

# Social Psychology

Newsletter of the Social Psychology Section of the American Sociological Association

Vol. 12 - No. 3 - Fall 2008

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## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future issues of the newsletter depend on contributions from ASA members. We welcome submissions for articles, suggestions for Graduate Student Profiles, New Books, and Voices of Experience columns, or other announcements. They should be sent to the newsletter editor, Kathy J. Kuipers, at [kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu](mailto:kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu).  
Next Issue: April 1, 2008  
Submission Deadline: March 1, 2008



## REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Karen Hegtvedt  
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During the last two years and especially the last three months, we have been inundated with political messages, sound-bites, and labels from and about presidential candidates. Candidates, strategists, pundits, comedians, and voters have devoted a lot of energy to campaigns. Next winter, the winning candidate will address Congress. In crafting a commentary and a vision for the future, the new president is likely to highlight the good things happening in the nation and offer solutions for its woes.

While my terse summary of our political process belies its many intricacies, two things strike me. First, in any election process, there are many social psychological processes at play. Political campaigns are all about forming and/or changing the attitudes of voters (e.g., what can be said in a 30 second commercial to convince the undecided?). And, we've seen identities—"maverick," "hockey mom," "Joe the plumber"—invoked in attempts to create appeal or to form solidarity, or, alternatively, to detract (e.g., "terrorist," "socialist"). The meanings of other labels—e.g., "professorial"—depend upon the audience: a means to appear presidential or a form of elitism and lack of touch with the middle class. Analyses of self presentation styles also abound, particularly after televised debates. In the absence of any substantive gaffes, non-verbal behavior draws additional attention (What was that wink? Why the long pauses in responding to a question? Why is he wandering? Why didn't he look at his opponent?). And, with this historic slate of candidates on the presidential tickets, issues of status characteristics (e.g., race, gender, age) and corresponding questions of perceived competence come to the fore. I think of the myriad of examples this election provides for the many topics covered in an *Introduction to Social Psychology* course that would reinforce the importance of our discipline for our students' understanding of the world in which they live (not to mention the relevance of our research for analyzing the candidates' approaches and their consequences for the electorate).

And, second, I feel a bit like what I

imagine a political candidate might feel after a successful campaign. I am an elected "official" in a "democratic" organization, and I get "air time" with this column. From my perusal of the "chair's remarks" in fall newsletters for about the last ten years, this is my "state of the union" address. Moreover, based on my content analysis of previous fall remarks, I, like presidents, get to highlight the good things that are happening. And, fortunately, unlike the state of our nation, the section's economy is doing well, leaving few problems to require proposed solutions.

I first would like to thank Lisa Troyer for her leadership of the section last year. Despite the major change in her professional life last year with her move from her "home" of twelve years at the University of Iowa to her new position in the president's office at the University of Connecticut, she kept section members informed, guided our section committees, oversaw the crafting of the section program for the annual meetings, and dealt with the routine administrative minutia of the section as well as some unexpected issues.

An unexpected issue involved the section-sponsored jobs reception, a tradition begun a few years ago. The jobs reception for 2008 was cancelled owing to ASA's concern that such receptions may give an unfair edge to some candidates. My understanding is that the section can host a reception outside of the hotel, but it can not be labeled a "jobs" reception. The section council will be discussing whether to pursue this option for summer 2009.

I would also like to thank Amy Kroska, the section secretary/treasurer. As noted above, the section is fiscally very healthy, thanks in part to donations made by individuals as well as the royalties from the *Handbook of Social Psychology*, which editor John Delamater has generously shared with the section. Also, Tim Owens, our current webmaster, has played a pivotal role in keeping section members informed. We are grateful for his years of

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See Chair's Remarks Continued

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Kathy J. Kuipers

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It seems that the November elections are on all of our minds as we put together this newsletter (see Karen's *Remarks From the Chair*). Reflecting on the past election year, I sometimes wonder if I should hang up my Social Psychology ID badge. While many of our theories can explain much about the election process, voter choices, and candidates' speeches and positioning statements, there seems to be a lot more that's unexplained this year. Of course, that means we have lots of new ideas for future research questions, right?

This newsletter looks back at the ASA meetings of 2008 and looks forward to our future meetings in 2009. You'll notice that social psychologists from both Rutgers University and the University of Wisconsin are well-represented. Wrapping up the meetings from last summer, we congratulate the winner of the Graduate Student Paper Award, Jenna Howard from Rutgers University. Jenna's research focuses on identity acquisition and disidentification in the area of mental health.

