

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Newsletter of the Social Psychology Section of the American Sociological Association

Spring 2015

Remarks from the Chair

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Greetings. Here is your spring newsletter, ably constructed by our wonderful newsletter editor, Bridget Welch. Thank you, Bridget.

I would like to send special congratulations to Murray Webster for his selection as the 2015 Cooley-Mead Award winner (see separate article elsewhere in the newsletter). The tentative title of his Cooley-



Mead address is "Research Opportunities," a nod, presumably, to his reputation as both a first-rate scholar and as a mentor to students and junior faculty.

As the academic year comes to a close for many of us, it is worth noting that the Section on Social Psychology is in good shape. Our finances are

sound and our current membership count is a healthy 534. The latter will undoubtedly increase as people renew their ASA and section memberships. At the close of 2014, for instance, we were 891 strong, an increase of 3.6% over 2013. Still, the membership committee and I will continue to monitor the section's census. In the meantime, please remind your colleagues and students to renew their membership.

One area that needs more work is the endowment for the relatively new Graduate Student Investigator Award (GSIA). The section's goal is to raise \$100,000 dollars in order to make the endowment self-sustaining. As of this writing, approximately \$40,931 has been received from a total of \$41,580 in pledges. Deducting the \$1,000

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Remarks from Chair

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award made in 2013 and 2014 leaves us with \$38,931. If you are ready to donate to the endowment, you may do so via [PayPal](#) or by sending a check or money order to Jessica Collett, Section Treasurer, Section on Social Psychology, 810 Flanner Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Please make **checks payable** to ASA and write GSIA in the “memo” area.

Many people have been working diligently behind the scenes so the section runs smoothly and so the 2015 Chicago meetings are a success. Jessica Collett deserves special mention for her excellent work as our secretary-treasurer and for filling in as the section’s webmaster. Thanks you, Jessica! This year we will have four section-sponsored paper sessions plus the traditional Cooley-Mead Award address after the business meeting. The sessions and their papers will be published in the summer newsletter.



2015 ASA Election Slate

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Note from the Editor

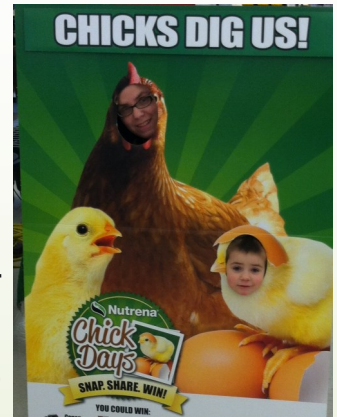
Bridget K. Welch

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Welcome to the Spring 2015 newsletter. There is a lot in here to look over.

On this page you will find the election slate for 2015. I also had the real pleasure of interviewing John DeLamater (in his words, “rhymes with alma mater”) for this issue’s Voice of Experience (pp. 3-5).



You should already know that Murray Webster won the Cooley-Mead award. He was nominated by so many. Jane Sell & Will Kalkhoff volunteered to write a summary of why he so well deserves this award (pp. 7-8).

There are also several Calls for Papers (pp. 10-12). See a further discussion of one these, for *Social Psychology Quarterly*, in the SPQ editor note on page 6.

I am also excited to bring you a Letter to the Editor from Barbara Meeker (p. 9). She writes about the years that Social Psychology disappeared from ASA and the movement to bring it back. I’m fascinated by the history of our field, and hope you find it as interesting as I do.

In other news, I really need to get a headshot... and I might be finally getting one when I start my new job this fall at the University of South Dakota. I will be an assistant professor of criminal justice in the Department of Political Science (talk about some role transition issues!). With the new job, I’m thinking it’s about time to pack it in as the newsletter editor. I’m not making an announcement quite yet, but start thinking about taking this gig over. It’s pretty sweet. You get to talk to a lot of awesome people and learn about what is going on behind the scenes. Email me (at the email above) if you are interested in learning more.

Voices of Experience: John DeLamater

John D. DeLamater is the Conway-Bascom Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned a B.A (Psychology) at University of California-Santa Barbara, an M.S. (Psychology) and a Ph.D. (Social Psychology) at the University of Michigan. His areas of research and teaching include social interaction and relationships, human sexuality, and social psychology. He has published more than 50 research articles, and 30 chapters in edited volumes and encyclopedias. His current research is applies a biopsychosocial model to sexuality in later life; most recently he has studied the effects of hormones on sexual expression of men and women over 57. John is co-author of Social Psychology, 8th ed. (with Daniel Myers and Jessica Collett), and Understanding Human Sexuality, 12th ed. (with Janet Hyde). He is the co-editor of the Handbook of Social Psychology, 2nd ed. (with Amanda Ward), and co-editor of the Handbook of the Sociology of Sexualities (with Rebecca Plante). He is a Fellow of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, the 2002 recipient of the Kinsey Award for Career Contributions to Sex Research, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. He has received awards for excellence in teaching from the Department of Sociology, and the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award from University of Wisconsin-Madison.



