

# Social Psychology

Newsletter of the Social Psychology Section of the  
American Sociological Association

## Remarks from the Chair

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The end is near. No, (hopefully) not an apocalypse. Instead, the end of a semester. In case you need a respite from the seemingly endless grading, reviewing, and departmental work that you're in the midst of, newsletter editors Christabel Rogalin and Laura Aufderheide

Brashears have included columns that should be of great interest to you—among these, a research brief by Thomas Scheff on alienation, a description of Theodore Kemper's new book, a tribute to Bernie Cohen, and a description of the many contributions of this year's Cooley-Mead Award recipient, Larry Bobo.

come up with a terrific slate of candidates for section officers. It will be very difficult to choose among the gifted, energetic, and resourceful candidates for president and council.

In the near future for graduate student section members is a soon-to-arrive request to complete a questionnaire created by the newly constituted Graduate Student Advisory Committee (Daniel Shank, Elizabeth Culatta, Eric Grollman, and Alex Watts). The purpose of the questionnaire is to assist the committee and the section council in identifying ways to make the section even more inclusive to graduate students.

Also coming up is an ambitious fundraising initiative that Endowment Development Committee members Karen Hegtvedt, Pamela Braboy Jackson, Dawn Robinson, and Jan

Assuming that the apocalyptic end is not near, we can look toward the future. This time of the year prompts us to experience not only regret over what we wish we had accomplished but also hopefulness over what we might accomplish this summer—perhaps completing a long overdue chapter, perhaps writing a long overdue paper, perhaps getting some long overdue sleep.

In the immediate future is the upcoming ASA election. The nominations committee of Mike Shanahan, Jessica Collett, Shelley Correll, Long Doan, and Tim Owens has

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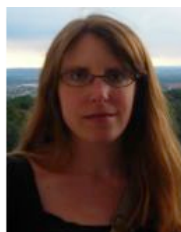
## Note From the Editors

Greetings! We hope that you are having an enjoyable spring. We are continuing our tradition of new beginnings in the spring by introducing a new feature to the newsletter. Just like last spring, we hope you find the change refreshing, rather than uninspiring! As you will see, we have added a new feature—research briefs. In this edition of the newsletter, we have included a research brief by Thomas Scheff on alienation (see pages 6-7).

We just wanted to briefly highlight a few things in this newsletter, including a memorial of Bernie Cohen by Henry A. Walker (see pages 5 and 10-11) You will also find out more about Lawrence Bobo, our 2012 Cooley-Mead winner, whom we will also be profiling in the summer newsletter (page 3).

As always, we would like to thank all our contributors to this newsletter. We would not be able to put together this newsletter without you! Just as a reminder, the deadline for the summer newsletter is June 22.

*Christabel Rogalin*  
(Purdue University North Central)  
and  
*Laura Aufderhiede Brashears*  
(Cornell University)



## Remarks from the Chair (cont. from pg. 1)

Stets have been working on. More details will follow in the next few months and at the section business meeting at the ASA's.

And, of course, coming up is the ASA conference in Denver. Thanks so much to Richard Serpe, Will Kalkoff, Kristen Marcussen, Steve Benard, Jane McLeod, Michael Schwalbe, Ed Lawler, Jeffrey Chin, and Elaine Wethington, among others, for organizing a great program of both section (and non-section) sessions in social psychology.

I look forward to seeing you in August.

~Brian

### **2010-2011 Social Psychology Section Officers**

**Chair:** Brian Powell (Indiana University)

**Chair-Elect:** Jan Stets (University of California, Riverside)

**Past-Chair:** Jane D. McLeod (Indiana University)

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Pamela Braboy Jackson (Indiana University)

**Council:** Shelley Correll (Stanford University), Rebecca Erickson (University of Akron), Will Kalkhoff (Kent State University), Melissa Milkie (University of Maryland, College Park), Robin Simon (Wake Forest University), Robb Willer (University of California – Berkeley), Nick Berigan (University of South Carolina) – student member of council

**Editors SPQ:** Karen Hegtvedt and Cathy Johnson (Emory University)

**Newsletter Editors:** Christabel Rogalin (Purdue University North Central) and Laura Aufderhiede Brashears (Cornell University)

**Webmaster:** Philip Brenner (University of Michigan)

# Lawrence Bobo Wins 2012 Cooley Mead Award

On behalf of the Cooley Mead Award committee it is my pleasure to inform the Social Psychology Section of the American Sociological Association that Larry Bobo, the W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University, is the 2012 award winner. Larry has a joint appointment in the Departments of Sociology and African American Studies. There were a number of impressive nominees this year and the committee had great difficulty choosing among them.

