

**Eastern Sociological Society
2012 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:

Lynn Chancer (BA, Princeton University; Ph.D., The Graduate Center of the City University of New York) has been Professor of Sociology at Hunter College since 2005 and is a member of the doctoral faculty of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. In 2008-2009, she spent a year as a Visiting Professor teaching in Women and Gender Studies and the Sociology Department at Princeton University. Earlier in her career, she taught at Barnard/Columbia for over eight years and at Fordham University for five years.

Chancer has published four books on varied topics involving sociological theory and culture, crime and law, gender and sexuality, and race and class dynamics. These are Sadomasochism in Everyday Life: Dynamics of Power and Powerlessness (Rutgers University Press, 1992); Reconcilable Differences: Confronting Beauty, Pornography and the Future of Feminism (University of California Press, 1998); High Profile Crimes: When Legal Cases Become Social Causes (University of Chicago Press, 2005); and (with Beverly Watkins) Gender, Race and Class: An Overview (Blackwell Publishers, 2006). Reconcilable Differences received Honorable Mention from the Sex and Gender Section of the American Sociological Association in 1993, and Chancer's work overall led to her receiving the Distinguished Scholar award of the Women and Crime Division of the American Society of Criminology in 2006. Chancer has also published many articles, a number of which have been reprinted, on issues of reproductive choice, the New Bedford Massachusetts 1983 rape case and an article on sex work first published in Social Text entitled "Prostitution, Feminist Theory and Ambivalence: Notes from the Sociological Underground."

From 2002 to 2008, she was the co-editor of the international journal Theoretical Criminology. In this capacity, with British co-editor Eugene McLaughlin, she also co-edited a special issue on public criminology in international context exploring how sociologists, and policy-makers with sociological backgrounds have fared when trying to affect pressing policy issues such as over-incarceration in the United States and domestic violence in the UK.

Her current projects include a book presently under contract with Stanford University Press assessing how much has been achieved (or not) in gender-related social transformations since the 1960s; a book with Michael Jacobson of the Vera Institute of Justice on the need for re-evaluating punitive criminal justice policies in the US especially amidst state and national budget crises; and an edited volume about the potential of combined social psychological (and socio/psychoanalytic) orientations for a more multi-dimensional understanding of social problems.

Chancer remains deeply committed to teaching as well as writing, and regularly teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on contemporary and classical sociological theory, crime and law, culture and media, and on gender, sexuality and feminist theory.

Chancer has also been actively involved with the Eastern Sociological Society. In 2008-2009, she was one of two Program Co-Chairs (with Pamela Stone) and organized a large number of thematic and regular sessions. At Hunter, she has served on the Sociology Department's Personnel and Budget Committee for nearly five years; she was also elected to, and has served on, the Doctoral Faculty Policy Committee of the Graduate Center for the last three years.

Statement

I am very honored to have been nominated for President of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), an organization that I have been closely involved with for a number of years and to which I am enthusiastically committed. In particular, I am proud to have worked with a great 'team' of sociologists when I was Co-Program Chair (with Pamela Stone) in 2008-2009, the year that Kathleen Gerson was ESS President and Vince Parrillo Vice-President. With the excellent assistance of then-graduate student, now-Professor Sarah Damaske, we developed the notion of "10 Best Reasons for Attending ESS" that has helped to generate excitement about and increasing interest in the Easterns -- and which has become part of the organization's recent collective memory. I also enjoyed working with Sharon Sassler the following year on a seven panel mini-conference on "Gender, Work, Family and Technology in the Obama Era" that brought together a large number of scholars. As other recent presidents have done, if elected, I would also do my best to further what I see as a trend

among graduate students, junior and senior faculty to view the Easterns as a conference well worth attending in addition to -- or sometimes, in a given year, possibly instead of -- the ASA.

Here I would like to offer a variation on this theme and suggest "Six Good Reasons Why the Easterns Are Special." By this, I mean that ESS conferences are both different from and related to larger conferences like the ASA. I would keep these distinctive traits in mind, and try to organize even further around them in years to come.

