



# Social Psychology

Summer 2002

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## CHAIR'S REMARKS

Phillip Bonacich  
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The Annual ASA meetings begin on August 16<sup>th</sup> and run through August 19<sup>th</sup>. Our section sessions will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. We begin (very early) with the Social Psychology Council meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am. Dr. Bernard Cohen is the Cooley-Mead Award recipient this year and he will be presenting his address at 8:30am. Please plan on attending this important event. Our business meeting will follow the address. See the schedule below for the times of the other section session, and see their complete listings on pages 6-8.

Additionally, I want to remind you of the group process meetings to be held the day before the ASA meetings start, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Four sessions are planned: Future Avenues for Research; Graduate Student Research; Work at the Interfaces of Research Programs and Methods; Complexity and Self-Organizing Group. (To register, contact Michael Lovaglia, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242; [Michael-lovaglia@uiowa.edu](mailto:Michael-lovaglia@uiowa.edu)).

Finally, I want to thank all those who helped with the section this year. Our new officers are listed below. Thanks to all of you who help make this section vibrant!

### Newly Elected Officers

Chair elect: Guillermina Jasso  
Council:  
Cathryn Johnson, Emory University  
Dawn T. Robinson, University of Iowa  
Council Graduate Representative:  
Mark A. Konty, University of Arizona

### Social Psychology Section Preliminary Schedule

#### August 18<sup>th</sup>:

7:30 Social Psychology Council Meeting  
8:30 Cooley-Mead Award Address  
9:30 Social Psychology Business Meeting  
10:30 Status, Ascription, and Inequality  
2:30 Refereed Roundtables  
4:30 Identity, Ascription, and Inequality

Joint Reception of Social Psychology and Sociology of Emotions

#### August 19<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Recent Research and Theory in Social Psychology

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Jane Sell  
Texas A&M University  
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In this edition of the newsletter, we feature the upcoming Social Psychology Section's sessions. See pages 6, 7 and 8 for a listing of the sessions, the presenters and the organizers. We also highlight two social psychologists from Oklahoma State University. (By the way, Oklahoma State is also the home of the Theory Section newsletter edited by David Knottnerus and Jean Van Delinder.) Jason Ulsperger, a Ph. D. candidate, discusses his research in which he analyzes both the structure and processes involved in nursing homes. J. David Knottnerus details his theory of structural ritualization and some of its theoretical and empirical branches in the Theory and Research column.

Bernard Phillips asks whether social psychology is as broad as we like to think, and argues that the world challenges us to think in more encompassing ways. He issues an invitation to join the "Sociological Imagination Group".

I look forward to seeing many of you at the ASA meetings. The session times (as they were listed at the time the newsletter was finished) are listed on page 1. Please make sure to attend the Cooley-Mead award where we will honor Bernard Cohen for his many enduring contributions to the field of sociological social psychology. Note that the time of the Cooley-Mead presentation is different from our usual afternoon timeslot. In the fall edition of the newsletter, we will feature an interview with Professor Cohen.

In the last newsletter, Lynn Smith-Lovin addressed some issues raised in Marcel C. LaFollette's book, *Stealing Into Print*. I recently had the opportunity to hear Professor LaFollette discuss her work and other observations related to scientific misconduct. It is true that many instances (some quite famous recent cases, for example) are egregious examples, cases in which people clearly knew what they were doing, and simply appropriated the work of others. But, I think that we will not take the issue seriously if we *only* use these cases as our guide. We need to take responsibility for detailing what ethical issues involve and how we can monitor others and ourselves. So, to take a relatively familiar example, suppose we review a grant from the National Science Foundation. Such situations are those in which the proposal writer is most vulnerable: the reviewer knows the researcher's identity while the researcher does not know the reviewer's identity, the research is proposed, not already conducted. In the role of reviewer, we are supposed to critically evaluate and then provide comments designed to help with the researcher's agenda. Then, we are to destroy the proposals and not breach confidentiality. All fine and well, but, given the time we have devoted to our reviewing, can we genuinely say that our thinking about our own work has not been affected? Of course not. We know this as social psychologists. So, how can we monitor our own ideas and research so that we can allocate credit when it is deserved, and more clearly distinguish between the sources of ideas?