Larry was cited for his major contributions to the social psychology of race and inequality in the United States. As one nominee put it, "nobody in the social sciences examines issues of race, class and inequality without citing Larry's work." Bobo's work can be placed broadly into the area of intergroup attitudes and behavior, public opinion, and social structure and personality. He was cited for being "widely recognized as a leader in the field of social psychology and as an innovator in the design and analysis of social surveys exploring race and ethnic relations." Larry is co-author of the award-winning *Racial Attitudes in America: Trends and Interpretations* (1997) and co-author of *Prejudice in Politics: Group Position, Public Opinion, and the Wisconsin Treaty Rights Dispute* (2006), a finalist for the 2007 C. Wright Mills Award. He has edited and co-edited a number of important collections and many articles in the major journals, not only in sociology but also in political science and psychology.

As recognition of his place in the social sciences at large and his national standing Larry has received a number of honors and has been elected to prestigious academies including the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has also received numerous fellowships and other honors including a Guggenheim. In addition, he has trained many younger scholars who have gone on to have significant careers in the social sciences.

The letters of nomination included this commendation: "It is clear that through careful, innovative, and important social science scholarship on the causes and consequences of racial and ethnic attitudes, Larry has made vital contributions to both societal and social scientific understandings of the nature, antecedents, and consequences of racial inequality in the United States."

Please join the Cooley Mead Award Committee and members of the Social Psychology Section of the American Sociological Association in congratulating Lawrence Bobo on this high honor, a judgment based on those most knowledgeable about his work and its significance for the discipline and the social sciences more broadly.

The Cooley Mead Award Ceremony will be held on section day at the American Sociological Association annual meeting in Denver. Please join the celebration.

~ Karen Cook

# Announcements

**Larry Nichols** (West Virginia University) will conclude his term as President of the North Central Sociological Association. He will deliver his presidential address at the NCSA

## Congratulatory Notes

- **Tiffani Everett** (University of Georgia) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, AR, beginning in August, 2012.
- **Eric Anthony Grollman** (Indiana University) was awarded first place in the 2012 Midwest Sociological Society graduate student paper award competition for his paper “Multiple Forms of Perceived Discrimination and Health Among Adolescents and Young Adults.”
- **Daniel B. Shank** (University of Georgia) has accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Social Impacts of Technology at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, beginning in summer, 2012.

## Conference News

### 24th ANNUAL GROUP PROCESSES CONFERENCE

Thursday, August 16, 2012 in Denver, CO

Registration is now open for the 24th Annual Group Processes Conference! We look forward to an exciting schedule of both invited and open sessions with a wide range of presenters and participants. Graduate students are especially encouraged to submit abstracts for our graduate student roundtables; they are an excellent opportunity to get feedback on developing ideas!

The deadline for early registration ends **April 30, 2012**.

To learn more about the conference, see the call for papers, contact the organizers and register, visit our website: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/ssfd/gp2012/>

## Bernie (P) Cohen: In Memoriam

- Henry A. Walker

Bernard Cohen was Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Stanford University when he died on September 13, 2011. Bernie, as he was known to family, friends and colleagues, was born in the Bronx, New York on January 31, 1930 to Max and Iris Cohen. Later, the family settled in Huntington, Long Island, the place Bernie called home.

Bernie displayed ingenuity early in life. As a high school senior applying to various colleges and universities, he learned of another New York-area Bernard Cohen who was applying to several of the same institutions. Concerned that admission committees might choose the wrong Bernard Cohen, Bernie added a "P" to his name. Bernard P. Cohen was admitted to Harvard and eventually established himself as a preeminent figure in sociology and social psychology. No one knows what became of the other Bernard Cohen.

Bernie earned his undergraduate degree at Harvard in 1951 and immediately set out for the west—the middle west that is. He enrolled in the University of Minnesota's graduate program in psychology intending to work with Leon Festinger and Stanley Schachter. Bernie quickly recognized that he was more interested in group behavior than individual psychology and left Minnesota in 1952 with an M. A. in psychology. After working on the 1952 presidential campaign, he returned to Harvard to pursue a doctorate in sociology. His return to Harvard was fortunate for several reasons.