What life experiences have contributed to your interest in social psychology in general and/or your specific research areas?

I had psychology as an undergrad and was a psychology major. I think it was in my junior year, I had been taking courses like learning and motivation and statistics. Another class was something called "Motivation and Perception." I just felt like that the content in those courses couldn't speak to the things that I was interested in; in regards to the human social behavior. I was more interested in: How does the interpersonal or interactional context influence our behavior? I wasn't seeing any of that in the psychology courses that I was taking at that time. I think I actually said that to one of my professors and he said, "Well, you should take social psychology." I said "Oh, okay." So, then my first semester of my senior year I took social psychology and I really found that it covered much more of the kind of questions about human behaviors that I was interested in. So, I decided to get a Ph. D in social psychology.

In those days there were three interdisciplinary programs in the United States where you got some sociology as well as some psychology – Stanford, Michigan, and Columbia. I was out in California, so I visited Stanford and said, "Well, I don't want to go there!" I didn't want to move to Columbia and live in New York City. So I went to Michigan sight unseen and enrolled in a joint social psychology programs there which turned out to be a really good fit for me. So, that was how I got into social psychology specifically.

I've always been interested in social interaction, and I think my interest once I got into the field moved in that direction. When I came here as an assistant professor, I needed to start a research program and I decided to study human sexuality and particularly interactional aspects of sexual behavior because I had this nice convenient sample of college student right outside my door. My first major research project was an interview study that looked at a variety of social influences including: attitude and the self; and the nature of relationships with partners and with friends and with parents; to see how those things all contributed to the development of intimate relationships. Since then I have done a few other things, but primarily I focused on various aspects of social psychology of sexuality.

Where did you spend the early part of your sociological career as faculty?

My first job was here in University of Wisconsin, Madison. At that time in the sociology department there were several social psychologist including three other graduates of the joint PhD program at Michigan. So, I came here and immediately felt right at home and have been here ever since. Madison is a wonderful place to live, a great place to raise children, and the department has been very congenial, so I've never been particularly motivated to move.

How have your specific interests in sociology changed over time?

I think I've gotten much more interested in, on the one hand, in the social context. In recent years I've been looking at literature on the social environment. So for example, I am fascinated by Adam Isiah Green's new work on field theory – the nature of the immediate field within which our behavior occurs and how socially defined physical features, as well as the specific collection of other people who are present, have an impact on our behavior. I've been reading some books on the city and sexuality over the last few years and finding that really interesting in terms of how particularly city environments facilitate the development of subcultures that attract people with particular kinds of interest. On the other hand, I'm much more interested in biology and the links between biology and social behavior. That probably reflects the fact that I am getting older. So my body is calling my attention to the fact that it is there and I'm becoming more aware of it. I think that in general sociologists have overlooked the significance of the body until very recently. I'm really pleased to see new work now being done by younger people on bodies and embodiment because I think that's a very important aspect of our behavior and our feelings about our self.

My most recent research has been on sexual behavior in later life and how it is influenced by biology, by relationship factors, and by sexual history. I have just drafted a paper looking at the influence of hormones on the sexual behavior of people over the age of fifty-seven. Looking at the impacts of estrogen and testosterone of male and female sexual behavior and that's still in the works and hopefully will get published. My other big writing project is the *Handbook of Sexualities* which is going to be part of the *Springer Handbook* series. Rebecca Plante at Ithaca College and I edited that and solicited 25 chapters on various topics in the sociology and social psychology of sexuality. That will be coming out in August in time for the ASA meeting. The theme of the meeting this year is *Sexuality in Society*, so the book will coincide nicely with that.

Dancing with daughter Laura



What interests and/or activities, outside of sociology, are important to you?

My family I think has probably always been my other big interest, so I work hard at getting what I thought was a good work-family balance. I've appreciated being in academics because it enabled me to go to some of my kids' events at school during the day and occasionally take them on field trips and stuff like that. So that (until they all left!) was a big focus of my time and energy. My hobby is actually is railroads and rail transportation. I've been a member of a couple of different railway museums that have large collections of real railroad equipment and real rail transit equipment. I spend an occasional day working on some antique streetcar or some antique collective railway car and making them run again which gives me a lot of pleasure.

