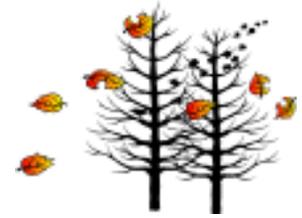


Social Psychology

Fall 1997



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FROM THE CHAIR

Edward J. Lawler, *Cornell University*

The Social Psychology Section is in solid shape, intellectually and financially. As of the ASA meeting, we had 598 members which is not quite enough (600) to qualify for four sessions on the 1998 program. However, section memberships tend to rise at the ASA meetings and the section council was made aware of this potential problem and asked to help recruit new members in the month after the meetings. By the time you receive this newsletter, we should be over the cutoff of 600 members. While there may be no cause for immediate worry, it is noteworthy that the section membership has hovered around 600 for several years, and I think we should make a concerted effort this year to increase our membership in the hope of stabilizing membership at a higher level. The membership committee (chaired by Doug Maynard) will consider some steps toward this goal, and if you have ideas, we would appreciate having them. We can all help, of course, by encouraging our graduate students and colleagues to join the section. If you need membership forms, please let Doug Maynard, Jan Stets, or me know.

The theme of the section program for the 1998 ASA meetings will be Micro Social Orders. This is a broad theme that crosscuts virtually all of the theoretical traditions of sociological social psychology. The theme can be captured by questions such as: How are "stable" or "persistent" or "recurrent" patterns of interaction created, reproduced, or sustained in or by social relationships and groups? The development and maintenance of "micro social orders" is a central problem of sociological social psychology, and also a problem that relates social psychology to fundamental issues of the larger discipline. Ethnomethodologists, symbolic interactionists, identity theorists, exchange theorists, expectation states theorists, emotion theorists, and others all have something important to say about micro social orders. I hope the 1998 program will reflect the diversity of viewpoints on this central problem of sociological social psychology.

The program will be organized as a Mini-Conference with three complementary sessions (see page three): (1) An invited session that I will organize on varied theoretical traditions or frameworks, (2) an open-submission session organized by Karen Cook (co-sponsored by the Rational Choice Section), and (3) an open-submission session organized by Gary Alan Fine (co-sponsored with the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction). The program is described in more detail on page three.

As the fourth section session, I am also pleased to announce that Terri Orbuch will organize the Luncheon Roundtables at the 1998 meetings. These, of course, are open to any topics and do not need to reflect or tie into the Micro Social Orders theme.

Section day is the first day of the ASA meetings next year. Please let me know if you have suggestions for the section activities. We especially need your help recruiting new members. The section committee memberships are on page four.

See you in San Francisco!! ♦

FROM THE EDITOR

Jan E. Stets, *Washington State University*



As the new newsletter editor, let me indicate the kinds of the things that I plan to include over the next three years in the social psychology section newsletter. There will be three eight-page issues per year (Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer). Each issue will have several regular columns which, taken together, will comprise half of each issue. These include the Chair's column, the Editor's column, the Theory and Research Corner, the Teaching Corner, the *Social Psychology Quarterly* column, and the Graduate Student Profile column. These columns are designed to keep you informed and engaged in social psychology ideas, issues, events, and people. At the end of this column, I have identified what will appear in the next two issues, thereby rounding out the year.

For the *Social Psychology Quarterly* column, Linda Molm and Lynn Smith-Lovin (*University of Arizona*) write: "At the recent ASA meetings, Ed Lawler organized a workshop on publishing in ASA journals. A number of those present expressed a desire for a written version of the topics covered at the workshop. For the next several issues of the Newsletter, we will offer a "mini-workshop" on publishing in SPQ, covering the editorial process (from submission of a new manuscript to final decision), advice to authors, and advice to reviewers. In this issue we address the first topic, the editorial process."