During his second tour of duty in Cambridge, Bernie met fellow graduate students, future colleagues and lifelong friends, Joseph Berger, Elizabeth Ginsburg and Morris (Buzz) Zelditch, Jr. He also developed a friendship with Sanford M. (Sandy) Dornbusch, a sociologist at the University of Washington who was a visiting professor at Harvard in 1957.

Bernie married Elizabeth Ginsburg in 1953 just days before she began graduate training in Harvard's sociology program. Elizabeth G. (Liz) Cohen would become one of the first women to earn a doctorate in sociology at Harvard. She would also become an internationally-renowned scholar in the sociology of education. Their union would last until Liz's death in March 2005. The couple had two children, Lewis and Anita.



Bernie worked with Robert F. Bales, Robert Bush, and Samuel Stouffer at Harvard. The student Bernie Cohen was a passionate advocate for and defender of ideas in which he believed. At times, expressing his passion could bring trouble. One story has him storming out of a Talcott Parsons lecture yelling, "... and in which box does the Virgin Mary belong?" The box to which Bernie referred is the 2 x 2 AGIL [A(daptation) G(oal attainment) I(ntegration) L(ateness pattern maintenance)] scheme that appeared in Parsons' work during that period. Years later, Bernie would still rearrange the letters and call the scheme the GILA monster.

Bernie completed his doctoral dissertation under George Homan's supervision primarily because, in his words, "George was willing to put up with me." Bernie worked part-time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) computing center during his doctoral training and completed his doctoral dissertation in 1957. He taught at Harvard during that year and in the summer of 1958 set out for the real west and his first academic appointment in the sociology department at Berkeley. Bernie and Neil Smelser, who was also joining the Berkeley faculty, made the cross-country trip in a car without air conditioning during the dog days of summer.

Bernie's tenure at Berkeley was short. By 1957, Stanford, which in those days had a reputation as a good regional university, had decided to create a separate department of sociology. Stanford hired Sandy Dornbusch as the first chair of the new department after an exhaustive and exhausting search. (As Sandy tells the story, the search was exhausting because none of the earlier choices for the position would accept the job.) Sandy's first group of hires included Joe Berger, W. Richard (Dick) Scott, Santo F. (Frank) Camilleri and Bernie. Bernie and Liz left Berkeley, in part, because Stanford permitted the dual employment of academic couples. At Stanford, Liz began part-time work as a research associate while nurturing the couple's young children. Buzz Zelditch left Columbia to join the group in 1961 and Liz Cohen accepted a regular position in Stanford's School of Education in 1964. All the members of that group except Camilleri spent the remainder of their academic careers at Stanford.

## ***Two Types of Alienation***

**Thomas Scheff, Professor Emeritus of Sociology,  
University of California – Santa Barbara**

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Solidarity/alienation (S/A) is one of two main dimensions of social structure, the other being stratification. The social class dimension is well defined, at least operationally, in terms of the distribution of wealth and power.

S/A, on the other hand is still poorly defined, both conceptually (Schacht, 1970; 1994) and operationally (Seeman 1975). A recent article (Scheff 2011) offers a solution, but one that is complex enough so that discussion might start slowly. Part of the treatment, however is more straightforward: there is often confusion in the basic idea of alienation.

In his study of suicide, Durkheim proposed that it was caused by two opposite kinds of alienation, altruism/fatalism (too close to the group) and anomie/egoism (too far). Norbert Elias (1994) used different language to make the same point: he called too close dependence and too far independence. He went on to imply a definition of solidarity as a middle distance between self and group, interdependence. He also referred to interdependence as “I-We balance.”

Similar ideas have been explored by social psychologists, who call “too far” isolation, and “too close” engulfment. Engulfment is treated as alienation from self in order to closely conform to the group. An example would be that for many years in this country, wives were often expected to renounce vital parts of self, such as anger and intelligence, to be loyal to their husbands. Runaway nationalism always involves engulfment.

It seems to me that in discussions of social

structure, the second type of alienation, engulfment, is often confused with solidarity. This practice is still widespread, particularly in anthropology. Typically, descriptions of traditional societies seem to imply that engulfment is a type of solidarity, rather than alienation.