Given your success in the field, how do you balance professional and personal demands?

One of the things that I've been doing in mentoring graduate students is telling them that the earlier you start working on the balance the better. I encourage graduate students to start working on a good balance the first year in graduate school, because I think when you get into graduate school you develop habits of work that are going to become your standard practice – unless you intentionally work at coming up with a different kind of balance. I think it's really easy in graduate school to let the immediate demands of due dates and all these requirements you have to meet take over and get focused on those at the expense of personal relationships. I've seen a number of couples over the years where – in my perception – that graduate school could be the breakup of their relationship. Some of these were couples where both were graduate students (not necessarily in the same field), but others were couples in which one was in graduate school and the other one wasn't. The latter type seems to be particularly vulnerable because the one who's not in graduate school really wants to do couple-oriented things on the night, and weekends, and go away in the summer. If you're totally focused on your graduate work, you don't want to do those things. I really encourage people to be thoughtful about that early on in their careers.

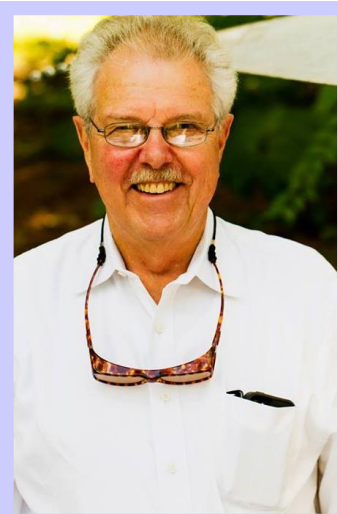
Some of the most successful marriages that I ever seen involved explicitly scheduling activities with the partner. I've known for a number of years a very prominent physician here in Madison and I asked him once how he managed to keep his marriage together and have four kids. He said that every Friday from 6PM until 8AM Saturday morning was his "wife time." He never, ever, ever did anything professional, including going a way to a meeting, to violate that time. It was just an absolute rule. Another couple, dual career couple, they used to have a rule that from 9:30-10:30 every night was their time and nothing could interfere with that – including their kids. I think for some people it might actually take the discipline of scheduling time with their partner, and then maintaining it, in order to be sure that you are putting some time into that. I mean I know some people vary, but it's something people should pay attention to early on.

If you had to leave academia, what career would you choose?

In my younger days, if I had left academia, I would probably try and go into transportation because I do have a real love of railroads and particularly passenger railroads. So, I think that would have been my first choice of an alternative career. I really have enjoyed being in academics. I love teaching and I feel very fortunate because I think having a job that you love and from which you derive personal satisfaction is probably a very important aspect of good mental health. I feel fortunate to have had that and by working in academics. I would certainly look for something else that would give me that kind of feelings of accomplishment and satisfaction.

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

I got into sociology forty something years ago. I wish I had appreciated the importance of networking. I had this naïve idea that if you did good work and published it the world would come to your doors. That maybe true for a few people, but probably as a general rule it's not true. Over the years I have increasingly come to appreciate just how important networking is. Networking with other people who are working on similar kinds of problems, to some degree, networking with your colleagues in your department, and certainly networking with your professional associations, and networking with the people in the social psychology section of the professional association has been very important – and I should have done more of it. In the context of publish or perish, going to a meeting or spending an extra day there to go to a section reception may seem expendable. But really, in the long run, that will probably do your career a lot more good than a few more hours sitting trying to get few more words on a paper or analyze a bit more data. It really is those relationships with your colleagues that are going to keep you fresh and that are going to get your work out where people can really see it and really appreciate it.



What one piece of advice would give a graduate student?

Early on start being strategic about your career. If you can do it, even your first year of grad school, start thinking clearly about what kind of position you are working towards. Do you want to be a faculty member at an R1 school or do you want to be a faculty at a second-tier school? Do you want to go to a small liberal arts college? Do you want to do full time research? Do you want to do consulting? Do you want to do clinical work? Each of those careers requires a somewhat different set of activities in graduate school. So, the earlier you begin to focus on what kind of

career you want, the earlier you can start being very intentional about how you use your time and use your time in a way that really benefits you. I do placement here. Students, usually in their fifth or sixth year, will start thinking about the job market and they'll come and say, "What do I do?" I'll say, "What kind of job do you want?" and they'll say, "Well I want X job." I'll reply, "You need to do A, B, and C", and they'll say, "Well I didn't do any of those. Why didn't somebody tell me?" So, I think you can avoid that kind of being mismatched on the base of what you did to the kind of job you want if you start getting intentional about it earlier on. I encourage graduate students to think about if there is somebody in the field that is doing what you want to be doing. If there is, get in touch with that person. Get their advice on how to get into the kind of job that they've got. You'll be a lot happier in the long run and you won't risk wasting your time. There are things you can do in graduate school that may turn out to not have been useful at all – depending on where you are going. You can avoid that if you have a better sense earlier on at what your goals are.