One possibility is to carefully construct detailed research diaries. Many researchers already keep such diaries, but I suspect the majority of us do not consistently update these diaries, on say, a weekly basis. What are the benefits of such a diary? First, it serves to reflect our thoughts and to remind us of theoretical and empirical problems that seem to reoccur. But in the process of reporting to ourselves, we also make the source of new ideas or new ways of looking at events clearer to ourselves. Such self-reporting can only benefit our thinking and our research.

## SECTION MEMBERSHIP

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After a number of recruiting efforts (the most recent of which involved contacting "lapsed" members — i.e., persons who maintained their ASA membership, but not their Social Psychology section membership), I am pleased to report that we have managed to maintain section membership at a level comparable to that achieved in recent years. To be precise, our current section membership count is 573 (as of June 21). According to the ASA, counts for the previous 11 years in May/June were:

2001 = 583; 2000 = 595; 1999 = 644;  
1998 = 626; 1997 = 591 1996 = 587;  
1995 = 581; 1994 = 576; 1993 = 584;  
1992 = 593; 1991 = 563.

Thus, while slightly below the average for the prior 11 years (mean = 593), we are currently at a level where, with some additional recruiting, we should be able to surpass the "600 member" threshold required to maintain four regular sessions at the annual meetings. With this goal in mind, members are asked to continue encouraging colleagues to join our section. Additionally, we encourage you to "sponsor" interested graduate students by covering their \$5 membership fee.

I'd like to thank the other members of the committee for their efforts on behalf of the section this year. They are:

Kathleen Crittenden (Illinois-Chicago),  
Anna LoMascolo (Virginia Tech),  
Lisa Rashotte (UNC-Charlotte), and  
Shane Thye (South Carolina).

The Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announces the report from the Black Pride Survey 2000: *Say it Loud- I'm Black and I'm Proud*, by Juan Battle, Cathy J. Cohen, Dorian Warren, Gerard Ferguson, and Suzette Audam.

For more information: [www.ngltf.org](http://www.ngltf.org)

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## Is Social Psychology As Broad as We Like to Think?

by Bernard Phillips, *Bernieflps@alo.com*

co-editor and founder of the Aldine Series, "Sociological Imagination and Structural Change"

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The field of social psychology appears to be quite comprehensive, straddling both sociology and psychology. Yet we know that social psychologists who are sociologists emphasize different readings and different types of research than social psychologists who are psychologists. Further, we know that social psychology is only one of forty-plus sections of the ASA, and this fact should give us further pause about the breadth of social psychology. To what extent, for example, does social psychology take into account what we've learned from history? From studies of culture? From analyses of patterns of social organization in society as a whole? From studies of a variety of social problems affecting all society, like war, terrorism and the accelerating gap between the rich and the poor throughout the world? Can we indeed continue to feel comfortable in cutting up the pie of human behavior and centering on our own slice when we have learned just how complex human behavior really is? If we look to the future and assume that knowledge from our slice of social psychology will come to be combined—somehow, somewhere—with the rest of the pie of sociology and even of social science, do we indeed feel comfortable with that assumption?

And, if we come to believe that such integration of knowledge is absolutely essential if we are to be able to understand and confront complex problems like terrorism with weapons of mass destruction, can we still rest easy in continuing with business as usual within our section?

I believe that what we require within our own Section, within every other Section, and within the social sciences is nothing less than a far more comprehensive approach to the scientific method than we presently have. Such an approach would help us to address the enormous complexity within human behavior and within contemporary social problems like terrorism. It would enable us to build bridges fostering communication among the forty-plus sections of the ASA as well as among the social sciences. And it could yield the platform of integrated knowledge which we desperately need to address humongous social problems like war and terrorism with weapons of mass destruction.