Please send me information that you think might be relevant to section members including (but not limited to) contributions to the theory and research and teaching corners, profiles on your graduate students, books that are forthcoming, special issues you are editing, meetings that you'd like announced, or an issue in social psychology you'd like to feature. I'm flexible with what gets included so don't hesitate to contact me.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to those who have been very helpful in the development of this first issue. The first issue is always the most difficult. To the contributors of this issue, their columns, and their cooperation in meeting my deadline, thank you very much. I'd also like to thank Tim Owens (the previous newsletter editor) and Barry Markovsky (who preceded Tim in editorship) for their advice in crafting a newsletter. Their input was invaluable. Finally, I'd like to thank Peter Burke who so graciously agreed to manage the social psychology web site (see next column), has given me some good computer graphics tips, and has been patient and supportive as I've trudged through this first issue.

Winter/Spring Issue, *Forthcoming*:

Theory and Research: Jon Turner (*University of California, Riverside*); Teaching: Dawn Robinson (*Louisiana State University*); Graduate Student Profiles: Karen Lutfey (*Indiana University*) and Josh Rossol (*University of Wisconsin-Madison*)

Summer Issue, *Forthcoming*:

Theory and Research: Vik Gecas (*Washington State University*); Teaching: Judy Howard (*University of Washington*); (Post) Graduate Student Profile: Shane Thye (*Cornell University*) ♦

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY ON THE WEB

<http://stets.libarts.wsu.edu/spnews/>

Jan E. Stets

Washington State University



Each issue of the newsletter will appear on the web site I have created for the section. This web site offers several things for section members beyond the availability of the newsletter. First, it provides additional information that might not appear in the newsletter. For example, the web site currently provides background information on the section including the section's bylaws, the history of council membership, and a listing of past recipients of the Cooley-Mead Award. There are also application forms that members can have easy access to including the social psychology section membership application, the International Sociological Association (ISA) form, and the ISA Research Committee on Social Psychology application. Further, the web site links a section member to other sites of interest, for example, ASA, *SPQ*, and The Center for Group Processes home pages. From these sites, a member has access to other sites.

Finally, the web site provides a link to a discussion forum which I hope social psychology members will use. The underlying logic of the discussion forum is to encourage section members to talk about social psychological issues and concerns on an ongoing basis. Often, we don't talk to each other about social psychological matters until the annual meeting in August and then perhaps only briefly. The discussion site provides an opportunity for members to freely discuss theoretical and methodological issues in the field, identify concerns over the status and future of the field, share reactions to something one has read (or otherwise been exposed to), or simply comment on the section's newsletter columns.

The discussion site is set up in the following way. When you get connected, you have the ability to create a new topic for discussion, comment on a topic that has already been posted for discussion, or simply browse the site and read members comments on various topics. Feel free to post any topic you see as worthy for discussion. This site has the potential for interesting and engaging conversation. I look forward to your involvement in it.

If you have information related to the section that you think should be put on the web site, please contact:

Peter Burke at:
burkep@wsu.edu ♦



LOOKING AHEAD: 1998 CONFERENCES



World Congress of Sociology
Montreal, Canada
July 26-August 1, 1998

ISA Research Committee on Social Psychology (RC 42)
Chair: Karen S. Cook, *Duke University*

This is an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and share your research with social psychologists in other countries. To join the Research Committee, send the form (obtained by going to: <http://stets.libarts.wsu.edu/spnews/>) as well as \$20.00 with your check made out to RC 42 to:

Jeylan Mortimer
Director, Life Course Center
1914 Social Science Building
University of Minnesota
267 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Because membership in the Committee is contingent on ISA membership, you will also need to join or renew your membership in ISA. Send the form (go to: <http://stets.libarts.wsu.edu/spnews/>) to the Executive Office.

ISA Session for the Research Committee on
Social Psychology
"Transition to Adulthood in Comparative,
Cross-National Perspective"

Send abstracts by November 1, 1997 to:

Jeylan Mortimer
Director, Life Course Center
1914 Social Science Building
University of Minnesota
267 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

11th Annual Group Processes Conference
San Francisco, California
Hilton and Towers
August 20, 1998

Theme: "Advances in Theoretical Research Programs
in Social Psychology"

Those who have not previously attended a group processes conference and are interested in more information about the conference, contact:

Joseph Berger (jberger@leland.stanford.edu) ♦

American Sociological Association Meetings
San Francisco, California
Hilton and Towers
August 21-25, 1998

Theme: "Micro Social Orders"