The Easterns, then, strike me as special because

1) Intellectual and scholarly depth, and creativity, can be fostered with particular ease at ESS conferences. Sometimes, of course, this happens at other meetings but some of the more innovative formats used at ESS sessions over the last 10 years -- for instance, conversations with individual scholars (who go into depth about their ideas), focused thematic sessions and multi-paneled mini-conferences -- offer the luxury of more depthful exploration of ideas than necessarily happens at larger professional conferences. Just as at ASA a number of sociologists and I (including Eviatar Zerubavel and Dan Chambliss, among others) long ago developed an evening tradition of "Author Meets Non-Critics," so at ESS, I would encourage more sessions at which graduate students as well as older scholars can 'brainstorm' about their ideas to supportive sociological audiences. I would also like to see more structured debates featured at ESS about a range of issues that are intellectually and socially engaging. Ideally ESS will continue to offer a mix of usual and unusual sessions of interest to its members.

2) Practical skills, too, can be developed at the Easterns in smaller panels and groups and through analogously innovative formats. Intellectual excitement and pragmatic preparation are obviously not mutually exclusive, and recent ESS conferences have managed to offer both. But in the present economy, amidst the anxieties and insecurities so many people are feeling in and outside academia, it is especially important that ESS offer graduate students as well as junior (and sometimes senior scholars as well) a thorough range of information, practice and skill-oriented sessions. Thus I would want to encourage skill-building workshops like the interesting one Arlene Stein is offering through the journal *Contexts* at the upcoming ESS on writing for larger audiences. Other workshops, too, need to be continued and promoted on -- among other topics -- grant-writing, book and article writing (and meetings with journal editors), job hunting in academia as well as in policy and other research-oriented

organizations, and on the tenure process (and daunting challenges frequently encountered, such as child-rearing, amidst it). ESS is already good at this and its relatively small size does and should make such workshops particularly helpful.

3) Community and collegiality -- 'networking' in the best sense of the term -- is easier to encourage at an intimate conference like the ESS than at larger meetings. The ASA is often overwhelming especially for graduate students and other early career sociologists who do not yet know many people. But precisely because ESS is small, it affords opportunities for graduate students to meet senior professors and for sociologists at all stages to see and 'hang out' with one another in more and less formal ways. Sometimes this may mean getting to know people from other "Eastern" schools who are in one's area(s) of interest. But I have also sometimes been surprised to find myself getting to know students and faculty from my own department (and city) better at ESS than in the relative rush of day-to-day business 'at home' (I have heard this from others about their experiences too). Particularly for graduate students but also for junior and senior professors, the Easterns *should* be friendly and welcoming, and create as many opportunities as possible for people to meet -- at receptions but also at lunches and even parties (sometimes through music and even, perhaps, dancing!!). In other words, the quality of personal as well as professional interactions matter -- and can be even better -- at small conferences like ESS.

4) Regional conferences are a virtue insofar as attending ESS is not only less overwhelming but usually more affordable for graduate students and other sociologists (when compared to national conferences often held much farther away). The Easterns are perfect for graduate students as well as junior and senior faculty wanting to present papers, and more efforts than ever need to be made to contact chairs -- and publicize ESS -- inside departments so that funding can be made available if at all possible. Here, too, ESS already does a good job of helping people make contacts with one another so as to assist with housing (and room sharing). If elected, I would prioritize finding as many ways as possible to help students and junior professors attend ESS; this is especially important during the present difficult economic times.

5) Because ESS can only offer a limited number of thematic sessions, these can be developed with special care to be as interesting as possible. The ESS President and Program Committee have the ability to concentrate on and develop thematic sessions that reflect Mills' notion of "sociological imagination" as

well as Burawoy and other sociologists' recent concerns about "public sociology." Moreover this challenge does not have to be met about too many sessions! For example, in 2009, Robert Kuttner gave an excellent (and, in retrospect, quite prescient) talk about the Obama administration's then-forthcoming economic challenges. In the next several years (for example), it will also be important for thematic sessions to discuss the development of and possible significance of the *Occupy Wall Street* movement as well as the accelerating role of new social media in affecting personal, social/sociological and political dynamics. If elected, I would hope to put together a vibrant Program Committee that would carefully and cooperatively develop thematic sessions of quality (rather than quantity) on a range of academic, policy and public-oriented topics.