### *Alienation in Disciplines*

To illustrate the potential usefulness of the two types of alienation, consider the social structure of academic disciplines. Although the majority of the members of each discipline are probably somewhat engulfed, there are also some who are isolated. Erving Goffman, for example, always considered himself a sociologist, and was considered in this way by others, since he was elected to be president of the ASA at the time of his death.

Along with Norbert Elias and Harvey Sachs, Goffman was one of the authentic geniuses in the recent history of sociology. Yet there is no organized group of followers of his work, as there are for Elias and Sachs. One of the reasons, perhaps, might be due to the isolated nature of his relationship to sociology.

His written work virtually never referenced other sociologists or even other disciplines, a potent sign of isolation. Some of the deficits in his work may be traced, at least in part to this isolation. For example, although his writing is an eruption of a vast number of lively examples, it is weak when it comes to theses that unite the examples. In many of his studies, no explicit thesis is offered.

Research Briefs

## Research Briefs Continued

When a thesis is proposed, it may be misleading or confused. One example is the essay "Where the Action Is" (1967, 149-270). At 122 pages, this chapter is almost as long as the other essays in the volume combined (6 chapters totaling 149 pages). It seems to be Goffman's longest essay.

Yet there is a change in thesis in the last quarter of the essay. The first three quarters are mostly about gaming, but the last quarter shifts to masculine competitiveness, what Goffman called "character contests" (p. 249). The gaming material is fairly bland, at least for Goffman. The last quarter is extraordinarily intense: it is the main thesis, rather than the description of gaming that makes up most of the essay.

Another example occurs in Presentation of Self in Everyday Life (1959). The whole first half and the last chapter deal with performances and dramaturgical staging, rituals of theatre. Behavior is scripted by the social situation; motives are not important (Goffman the Structuralist). The first and last acts lull the reader into a fantasy of a pure (non-psychological) sociology.

Yet beginning with chapter 4 on discrepant roles, the argument drifts toward individual motives. By the sixth and most substantial chapter, on "impression management," Structural Goffman has disappeared. This chapter instead concerns actors' motives, their harried attempts to stave off, or at least manage embarrassment and related emotions. Without a word of warning, the Social Psychologist has reared his head, shape-shifting. This confusion causes trouble at the crucial core of the social and behavioral sciences.

Perhaps if Goffman had been less isolated from the disciplines, he might have learned some of the formalities. He escaped by writing mostly books rather than journal articles. Journals require thesis statements, at least one, sometimes as many as five (title, abstract,

introduction, body of the text, and conclusion). If Goffman had followed this convention, his work might have been much more useful than it has been to this point.

### Engulfment

On the other hand, members of disciplines who are engulfed learn to clearly state theses, but they have other problems. One would be simply repeating work already published, rather than improving on it. A shocking example is the history of studies using self-esteem scales, some TWENTY THOUSAND (Scheff 2011a). Most of these studies have the same finding: self-esteem, as measured by scales, does not predict behavior. These studies continue today, even though they have been proven useless many times over. This kind of mindless behavior is reminiscent of what is called *Obrigkeit* in German, blind obedience. Surely this is an example of the engulfed style of alienation.

These two examples suggest that it may be quite important to separate isolation and engulfment as two opposite types of alienation.

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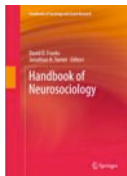
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# Book News



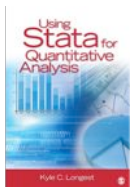
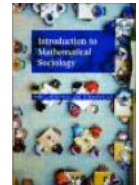
**New Book Release: *Motivational Dimensions in Social Movements and Contentious Collective Action*** by Maurice Pinard. 2011. McGill-Queen's University Press.

**New Special Issue: *Advances in Group Processes*** 2012. Emerald Group Publishing. Will Kalkhoff is guest editing a special volume of *Advances in Group Processes* on "Biosociology and Neurosociology." The volume will have contributions from established figures and newcomers in these areas, and will feature papers that focus on a range of cutting edge topics, including the biology of group processes, controversies in research on mirror neurons, the neurosociology of morality, a multilevel biosociological account of the rise of Christianity, biosocial interaction rituals among individuals with autism, and more.