The "Voices of Experience," column features this year's recipient of the Cooley-Mead Award, Jane Allyn Piliavin. She graciously shares her story as a female psychologist and sociologist at a time when women were clearly in the minority in the social sciences and gives us a glimpse of the woman behind her groundbreaking work on altruism and prosocial behavior. As described in previous newsletters, this column focuses on very senior and emeritus members (or former members) of the section who have been influential in social psychology. I use an interview format and write their responses to questions, with minor editing, in their own words.

end-of-life care decisions and marital relations. Her research and teaching interests include gerontology, aging and the life course, marriage and family, social psychology, and quantitative methods. Philip Brenner's work focuses on the importance of measurement issues in research on socially desirable behavior, volunteering, and identity salience. His advisor is John DeLamater. Although I corresponded with quite a few graduate students, I just didn't receive enough responses from them to profile an entire "Graduate Student Showcase" column like we ran last fall, so we'll spread out our profiled students throughout the year. Of course, nominations from members are always open for other graduate students who might be featured in future issues.

The "New Book of the Issue" is one by Steven Hitlin (another graduate of the Wisconsin program, now at Iowa), *Moral Selves, Evil Selves: The Social Psychology of Conscience*. It's featured because of its current appeal and popularity for social psychologists. I asked Steve to write something about how the book may be useful for graduate students and researchers. Moral issues are currently of great interest to social psychologists and Steve is deputy editor for a special issue on perspectives on morality forthcoming from *Social Psychology Quarterly* (the paper submission deadline is January 1, 2009).

We also remind you, in photographs, of Jane Piliavin's Cooley-Mead Award and address, socializing at the reception following, and the Council meeting. We begin to get organized for next year's meetings in San Francisco with

This month in the "Graduate Student Profile," we feature two students representing the University of Wisconsin. Sara Moorman, one of Deborah Carr's and Robert Hauser's students, is doing interesting research on

a call for papers for the Graduate Student Paper Award, 2009, and a request for nominations for the Cooley-Mead Award, 2009. We include announcements and reminders for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Group Processes Spring Mini-conference in Des Moines at the MSS meetings and a list of new section committee members for this year.

As always, I thank all of the contributors to this issue. I welcome suggestions for topics or columns or nominations for the "Graduate Student Profiles" or "Voices of Experience" columns. The submission deadline for the next issue and my contact information are on the front page.

## Social Psychology News, Events, and Meetings

### Group Processes Mini-Conference - Spring 2009

It may be too late to send submissions, but there's still time to think about attending the 6th Annual Group Processes Spring Mini-Conference, held in conjunction with the Midwestern Sociological Society (MSS) meetings in Des Moines, IA. The format for the Mini-Conference will be two regular sessions in the morning on Saturday, April 4th, and an afternoon roundtable session.

The theme of the MSS conference this spring is "Teaching Sociological Scholarship" and it will be held from April 2-5. Early conference registration is \$60 for faculty and \$20 for students who belong to the MSS (non-members will have to pay an additional \$15).

You can find out more information online at <http://www.themss.org/> or contact the session organizer, Alison Bianchi (alison-bianchi@uiowa.edu) directly.

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for more Soc. Psys. News

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# Voices Of Experience: Jane Piliavin



Jane Piliavin Interview with  
Editor, Kathy J. Kuipers

*Jane Allyn Piliavin, Conway-Bascom Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, is the 2008 recipient of the Cooley-Mead Award. Jane received her award from Peter Callero at the ASA meetings in Boston in August. While many of her former students and colleagues were present to hear her address and wish her well, many of us have not had the privilege of knowing her in person. To give readers an opportunity to get to know a little bit about the woman behind the work, she kindly agreed to respond to my email interview, which I edited to produce the following. Her responses also share with us her unique perspective on her career as a social psychologist, reveal some of the changes for women in academia, and frankly admit to the suspicion we have as mothers that we neglect our children when we focus on our careers. She offers sage advice for those beginning such a career—her own Voice of Experience.*

**KJK:** Can you tell us a bit about your early life: where you were born, where you grew up, family and siblings?

**JAP:** I was born in Montclair, New Jersey, in 1937, into a middle class family. Both my parents went to Ivy League/Seven Sisters colleges, and I was expected to do the same. My mother's father was Chair of the Math Department at Dartmouth. I never met him, unfortunately,

since he died before my mother married. I had an older sister, Mary Ann. I grew up in West Orange, New Jersey, living in the same house until I went away to college.