6) In the manageable context of ESS, local scholars seem especially inspired to develop and run wonderful mini-conferences. I have not quantified the relative number of mini-conferences per sociologist at ESS in comparison to the ASA but I have been greatly impressed by the outpouring of fascinating mini-conferences in recent years on (for example) ethnography, immigration/race/ethnicity, family and gender. Mini-conferences at the Eastern have encouraged exploring relatively new areas of sociology (for example, cognitive sociology) as well as bringing researchers in well-trodden subfields together. Again this success ought be continued and expanded as it reflects the special characteristics of the Easterns and the wonderful sense of synergy, of energy, that has been growing slowly but surely – and to which I hope, with the help and cooperation of many other sociologists, to add even more if elected ESS President.

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Marjorie DeVault earned her Ph.D. at Northwestern University and has worked since 1987 in the Sociology Department at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, where she is currently a Maxwell Professor of Teaching Excellence and Director of Undergraduate Studies. She has specialized in intersectional gender and inequality studies and has written extensively on qualitative and feminist research methodologies. She is the author of Feeding the Family: The Social Organization of Caring as Gendered Work (Chicago, 1991) and Liberating Method: Feminism and Social Research (Temple, 1999), and editor of A Complex Sorrow: Reflections on Cancer and an Abbreviated Life by Marianne A. Paget (Temple, 1993) and People at Work: Life, Power, and Social Inclusion in the New Economy (NYU, 2008). In addition, she has published widely, including articles in the American

Journal of Sociology, Social Problems, Gender and Society, and Qualitative Sociology. She was invited to contribute a chapter, titled "Knowledge from the Field," on the emergence and development of qualitative methodologies, to Sociology in America (Ed., Craig Calhoun, Chicago, 2007), a volume designed to reflect on the history of the discipline on the occasion of the ASA's centennial year.

Marj has served the ESS as chair of the Graduate Education committee (1998-2000) and as a member of the ESS Merit Award committee in 2010. In the SSSP, she has been a member and chair of the C. Wright Mills committee (1996-1998), the Lee-Founders Award committee (2004-2005), the Social Action Award committee (2006-2007), and the Institutional Ethnography Division (2007-2009); she is currently a member of the SSSP Publications and Lee-Founders Award Committees. She was an elected Member at Large on the ASA Council (2007-2010), where she served as liaison to the Committee on the Status of GLBT Persons in Sociology and on an ad hoc committee on the future of Contexts magazine, among other responsibilities. She has served on the editorial boards of Qualitative Sociology (1993-present), Gender and Society (1995-1998), Social Problems (1996-1999), and the American Sociological Review (1999-2002). At Syracuse University, she has contributed in numerous ways to her department and to the Women's and Gender Studies Department, assisting in the development of gender and feminist studies at SU from program to departmental status. She contributed to early efforts to establish LGBT studies at the University (now a thriving minor program) and is currently involved in the growth and development of Disability Studies at Syracuse.

The insights of academic feminism and intersectionality have driven Marj's scholarly work, and its transformations, throughout her career. She has been committed to pursuit of the idea that bringing neglected perspectives into view will produce fuller and stronger analyses of the social world. Her early scholarship dealt with the household labor of "feeding the family" and the historically female professional field of dietetics and nutrition education. In both areas, she was interested in women's "invisible work" and its significance for social life, as well as how these forms of gendered work are shaped by the social relations of class, race, and other dimensions of inequality. She has written extensively on research methods, focusing on strategies for interview research, feminist methodology, experimental formats for research writing, and the institutional ethnography approach associated with Dorothy Smith's "sociology for

women” (now conceived as a “sociology for people”). She is active in a growing North American network of institutional ethnographers (now expanding internationally) and recently co-authored a chapter on Dorothy Smith for the Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists, Vol. 2). She is currently completing a book about family time at the zoo, and is engaged in two collaborative projects, one on documentary processes and restructuring in public-sector organizations, and one on health-care access and issues for Deaf patients.