Micro Social Orders I: "Theoretical Frameworks"
(Invited Session)
Organizer: Edward J. Lawler, *Cornell University*

Micro Social Orders II: "Social Exchange and Rational Choice"
(Open Session)
[Co-sponsored with the Rational Choice Section]
Organizer: Karen S. Cook, *Duke University*

Micro Social Orders III: "Interactionist Approaches"
(Open Session)
[Co-sponsored with the Society for the Study of
Symbolic Interaction]
Organizer: Gary Alan Fine, *University of Georgia*

Roundtables Organizer: Terri Orbuch, *University of Michigan*

1998 ASA Program Deadlines

January 10, 1998: Deadline for paper submissions to organizers
February 1, 1998: Deadline for closed/invited session
February 15, 1998: Deadline for open submission paper session
February 28, 1998: Deadline for roundtable session

Section Day Assignments

Friday, August 21: Asia and Asian American Education, Marxist Sociology, Rational Choice, Social Psychology, Sociological Practice, Sociology and Computers

Saturday, August 22: Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Community and Urban Sociology, Crime, Law and Deviance, Family, Mental Health, Organizations, Occupations, and Work, Race, Gender, and Class, Science, Knowledge, and Technology

Sunday, August 23: Children, Comparative and Historical Sociology, Environment and Technology, Law, Medical Sociology, Methodology, Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Sexualities

Monday, August 24: Aging, Alcohol and Drugs, Culture, International Migration, Mathematical Sociology, Political Economy and the World System, Theory, Undergraduate Education

Tuesday, August 25: Emotions, Latina/o, Peace and War, Political Sociology, Population, Religion, Sex and Gender ♦



SECTION COMMITTEES

Cooley-Mead Award

Chair: Lynn Smith-Lovin, *University of Arizona*
 Members: Vik Gecas, *Washington State University*
 Peter Kollock, *University of California at Los Angeles*
 Catherine Ross, *Ohio State University*
 Cecilia Ridgeway, *Stanford University*

Graduate Student Award

Chair: Lisa Troyer, *University of Iowa*
 Members: Spencer Cahill, *University of South Florida*
 Marta Elliott, *University of Nevada at Reno*
 Lisa Rashotte, *University of Arizona*
 Elaine Wethington, *Cornell University*

Membership

Chair: Doug Maynard, *Indiana University*
 Members: John DeLamater, *University of Wisconsin at Madison*
 Anne Eisenberg, *University of Iowa*
 Robert Shelly, *Ohio University*
 Jan Stets, *Washington State University*

Nominations

Chair: Tim Owens, *Indiana University at Indianapolis*
 Members: Karen Cook, *Duke University*
 Laurie Ervin, *Indiana University*
 Cathryn Johnson, *Emory University*
 Neil MacKinnon, *University of Guelph*

Professional Affairs

Chair: Jeylan Mortimer, *University of Minnesota*
 Members: Jacqueline Cashen, *Sociometrics Corporation*
 Mary Glenn Wiley, *University of Illinois at Chicago*

SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cooley-Mead Award

This award is given annually to an individual who has made lifetime contributions to distinguished scholarship in social psychology. In addition to receiving the Award, this person makes a scholarly presentation to the Social Psychology Section at the ASA Annual Meetings. To nominate an individual or for more information, contact:

Lynn Smith-Lovin
 Department of Sociology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721

Graduate Student Paper Award

The Social Psychology Section of the ASA is presenting an award for the best paper written in Social Psychology by a graduate student in Sociology. The paper should be article length. It can be based on a master's or doctoral thesis, course paper, or a paper submitted to a journal or conference. Co-authored papers are accepted if all authors are students, but the prize must be shared. The recipient will receive financial support to attend the ASA meetings in August in San Francisco, where the prize will be awarded. Send five copies of the paper by March 15, 1998 to:

Lisa Troyer
 Department of Sociology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242 ♦

**Liaison for the Society for the Study
 of Symbolic Interaction**
 Spencer Cahill
University of South Florida

SUBMISSIONS FOR SPECIAL ISSUE



Motivation and Emotion invites submissions for a special issue, "Sociological Contributions to the Understanding of Emotion." *Motivation and Emotion* publishes original research reports that are focused on motivation and/or emotion as central topics. Its audience includes social psychologists, cognitive psychologists, sociologists, developmentalists, and health and mental health researchers. Quantitative or qualitative empirical papers that address important issues in the sociology or the social psychology of emotion are sought for this issue.

