

Social Psychology Section

Reports and Minutes for 2005-2006

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Submitted September 22, 2006

The Section marked a year of successful activities, with no extraordinary events and no significant problems.

Membership, promoted and managed by Lisa Rashotte at UNC Charlotte and Stuart Hysom at Texas A & M, continues strong. At the final count before ASA, the Section had 641 members. The number is down slightly from 674 in December, 2005, but renewals at ASA usually account for 20 to 30 new members, so membership appears to be stable. ASA awards sessions by membership. To retain our sessions, the Section must have 600 members; to gain an additional session, it would need 800. Note, however, that the Section will have one additional session in 2007, due to having most of its activities on the final day of meetings.

Finances continue strong. The Section balance, reported by Secretary-Treasurer Lisa Troyer of U. of Iowa at the Business Meeting, was \$11,023.00. Expenses at ASA, including the Section reception, breakfast meeting of the Council, the plaque accompanying the Cooley-Mead award, and the prize and plaque for the Graduate Student Award, will reduce the balance by around \$3000.00. Additions from membership as well as gifts by members (see below) constitute the majority of income for the Section.

Gifts from book authors have been significant sources of income, and the Section is very fortunate to have such public-spirited authors. Two gifts were outstanding this year. The first is from John Delamater at the U. of Wisconsin, from royalties on his *Handbook of Social Psychology*. The second is from Peter Burke at U. of California, Riverside, Timothy J. Owens at Indiana University, Richard T. Serpe at Kent State, and Peggy Thoits at UNC Chapel Hill, from royalties on *Advances in Identity Theory and Research*. On behalf of the Section, I express our gratitude.

Newsletter Editor Gretchen Peterson at California State University, Los Angeles, completed three years and asked to be relieved, and Kathy Kuipers at the U. of Montana agreed to serve. I nominated Kuipers and Council concurred.

Secretary-Treasurer Lisa Troyer was elected Chair-Elect of the Section. Our bylaws prevent anyone from holding two offices at once, so she stepped down as Secretary-Treasurer. I nominated Timothy J. Owens, who also serves as our Webmaster, to serve the remaining year of Troyer's term and Council concurred.

The Cooley-Mead Award is given to an individual who has made lifetime contributions to distinguished scholarship in social psychology. This year the award went to Lynn Smith-Lovin at Duke University. Her talk, delivered at the award ceremony after the Business Meeting, will be submitted for consideration for publication in *Social Psychology Quarterly*.

The Graduate Student Award is given for an article-length paper on any area of social psychology. This year the award went to Steven M. Nelson of the U. of Arizona for his paper "Redefining a Bizarre Situation: Relative Concept Stability in Affect Control Theory." The prize includes a plaque and a cash award to help with expenses of attending the ASA meetings. The Graduate Affairs Committee, which selects the winning paper, changed the submission date in 2005 from March 15 to the current date, February 15. The change did not appear in Section records I had, so I announced the later date on our web site and the Committee announced the earlier date in *Footnotes*. I agree with the suggestion of Kathy Kuipers, who chaired the Graduate Affairs Committee, that the Section Chair should try to avoid introducing such confusion in the future.

The Jobs Reception was held for the second year, and around 50 faculty and students attended. It was not possible to get a room for it at the main meetings venue, the *Palais de Congres*, so we held it at the Intercontinental Hotel across the street. I suggest trying to hold future meetings at the main ASA venue to increase attendance. As in 2005, the reception was paid for by the Chair's home institution. Judith A. Howard, the incoming Chair, plans to investigate additional ways to support the reception in future years, such as asking hiring department to pay a subscription fee for participation.

New Books. Section members published 6 new books in 2006, that I noted at the Business Meeting. (There may be others; those are the ones I found before the meetings.) The Web site shows those and other books published in the last few years. These are strong evidence that social psychologists continue to have lasting impact on the discipline.

New Officers. As noted, Lisa Troyer was elected Chair-Elect of the Section. William Corsaro of Indiana University and Jeremy Freese of Harvard University were elected to Council. Kimberly Manturuk of UNC Chapel Hill was elected as Student Member of Council. With Council's concurrence, I appointed Tim Owens as Secretary-Treasurer and Kathy Kuipers as Newsletter Editor.

Chair's Note: Serving the Section in this position has been a wonderful privilege. I am happy to know the Section is in highly competent hands now that my year is completed. I attach a list of Section officers and committees for 2005—2006. These members were largely responsible when things ran smoothly last year. I thank them and all members of the Section.