**New Book Release: *Handbook of Neurosociology*** edited by David D. Franks and Jonathan H. Turner. 2012. Springer.

**New Textbook Release: *Introduction to Mathematical Sociology*** by Phillip Bonacich. 2012. Princeton University Press.



**New Textbook Release: *Using Stata for Quantitative Analysis*** by Kyle C. Longest. 2012. Sage Publications, Inc. This book offers a concise and affordable text that walks novice users through the process of using Stata for conducting a quantitative research project, including data management and analysis. It uses an "intuitive approach" to help broach the typical apprehension many students have when faced with Stata's command-based interface. More info at: <http://www.sagepub.com/books/Book236008>



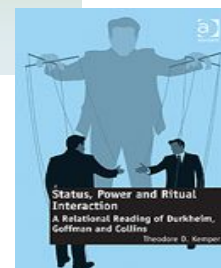
**New Journal of Interest: *Human Figurations: Long-Term Perspectives on the Human Condition*** University of Michigan Publishing. The unifying theme of the journal *Human Figurations* is a broad concern with long-term processes of the development of human society and the human condition. It is supported and sponsored by the [Norbert Elias Foundation](#). While Elias is best known for his theory of civilizing processes, he wrote on an astonishing range of topics, including violence, war, sport, ageing and dying, time, work, art, music, poetry, utopias and the relations between the sexes. Fundamentally, he advanced what have been called both a 'post-philosophical' theory of knowledge and the sciences, and an 'historical social psychology'. His conception of the discipline of sociology was far broader than that which has now become institutionalized in the rather narrow departments of sociology in contemporary universities. In consequence, he inspires researchers from many disciplines, especially people working in the interstices between conventional disciplines: history (especially world historians and social historians), criminology, international relations, anthropology and political science. *Human Figurations* will attract contributions from across these fields, the unifying theme being a broad concern with long-term processes of the development of human society and the human condition.



# Bookshelf Notes

## *Status, Power, and Ritual Interaction*

by Theodore D. Kemper



On a Saturday night many years ago I was walking on Sixth Avenue in New York's Greenwich Village when I caught up with two couples loudly badgering each other on the topic of what they should do that night--jazz club, comedy club, simply observe the colorful street life? I slowed my pace to eavesdrop on their nonsense and then came the epiphany; in that moment, the machinery behind the phenomenal world was revealed. I "knew" and "understood" in the most compelling way what these people were doing. What a pre-Socratic Greek Philosopher named Empedocles had proposed and Freud two-and-a-half millenia later acknowledged and what social-psychology factor analysts had found in WW II research was indeed the template for a common street scene, or any other social interaction.

First, the people I sauntered along with had a technical problem, namely, how to allocate their time that night. Second, they were interacting not only over the technical problem (their suggestions as to what to do) but were also relating to each other. And, third, that their relating could be understood in terms of the concepts status and power, status being understood as the according of respect, interest, consideration and the like, and power being understood as controlling, forcing, demeaning and the like.

One of the men proposed a plan (technical activity), which, had all the others assented (accorded him status), would have elevated his rank in the group. But before he had finished, the other man started to talk over him (using power to force the first man off the stage) and proffered a counter-suggestion (technical activity), to which the woman holding his arm (status accord) immediately offered, "That sounds good to me" (more status accord). Counter-attacking, the man who was interrupted said, "Nah! It's too late to do that" (technical activity and power combined). And the woman next to him agreed (status to him and power directed toward the other man). And so it went and, almost crazed with the pleasure I was getting from the new clarity of my understanding of every move these squabblers made, I kept pace with them until they turned a corner and walked out of hearing range. In those days I had been thinking about status, power and technical activity and here was stunning proof that these concepts worked!

Shrugging off any imputation of immodesty, I want to recommend my new book, Status, Power and Ritual Interaction: A Relational Reading of Durkheim, Goffman and Collins (Ashgate 2011). It presents in detail the status, power and technical-activity theory that guided my insights that Saturday night. It deals also with other topics of social psychological interest--emotions, motivation, ideas, play, humor, bonding and with Durkheim, Goffman and Randall Collins on the subject of ritual--all from the perspective of the status-power theory of social relations. The book takes risks too, offering a derivation from status-power theory that challenges the utility of the concept of the self, a staple for many social psychologists. The book is insistent but accessible and it provides many examples of how to do status-power analysis, which would come in handy should you find yourself on Sixth Avenue in Greenwich Village on a Saturday night.