**KJK:** Where were you educated?

**JAP:** Not in one of the Seven Sisters. I visited some of them, but decided on the University of Rochester, based on the advice of a guidance counselor. I was valedictorian of my high school class, but also won the music prize (violin) and I didn't know which way I wanted to go. The Eastman School of Music is part of the U of R, so the counselor suggested it. It was the perfect place for me, although I very soon discovered that I could not compete in music. (First semester grades: 4 A's, 1 B—in violin.)

**KJK:** Have you had any life-shaping experiences? If so, can you describe one for us?

**JAP:** I have had many life-shaping experiences, the first—and probably the most important—at the U of R. I was engaged to be married in the spring of my junior year. In the fall I was doing some hourly work for Professor Vincent Nowlis, from whom I had taken social psychology (in the psychology department, where I was a major). While doing my work (chi-squares done on a Monroe electric – not electronic – calculator) we would talk, and he started to nag me about graduate school. I had never considered it, thinking that I would do social work after college. When I saw my fiancé in January (he had graduated and was working

elsewhere) I raised the question, and he said, "No wife of mine is going to graduate school." Two months later when I saw him again, I gave him back his ring and then went to see Nowlis. "I broke my engagement, where should I apply to graduate school?" Says he, "I hope it wasn't anything I said!" He advised Harvard and Stanford, and I applied to both and got a fellowship from Stanford. So off I went to their Psychology Department to work with Leon Festinger.

**KJK:** When did you first become aware of sociology as a discipline? How?

**JAP:** I minored in Sociology at Rochester. The most valuable course I took was called, "Orientation to social work". It convinced me that I was not cut out for social work.

**KJK:** What made you pursue sociology as a profession?

**JAP:** I didn't. I pursued psychology. I ended up in sociology in a very strange way. After not getting tenure in psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, I ended up with a job offer from the home economics school at Wisconsin, where my husband had accepted a job. (This was after an exhaustive search we each pursued

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See Voices of Experience Continued

## SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY NEWS, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS

### Call for Nominations for the Cooley-Mead Award

The Cooley-Mead Award Committee of the Social Psychology Section invites nominations for the 2009 Cooley-Mead Award. The Cooley-Mead Award is given annually to an individual who has made lifetime contributions to distinguished scholarship in sociological social psychology. In addition to receiving the award, the recipient presents an address to the Social Psychology Section at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Nominations must be received by November 15, 2008 and should

include a brief description of the career contributions that make the candidate deserving of the award. Please send nominations to Cecilia Ridgeway, Chair, 2009 Cooley-Mead Award Committee (ridgeway@stanford.edu). The other members of the Cooley-Mead Committee are: Rebecca Erickson, Akron; Brian Powell, Indiana; Donald Reitzes, Georgia State; and Jane Sell, Texas A&M.

Previous Cooley-Mead award winners are:

Jane Piliavin  
James House  
Lynn Smith-Lovin  
Cecilia Ridgeway  
Karen Cook  
Peter J. Burke

Bernard Cohen  
Edward J. Lawler  
Morris Zelditch, Jr.  
Harold H. Kelley  
David R. Heise  
Robert K. Merton  
Melvin Seeman  
Harold Garfinkel  
Anselm Strauss  
Glen H. Elder  
Melvin L. Kohn  
Joseph Berger  
John Clausen  
Morris Rosenberg  
William Sewell  
Ralph H. Turner  
Sheldon Stryker  
Howard Becker  
Herbert Blumer  
Robert F. Bales

Alex Inkeles  
Theodore M. Newcomb  
George Homans  
Erving Goffman  
Muzafer Sherif

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Do you know of a social psychology event happening near you? Submit any news to the newsletter editor, Kathy J. Kuipers, at [kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu](mailto:kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu).

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# Profile:



**Philip Brenner**  
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Madison  
[pbrenner@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:pbrenner@ssc.wisc.edu)  
**Advisor:** John DeLamater  
**Dissertation title:**  
“Overreporting of Socially  
Desirable Behavior on Surveys”

Philip Brenner is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin. His research interests combine social psychology and measurement questions from survey methodology. He uses the theoretical toolkit of social psychology to address what Howard Schuman referred to as “the opportunities for understanding” provided by survey artifacts.