Deadline for submissions is March 2, 1998. Publication will be in 1999. Use APA style for citations and references. For further information, contact:

Peggy A. Thoits
 Department of Sociology
 Box 1811-B
 Vanderbilt University
 Nashville, TN 37235
 or e-mail
 thoitspa@ctrvx1.vanderbilt.edu ♦

THEORY AND RESEARCH CORNER

Sharee St. Louis and David Willer
University of South Carolina



Power-at-a-Distance and Power Reversals University of South Carolina Sociological Laboratory

This Fall we begin the third phase of our National Science Foundation grant to study Power-at-a-Distance and Power Reversals. Power-at-a-Distance, which is common in macro-structures, occurs when a position benefits by exploiting distant positions through adjacent positions. For example, when A is connected to B and B to C, we investigate whether A can exploit C through B. Here resources must flow from distant positions through adjacent positions in order for the A to benefit. The amount of Power-at-a-Distance exercised is measured by the A-B and B-C exchange ratios.

The ExNet II system (implemented at South Carolina) has been modified for the investigation of Power-at-a-Distance. Included in the modifications is a tutorial instructing subjects how to use mouse control to select offers and transmit resources. ExNet II records all interactions, offers and counteroffers and exchanges.

Later in the fall, we will also study the effects of coalitions on power exercise. In exclusively connected branches, we expect coalitions to countervail power, but in inclusively-exclusively connected branches, we expect power to be reversed.

Soon Dudley Girard, the project's programmer will travel to The Netherlands to install the ExNet II software at the sociology laboratory at Groningen University. The ExNet II software is available from our lab by request. Please contact:

David Willer
Department of Sociology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
Phone : 803-777-2209
Email: DWiller@sc.edu

TEACHING CORNER

John DeLamater
University of Wisconsin-Madison



I am pleased to inaugurate the Teaching Corner. Teaching the undergraduate Social Psychology course is one aspect of my role that I especially enjoy. I teach to about 110 students, half are sophomores and the rest juniors and seniors. There are an equal number from the Psychology and Sociology departments.

My primary goal is to encourage students to appreciate the relevance of social psychological theories and research to their daily lives. The concepts we teach, from socialization through consistency theories of attitude structure to groupthink, refer to phenomena that we experience in our lives. That is what has fascinated me about social psychology since I took the course as a junior in college. When I began teaching as a graduate student, I thought the applicability of social psychology to everyday life would be obvious to students. I was sadly mistaken.

I had the good fortune to begin teaching social psychology with Jim Moore (now at York University). We developed exercises for the introductory course which were very successful. The idea is to provide the students with the experience of collecting data on an aspect of social behavior, and then analyzing that data using theories or concepts from the field. Each exercise specifies the behaviors the student is to observe and provides directions for collecting the data. It also identifies the appropriate concepts and provides the student with references to relevant lecture and reading. The student is required to write a three-page report which: 1) describes the data collected and 2) analyzes it using course material. Questions to guide the write-up are also included as part of the exercise.

I assign four exercises during a 14-week semester. The first asks students to complete an abbreviated "Who am I?," and then to complete it as they imagine a best friend and a parent would complete it with the students as the referent. This introduces the concepts of self-concept/schema, role identities and reflected appraisals. The second, inspired by Leidner's Fast Food, Fast Talk, is two hours of observation at a McDonald's. This directs their attention to status structures and symbols, standardized interaction, subculture and norms. The third focuses on love. Students are to recall the experience of being in love, and then compare it to Rubin's discussion of liking vs. loving, Walster's theory of passionate love, and the romantic love ideal. The fourth involves watching at least three hours of commercials, recording information about every commercial, and then conducting an analysis of the content of the ads. The analysis focuses on the motives - to be healthy, sexually attractive, or a good mother - targeted by the commercials.