Statement

I am honored to be asked to stand for the Presidency of the ESS. Although I was raised and educated in the Midwest, my professional career has unfolded in this region, and I have been extremely grateful for the intellectual vitality and generosity of my ESS colleagues. I have been especially impressed by the way that our officers and staff have shepherded the organization through some difficult economic times, always with a commitment to sustaining our inclusive spirit and practices. As I review the statements of past nominees for this office, I see the growth of a strong and valuable tradition of scholarly excellence and engagement, which I would certainly work to uphold.

As I see it, the regional societies play an especially important role in bringing us together as sociologists, since they are broad in their coverage of the field yet small enough in scale for us to know and interact with one another in meaningful ways. Our journal, *Sociological Forum*, provides a hard-copy expression of that role, and I salute the editors and those on past publication committees who have sustained its excellence.

Along with the journal, our Annual Meeting is at the center of our activities and planning for the meeting is a key responsibility for our president. The meeting holds particular importance for graduate students in the region, who often present first conference papers, make contact with scholars working in related areas, and meet potential employers. It is always a great pleasure for me to watch my own students presenting their work, to introduce them to colleagues, and to see them in conversation with those whose writings have inspired them—and I enjoy meeting students from our other graduate institutions. I’ve appreciated our recent moves to expand the participation of top-notch undergraduate students who will become our next generation of students and scholars. Of course, making a successful conference requires participation across the generations, and that is where a broad-ranging and lively program that will draw broad participation is critical. Past presidents have adopted

and sustained a number of program innovations, such as the focused mini-conferences and multiple author-meets-critics sessions, which allow us to invite to the conference an impressive roster of creative and influential scholars whose presence and ideas can inspire new thinking and discussion. I welcome the opportunity to craft and preside over the kind of meeting we’ve all come to depend upon and appreciate.

Some personal resources I would bring to this office: Throughout my career at Syracuse University I’ve maintained a personal life and home in Boston. While I can’t recommend long-term commuting as a way of life (for sure!), one of the advantages of my situation has been the opportunity to develop colleague relationships—through institutional affiliations, informal reading and writing groups, and many meetings for lunch or coffee—with outstanding sociologists in and around the Boston area. I have also learned profound lessons about scholarship and collegiality from my mentor Arlene Kaplan Daniels, who taught me by example about the importance of building and sustaining scholarly networks and organizations, and about the social and emotional dimensions of our intellectual work. Despite the differences in our personal styles (Arlene is a gregarious “public character” in the field, and I remain a slow-talking Midwesterner), I believe that I’ve been able to enact in my own more reserved ways at least some of Arlene’s generous practices of continual expansion of our scholarly communities. I have also benefited from the kind of intellectual environment I’ve experienced at Syracuse University, which has been thoroughly interdisciplinary, and from my department’s location in the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, where the social sciences are put in conversation with policy studies and public administration. Finally, I am learning a great deal from the university’s current Chancellor, Nancy Cantor, who has opened new and inspiring conversations about engaged scholarship and the institutional practices that will support it—conversations which resonate strongly with and which I believe can contribute fruitfully to the discussions we will continue to have in sociology.