What about an assistant professor?

Well I guess, again work-life balance. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy – and makes problems in Jack's relationship (or Jill's!). Also, I think really spend some time finding out what the decision criteria are if you are working towards getting tenure – What are the criteria for getting tenure for your department at your institution? Hopefully it will take care of itself or hopefully people have told you. What we have for example, is a mentoring committee for our assistant professors. Many assistant professors don't really take advantage of them but they should. They really should at least once a year have a sit down with the mentoring committee and have a pretty open discussion about their work, how is going and where it's going, how things are shaping up in terms of tenure decisions. We have on a campus-wide basis a special committee for women. University of Wisconsin, Madison made a commitment about twenty years ago now trying to really encourage women faculty who were feeling in many cases that the mentoring they were getting from male mentoring committees wasn't as useful. We encourage all of our women faculty, and assistant professors especially, to take advantage of their women faculty mentoring committee. And the committee includes women from outside the department which in some ways really makes it even more valuable. Read the documents! I mean UW- Madison has a ton of documents about tenure criteria and decision-making processes. Check out the process. Make sure your department is doing it the way it is supposed to be done because, unfortunately, not every department does. So, investing some time and energy early on and learning about those things, I think, can just make you more efficient. If you know what those are then you know exactly what you should be working on.

Social Psychology Quarterly

An Official Journal of the American Sociological Association



Dear Colleagues,

Effective January 1, 2015, we fully transitioned into our new role as coeditors of *Social Psychology Quarterly*. We are grateful for the help and support of Karen Hegtvedt and the managing editor, Gianna Mosser through the transition process. We have been very appreciative of their expertise and guidance. We will continue to work hard to maintain the tradition of bringing high quality work to the journal.

By now, you have seen our first (March) issue. The credit for this issue goes to Karen Hegtvedt since these are articles that were accepted under her editorship. It always takes time for new editors to get manuscripts into the production pipeline. Our energies are focused on that right now. Currently, we are working to finish the June issue. About half of these published articles complete the production of manuscripts under Karen's editorship, and the other half begin to publish manuscripts under our editorship.

Since we started managing new manuscripts in August, 2014, we have averaged a 32-day turnaround in decisions on submissions. We anticipate publishing shorter articles so that we can feature more papers. We now ask that all submitted manuscripts be no longer than 35 pages all inclusive (of references, tables, figures, and endnotes). We also are working to publish even shorter articles through the "Research Notes" section. Here, submitted manuscripts should be no longer than 15 pages all inclusive. Please send us your work whether it is quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods. We are open to all substantive areas of investigation. We simply want the manuscripts to have a theoretical focus, and to address processes and outcomes that are relevant to the social psychological research community.



Jan Stets & Richard Serpe

We have been working with our deputy editors and editorial board members on suggestions for a special issue. With their help, we have selected the topic. It is entitled "Methodological Advances and Applications in Social Psychology." This special issue will showcase new qualitative and quantitative methodological approaches, share how methodologies commonly used in other disciplines can be adapted to social psychological investigations, and provide empirical examples of the application of new methods for social psychologists. Manuscripts should focus on the link between social psychological theory and methodological developments. We do not expect a lengthy theoretical development, but rather an outline of the theoretical issues at stake, and why the methodological approach advances our empirical understanding of the theory. The special issue will also provide an outlet for shorter, research notes that demonstrate the use of a methodological technique to address a social psychological research question. The coeditors for this special issue on qualitative and quantitative methods are Kathy Charmaz, *Sonoma State University* and Jane Sell, *Texas A&M University*. We will be circulating the "Call for Papers" so watch for that. The deadline for submitting papers will be December 2015, and we anticipate publishing the special issue in December 2016 or March 2017. (Editor note: See page 11 of this newsletter)

We also have been working to get *SPQ* circulated more in social media outlets. We now have Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and share these links with your colleagues and friends. We are trying to cast as wide a net as possible so that *SPQ* can be visible and have a significant impact not only inside the sociological community but also outside this research community.

