associate Professor at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She is the co-editor of two text readers – *The Kaleidoscope of Gender: Prisms, Patterns, and Possibilities* (with Catherine G. Valentine) and *Schools and Society: A Sociological Approach to Education* (with Jeanne H. Ballantine), with revised editions of both forthcoming. She also is the author of several articles in the areas of education, gender, family, and the intersection of work and family. Currently she is working on a study of academic governance, exploring changes in boards of trust from 1960 to the present.

Statement

I have always believed that we have a responsibility to sustain and improve the professional organizations that maintain our discipline. Over the past 25 years, I have served in a variety of roles in the Eastern Sociological Society, the American Sociological Association, and Sociologists for Women in Society. Within ESS, I chaired the Committee on the Status of Women and served on the Computer Committee. I was recently appointed to the Publications Committee. Within SWS, I have chaired the Awards Committee, Discrimination Committee, Career Development Committee, and Minority Scholar Committee. In ASA, I served as Chair of the Section Board and was Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter editor for the Sex and Gender Section. My background and leadership in these various roles are pertinent to carrying out the duties of ESS Secretary. I understand the constraints on our professional organizations, including the heavy reliance on volunteers as well as the possibilities that unfold as new members take on active roles. It is these dynamics upon which our organizations exist and grow. I would be honored to serve in a position that both records and nurtures the growth of ESS.

For Treasurer:

David Grazian is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. from Rutgers University in 1994, and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2000. His research interests broadly include the sociology of culture, mass media and popular culture, urban sociology, social interaction, ethnographic methods, and social theory, with a specific focus on the production and consumption of commercial entertainment and popular culture in the urban milieu. In his work Professor Grazian has drawn on a variety of ethnographic and qualitative methods to study a range of topics, including the rise of the tourism industry surrounding the Chicago blues scene; the staging of creative public relations campaigns in the promotional marketing of downtown restaurants in Philadelphia; sexual interaction rituals among University of Pennsylvania undergraduate students in urban nightclubs and cocktail bars; the impact of new media and digital technology on the production of popular culture; and most recently, the organizational cultures of advertising firms.

His first book, *Blue Chicago: The Search for Authenticity in Urban Blues Clubs*, an urban ethnography based on his dissertation research on the rising commercialization of Chicago's longstanding blues subculture, received honorable mention for the Best Book Award of the Sociology of Culture Section of the ASA. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in over thirty blues bars, and countless barroom conversations with professional musicians, bar regulars, tourists, club owners, bartenders, service staff, and city boosters (as well as a short-lived stint as an blues saxophonist), Professor Grazian examines how participants employ authenticity as an organizing principle for producing, marketing and experiencing the symbolic economy of the city's blues scene.

In July 2006 the University of Chicago Press also accepted for publication his second book, a study of the production and consumption of downtown urban nightlife in Philadelphia. (Tentatively entitled *Confidence Games: The Experience of Urban Nightlife*, it is scheduled for a Fall 2007 release.) By relying on a variety of qualitative research methods—participant observation in the city's restaurants, nightclubs, and cocktail bars; interviews with over 25 key industry informants; narrative accounts collected among over 800 undergraduate students at the University of Pennsylvania; and peer-led focus groups with a smaller sample of 70 of those students—he illustrates how the anonymity of postindustrial cities

and their downtown entertainment landscapes encourages young men and women to approach evenings out as sporting rituals in which they experiment with strategies of role-playing, impression management, and sexual interaction in public. Specifically, the book illustrates how college students use such opportunities to explore elaborate codes of fashion, appearance and personal grooming; engage in rituals of confidence building; flirt with fellow students; and strategically avoid risky confrontations with overbearing competitors. He also demonstrates how nightlife producers, publicists and service workers exploit these consumers by crafting their own set of performances and tactics of stagecraft, deception and guile.

In addition to his books, Professor Grazian has published articles and essays in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Science*, *Contexts*, *Poetics*, *Qualitative Sociology*, and *Symbolic Interaction*. He currently serves on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Sociology* and *Qualitative Sociology*, and as Chair of the Culture Network of the Social Science History Association. In 2002-03 he served on the Program Committee for the 73rd annual meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society.

Statement:

Given the close proximity of so many wonderful schools and university in our region, the ESS has enormous potential to serve as a bridge between sociology departments, connecting our faculty and students to one another in the spirit of collegiality and cooperation. Personally, it is a tremendous honor to be nominated for Treasurer of the ESS, and if elected I look forward to fulfilling the duties of the position to the best of my abilities.

Jonathan R. Wynn is a Lecturer of Sociology at Smith College, and his research focuses on the production and consumption of urban culture. He recently completed his dissertation work, *The Walking Tour Guide: Cultural Workers in the Disneyfied City*, a theoretically informed ethnographic study of how unconventional intellectuals serve as 'cultural intermediaries' in a city marked by ever-increasing homogeneity, commodification, and banalization. Guides, he found, serve as a 'bubble of resistance' to those trends—producing multiple, contrarian, and re-enchanting narratives of urban spaces and history. Dr. Wynn's current project builds on his previous work on tourism and consumption with a three-city comparative study on the cultural institutions and participant perceptions of how large cultural events create the image of a 'Festival City.' He completed

the first stage of this project with an examination of Nashville's Country Music Association Festival (with Vanderbilt University's Jennifer C. Lena and the Curb Center for Art, Culture, and Public Policy), and plans to move on next to Austin's South By Southwest and Newport's Jazz Festival. This research analyses both the organizational network of government agencies, cultural institutions, and private organizations as well as the 'street level' experiences of visitors, locals, and participants in order to develop a holistic image of how festivals re-configure the symbolic economy of cities. Dr. Wynn has published his research in *Qualitative Sociology*, *Qualitative Inquiry*, *Radical Society*, *Contexts Magazine*, and in an upcoming edited volume on emotional labor and sociological inquiry.

Statement:

I accept the nomination of Treasurer as a wonderful opportunity to shape the conference and society at large. In writing this statement, I'm reminded of the experience of conceiving and organizing a 'New York Ethnography Conference' with two colleagues a few years ago. In addition to having been entirely orchestrated by students, the aspects made me the most proud were the carefully matched graduate student-and faculty panels, and our concluding event: an informal wine-and-cheese presentation by Paul Stoller. This last component of the day allowed students to hear about the exciting work of a senior scholar, not in a staid 15-minute presentation, but as a rich, intimate narrative of a life's work. Thinking about that conference and this nomination underscores the importance, for me, of nurturing faculty student relations and networks. We all know the importance of social ties, and I suspect that the trick for the continued success of the ESS is to stimulate growth while always nurturing the intimate connections between faculty and our future generations of scholars. Unlike the almost overwhelming ASA conference, the regional conference is the perfect place for faculty to help professionalize their graduate and undergraduate students. If elected, I would hope to focus on those aspects of the conference—perhaps through faculty-student workshops or 'work-in-process' presentations for students.