Over the past three years I've been attempting to develop a scientific method that opens us up to the knowledge hiding within the diverse fields of our discipline, granting that it comes to no more than the proverbial drop in the bucket. In my just-published *Beyond Sociology's Tower of Babel: Reconstructing the Scientific Method* (Aldine de Gruyter, 2001) I attempted to sketch and illustrate an approach that promises

to build bridges connecting our specialized areas, an approach which I believe promises to yield the rapid cumulative development of knowledge within sociology and the social sciences we desperately need. Also, a group of sociologists and a philosopher of social science have joined forces in a volume, *Toward A Sociological Imagination: Bridging Specialized Fields* (University Press of America; authors: Howard Becker, David Britt, Chanoch Jacobsen, James Kimberly, Harold Kincaid, Richard Lachmann, David Maines, myself, Suzanne Retzinger and Thomas Scheff). The volume grew out of the first conference of the "Sociological Imagination Group" in 2000 during the Washington ASA meetings, an informal group which now holds a research conference during the evenings of every annual ASA meeting.

The Sociological Imagination Group is also planning a conference at the Atlanta meetings in 2003 with the title, "Toward A Sociological Imagination: The Web Approach to Sociological Theory". And we plan two conferences at the 2004 meetings in San Francisco with the same main title but these two subtitles: "The Web Approach to Terrorism" and "The Web Approach to the Social Sciences, the Humanities, and Terrorism."

I urge everyone in the Section planning to attend the Chicago ASA meetings to consider visiting the group's open meetings on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 8-10PM and Sunday, 6:30-8:15 PM (place to be specified in the final program). Presently, the Sociological Imagination Group is no more than a relatively small and little-known collection of individuals. I believe that the discipline requires a large, active and growing movement committed to determining how to achieve rapid cumulative development, and also committed to achieving that development. Such a movement could move toward fulfilling what C. Wright Mills called "the promise of sociology." And it could also yield the basis in knowledge for confronting what I see as rapidly accelerating problems like terrorism with weapons of mass destruction.

### **Future ASA Meetings:**

2003

August 16-19  
Atlanta, Georgia

2004

August 14-17  
San Francisco, California

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## Graduate Student Profile

Jason Ulsperger  
Oklahoma State University  
[ulsperger@hotmail.com](mailto:ulsperger@hotmail.com)



Jason Ulsperger is a Ph.D. candidate at Oklahoma State University. His studies focus on social psychology, criminology, and gerontology. Jason's primary research areas include perceptions of the elderly, organizational deviance, and social movements. A large portion of his work involves issues related to long-term care. Currently, he is interested in examining the organizational variation of interaction patterns in nursing homes.

Jason traces his fascination with sociology to his undergraduate work and employment experiences. While working on a degree in political science, the concept of political socialization attracted him. As his interests developed, he decided to obtain a master's degree in sociology from Arkansas State University. While seeking his degree, he gained employment as an intervention specialist working with juvenile delinquents in Arkansas. Jason soon desired to increase his knowledge of social psychological processes that shape definitions of deviance. In his final year at Arkansas State University, he performed an internship at a nursing home. The relationships he developed with residents inspired him to explore the field of gerontology. He quickly decided to combine insight from social psychology and other fields to better understand long-term care environments.

Since his enrollment in the Ph.D. program at Oklahoma State University, Jason has published several manuscripts. In one article, he explores the influence of exchange on intergenerational relationships. The study indicates that young adults have favorable impressions of the elderly when they receive rewards from interaction. This research appears in *The Southwest Journal on Aging* (Ulsperger, 2001). In a subsequent paper with his wife Kristen, he used government records to examine quality of care in for-profit and nonprofit nursing homes. The research, which appears in *Free Inquiry in Creative Sociology*, shows a connection between nursing home ownership and the number of citations given by state inspectors. The paper indicates that for-profit nursing homes may provide an environment conducive to substandard levels of care (Ulsperger and Ulsperger, 2001). Under the guidance of Thomas Shriver, Jason's next project focused on social movements. Using media reports from six major U.S. newspapers, the research indicates that a frame transformation process has countered a recent period of abeyance in the nursing home reform movement. The study appears in a forthcoming issue of *Sociological Spectrum*.