We are very grateful for the team of deputy editors, editorial board members, reviewers, and staff we have assembled to continue the tradition of making *SPQ* a first-rate publication outlet for social psychologists. They have been terrific both in terms of the timeliness and quality of their work. Without their help, we simply would not be able to accomplish our goals. Our thanks to each of you!

Jan E. Stets and Richard T. Serpe
Coeditors, *Social Psychology Quarterly*

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Announcing 2015 Cooley-Mead Award Winner: Murray Webster

Murray Webster is this year's recipient of the Cooley-Mead Award. Six sociologists wrote letters of recommendation highlighting his mentorship of young scholars and his scholarly contributions. Two of these recommenders, Jane Sell and Will Kalkhoff, agreed to summarize just why Webster should be honored.

We are honored to write a short note about Murray Webster and his influence. We join many other social psychologists to testify that Murray's many contributions to research, teaching, and mentorship make our discipline stronger, more informative and more compelling for our social world.

Murray's research has contributed to our discipline in two major ways. First, he is well known for his many contributions to the development of Expectation States Theory. He began his initial investigations in the late 60's with studies examining how different sources of evaluation affect the performance and expectations of people in groups. His book with Barbara Sobieszek in 1974 was a summary, exploration and expansion of his and his colleagues' early work.

The investigation of the power of significant others has continued through Murray's career. His work in this area has many different facets, including applications to education, which are best represented in his work with Doris Entwisle. More recently, Murray has published in this area with his colleagues at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Importantly, this work has appeared in our field's most prestigious outlets, including the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Sociometry* (which became *Social Psychology Quarterly*), *Sociology of Education*, *Social Science Research*, *Social Forces*, etc.



Murray Webster

A related line of theoretically driven research to which Murray has contributed extensively details the process by which status characteristics (particularly diffuse status characteristics) organize interaction. His early work examined race, gender and beauty. This work then laid the foundation for work addressing another fundamental question of social inequality: how can the status-organizing process be dampened or eliminated? This question, in fact, permeates his entire body of research. He researched the construction of diffuse status characteristics (e.g., Webster and Hysom, *American Sociological Review*, 1998), and how particular status characteristics become magnified or distinguished in their effects. He was one of the few researchers in experimental social psychology who directly examined the effects of race in group processes, including how these effects might be altered. Murray's early work in this area was done in 1978 (with James Driskell), and it appeared in the *American Sociological Review*. He continues this work today, and in fact, he and his colleagues at University of North Carolina-Charlotte have a forthcoming article that examines a very novel way of decreasing negative stereotyping in group interaction. As we know, social psychologists have (properly) criticized themselves for their lack of consideration of issues related to race/ethnicity. Murray is a most notable exception.

Second, Murray has made many influential and oft-cited contributions to theory construction and experimental design. His early work investigated approaches to the development of formal theory. His article in *ASR* with Dave Willer on "Theoretical Concepts and Observables" is one example, and his later work continued this exploration. Murray is sought after to write on issues of theory development and its relation to experimental design, and he has given workshops around the world on design issues. On these issues, he (and Jane Sell) edited *Laboratory Experiments in the Social Sciences (2007 and 2014)*, which addresses how experiments can be used to address fundamental questions across the social sciences.

All the time that Murray has been so actively involved in exploring issues central to social psychology, he has acted as a mentor in myriad ways. Murray served two tours as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation, once from 1989-1991 and a second time from 1999-2000. He continues to be very active on a variety of NSF panels. In his dedicated service to his colleagues, Murray's stated goal has simply been to do what he can to "see to it that everybody with a good idea has a fair shot." Murray also often travels to different universities to give presentations about writing grants. At his own university, he has served in special capacity with the provost's office to help junior colleagues conceptualize and develop their proposals. Here too his motivation has been to help others and uphold the highest standards of sociological

Cooley-Mead Announcement Continued (from page 7)

research. His chapter on "Writing Proposals" in *Laboratory Experiments in the Social Sciences* was singled out by a reviewer—who is an economist and former Division Director of Social and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation—as the one of the most important pieces she has read on the topic, one that she recommends to all her students.



Will Kalkhoff

On a personal level, Murray has a reputation as one of our most generous colleagues. He jumps at the opportunity to help out a fellow scholar, especially graduate students and new assistants—whether with advice on a project in the works, comments on drafts of a paper or proposal, or collaborative support. While Murray's scholarly work has had a major direct impact on sociological social psychology, the positive indirect impact that he has had on the field through other scholars may be even greater.