## Cohen Memorial Continued

Sandy Dornbusch's initial hires formed the core of a department that would become one of the most vibrant in the discipline. In less than two decades, the Stanford department gained national and international acclaim for its undergraduate and graduate training programs and its orientation to science. Bernie Cohen was an important part of that growth. He was actively involved in creating the Laboratory for Social Research at Stanford, in designing its laboratory facilities and in developing the Working Paper Series that published work in progress. He was also instrumental in securing initial funding and in winning continuing funding for a National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) training program. The NIMH program funded predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees and research projects and won national recognition for its excellence.

Bernie was very active on the committee that redesigned the sociology department's home during the campus-wide renovation and earthquake proofing of older buildings in the late 1970s and early 1980s. His involvement ensured that the small-groups laboratory was a state of the art facility when the department returned to its newly-renovated and redesigned home in 1983. The department also celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a separate department that year.

Bernie chaired the department twice (1968-1972, 1976-1977), and retired in 1994 at the ripe young age of 64. The American Sociological Association's Section on Social Psychology awarded Bernie the 2002 Cooley-Mead award, the section's highest honor, in recognition of his contributions to the discipline. What contributions they were.

Bernie's doctoral research was a creative, innovative, and complex endeavor that used mathematical modeling procedures rarely used in the sociology of that time. He focused on the Asch situation and the typical pattern of responses to it. Asch reported high levels of conformity to a unanimous majority coupled with high trial-to-trial variation between conforming and non-conforming responses for individual subjects. Bernie concluded that conformity was not a behavior (e.g., an outcome) but a process. He devised a four-state Markov model, used existing data to estimate state-to-state transition probabilities, conducted computer simulations to test the model and conducted new

laboratory experiments (with several important refinements of Asch's original protocol) to explore further implications of the model. He published the findings in *Sociometry* (1958) and in a book (*Conflict and Conformity*) published in 1963. He extended his ideas over many years and after many additional experiments, culminating in a second book published in 1975 (*Conflict, Conformity and Social Status* with Hans Lee).

Bernie had a hand in several other influential and innovative research and writing projects. Berger, Cohen, Snell and Zelditch published *Types of Formalization*, an exploration of the role of mathematical modeling in theory development, in 1962. The book was, in a sense, revolutionary. Math modeling was new to sociology and many sociologists trained during earlier periods viewed math modeling with skepticism and suspicion. *Types* offered a reasoned approach that connected mathematical sophistication to the principal scientific objective of theory development. The book used Bernie's model of conflict and conformity as an example of a representational model—one designed to represent an observed phenomenon as precisely as possible.

Bernie was an important contributor to the early development of the Status Characteristic Theory branch of what became a family of Expectation States theories. *Sociological Theories in Progress* (Berger, Zelditch and Anderson), known affectionately to generations of Stanford graduate students as *STP1*, appeared in 1966. Bernie coauthored two chapters that were among the earliest statements of Status Characteristic Theory (Berger, Cohen and Zelditch; Berger, Cohen, Connor and Zelditch) and a third chapter on the stability of organizational status structures (Zelditch, Berger and Cohen). The Stanford group introduced the status-value theory of distributive justice (Berger, Zelditch, Anderson and Cohen) in *STP2* (Berger, Zelditch and Anderson) published in 1972.

Beyond his research and writing on conflict and conformity, distributive justice, status structures and status characteristic theory, Bernie wrote about the philosophy of social science and the logic of theory development. Selected chapters (in typescript) from the manuscript of the first edition of *Developing Sociological Knowledge* were required readings for his Sociology 180/380 in fall 1974 and perhaps earlier. The department required undergraduate sociology majors to take the course and it was a *de facto* requirement for many first-year graduate

students. Prentice-Hall published *Developing* in 1980 and a second edition followed in 1989 (Nelson Hall publishers). Bernie was a passionate critic of Mill-Fisher empiricism but *Developing* offered a muted and tactful discussion of empiricism. His “Sociological Theory: The Half-full Cup” (1994) and “Beyond Experimental Inference: A Decent Burial for J. S. Mill and R. A. Fisher” (1997) leave no doubt about his position on the issue.