Philip’s dissertation investigates the overreporting of socially desirable behavior in traditional sample surveys, using religious service attendance as a sample case. Employing multiple datasets spanning five decades and fourteen countries, he estimates overreporting as the difference between measures from traditional surveys and those from time diaries. Using these estimates, he compares trends both cross-nationally and over time in pursuit of the cause of differential misreporting among countries. He argues that these differences suggest that American religious exceptionalism should be redefined in terms of identity rather than actual behavior. Philip presented the first substantive chapter

## Philip Brenner and Sarah Moorman

of his dissertation at the ASA meetings in Boston and recently received, from NSF, a Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant to support his work.

Investigating measurement issues beyond his dissertation research, Philip applies Stryker’s identity theory to help understand error in the measurement of voting participation. Using vote verification data from the American National Election Studies as a “true” value, he argues that overreporting is better understood as a function of identity salience rather than impression management. Philip also recently began a research project with Jane Piliavin examining the predictive validity of two batteries of survey items that measure volunteering behavior in the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study. This new line of inquiry grew out of an ongoing project with fellow grad student, Erica Siegl, where they examine the relationship between volunteering and other forms of social participation and health in older adults.

They presented two papers from their research last summer at the ASA meetings in Boston and the SPSSI meetings in Chicago.

**Sara M. Moorman**  
University of Wisconsin-  
Madison

[smoorman@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:smoorman@ssc.wisc.edu)

**Dissertation Co-chairs:**

Deborah Carr and Robert  
Hauser (co-chairs)

**Dissertation title:** “Facing  
End-of-Life Together: Marital  
Quality and End-of-Life Health  
Care Preferences”

Sara Moorman, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, studies older adults’ close personal relationships. Her dissertation addresses the ways in which older married people and their spouses plan for end-of-life medical care. She finds that individuals’ perceptions of the success of marital conversations about end-of-life care preferences affect their choices about

whether, and whom, to appoint as a durable power of attorney for health care (surrogate decision-maker). Most of the older adults in her sample want their spouses to follow their care preferences strictly, to spare their spouses the burden of decision-making. Participants’ concerns about burdening their spouses is associated with symptoms of depression and anxiety, as well as with placing a high value on the ability to be productive (e.g., through paid work). Moorman’s dissertation incorporates social psychological concepts—perceptions, attitudes, values, and personal relationship dynamics—into a literature that has focused on health information as the primary determinant of care preferences, plans, and decisions.

Moorman’s dissertation is a continuation of her broad interest in romantic relationships in later life: She has published articles on dating and remarriage among widowed women (Moorman, Booth, and Fingerma, 2006, *Journal of Family Issues*) and on older couples’ sexual behaviors (DeLamater and Moorman, 2007, *Journal of Aging and Health*).

Her dissertation is also an extension of her specific interest in end-of-life health care planning. She has studied older adults’ preferences for curative or palliative care and spouses’ knowledge of their partners’ preferences (Carr and Moorman, forthcoming, *Sociological Forum*; Moorman and Carr, forthcoming, *The Gerontologist*; Moorman, Hauser, and Carr, under review).

In the future, Moorman plans to expand upon her dissertation work by conducting an observational study of marital conversations about end-of-life care, by exploring racial/ethnic and socioeconomic differences in how married couples plan for end-of-life, and by examining how experience with end-of-life affects of surviving spouse.



### NOMINATE GRAD STUDENTS

Do you know a graduate student who would be a good candidate to profile? Submit your nominations to the newsletter editor, Kathy J. Kuipers, at [kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu](mailto:kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu).

## New Book of the Issue

### *Moral Selves, Evil Selves: The Social Psychology of Conscience* by Steven Hitlin

Steven Hitlin

University of Iowa

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This book provides a social psychological framework for thinking about an often-overlooked aspect of sociological work; we are moral beings. Humans strive to live up to some minimal standard of what society considers right and wrong, and we judge other people and groups by their ability to do the same. We are not just rational actors, nor the followers of role-expectations or any of the other simplifications that we use when constructing statistical models for human behavior. I attempt to synthesize these perspectives into a conception of the human actor that is more human than that typically developed in the social sciences. This means placing the moral dimension at the center of social-scientific analysis.