For his dissertation, Jason is analyzing interaction in nursing homes using David Knottnerus' theory of structural ritualization. He is seeking to determine if ritualized practices in for-profit facilities foster reasoning driven by commodification. In addition, he is considering whether ritualized practices in certain nonprofit facilities center on themes of morality and bureaucratization.

*Statement:* With an increase in the elderly population, social psychological issues related to the aged will be of increasing importance. Consider long-term care. I believe there are good and bad nursing homes. However, if we can use social psychological theory to discover ritualized practices that facilitate better care, then the ability to improve the quality of life for many people would exist.

### 2001-2002 Social Psychology Section Committees:

#### Nominations

Jan Stets, chair, [stets@wsu.edu](mailto:stets@wsu.edu),  
Marta Elliot, Noah Friedkin,  
Gretchen Peterson, Teresa  
Tsushima

#### Professional Affairs

Geoffrey Tootell, chair,  
[gtootell@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:gtootell@email.sjsu.edu), Jane  
Piliavin,  
Alison Bianche

#### Graduate Student Affairs

Scott Feld, chair, [sfeld@lsu.edu](mailto:sfeld@lsu.edu),  
Linda Francis, Jeffrey Houser,  
Shirley Keeton, James Moody,  
Blane DaSilva

#### Cooley-Mead Award

David Willer, chair,  
[willer@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:willer@gwm.sc.edu), Karen Cook,  
Jeremy Freese,  
Robert K. Shelly, Shane Thye

#### Membership

Matt Hunt, chair,  
[mohunt@lynx.neu.edu](mailto:mohunt@lynx.neu.edu), Kathleen  
Crittenden  
Anna LoMascolo, Lisa Rashotte,  
Shane Thye

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J. David Knottnerus  
Oklahoma State University  
jdk2307@okstate.edu



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### The Importance and Pervasiveness of Ritual Examined through the Theory of Structural Ritualization

Daily life is normally characterized by an array of personal and social rituals. Such rituals help create stability to social life while expressing various symbolic meanings that give significance to our actions. Everyday rituals, whether occurring in small groups or organizations, can also lead to consequences unintended or unanticipated by group members while both being fed by and feeding into larger societal levels of interaction. The basic assumption that rituals are crucial to human behavior is consistent with the arguments of various scholars including Durkheim, Goffman, Collins, Warner, and Nadel who have used this concept for analytical purposes.

Building upon these various contributions I have more formally defined ritualization and presented a set of factors to explain how social action and social structure is reproduced and transformed. In its original formulation the theory of structural ritualization emphasizes the importance of embedded groups or groups that are nested within a more encompassing collectivity (e.g., an informal youth group in a school or a slave society within a plantation). The formulation focuses on the ritualized actions performed in a wider social environment that acquire significance for the actor and then become part of the individual's script for his or her immediate world. In this way, although practices are not just "copied," they surface and are expressed in ways that may confirm the pattern of behavior in the wider social environment. The central definition *ritualized symbolic practice* ("action repertoire that is schema-driven") and a number of other concepts (e.g., rank, salience, repetitiveness, homologousness, and resources) allow for a more precise examination of empirical evidence and test of the theory.

Experimental tests examining the reproduction of hierarchical social structures in task groups have provided support for the theory. Reflecting a commitment to multi-method research, a further instance of such reproduction is found in a historical-comparative analysis demonstrating how female and male youth societies in 19<sup>th</sup> century French elite schools mirrored the respective institutional system they were embedded in. And, other studies have focused on the transmission of status structures from owners of slave plantations to the slave society itself and the training of youth to become military warriors within an ancient, state-run militaristic social system.