Furthermore, in the "structural" corner of sociological social psychology, Murray has taken on the role of "keeper of the tradition." Murray spent many, many months putting together a database of studies that he distributed to colleagues at the ASA meetings in 2003. This database was instrumental to a meta-analysis of expectation states research that was published a few years later in *Sociological Methods & Research* (Kalkhoff and Thye 2006). At the ASA meetings in Montreal in 2006,

Murray also distributed a document that he selflessly prepared that summarized all of the research across the various branches of Expectation States Theory that had been done up until that point. For all of his efforts in preparing these useful resources, Murray has never asked for anything in return.

We feel honored to have Murray as a colleague. He truly loves social psychology, and he has indisputably earned his place within it. Murray's many contributions have opened up entire areas of new research in sociological social psychology. He is unboundedly optimistic about the field and he is always forward looking. We are grateful to him for being so generous with his time when it comes to discussing ideas and helping others. With all his many demands, he always has time to listen, discuss, offer constructive criticism, and most importantly, laugh.



Jane Sell

-Jane Sell & Will Kalkhoff



Call For Donations: Graduate Student Investigator Award

The section launched a campaign to raise funds to support a **Graduate Student Investigator Award** (GSIA) in 2012. The annual award of \$1,000 signals of our Section's investment in the future of social psychological research while also bringing an element of prestige and concrete resources to talented young scholars.

Kait Boyle (University of Georgia) received the 2014 award. The 2015 GSIA award committee is chaired by Justine Tinkler jtinkler@uga.edu. The committee will soon begin reviewing research proposals for dissertation/thesis or other publishable research written by a member of the section who does not yet have a Ph.D. The 2015 award recipient will be named at the ASA meetings in Chicago.

There are three convenient ways to make a contribution:

1. CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

Make **checks payable** to ASA, but indicate in the "memo" area that the funds are intended for the Social Psychology Section Graduate Student Investigator Award. **Send checks** to: Jessica Collett, Social Psychology Section Treasurer, 810 Flanner Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

2. PAYPAL

The section has set up a PayPal. Donations may be made with credit and debit cards or directly from bank accounts. See: <http://tinyurl.com/givetoGSIA>. (Note: PayPal requires a minimum contribution of \$25 and charges 2.2% (plus 30 cents) for each donation received. Thus a \$100 donation yields the section \$97.50.

3. PLEDGE

Email pledge to Tim Owens (tjowens@kent.edu)

Yes, I _____ (name) am willing to pledge: _____ (amount).

My pledge of: _____ will be paid by _____ (date).

_____ will be paid over _____ years in increments of _____.

* Note: While ASA encourages members to make tax-deductible contributions to worthy causes like this one, please consult your tax advisor for specifics on allowable deductions.



Letter to the Editor:

The Years We Lost Social Psychology

An old joke has the query “when was your organization founded?” answered by “I didn’t know it was lost!” This happens to describe part of the history of the Social Psychology Section; it disappeared in 1972 and was re-founded in 1975. This makes 2015 the Section’s 40th anniversary (sort of).

The early 1970’s were years of turmoil and contention in the discipline of sociology as well as in society in general; social psychology was not immune. A look at the history of the section’s officers (http://www.asanet.org/socialpsychology/council_history.cfm) shows blanks for the years 1972- 1974. This is because the chair elected for 1972 decided to disband the Section on the grounds that there was no sociological social psychology and hence no need for a separate organization to promote it. This move caught many of the members by surprise but by 1975 some of them had mobilized; as a new Stanford PhD, I was contacted by some of my graduate school mentors to see if I would join an effort to revive the section. Although these were group process researchers they were very clear that all the sociological approaches to social psychology were to be included. With the assistance of ASA, new by-laws were written and elections held, producing Chair James Kimberley, Secretary-Treasurer Thomas C. Hood and a full slate of new council members. 1975 also seems to be the first year any woman was elected to an office in the Social Psychology Section (Barbara Sobieszek, Council).

Those of us who helped “re-found” our Section believed Social Psychology is an important part of Sociology, and that the growth of scholarly knowledge needs a community within which ideas can be discussed, new scholars introduced, the contributions of senior scholars recognized and even the agonizing process of defining our field undertaken every once in a while. Thinking back to 1972-1975 should remind us that such a community does not happen automatically; it takes sustained effort and mutual tolerance as well as faith that the enterprise not only exists but is worthwhile.

Barbara Meeker
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Congratulatory Notes

New Positions for Fall of 2015

Andrew Miles will be a new assistant professor in the sociology department at the University of Toronto-Mississauga.

Kimberly Rogers will be an assistant professor in the sociology department at Dartmouth College.