Expectation states researchers, including status characteristic theorists, constrained their theories with explicit statements of the theories’ scope conditions. The term was drawn from Stephen Toulmin (1953) and the place of scope statements in theory construction intrigued Bernie. He began working out the logic of the idea and eventually published several important papers on the issue including “On The Conditional Nature of Knowledge” (1980) and “Scope Statements” (with H. A. Walker 1985).

Bernie continued to write and conduct research until his retirement and some of his best work remains unpublished. Rumors have circulated every year since his retirement that some former student or another would publish the remaining unpublished findings of his landmark study of multidisciplinary scientific research teams. Yet Bernie did more than teach, conduct research and write. Bernie was always open to technological advances. He was the first member of the Stanford department to have a desktop computer. He bought a Tandy machine from Radio Shack that had an eight-inch floppy disk drive. Several firms in Silicon Valley were building desktop machines then and I asked Bernie why he had purchased a Tandy. The answer was simple. He bought much electronic equipment as an undergraduate and graduate student at Harvard and he always bought it at the original Radio Shack in Boston. Bernie was very loyal.

Bernie was also a loyal fan of the San Francisco 49ers, of the Democrat Party, of his Bay Area chapter of the philatelic society, and after a heart attack in 1988, of the Cardiac Therapy Foundation of the Mid Peninsula. Bernie often expressed concern that he would not live to seventy as longevity had escaped most male members of the Cohen line, including his father, Max. He credited the Foundation with adding to the quantity and quality of his life and he gave back by volunteering tirelessly with the Foundation eventually chairing its board.

Bernie’s loyalty could create dilemmas for him. One

### Cohen Memorial Conclusion

day in July 1984, he and I were returning from lunch and he asked if I would like to attend the Democrat Party convention in San Francisco the next evening. He had tickets and would give them to me. I declined, and I add, not without a statement about my disdain for politicians of all stripes. Then I asked why he was not going to use the tickets. He told me that he could not attend because the philatelic society was holding its monthly meeting simultaneously. Bernie was an avid stamp collector whose stamps had won important prizes. He was also the society’s president.

Of the retired sociologists I know, Bernie Cohen was one of a few who actually retired from sociology. He did very little sociology after retiring. He continued to attend ASA meetings and occasionally read papers at professional conferences but he was more involved in other pursuits. Politics, stamp collecting, travel and devotion to close friends and his immediate family that, by then, included his granddaughter Louise Williams, were his passions.

Bernie and Liz were also loyal to their many friends. They supported their longtime friends Jim and Suzie Stewart during Jim’s terminal illness in the early 2000s. Later, after Liz began her final battle with cancer, Bernie was constantly at her side as was their now-widowed friend, Suzie Stewart.

Bernie and I met for dinner during the 2005 ASA meetings in Philadelphia shortly after Liz’s death in March of that year. Bernie, as he did so often, had found a hole-in-the-wall Chinese restaurant that served absolutely fabulous food. He was lonely and missing Liz after 50 plus years of marriage. Then he confided that he and longtime friend Suzie Stewart had begun a new phase of their friendship. They would become and remain constant companions until his death.

Bernie Cohen’s many students, colleagues, friends, and his extended family miss him. His immediate family, son Lewis (Patty), daughter Anita, and Anita’s daughter, Louise, and Suzie Stewart, can take some comfort in knowing that sociology and social psychology miss him too. In August of this year, the annual Group Processes conference will meet in Denver. Professors Martha Foschi and Kathy Kuipers are organizing two panels that will discuss Bernard Cohen’s life and work. Bernie is gone but his legacy endures.

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### Who We Are

The Social Psychology Section of the ASA works to keep the spirit of social psychology alive in sociology. We are over 600 scholars whose interests include self-conceptions and identity, social cognition, the shaping of emotions by culture and social structure, the creation of meaning and the negotiation of social order in everyday life, small group dynamics, and the psychological consequences of inequality.

While we also identify with other areas of sociological research, we all bring to our research and teaching a special interest in the individual as both a social product and a social force. Our common desire is to understand the many connections between individuals and the groups to which they belong.

We invite all sociologists who are interested in social psychology, or who take a social-psychological approach to some other area of research, to join the Social Psychology Section and to get involved in Section activities.