This work provides the basis for further theory development and research. I am presently examining four areas that seem especially worthy of investigation. One body of research addresses the basic assumption underlying this theoretical framework that ritualized practices play a central role in social life by investigating different aspects of "deritualization," i.e., the breakdown of previously engaged in ritualized symbolic practices. Experimental studies are currently underway examining how positive, negative, and neutral disruptions affect ritualized social practices in task groups, the efficiency of those activities, and group members' feelings about the group itself. I am also examining "personal accounts" of individuals interned in concentration camps to study extreme instances of deritualization caused by coercive interventions and whether the reconstitution of ritualized practices enables actors to cope with such disruptions.

A second line of research identifies and examines different types of "strategic ritualization," i.e., agents utilizing or manipulating a system of ritualized practices in order to realize certain outcomes. Some of this work (which focuses on ethnic group dynamics and politically sponsored ritual programs) explicitly addresses the interconnections between social power and rituals. A third topic deals with organizational processes and variation, particularly within nursing homes. This research conceptualizes organizational dynamics as involving collections of ritualized symbolic practices operating at different intra-organizational levels and suggests that ritualized actions such as these can significantly influence social processes operating in such settings. A final issue concerns the role ritualized practices play in inequality formation. Here, attention is directed to the ways ritualized symbolic frameworks and behaviors create and maintain structured inequalities between gender, class, and racial/ethnic groups.

In sum, research continues to examine in greater depth the dynamics and consequences of deritualization and expand upon current theory/research focused on the various ways ritual enactments structure social phenomena from micro to macro levels of analysis.

Group Process Meetings!  
Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>  
Chicago, Illinois

**Identity, Ascription,  
and Inequality: Recent Research and Theory**

Organizer and Presider: Dawn T. Robinson, University of Iowa

Skin Color and Perception of Cognitive Ability for Black and Hispanic  
Americans: Is Skin Color a Diffuse Status Characteristic?  
Mark Edward Hill, Pennsylvania State University

In-Group Disparaging Humor: Conditions of Amusement and Consequences for  
Social Identity.  
Mark A. Ferguson, Western Michigan University

Self-Verification across Multiple Identities: The Role of Status.  
Jan E. Stets, Washington State University; Michael Harrod, Washington State  
University

Identity and Interaction: The Effect of Hegemonic Complicity upon  
Voluntary Personal Relationships among White, Middle-Class, Middle-Aged  
Men.  
Don P. Levy, University of Connecticut

Discussion: Lynn Smith-Lovin, University of Arizona

**Recent Research and Theory in Social Psychology**

Organizer and Presider: Noah Mark, Stanford University

Nobuyuki Takahashi, Hokkaido University, "The Effect of Homophily on the False Consensus Effect."

Lisa Slattery Rashotte, University of North Carolina—Charlotte, "Written versus Visual Stimuli in the Study of  
Impression Formation."

Peter J. Burke, Washington State University, and Michael H. Harrod, Washington State University, "Too Good  
To Be Believed?"

Brent Simpson, University of South Carolina, "Sex, Fear, and Greed: A Social Dilemma Analysis of Gender and  
Cooperation."

David Willer, University of South Carolina, Casey Borch, University of South Carolina, and Robb Willer, Cornell  
University, "Games, Norms and Status: A Theoretical Model of Solidarity and Cohesion."

## Refereed Roundtables on Social Psychology

Organizer: *Jan E. Stets*, Washington State University

1. The Self

Table President: *Chris F. Biga*, Washington State University

*Timothy J. Owens*, Purdue University; and *Richard T. Serpe*, California State University, San Marcos, The Role of Self-Esteem in Family Identity Salience and Commitment Among African-Americans, Latinos, and Whites

*Edina Jambor* and *Marta Elliot*, University of Nevada, Reno  
Coping with Stigma and Self-Esteem: A Case Study of the Deaf