If elected, I would undertake my responsibilities as president with several commitments in mind. It is essential, in these times, to maintain a sound budgetary foundation for the organization and to insure that we prepare for uncertainties ahead. Equally important, in my view, is that we continue to build an inclusive discipline and organization, along multiple axes of difference—of identities, perspectives, and professional locations, for instance. In this respect, I see sociology as a leader in

scholarship and higher education, and I believe that our contributions in forwarding inclusion and diversity are critical beyond our discipline. Intellectually, I would want our program and activities to be responsive to perspectives from across the discipline, and I would encourage and seek to build conversation and cooperation across different methodological and theoretical approaches. One source of my pleasure in the practice of sociology lies in the range of topics we have license to address and the variety of ways that we bring the sociological imagination to bear on pressing issues of our time. Thus, I would also work to support our practices of pedagogy and of public sociology in their diverse forms, and to highlight creative and distinctive ways of developing and delivering sociological knowledge with and to diverse publics.”

For Vice President:

Mary Ann Clawson is Professor of Sociology at Wesleyan University where she has served as Department Chair and Coordinator of the Women’s Studies program. She has been a member of the Editorial Boards of *Contemporary Sociology*, *Qualitative Sociology*, and the ASA Rose Series, and is currently serving as Co-Chair of the Program Committee for the 2012 ESS Annual Meeting.

Clawson received her B.A. from Carleton College and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Much of her research focuses on gendered analyses of institutions that construct collective identity, explicitly or implicitly, around a principle of masculinity . In a series of articles and in Constructing Brotherhood: Class, Masculinity, and Ritual in Europe and America (Princeton University Press, 1989) she looked at fraternal organizations, which in the late 19th century had membership totals equal to more than one-quarter of the adult male population; the fraternal form was also adopted by a wide range of other organizations, from the Ku Klux Klan to the Knights of Labor and many labor unions. These organizations, she argued, formed unity on the basis of a male bonding based on fictive ties of brotherhood, a brotherhood which used the exclusion of women as a means to transcend class, religious, and national (but not racial) divisions.

Subsequently, a series of articles examined the under-representation of women in rock music by looking at the rock band as an institution gendered male. Because most male rock musicians typically learn to play as teens, in groups initially united more by friendship than by musical ability, with participation in early rock bands thus conditioned by access to adolescent male peer groups, young girls who wished

to play were typically excluded from such opportunities. Coming to the music later in life, typically in college, women were more likely to be singers, an accepted feminine role, or to play the bass, an instrument seen as less prestigious, thus less sought after by male musicians, as well as easier for a beginner to learn.

More recent work has focused on assessing the U.S. labor movement and strategies for its revitalization. She is currently studying redistributionist movements of the 1970s, particularly labor and community organizing, movements that offered class as a basis for solidarity, while downplaying gender and race. These organizing projects were most often initiated by white male leftists for whom redistributive politics offered not only ambitious strategies for societal transformation, but a solution to the existential dilemma of how to maintain their activist commitments at a time when the feminist and black power movements represented the most visible forms of mass activism.

Clawson’s contributions have appeared in Gender & Society, Feminist Studies, Signs, Annual Review of Sociology, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Gender & History, Popular Music, and a number of edited books.

Statement

I am tremendously honored to be nominated for the position of Vice President of the Eastern Sociological Society. Despite my previous awareness of ESS’s growth in numbers and participation during the last decade, my service as Program Co-Chair for the 2012 Annual Meeting has greatly deepened my appreciation of the intellectual vitality and disciplinary exchange fostered by the organization, especially valuable at a time when economic crisis and university financial cut-backs prohibit extensive travel for many. ESS is thriving; the task at hand is not to transform it, but to maintain and advance the strengths of both the conference and the equally vital Sociological Forum. It’s especially important to preserve its openness to member initiative and to participation by faculty, practitioners, graduate students, and even undergraduates from a wide range of colleges, universities, and non-academic settings.

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David Grazian is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. He served as Treasurer of the Eastern Sociological Society from 2007 to 2009. His past ESS service also includes chairing the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award Selection Committee (2007-08) and serving on the ESS Merit Award Selection Committee (2008-09),

the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2007 annual meetings in Philadelphia, and the Program Committee of the 2003 annual meetings. He currently serves on the editorial boards of *Poetics* and *Qualitative Sociology*, and has previously served as a Consulting Editor for the *American Journal of Sociology* (2006-08), and the Culture Editor of *Contexts* (2008-10). In addition, from 2008-11 he served on the Council of the ASA Sociology of Culture section.