Dara Shifrer will be an assistant professor in the sociology department at Portland State University.

Bridget Welch will be an assistant professor of criminal justice in the political science department at the University of South Dakota.

Book Note

Terrified: How Anti-Muslim Fringe Organizations Became Mainstream

Christopher Bail

Princeton University Press, 2014

In July 2010, Terry Jones, the pastor of a small fundamentalist church in Florida, announced plans to burn two hundred Qur'ans on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. Though he ended up canceling the stunt in the face of widespread public backlash, his threat sparked violent protests across the Muslim world that left at least twenty people dead. In *Terrified*, Christopher Bail demonstrates how the beliefs of fanatics like Jones are inspired by a rapidly expanding network of anti-Muslim organizations that exert profound influence on American understanding of Islam.

Bail traces how the anti-Muslim narrative of the political fringe has captivated large segments of the American media, government, and general public, validating the views of extremists who argue that the United States is at war with Islam and marginalizing mainstream Muslim-Americans who are uniquely positioned to discredit such claims. Drawing on cultural sociology, social network theory, and social psychology, he shows how anti-Muslim organizations gained visibility in the public sphere, commandeered a sense of legitimacy, and redefined the contours of contemporary debate, shifting it ever outward toward the fringe. Bail illustrates his pioneering theoretical argument through a big-data analysis of more than one hundred organizations struggling to shape public discourse about Islam, tracing their impact on hundreds of thousands of newspaper articles, television transcripts, legislative debates, and social media messages produced since the September 11 attacks. The book also features in-depth interviews with the leaders of these organizations, providing a rare look at how anti-Muslim organizations entered the American mainstream.

Call For Papers

The Research Committee on Social Psychology (RC42) calls for the submission of Session proposals or/and individual abstracts for the upcoming Third Forum of Sociology that will take place in **Vienna, Austria , 10-14 July 2016**. The Forum focuses on the theme: **"The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World."**

Session proposals/individual abstracts should relate either to the theme of the Forum and/or to the main themes and topics framing the regular activities of RC42 such as:

- Attitudes and Social Cognition
- Cultural Social Psychology
- Emotions
- Group Processes
- Interpersonal Behavior
- Prosocial Behavior
- Social Inequality
- Socialization
- Self and Social Identity
- Social Exchange
- Social Influence
- Social Justice
- Social Networking
- Social Structure and Personality
- Symbolic Interaction
- The Social Psychology of Gender
- Violence, Group Conflict and Peace

Sessions including both quantitative and qualitative research are most welcomed . Moreover, we also welcome Sessions that explore interdisciplinary connections between Social Psychology and other disciplinary areas.

In addition to the normative Sessions, **RC42 will hold a Session for PhD students** which will be mentored by two RC42 senior members. The idea of this Session is to give PhD students the opportunity to present their dissertation research and discuss it with the mentors and the Session participants. The Session will be directed at participants who already have a rather clear idea of their research question and hypotheses as well as the design and the methodology they want to use (measures, experimental procedures, sample, data analysis). If you are interested in participating in the organization of this Session please write to the program coordinator.

Candidates interested in submitting a Session proposal or/and an abstract for individual presentation at the Forum, are invited to visit the [ISA Web](http://www.isa-web.org) or contact the Program Coordinator, Clara Sabbagh at csabbagh@edu.haifa.ac.il

Call For Papers

Special Issue of *Social Psychology Quarterly*

“Methodological Advances and Applications in Social Psychology”

As social psychologists work to advance theory, they often are limited by their methodological toolbox. In response, researchers search for or develop new methodological approaches. Importantly, social psychologists have addressed this issue from both quantitative and qualitative orientations. Many theoretical questions also have motivated the growing use of mixed-methods. There has not been a “focused” outlet for these methodological developments within social psychology.

This special issue provides an outlet for showcasing new methodological approaches, share how methodologies commonly used in other disciplines can be adapted to social psychological investigations, and provide empirical examples of the application of new methods for social psychologists. The special issue will primarily include manuscripts that focus on the link between social psychological theory and methodological developments. As the focus is on methodological issues, the manuscripts would not include a lengthy theoretical development, but rather outline the theoretical issues at stake and why the methodological approach advances our empirical understanding of the theory. The special issue will also provide an outlet for research notes that demonstrate the use of a methodological technique to address a social psychological research question and would be shorter.

The special issue calls for papers that advance our understanding and application of quantitative applications and formulations, qualitative strategies and developments, and the use of mixed approaches to address theoretically driven social psychological questions in new ways. We envision papers that:

Demonstrate the application of a method to a theoretical question in social psychology. The relationship between theory and method could focus on how the method advances our theoretical understanding, or how the theoretical question has pushed the methodological advancement.