*Nesaraj Vamadevan*, Washington State University  
Authenticity

2. Identities

Table President: *Stuart Hysom*, Emory University

*Stephanie M. Arnett*, University of Notre Dame  
Formations of Identity and Meanings of 'Home': Historical, Social Psychological and Cultural Perspectives

*Elizabeth A. Larsen*, University of Pittsburgh  
Racetrack Workers Interpretations of Self, Life, and Career: The Use of Narrative to Create and Maintain a Positive Sense of Collective Identity in the Face of Limited Power and Constrained Interaction

*Tara A. Dunphy*, University of Waterloo; and *Neil MacKinnon*, University of Guelph  
Applying Affect Control Theory to Folklore Research

3. Gender

Table President: *Jessica L. Brown*, University of Arizona

*Kate M. Hagadone*, Kalamazoo College; and *Stacy Kalair*, *Jenna Brooks*, and *Thomas E. Ford*, Western Michigan University  
Sense of Humor as a Moderator of Stereotype Threat Effects on Women's Assessments of Math Performance

*James Lee*, University of South Alabama  
Are Girls' Identities Influenced by Social Relationships More than Boys?

*Karen G. Weiss*, State University of New York, Stony Brook  
He Raped Me, But it Wasn't His Fault: A Gendered Analysis of Date Rape Victim's Accounts

4. Group Behavior

Table President: *Chris Bourg*, Stanford University

*Eric K. Shaw*, Rutgers University  
Contingency and Trust: A Social Psychological Look at 'Completing' the Social Exchange

*David D. Bogumil*, Wright State University  
Terrorism by Any Other Name: Individual, Organizational, and International Reciprocity Attribution Typology

*A. Paul Hare*, Ben-Gurion University; and *Sharon E. Hare*, Consultant  
Judging Values from Behavior in Small Groups

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## Refereed Roundtables on Social Psychology (continued from page 7)

### 5. Education

President: *Kevin Childers*, University of Iowa

*Ann C. Shelly*, Ashland University; and *Robert K. Shelly*, Ohio University

Explaining Collaborative Learning: Constructivism, Norms, and Tasks

*Danis Joyce Gehl*, University of Buffalo, State University of New York

Irreconcilable Differences: Master Frames, Identity Construction, and Frame Disputes within the Buffalo Board of Education

*Brian Carolan*, Columbia University; and *Joanna L. Bron*, CUNY Graduate Center

Tethering Identity: Switches in Art Worlds and Classrooms

### 6. Deviance

President: *Shirley A. Keeton*, University of Central Florida

*C. Wesley Younts*, University of Iowa

The Effects of Model Status and Collective Validation on the Enactment and Cultural Transmission of Deviance

*Jeffrey R. McDade*, Wasburn University

Is it Psychologically Impossible to Hate the Sin and Love the Sinner? Revising G. H. Mead's Conception of the 'Other' in Relation to Social Control

*Amy L. Adamczyk*, Pennsylvania State University

Frankl, Bettelheim and the Camps

### **Status, Ascription, and Inequality: Recent Research and Theory**

Organizer: *Lisa Troyer*, University of Iowa

Papers:

(Paper and/or Abstract Drafts Available On-Line at: <http://troyer.sociology.uiowa.edu/asaspq>)

*Joseph M. Whitmeyer*, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

The Mathematics of Expectation States Theory

*Martha Foschi*, University of British Columbia

On the Application-Files Design for the Study of Double Standards

*Chris Bourg*, Stanford University

Gender Mistakes and Inequality

*Shelley J. Correll*, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Constraints into Preferences: Gender, Status, and the Career Choice Process

*Thomas E. Ford*, *Mark A. Ferguson*, and *Stacy Kalair*, Western Michigan University

Effects of Sexist Humor on Tolerance of Sexist Events: The Role of Normative Structure

*Susan Sprecher*, *Maria Schmeekle*, Illinois State University, & *Diane Felmlee*, University of California, Davis

The Principle of Least Interest: Inequality in Emotional Involvement in Young Adult Romantic Relationships

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