Professor Grazian 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, urban sociology, social interaction, media studies, ethnographic methods, and social theory. He is the author of three books: *Blue Chicago: The Search for Authenticity in Urban Blues Clubs* (University of Chicago Press, 2003), *On the Make: The Hustle of Urban Nightlife* (University of Chicago Press, 2008), and *Mix it Up: Popular Culture, Mass Media, and Society* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2010). In his work he employs a variety of ethnographic and qualitative methods to study the production and consumption of popular entertainment in the urban milieu. 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 ASA Sociology of Culture section. 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 a 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.

His second book, *On the Make: The Hustle of Urban Nightlife*, is a study of the production and consumption of downtown nightlife in Philadelphia. By relying on a variety of qualitative research methods—participant observation in the city's restaurants, nightclubs, and cocktail bars; interviews with 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 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 and personal appearance; 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.

His most recent book, *Mix it Up: Popular Culture, Mass Media, and Society*, is a textbook on the sociology of media and popular culture. Based on courses Grazian has taught at Penn since 2001, its coverage of topics includes the consolidation of corporate ownership within the media industry; the relationship between cultural consumption and social status; the rise of aesthetics and style in everyday life; the globalization of branding; and the social effects of new media technologies in the digital age.

In addition to his books, Professor Grazian has also published articles and essays in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Science*, *Contexts*, *Ethnologie française*, *Poetics*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Sociological Forum*, and *Symbolic Interaction*. He is currently writing a book on metropolitan zoos as repositories of culture and habitats of human interaction, and what they tell us about our relationship to the natural living world.

Statement

It is a tremendous honor to be nominated for Vice President of the ESS. Since returning to the region in 2001, I have witnessed firsthand the increasing excitement and intellectual vitality surrounding the ESS annual meeting, with its star-studded panels, distinguished guests, author-meets-critics sessions, and jam-packed mini-conferences. At the same time, I appreciate how important the ESS meetings have been for my graduate students (and, increasingly, our undergraduates as well) seeking to present their works-in-progress and receive constructive feedback in a professional context. Given the close proximity of so many wonderful colleges and universities 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 a spirit of collegiality.

If elected, I look forward to solidifying our gains in recent years by encouraging creative programming and active participation in our annual meeting by students and faculty alike, recruiting new members to the organization, and strengthening our journal

Sociological Forum. In particular, I would like to create two consortiums of undergraduate and graduate chairs, respectively, in which members could consult with colleagues in peer departments regarding curricular and pedagogical issues. (From 2007-2010 I served as Undergraduate Chair of the Penn Sociology Department.) In addition, the annual meeting might serve as an ideal setting for related panels, round-table discussions, and mini-conferences concerning new developments in collegiate and graduate sociology programs, course offerings, and creative teaching strategies both in and outside the classroom.

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For Executive Committee:

Debra Lemke is 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.

Lemke was a Maryland Representative to 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 in 1998.

Lemke 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.

Statement

Lemke 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 has served for the past 5 years as the Editor of the society newsletter: ESSays that is currently undergoing a format change. She is also a member of the Publications Committee. Lemke is excited about this new avenue of service to the ESS.

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Victoria Pitts-Taylor is Professor of Sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. At the Graduate Center, she is Coordinator of the Doctoral Certificate Program in women's studies and Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society. For the past two years as Director of CSWS, she has organized an interdisciplinary lecture series called NeuroCultures and a monthly speaker series, Seminar in Gender and Sexuality. At the GC she also serves as a member of the Committee for Interdisciplinary Science Studies.