I develop the construct of

conscience as the pivot for this discussion of how aspects of society get internalized into individuals and how individuals' interactions are influenced by their senses of self. Humans are distinctive in judging their own actions in terms of right and wrong, good and bad, and moral and evil. And while there are many people who volunteer and give to charity (i.e., they act morally) as well as those who break laws (i.e., they act immorally), most people act in ways that cannot be so easily coded as moral or immoral, especially within the purview of evaluating an ongoing human life.

The overwhelming majority of people—even those convicted of crimes—consider themselves as at least minimally moral. Rarely do people feel that their entire character is shot through with immorality. The place of shame differs culturally, but the fact is we are very good at compartmentalizing those actions that put us in a less favorable light. This is another theme of this book; precisely

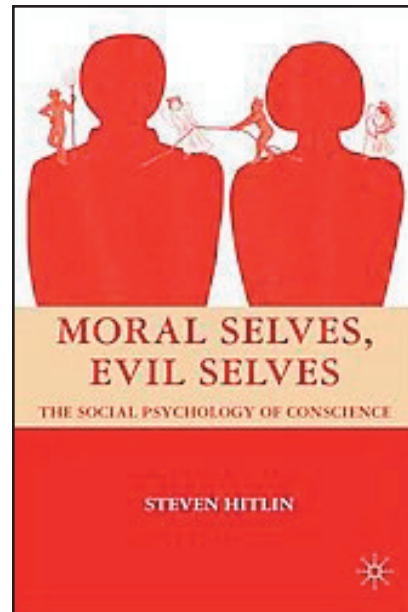
because situations shape behavior, we have the psychological tools to morally exculpate ourselves.

"Conscience" involves that part of the self that judges the moral worth of actions, intentions, thoughts, and desires. We judge ourselves and we judge others. We evaluate the morality of groups we belong to and of groups we

person. We have a strong motivation to see ourselves and our groups as morally decent. We are perhaps not the most moral creatures on the planet, but we consider ourselves "good enough" morally so as to feel we are acceptable members of our important groups.

I defend claims that social life has a fundamentally moral dimension that needs to be included in our notions of people and society. This position is not original; in fact, sociology's forebearers criticized the nascent disciplines of economics and psychology precisely for omitting this crucial dimension. But modern experimental and statistical approaches have contributed to atomized theories of human behavior that obscure the moral dimension of the self, a force that leads to perceived coherence within individuals across a variety of situations and stages of the life course.

This book is intended for graduate level reading, and adds a sociological dimension to the recent influx of work on morality from neuroscience, developmental and social psychology, and social theory.



attempt to stay away from. We draw boundaries as social actors, and these boundaries carry with them a moral dimension. Conscience is the moral self-evaluative aspect of self, anchored in social identities and cultural understandings of the

## SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY NEWS, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS

### Graduate Student Paper Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2008 Graduate Student Paper Award Winners! The winner in 2008 was Jenna Howard, Rutgers University, for her paper, "Negotiating an Exit: Existential, Interactional, and Cultural Obstacles to Disidentification." Two papers received Honorable Mention awards: Daniel Menchik and Xiaoli Tian, University of Chicago, for their paper, "Putting Social Context in Text: The Semiotics of Email Interaction" and Jooyoung Lee, UCLA, for his paper, "Battlin' on the Corner: Techniques for Sustaining Play." Thanks to the committee: Ann Eisenberg, chair, (SUNY Geneseo);

Alicia Cast (Iowa State University); Daniel Cortese (University of California, San Francisco); Gretchen Pererson (California State University, Los Angeles) and Yan Li, student, (Stanford.)

### Call for Papers for the Graduate Student Paper Award

The Graduate Student Affairs Committee of the Social Psychology Section invites submissions for the Graduate Student Paper Award. The paper should be article length. It can be based on a master's thesis 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(s) will receive financial support to attend the ASA meetings in August in San Francisco where the prize will be awarded.

Please send an electronic version of the paper by March 15, 2009 to Committee Chair, Alicia Cast (acast@iastate.edu). Authors should remove all identifying information from within the paper to make the selection process a blind review as much as possible. The cover page should contain **only** the paper title. The e-mail accompanying the paper should include the name(s) of the author(s), institutional affiliation(s), and paper title.