Respectfully,

Murray Webster, Jr.

Chair, 2005—2006

Attachment 1: Social Psychology Section Officers, 2005—2006

Chair

Murray Webster, Jr., UNC Charlotte mawebste@uncc.edu

Chair-Elect

Judith A. Howard, U. of Washington jhoward@u.washington.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Lisa Troyer (2007), U. of Iowa lisa-troyer@uiowa.edu

Council

*Peter Callero (2006), Western Oregon University callerp@wou.edu

*Jan Stets (2006), UCR jan.stets@ucr.edu

*Stephanie Bailey Mollborn (student member) (2006), Stanford smollborn@stanford.edu

Diane Felmlee (2007), UCD dhfelmlee@ucdavis.edu

Karen Hegtvedt (2008) Emory University khegtv@emory.edu

Michael J. Lovaglia (2007), U. of Iowa lovaglia@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Elizabeth Menaghan (2008), OSU menaghan.1@osu.edu

*Successors to be elected 2005—2006

Editor, *Social Psychology Quarterly*

Spencer Cahill, USF scahill@luna.cas.usf.edu

Webmaster

Timothy J. Owens, Purdue University towens@purdue.edu

Newsletter Editor

Gretchen Peterson (2006), CSU-LA gpeters@calstatela.edu

Attachment 2: Social Psychology Section Committees, 2005—2006

Cooley-Mead Award

Jody Clay-Warner, U. of Georgia jclayw@uga.edu Chair
Joseph Berger, Stanford University jberger@stanford.edu
Spencer Cahill, University of South Florida scahill@cas.usf.edu
Jill Kiecolt, Virginia Tech kiecolt@vt.edu
Mel Kohn, Johns Hopkins University mel@jhu.edu

Nominations

Viktor Gecas, Purdue vgecas@cla.purdue.edu Chair
Glen Elder, UNC Chapel Hill glen_elder@unc.edu
Barry Markovsky, USC barry@sc.edu
Nathan Shippee, Purdue shippeen@cla.purdue.edu (student member)
Peggy Thoits, UNC Chapel Hill peggy.thoits@unc.edu

Graduate Affairs Committee

Kathy Kuipers, Montana, Chair kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu
Mike Lovaglia, Iowa michael-lovaglia@uiowa.edu
Jodi O'Brien, Seattle jobrien@seattleu.edu
Brent Simpson, USC bts@sc.edu
D'Lane Rebecca Compton, TX A&M dlane_compton@yahoo.com (Student member)

Program Committee

Murray Webster, UNC Charlotte, mawebste@uncc.edu Chair
Lala Steelman, USC steelman@sc.edu Session Title: Roundtables
Lisa Rashotte, UNC Charlotte lrashott@email.uncc.edu Session Title: Social Psychological Studies of Informal Inequality Structures
Matthew Hunt, Northeastern m.hunt@neu.edu Session Title: Social Psychological Studies of Formal Inequality Structures
Shelly Correll, Cornell sjc62@cornell.edu Session Title: Social Psychological Approaches to Overcoming Inequality

Professional Affairs (As needed)

Jeylan Mortimer, Minnesota, Chair. Morti002@atlas.socsci.umn.edu (05-06)
Carmi Schooler, NIH. carmi.schooler@nih.gov (06-07)
Peter Burke, UCR peter.burke@ucr.edu (07-08)

SSSI Liaison (ongoing)

Kent Sandstrom, Northern Iowa kent.sandstrom@uni.edu

Ad Hoc Committee (ongoing)

Membership

Lisa Rashotte, UNC Charlotte lrashotte@uncc.edu
Stuart Hysom, TX A&M shysom@tamu.edu

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION COUNCIL MEETING

August 12, 2006

Council Meeting Minutes

Attending: Murray Webster, Judy Howard, Jane Sell, Lisa Troyer, Diane Felmlee, Stefanie Mollborn, Michael Lovaglia, Jan Stets, Gretchen Peterson, Kathy Kuipers, Elizabeth Menaghan, Karen Hegtvedt, Kimberly Manturuk, Jeremy Freese.

Section Chair, Murray Webster convened the meeting at 7:10 AM. He thanked the Council for its work over the past year.

Announcements

Webster began by announcing the Section's election results:

Chair-Elect: Lisa Troyer

Council Member: Jeremy Freese

Council Member: William Corsaro

Student Council Member: Kimberly Manturuk

Webster thanked Stephanie Molborn, Jan Stets, and Peter Callero, who were finishing their terms as Council members.