Pitts-Taylor has published two books and an edited volume in the areas of the sociology of the body, the sociology of medicine and gender, as well as numerous articles on gender, bodies and health. Her first book, called In the Flesh: the Cultural Politics of Body Modification (Palgrave 2003), examined the rise of the body art movement through the perspectives of feminist, queer and postcolonial politics. Her second book, Surgery Junkies: Wellness and Pathology in Cosmetic Culture (Rutgers University Press 2007), examines contemporary cosmetic surgery, especially the figure of the surgery addict. Both works consider the ideas of the body as a site of social inscription, the social role of the 'deviant' body, and the limits of embodied practices for self-making one's identity. Pitts-Taylor also edited The Cultural Encyclopedia of the Body (two volumes, 2008, Greenwood Press), which explores the global and historical diversity of body practices. She has lectured widely in the area of the sociology of the body, giving keynote or invited lectures in Sydney, Copenhagen, Seoul, Montreal, Birmingham, New York and San Francisco among other places.

In recent articles, Pitts-Taylor has taken up the brain as a new site of body management. In "The Plastic Brain: Neoliberalism and the Neuronal Self" (Health, 2010), she explores how brain plasticity, or its newly heralded ability to change throughout the lifespan in response to experience and environmental changes, is taken up in the context of neoliberal governance. In "Social Brains, Embodiment and NeuroInteractionism" (The Body Handbook, edited by Bryan S. Turner, Routledge 2012), she examines mirror neurons, and particularly how they are being used to biologize social notions of interaction. Pitts-

Taylor is currently writing a book called "Brain, Self and Society" for the Routledge series Integrating Science and Culture.

Pitts-Taylor won an Advancement of the Discipline Award for the American Sociological Association for her research on women's use of the Internet to narrate their bodily experiences of breast cancer. She has published a number of articles on women's health in relation to technology, security and neoliberalism. One of her recent articles examines the death of Esmine Green, a patient who died unassisted in the waiting room of the psychiatry ward of a public hospital.

Pitts-Taylor served as co-General Editor of the journal *Women's Studies Quarterly* from 2007-2010, and now serves on its Advisory Board. In 2010-2011, she served as the first elected chair of the ASA Section on the Body and Embodiment. She also helped organize the recent ESS conference in Philadelphia under ESS President Phil Kasinitz.

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Laura West Steck is Assistant Professor of Sociology, affiliated faculty in Women's and Gender Studies, and coordinator of the Sociology and Behavioral Science programs at York College of Pennsylvania. I earned my PhD in Sociology from University of Connecticut in 2006 and joined the Behavioral Science Department at York College the same year. While attending University of Connecticut, I completed a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies (2004). I have been a member of the ESS Committee on the Status of Women since 2004, and served as co-chair of the committee from 2005-2008.

My areas of teaching and research include gender, race and ethnicity, class inequality and family diversity. I teach courses in gender and society, race and ethnicity, families, introduction to women's and gender studies, and human services. My most recent publication, in *Teaching Sociology* (July 2011), examines learning outcomes among students participating in a coordinated poverty simulation. In addition, I am co-author of a chapter that examines the significance of Berger and Luckman's "social construction of reality" to definitions of restorative justice, part of a larger edited volume on restorative justice published in 2011. My ongoing research explores the strategies undergraduate students with children employ in their efforts to negotiate the competing demands of parenting and post-secondary schooling.

Throughout my career as a sociologist I have placed a great deal of emphasis on the importance of service:

service to students on my campus, service to the surrounding community, and service to the discipline. On the York College campus, I work to address student concerns both within and outside of the classroom. Beyond my academic responsibilities of teaching and advising, I have served as co-chair of the Multicultural Affairs Council at York College since 2007. I have also worked closely with campus counseling services to facilitate student programming on healthy relationships, sexual assault, and drug and alcohol use and abuse.

My service to the city and county of York, Pennsylvania has been focused upon engaging community members in an effort to combat class and racial-ethnic inequities in York. I have been a member of the Healing York Initiative, aimed at ameliorating racial tension in York; a consultant for the York County Community against Racism agency; a participant in annual York Unity March events; and a consultant for the York City Human Relations Commission, whose primary responsibility involves investigating civil rights violations against city residents. I have also collaborated with colleagues in my department to coordinate and facilitate the Community Action Poverty Simulation for local area human service professionals, with the objective of enhancing awareness and empathy among those working most directly with area residents living in poverty. In addition, I coordinate a bi-annual donation drive to collect clothing and daily use products for clients of York's Helping Hand for the Homeless, a local homeless drop-in center located six blocks from the York College campus.