- New methodological approaches in social psychology.
- Application of a method from another field to address a social psychological issue.
- Advancement and refinements in methodological applications currently used in social psychology.

Examples of topics might include:

- Use of media, including visual, electronic and social media to measure social phenomena
- Reflexive narratives, advances in conversation analysis, grounded theory, ethnography, or discourse analysis
- Network applications
- Experimental advancements and extensions, including field experiments and online experiments
- Online survey techniques
- Neuroscience applications
- Methodological problems/issues/debates as they relate to social psychological theory and empirical data, including their limitations
- New statistical approaches, e.g. Bayesian models, Response Surface Analysis, etc.
- Digital science applications
- Big data

The deadline for submitting papers is December 15, 2015. The usual ASA requirements for submission apply (see “Notice for Contributors”). Papers may be submitted at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/spq>. Please indicate in a cover letter that you would like your submission to be considered for the special issue. Prospective authors should feel free to communicate with the coeditors (rserpe@kent.edu or jan.stets@ucr.edu) or special issue qualitative and quantitative editors Kathy Charmaz (charmaz@sonoma.edu) and Jane Sell (j-sell@tamu.edu) about the appropriateness of their papers.

Call For Papers (continued from page 11)

Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction

Annual Conference

August 21-23, 2015

The Public Chicago Hotel, Chicago, IL

Symbolic Interaction and Public Sociology

Symbolic interactionists have had very little to say about the issue of public sociology, though there have been some notable exceptions. The literature that does exist indicates that interactionists have much to offer to conceptions of public sociology, and in turn, public sociology has the potential to reinvigorate interactionist research. As such, we invite scholars to further explore the theme of public sociology and symbolic interactionism. Some of the relevant topics to explore on this theme are not limited to, but may include:

- *The historical legacy of public sociology in the interactionist tradition*
- *How a more public orientation might inspire novel approaches to interactionist research*
- *Arguing for or against a mandate of public sociology from an interactionist perspective*
- *Reflecting on past and present interactionist work as models for public sociology*
- *Considering how to better foster community and organizational partnerships, and pursue funding*
- *Exploring ways to best disseminate interactionist work to public audiences*
- *Asking whether and how symbolic interactionism might help to solve social problems, advocate for specific groups, and press for political, social, and policy changes*
- *Exploring how symbolic interactionists from different national traditions view the prospect of public sociology, and how this mandate is more or less relevant in different global contexts*

Call for Papers

Deadline: April 30, 2015

We have a number of very interesting conference sessions open now, which engage the theme of public sociology as well as a wide range of other topics. Please send paper proposals, with the relevant section where you think your paper would best fit clearly identified to: sssiconference2015@gmail.com

If you have a paper that does not fit into any of the sessions already proposed please send it to the email address noted above, other sections can then be constructed as necessary to reflect what is sent in.

Public Sociology and Symbolic Interactionism
Symbolic Interaction and Public Sociology in the Digital Society
The Original Chicago School of Sociology
The Digital Self
Technologically Mediated Interaction
Place and Identity
Cities and Communities
Urban Interactionism, Identity, and Culture
Symbolic Interaction and the Nonhuman
Interactionist Analyses of Violence

Sociology of Emotions
Heroes and Villains
Work, Occupations, and Organizations
The Strange, Uncanny, and Bizarre
Difference, Inequality, and Interaction
Symbolic Interaction and Social Inequality
Race and Symbolic Interactionism
Our Personal, Political, and Professional Selves: Coping with
Deviant Identities in Academia
Culture, Art, and Creativity
Symbolic Interaction and the Environment

Questions? Please contact SSSI President, Dr. Margarethe Kusenbach (mkusenba@usf.edu), or SSSI Vice-President, Dr. Antony Puddephatt (apuddeph@lakeheadu.ca).

2014-2015 Social Psychology Section Officers

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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 the Social Psychology Section and to get involved in Section activities.

**For more news
and
information,
visit the section
on the web at:**

[http://www.asanet.org/
sections/
socialpsychology.cfm](http://www.asanet.org/sections/socialpsychology.cfm)

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Social Psychology Section Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

_____ 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). Please 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.

_____ I am a Social Psychology Section member and want to pay for my student's section membership. Student Name: _____; Student Address _____; Student Email: _____. Enclosed is a check for \$5.00. Please note that your student must be an ASA member to join the section.

Mail form and check to: Membership Services

American Sociological Association

1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005-4701