**Top Left:** Council Meeting

**Top Right:** Jane Piliavin, Cooley-Mead Award Winner, and Peter Callero, Chair of the Award Committee

**Bottom Right:** University of Georgia students, Philip Lewin, Long Doan, and Tiffani Everett, at Section Reception



# Social Psychology Meetings, 2008 - Boston

**Top Right:** Linda Molm and Jane Sell celebrate the meeting of Group Processes' 10 year Anniversary

**Bottom Right:** Jane Piliavin with former students and friends

**Bottom Left:** Vernon Woodley, Shane Soboroff, Lisa Troyer, & Eugene Johnson Enjoying the Reception



## VOICES OF EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

as individuals, since there were at that time, 1970, no programs to help spouses find work in the same area.) I worked there for six years, at which time the school became independent from the College of Agriculture and hired its first Dean. I was by then the chair of my small area, child and family studies, and thus had to meet with the Dean and the other chairs. She did not understand the “bottom up” governance of the university, and neither did the other chairs, who had never been allowed to exercise them by the Dean of the College of Agriculture. So our new Dean would make unilateral hiring and budget decisions, and I would call her on them. “The Executive Committee has to make those decisions.” Unknown to me, after our meetings, the other ladies would all tell her to pay no attention to me. So, of course, she decided that I was impossible to work with and called the Chancellor to give me and my budget line away. This is how I ended up in sociology. (Psychology was never interested in me.)

**KJK:** Where did you spend the early part of your sociological career? What were your sociological interests? How have they changed?

**JAP:** My first job after my

Ph.D. was at the Survey Research Center at Berkeley.

I had recently married, and was geographically immobile. I never interviewed for the job. I got it because my advisor, Festinger, was at a cocktail party with Brewster Smith, whose job it was. They paid me at a lower rate than I deserved, because I was captive. The project was a study of adolescent anti-Semitism. I worked on it for five years. In 1967, I got divorced and left for the job at the University of Pennsylvania. There, I got interested in the study of emergency intervention, and in one form or another I have studied altruism and helping behavior ever since. I have moved from experimental work to survey work, which I attribute to my being in sociology. And my theoretical preferences have shifted from cognitive social psychology to symbolic interaction theory.

**KJK:** Can you tell us a little bit about your private life—for example, do you play bridge, sail, do country line dancing, or have other hobbies and interests besides sociology?

**JAP:** I knit, both for my family members and for charity. I always knit in faculty meetings, seminars, and studentorals. Students have said that they would be really nervous in their oral if I weren't knitting. I have also done needlepoint, and I sew my granddaughters'

Halloween costumes, now that I am living near them (near, by California standards—75 miles). I go to the symphony; I have never lost my love of classical music. I used to play softball and swim. Now I just work out—pilates and aerobics. I do a lot of volunteering now that I am retired. I teach a Bone Builders class, which consists of a set of exercises designed to slow down osteoporosis. And I “glean”. Oxnard, where I live, is an agricultural area, and the local Food Share organization has a gleaning branch. We go out to orchards and fields and pick stuff, which then gets distributed to food banks.

**KJK:** Are you married? Do you have kids? If yes to either, how did you manage high productivity with competing family demands?

**JAP:** I am married. It will be 40 years this year, and it was not the first marriage for either of us. Between us, we have four children: two of his, one of mine, and one of ours. We have six grandchildren. Two are in their 20's, and are from his older son. We have little to do with them since they are politically and religiously very different from us. We have four young grandchildren, ages 8, 8, 6, and 3. They say that each child is worth two publications, but I am sure it is far more than that. I never was very productive—maybe 2-3 things a year, with long gaps when

collecting and processing data. I think I still neglected them more than I should have. My daughter says so.

[Editor's note: the photo on Jane's UW sociology page is one of her with her first grandchild, now 9 years old. This is the photo that we ran in the Summer 2008 newsletter when the section announced Jane's selection as the Cooley-Mead Award recipient.]

**KJK:** Do you know something today that you wish that you had known when you started in sociology? What is it?

**JAP:** I think this is not really relevant to me, since I started in psychology. But if you mean the academic world in general, I'd say that I didn't know how disciplined you have to be, and how you have to learn to manage your time. This is particularly important if you have family responsibilities, as most people—both male and female—do.