Since Troyer had one more year to serve as Section Secretary/Treasurer, a replacement needed to be appointed. Webster indicated his interest in appointing Timothy Owens (also the Section's Webmaster), whom Webster had already approached about the possibility, given the Council's approval. The Council approved the appointment.

Webmaster

Timothy Owens will also continue as the Section's Webmaster (with the Section's gratitude, in light of the outstanding work he has done on developing and maintaining the Web site).

Newsletter Editor

Gretchen Peterson will be stepping down as the Section's newsletter editor, and Kathy Kuipers will take her place. Peterson plans to issue one more newsletter, as Kuipers transitions into her new role. Peterson noted that the most formidable challenge of the editorship is in securing material from Section members. Council offered several suggestions regarding individuals who might be approached to solicit material for the newsletter.

Cooley-Mead Award

Jody Clay-Warner chaired the Cooley-Mead Award Committee and reminded the Council that Lynn Smith-Lovin was the awardee.

Webster reminded the Council of two important events:

Business Meeting (4:30PM, 8/13/06 in the Palais de Congres)

Cooley-Mead Address (following the Business Meeting)

Council members noted that the Cooley Mead address was actually on the ASA schedule at 4:30, to be followed by the Section Business Meeting. Webster proposed a short Business Meeting at the beginning

of the two-hour block, rather than after the first hour, to more smoothly transition into the Cooley-Mead reception that would follow the address. Council agreed.

Professional Affairs Committee

Webster reported that Peter Burke (Chair of the Professional Affairs Committee) did not have anything to report.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Troyer noted improvements in obtaining quarterly reports from ASA for the Section's budget, compared to the prior year when no budgets were provided. She reported that the Section is in good financial shape, both with respect to finances and membership. The Section's beginning balance for the year was \$8,895, expenses-to-date totaled \$600 (reflected the award provided to the graduate student paper award winner), income-to-date (from section allocation and dues) totaled \$2,728. This leaves a current net balance of \$11,023.

Troyer noted further that there were further expenses for the year that she was anticipating including: Reception costs (around \$2,500), and additional award costs (plaques for the graduate student award winner and Cooley-Mead Award winner, amounting to around \$400). In addition, Troyer anticipated \$924.99 in royalties from John DeLamater's generous arrangement to share 50% of his *Handbook of Social Psychology* royalties with the section. Troyer asked that DeLamater be recognized at the Section Business Meeting and Webster agreed. Troyer also asked the award committee chairs to send the plaque receipts to Timothy Owens, since after the Business Meeting, Tim would be the new Secretary/Treasurer. Troyer stated that she anticipated the net balance (accounting for these additional expenditures and income) to be about \$9,048. She further noted that in addition to the contributions of DeLamater, the healthy financial state of the Section reflected stable membership. As of 7/31/06, the membership was at 641, compared to 674 in 12/2005 (just before membership renewals were required). She noted that the Section expected to pick up 20-30 additional members through registrations and corresponding renewals that usually occurred at the meetings, thus reflecting a stable membership. Finally, she noted that to pick up an extra session at the annual meeting, would require a major push in generating new memberships, since the next benchmark for an additional session is currently 800 or more members.

Announcements

Webster reported on the Jobs Reception (for social psychologists on or about-to-enter the job market). Approximately 30-35 job-seekers and potential employers attended. Jane Sell suggested that it might be a good idea to hold the Jobs Reception again in 2007. Howard concurred with the idea and asked about costs/funding. Under Sell's chairpersonship, Texas A&M had covered the costs and Webster planned to ask his dean to cover the costs for 2006. Troyer asserted that it might not always be easy for chairs to obtain the support of their university and suggested that next year the Section might pilot a "subscription-based" reception. That is, participating employing (or potentially employing) institutions might pay a fee to participate in the reception to offset its costs. The details of how this would be worked out will need to be refined, but Howard and Troyer plan to pilot the idea next year (e.g., through pre-meeting announcements).

Jan Stets noted that a volume edited by Peter Burke, Timothy Owens, Richard Serpe, and Peggy Thoits (*Advances in Identity Theory and Research*) was also supposed to contribute some proportion of royalties to the Section. Troyer noted that she had no record of it, but that in the absence of Section budgets last year, it was possible some deposits had been made. She stated, however, that in her past experience she would usually see some documentation of such a transaction (e.g., receipt, purchase order). Stets agreed to look into it and report back to the Section.