The exercises focus on phenomena familiar to most students. They also illustrate questionnaire, observation, introspection and content analysis as methods used by social psychologists. I will be happy to share these exercises with those who are interested. Contact me at: Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, or email: DeLamater@ssc.wisc.edu. ♦

Go to:



<http://stets.libarts.wsu.edu/spnews/>

Comment on the topic posted on the "Ongoing Discussion" site entitled "Current Research in Social Psychology" by Barry Markovskiy. ♦

Linda Molm and Lynn Smith-Lovin, Co-Editors
University of Arizona

SPQ receives about 100 submissions a year (more, with a special issue). Each manuscript is assigned to one of us who acts as decision editor and handles the manuscript from start to finish. New submissions are sent to three reviewers, selected from a computerized reviewer database which includes our reviewers' theoretical, methodological, and substantive areas. We select reviewers who are experts in the area(s) represented by the paper, but when papers are fairly narrow or technical, we often include one "generalist." We try to balance reviewers who are "hard" or "easy," we try new reviewers along with seasoned pros, and we make good use of our editorial board.

The time from submission to decision is 10-10.5 weeks, on average. Prompt reviewers shorten the time; slow reviewers or papers that are returned for reassignment lengthen the process. Once all reviews are in (or once two reviews are in, if the third is delayed), the decision editor writes to the author with the editor's decision: reject, accept (unconditionally or conditionally), or revise and resubmit. About 2/3rds of all new submissions are rejected; most of the remaining are revise and resubmit. Our decisions rely heavily on the reviewers' recommendations; thus, we are not "activist" editors. We do offer substantial advice to authors of promising papers, however.

Because few papers are accepted on the first round, how R&Rs are handled is important. We invite revision and resubmission when we believe a paper will eventually be accepted if the authors make the changes requested. Our letter describes the problems that must be addressed and advises the author how to deal with any conflicting reviewers advice. Some R&Rs are more extensive revisions; letters for these make clear our uncertainty about the outcome. We ask authors to include a memo with a resubmission that describes how they addressed the issues raised by reviewers and the editor.

We typically send revised papers back to two of the reviewers from the first round. If the revisions requested are more substantial, we might send a resubmission to a new reviewer. Authors know which we will do in the decision letter.

The likelihood that revised papers will be accepted is much higher than the likelihood that new papers will be accepted: 75-80%. The main reason for rejecting revised papers is when authors don't respond seriously to the recommendations and make minimal changes when substantial revisions were called for. These revisions fail to meet the criteria specified and they often annoy reviewers who feel their time and recommendations are being treated cavalierly. Some papers require a third revision; it is not unusual for a resubmission to be accepted conditional upon further minor revisions, which are typically reviewed only by the decision editor.

Once a paper is accepted, our managing editor, Jo Ann Beard, takes over and works with the author to turn a manuscript into final form. The average time from acceptance to publication is six to nine months. ♦

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE



Anne F. Eisenberg
University of Iowa

Anne F. Eisenberg is a sociology doctoral candidate (ABD) at the University of Iowa. With Barry Markovsky as her advisor, Anne is completing data collection for her dissertation and anticipates defending during the spring of 1998. Her research interests are in social psychology and theory. She studies how group processes and social networks provide links between micro and macro levels of analysis in understanding legitimacy. Her dissertation examines the legitimacy of scholarly disciplines, and her research program extends this theory of legitimacy to studying the success of collective behavior. Eisenberg and Markovsky plan to test their theory in controlled experimental studies during 1998.

Anne's dissertation, "Social Networks and Legitimacy: The Emergence of Legitimacy from a Group Processes Perspective," tests a new theory of legitimacy. It posits that legitimacy results from intra-group ties (that generate group solidarity) and inter-group ties (that provide social endorsement). The theory is tested by comparing the social network ties of parapsychologists with those of cognitive psychologists. Data includes in-depth interviews with practicing parapsychologists and cognitive psychologists.

Eisenberg has published in *Teaching Sociology* and is the author or co-author of at least eight conference papers. She is currently working on two papers: one reconsiders Durkheim's conceptualization of science to understanding pseudo science and the other (with Markovsky) discusses the Eisenberg and Markovsky theory of legitimacy.