Through my committee memberships in ESS and Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) I have developed an active record of service to the discipline as well. I have served as a member of the ESS Committee on the Status of Women since 2004; I am founder of the Eastern Region Chapter of SWS, which meets each year during annual ESS meetings; I am a member of the SWS Career Development Committee; and for the past two years I have served as the Professional Needs Mentor Matching Coordinator for SWS, through which I connect junior members of the organization with senior members who provide professional mentorship and guidance for mentees.

Statement

I am honored to be nominated for consideration for the ESS executive committee. I have been a member of the organization since 1998, when I joined as a graduate student. Since then I have been actively involved in annual meetings as a presenter, organizer, and/or president, as well as a member of the

Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) for the past seven years. ESS has provided a valuable opportunity for me to network with other academics and professionals, connections I would not have experienced outside of my membership with the organization. Through my work with ESS, I have been able to engage in my own professional development, as well as enhance the professional development of other members, particularly through my work on organizing CSW workshops and panel sessions to address members' professional development needs. The mentorship I have received from other ESS members has been invaluable as well, and I hope to be able to provide similar guidance to other members in years to come. I would be humbled to be given the opportunity to do so as a member of the executive committee of ESS.

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Jonathan White received his BA in sociology from Brandeis University and his PhD in Sociology from Boston College. He currently is Associate Professor of Sociology at Bridgewater State University, specializing in inequality, globalization, political economy, human rights, and public sociology. He has been honored to be the recipient of teaching and humanitarian awards at Bridgewater State University, Colby College, Bowdoin College, and Framingham State University. He has recently co-authored The Engaged Sociologist (with Kathleen Odell Korgen) and co-edited Sociologists in Action: Sociology, Social Change, and Social Justice (with Kathleen Odell Korgen and Shelley K. White) and is currently co-editing Sociologists in Action: Race, Class, and Gender (with Kathleen Odell Korgen and Shelley K. White). Jonathan has served in the past on the Executive Committee for the New England Sociological Association (NESA) and currently is co-editor (with Corey Dolgon and Kathleen Korgen) of the newsletter for the ASA Section on Teaching and Learning Teaching Matters. He has served for the past six years as a member of the ESS Committee on Undergraduate Education. As well, Jonathan himself is an active "sociologist in action," serving on the board of directors of Free the Children International the Graduation Pledge Alliance, Me to We, and FAM for Change (Friends and Mentors for Change) as well as having founded the small non-profit Sports for Hunger. Jonathan also recently served a 3 year term coordinating Service-Learning on his campus.

Statement

I am humbled to be considered for the Executive Committee of ESS- the organization I refer to as "my sociological home"- and honored to be nominated amongst such talented colleagues. I have a deep-rooted interest in the intersections of sociology, social change, and social justice as applied to the

widest possible array of social problems and structural inequalities. And I have an equally passionate drive in fostering undergraduate students and thinking creatively inside (and outside) of the undergraduate curriculum, toward new visions in an increasingly complex and globalizing world. I am among a growing group of colleagues who are ever-seeking new ways to connect the classroom to the community and to combine our academic and service work in useful ways for the community as we work with our students to help them to become engaged sociologists.

If selected to the Executive Committee, I will hope to be a voice pushing for further movement toward public sociology, applied sociology, and sociology that is geared toward social change and social justice. I would bring my combination of two decades of teaching and applied social justice/nonprofit work, and would also look creatively to find further ways to include undergraduate and graduate students in ESS. Most importantly, I would work steadfastly to have conversations with my ESS colleagues and, more than anything else, will work to continue bringing our collective vision toward shaping the organization.