New Business

Chair-Elect Judy Howard discussed her ideas regarding the 2007 Annual Meeting. She began by noting that since the Social Psychology Section's "Section Day" would be on the last day of the meetings, the Section would be allocated an extra session. She indicated her interest in a theme to dovetail with the Annual Meeting theme, around the topic of how social psychology can be a tool for societal critique. She indicated that she would like to organize a sessions around critical social psychology; definitions of power and justice; and social psychology as a tool for analysis/critique of higher education. She encouraged the Council to suggest additional topics, given the extra session available to the Section in 2007.

Stets asked if she might share some information with the Section regarding the early stages of a new edited volume that was being planned in social psychology. The substance and organization was sketchy, but that several authors of other recently published books had received queries about contributing to the new volume. She suggested that it might be a good idea for the Section to follow this development, if it does move forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05AM

Business Meeting

August 13, 2006

Attendance: 61 Section Members.

The meeting was convened by Chair Murray Webster at 4:35PM

Webster advised the membership that a change to the order of events over the 2-hour block was being made and that a very short business meeting would be held before the Cooley-Mead Address, allowing for a smooth transition from the Address to the following reception.

Webster announced the Section election results:

Chair-Elect: Lisa Troyer

Council Member: Jeremy Freese

Council Member: William Corsaro

Student Council Member: Kimberly Manternach

Webster thanked Stephanie Molborn, Jan Stets, and Peter Callero, who were finishing their term as Council members.

In light of Troyer's election to the Chair-Elect, Webster announced that Timothy Owens had been appointed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the year remaining under Troyer's term. Webster then called for the Secretary/Treasurer's report from Troyer for 2006. Troyer noted that the Section was in good shape with a current net balance of over \$11k. She did note that expenses for the current Meeting (awards and receptions) would still be charged to the Section (approximately \$2,900) and income amounting to about \$925 (which Webster would explain momentarily) was anticipated. This would bring the Section budget to about \$9k, just slightly higher than the year's beginning budget of about \$8.9k. Troyer further noted that the membership was healthy at 641 as of 7/31/06, compared to 674 on 12/31/05. She stated that usually the Section picks up 20-30 members as a result of registrations/renewals at the Annual Meeting, which would bring the Section back to its December 2005 level.

Nominations Committee

Viktor Gecas thanked the Committee members for putting together a good slate of candidates for the Section, noted the Sections appreciation to those who agreed to be nominated, and congratulated the winners. He reported that there were no problems with the process.

Graduate Student Affairs Committee

Kathy Kuipers thanked the Committee for its efforts and thanked the nominees, noting that several outstanding papers had been received. The winner was Steven Nelson (University of Arizona).

Professional Affairs Committee

There was no report from the Professional Affairs Committee

Newsletter Editor

Webster noted that Gretchen Peterson was stepping down as newsletter editor and that Kathy Kuipers had agreed to assume the position. He thanked Peterson for the many successful issues she had put together and the hard work she had devoted. Webster further requested that members be generous in sharing material with Kuipers for publication in the newsletter.

Webmaster

Timothy Owens was not present to issue a report, but Webster noted the continued success of the Web site as a point of distribution for important Section information. He noted the Section's gratitude to Owens for the work he had put into developing and maintaining the site.

Announcements

Webster issued a special thanks to John DeLamater for his contribution of 50% of the royalties of his *Handbook of Social Psychology* to the Section. This year, the royalties came in at \$924.99. Troyer reported that the prior year, the Section received over \$3k from DeLamater and that this was an important contribution to the Section's fiscal well-being.

Webster displayed a listing of new books by Section members on the overhead and noted that this level of productivity was indicative of the vibrancy of the Section. He commended the authors for their important contributions.

Webster announced that Gary Alan Fine was the incoming editor at *Social Psychology Quarterly* and thanked Spencer Cahill (outgoing editor) for his work on the journal.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Incoming Chair, Judy Howard

Webster thanked the Section for its support over the past year and turned the chairpersonship over to Judy Howard. Howard called for the recognition of Webster for his leadership of the Section during the prior year, to which the Section enthusiastically responded.

Howard noted the policy-oriented theme for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the ASA and her intention to complement it with sessions on social psychology as a tool of social critique. She noted that Karen Hegtvedt would be planning a session on the concepts of power and justice as tools for analysis; Peter

Callero would be organizing a session on critical social psychology; and Paul LaPore would be working on a session on social psychology as a tool for analysis and critique of higher education. She also noted that the Section would receive a "bonus session," since the Section Day would be the last day of the Annual Meeting and invited the membership to suggest ideas for it.