**KJK:** What one piece of advice would you give a graduate student? Or an assistant professor?

**JAP:** Don't forget that you went into sociology for two reasons (at least): intense curiosity about how the world works and a desire to solve social problems. If it stops being fun and you are just going through the motions, pick a different problem, or work up a new course.

## Social Psychology Section Committees for 2008-09

### Graduate Student Affairs

(Nominations for Graduate Student Paper Award due March 15)

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Jessica Collett, Notre Dame ([jcollett@nd.edu](mailto:jcollett@nd.edu))

Barrett Michalec (student), Emory University ([bmichal@emory.edu](mailto:bmichal@emory.edu))

David Rohall, Western Illinois University ([de-rohall@wiu.edu](mailto:de-rohall@wiu.edu))

Richard Serpe, Kent State ([rserpe@kent.edu](mailto:rserpe@kent.edu))

### Nominations

Christine Horne (Chair), Washington State University ([chorne@wsu.edu](mailto:chorne@wsu.edu))

Linda Francis, Case Western Reserve ([Linda.francis@case.edu](mailto:Linda.francis@case.edu))

Tyrone Forman, Emory University ([tforman@emory.edu](mailto:tforman@emory.edu))

Kent Sandstrom, Northern Iowa University ([kent.sandstrom@uni.edu](mailto:kent.sandstrom@uni.edu))

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### CHAIR'S REMARKS CONTINUED

service in this capacity as we take on the tough task of finding a replacement for him. I have received a couple of names of potential new webmasters and I hope that other members interested in this role contact me so that the council may name a new webmaster in 2009. Finally, thanks go to all those who shepherded the section program and business last year.

The social psychology section sessions at the meetings in August offered a cross-section of what we do as social psychologists – within academia and beyond it. One session highlighted core theoretical research programs; panelists identified important achievements, blind alleys, and future directions. A second session focused on the frequently overlooked terrain of social psychology outside of academia, offering papers on the role of social psychology in decision analysis, counter terrorism, marketing, and the like. A third session complemented the others by anchoring social psychology in and at work. The 2009 program will continue what Lisa's program started: demonstrating the bridges between social psychology and other branches of sociology.

During another of the section's sessions, Jane Piliavin received the 2008 Cooley-Mead

award. Although trained as a psychologist, Jane's lifelong work on altruism and helping truly transcends disciplinary boundaries. Years in Sociology at Wisconsin have anchored her work firmly in the sociological social psychology tradition. Moreover, one of her key passions has been to link social research to practice and social policy. Her address will be published in a future issue of *Social Psychology Quarterly*. Currently, committee chair, Cecilia Ridgeway, is taking nominations for the 2009 Cooley-Mead award (submit nominations to [ridgeway@stanford.edu](mailto:ridgeway@stanford.edu)).

The number of sessions for any annual meeting is determined by the number of members in a section. Currently, we have 651 members (thus achieving the all important 600 mark that ensures the number of sessions we currently enjoy, but still short of the 800 necessary to warrant another section session). In the last three years, we have had more than 650 members, so the 651 reflects a slight dip (though we have more members now than in seven of the last 13 years!). In order to attempt to maintain numbers and perhaps surpass the 700 for the first time in a long history, I will appoint an ad hoc membership committee – our version of what political parties have been

doing in this election year, i.e., "getting out the vote."

I am hopeful that the sessions planned for the 2009 meetings in San Francisco might attract latent social psychologists. The sessions address linkages between social psychology and culture, "structure," and social issues. One invited session will examine the contributions of social psychologists to the study of stratification as well as the contribution of stratification researchers to social psychology. A complementary invited session will focus on how social psychology is embedded in the dynamics of cultural processes. And, an open submission session is intended to illustrate how basic theoretical processes in social psychology are useful for understanding issues in health, crime, organizational behavior, and the like. Another linkage is represented by sharing once again our roundtable session with the Sociology of Emotions section.

Thanks must go in advance to section members who agreed to serve on committees of the section (which are listed in this newsletter). And, I must thank the presidential candidates as well for providing us with so many examples of what our theoretical and empirical research addresses.



## Section Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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). Make checks payable to the **American Sociological Association**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not an ASA member but am interested in joining the Social Psychology Section. Please send me information about membership in the ASA.

**Mail to:** Membership Services, American Sociological Association, 1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005-4701.