Anne received the 1996 University Award for Excellence in Teaching. She has taught undergraduate courses in "Sociological Theory," "Theory, Research, Statistics-- Research Method's," and "Sociology of Science." She is interested in teaching social psychology, group processes, social movements, and statistics.

Statement: "As an undergraduate, I discovered that sociology provides insight into critical social issues in a way distinct from other disciplines. Through my own research and teaching I show the utility of sociology as a scholarly discipline and as a resource for resolving social issues. My research focuses on explicating the processes associated with legitimacy in relation to collective behavior and social movements. Further refinement of the Eisenberg and Markovsky theory will contribute to sociological understanding of legitimacy, and the research will contribute to associated applications of the theory. Finally, my enthusiasm for my research makes me a compelling teacher which impacts on students' achieving their own potential." ♦

ASA SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION HIGHLIGHTS
Wednesday, August 13, 1997, Toronto, Ontario

Cooley-Mead Award

**Robert K. Merton, Emeritus
Columbia University**



"Reflections on Robert K. Merton"

Guillermina Jasso, Carmi Schooler, Geoffrey Tootell

Social Psychology, Sociology of Emotions, and Rational Choice Joint Reception



Ed Lawler, Linda Molm, Lynn Smith-Lovin, Vik Gecas



Dick Adams, Cindy Sipe, Linda Francis
and others

10TH ANNUAL GROUP PROCESSES HIGHLIGHTS
Thursday, August 14, 1997, Toronto, Ontario



Bill Bainbridge
National Science Foundation



Group Conference Attendees

NEW BOOKS



Coercive Power in Social Exchange

Linda Molm, *University of Arizona*
Cambridge University Press. 1997.
\$59.95 (cloth); \$21.95 (paperback)
ISBN: 0-521-56290-2 (cloth)
ISBN: 0-521-57461-7 (paper)

Coercive Power in Social Exchange describes the progression and results of a decade-long program of experimental research on power in social exchange relations. Exchange theorists have traditionally excluded punishment and coercion from the scope of their analyses; Molm examines whether exchange theory can be expanded to include both reward and coercive power. Working within the framework of Emerson's power-dependence theory, but also drawing on the decision theory concepts of strategic action and loss aversion, Molm develops and tests a theory of coercion in social exchange that emphasizes the interdependence of these two bases of power. Her work shows that reward power and coercive power are fundamentally different, not only in their effects on behavior but also in the structural incentive to use power and the risks of power use. When exchanges are nonnegotiated and secured by the "shadow of the future," rather than by binding agreements, dependence both encourages and constrains the use of coercion. ♦



An individual must be a member of ASA
to join a section.

National Character: A Psycho-Social Perspective

Alex Inkeles, *Stanford University*
Transaction Publishers. 1997.
\$49.95 (cloth)
ISBN: 1-56000-260-3

To what extent do conditions of life in a particular society give rise to certain patterns in the personalities of members? To what extent, that is, does the sociocultural system produce distinctive forms of social character, basic personality structure, or modal personality? What are the consequences, if any, of this patterning in personality for stability or change in the social order? Until now, there have been relatively few formal definitions of national character or discussions of the proper scope and limits of this field of study. Inkeles surveys various explicit and implicit definitions of national character, tracing developments through the twentieth century. He examines the regularity of certain personality patterns among individual members of a society, asserting that modal personality may be extremely important in determining which new cultural elements are accepted in a particular culture, which institutional forms persist in a society, and changes in the character of such institutions. In the process, he canvasses attitudes, values, systems, and psychological states of different nations, and seeks to discover a set of values in the complex, regionally diverse, and educationally stratified United States. ♦



Application for Membership in the ASA Social Psychology Section

Name: _____

Address: _____

____ I am an ASA member and want to join the Social Psychology Section. Enclosed is a check for \$12.00 for section dues this year (\$5.00 for students; \$10.00 for low income). Make check payable to the **American Sociological Association**.

____ I am not an ASA member but am interested in joining the Section. Please send me information about membership in the ASA.

Mail to:
Membership Services
American Sociological Association
1722 N. Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-2981