Howard asked the membership if there was any new business or announcements. None were offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02PM.

GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD REPORT

Committee Members:

Kathy Kuipers (Chair), University of Montana

Michael Lovaglia, University of Iowa

Jodi O'Brien, Seattle University

Brent Simpson, University of South Carolina

D'Lane Rebecca Compton (Student Member), Texas A&M University

The following announcement was posted on the Social Psychology section website by Murray Webster, section chair:

The Social Psychology Section of the ASA 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 where the prize will be awarded. *Please send an electronic version of the paper by March 15, 2006 to:* Chair of committee is Kathy Kuipers, University of Montana
Kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu

The announcement was also submitted to *Footnotes* and the ASA website by the section chair but when the ASA editors contacted me about it, I submitted the same announcement with an earlier due date (February 15, 2006), consistent with what Jan Stets had used the previous year. Unfortunately, this meant that two different dates were posted so we accepted papers until the latter date of March 15, 2006. (Suggestion for the future: coordinate with the chair about the due date.)

Sixteen papers were entered for the competition. I gave committee members until May 1 to read and evaluate the papers. In order to give them a little bit of extra time for reading and evaluating the papers, I emailed half of the papers as attachments on March 8 and the other half on March 15 (except for one committee member who was away from her office and required paper copies.) Committee members were asked to rank their top six papers and also were given the option of including comments to be passed on to the authors. While written comments are desirable and undoubtedly valuable for authors, particularly student authors, I didn't feel that there was enough time to require members to read, evaluate, and provide comments on all 16 papers. I received only very brief comments (1-2 sentences per paper) from only one of the committee members. Although the list of instructions for our committee on the website suggests a different ranking procedure and that all members submit comments, I used the same procedures that Jan Stets used last year.

There was some question about one of the papers because, of the three authors, only one was a student at the time that the paper was submitted. After re-reading the rules and conferring with Murray

Webster (section chair) and Jane Sell (former section chair) and contacting the authors, we decided that because all three were students at the time that the paper was written, it was allowable.

There was a clear winner: Steven M. Nelson, University of Arizona, for his paper, "Redefining a Bizarre Situation: Relative Concept Stability in Affect Control Theory." Reaching an early decision was important so that the winner could make adequate plans to attend the ASA meetings. Authors of the other 15 papers were notified through email on May 9 that they had not won. They were not given specific comments but were encouraged about their papers and their research and thanked for their entries. The winner was announced in two places. I notified the section webmaster, Tim Owens, so that it could be placed on the Social Psychology website. Additionally, I submitted information on the winning paper and a brief biography of the author to Gretchen Petersen, editor, for the section's summer newsletter.

After a brief discussion, the treasurer, Lisa Troyer, and chair, Murray Webster, decided that the section could award a total of \$600 to the author to defray costs for the flight and accommodations for the ASA meetings. Additionally, the recipient received a plaque to be presented at the business meeting. The recipient misunderstood that the plaque would be presented at the business meeting, not the reception so he was not present at the meeting to receive his award. Additionally, as we often do, we held the business meeting before the Cooley-Mead address (rather than after) to ensure attendance. In the future, I suggest that the chair reconfirm the time and location with the recipient. Because recipients are graduate students, they may be confused about the different meetings of the sections. The plaque reads:

Social Psychology Section
Graduate Student Paper Award 2006

Presented to

Steven M. Nelson
University of Arizona
"Redefining a Bizarre Situation: Relative Concept Stability in Affect Control Theory"
American Sociological Association

I ordered the plaque locally as part of my duties as chair of the committee.

Winning Paper:

Redefining a Bizarre Situation: Relative Concept Stability in Affect Control Theory*

Steven M. Nelson
University of Arizona

ABSTRACT

I analyze the process by which we cognitively react to information that contradicts our culturally held sentiments in the context of affect control theory. However, affect control theory currently has no formal model to predict which concept will undergo reidentification. I consider theoretical reasons why actors, behaviors and object persons, respectively, might be predicted to undergo reidentification more than the others. I also present an alternative prediction, consistent with affect control theory logic, based on the respective contributions each concept makes to the total deflection of the event. I label these discrete contributions “component deflections.” I then test these possibilities in two separate experimental studies, using event vignettes. The most commonly reidentified event component is, by far, the behavior, suggesting a dynamism to the conceptualization of behaviors that has been underappreciated in a social psychological literature that focuses on self-identities.