



# Social Psychology

Winter 2006

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## CHAIR'S REMARKS

Murray Webster  
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### From the Chair's Desk: To Us!

We have a healthy Section, 674 members at the official ASA count in December. This reflects hard work by our Membership Committee—Lisa Rashotte and Stuart Hysom—and work by others who have invited new members, either directly (inviting them to join) or by making the appeal of social psychology so evident that new members seek it out. Our membership includes many graduate students and those whose degrees are from a year old to more than fifty years.

We also live and work in a healthy environment. Several social psychology research programs continue to build cumulative knowledge about, among other topics, affect and emotions, deviance, gender, identity, networks and bargaining, organizations, and status processes. Furthermore, a review of the Social Science Citation Index shows a surprisingly high number of references to our basic research in applied journals. Social psychology is thriving and useful.

The President's Science Advisor, John Marburger, in a policy speech last year, expressed an interest in promoting social science. Federal agencies that fund our research—NSF, NIH, NIE, NIJ, and many other alphabetic combinations—invite social psychological projects in their program descriptions, and support them. Their research budgets are all up, despite budget cuts in other areas.

We have several superb books suitable for graduate and advanced undergraduate courses, and I know of at least two more in the pipeline. Social Psychology Quarterly, which many of us think of as “our journal,” is the second-oldest ASA journal (SPQ first published as Sociometry in 1937; ASR first published in 1936). SPQ's quality and wide appeal have never flagged. Since my days in graduate school, every issue has had at least one paper that I was eager to read, and usually more than that.

I hope to write more later on all of those topics, but for now, let's reflect upon positive accomplishments and good fortune.

(continued on pg. 2)

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Gretchen Peterson  
California State University, LA  
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As I mentioned at the ASA business meeting, this will be my final year as newsletter editor. Anyone interested in taking over next year should get in touch with me. Putting the newsletter together does take some time but I really do enjoy it and I'm sure others will as well.

You may notice that this edition of the newsletter is a bit shorter than usual. One of the nice things about doing the newsletter electronically is that it gives some flexibility in terms of length so that some editions can be longer and others can be shorter depending on the submissions. I would like to make a plea for people to submit theory, research, or teaching columns for the upcoming issues. I also need to hear of any graduate students who should be profiled. The newsletter depends on your contributions, so please let me know if you would be interested in contributing to any of the upcoming issues (spring or summer). I look forward to hearing from everyone about their newsletter ideas.

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### Call for Papers: Emotions Section Graduate Student Paper Award

ASA's Sociology of Emotions Section's Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award: Nominations are being sought for the most outstanding, article-length graduate student paper that contributes to the sociology of emotions empirically, theoretically, or methodologically. Authors of eligible papers must be graduate students at the time of the paper's submission. Multiple-authored papers are eligible for the award if all authors are graduate students. Papers that have been accepted for publication at the time of nomination are not eligible. To submit a nomination, please send three copies of the paper to:

Jennifer Lois

Department of Sociology

Western Washington University

Bellingham, WA 98225-9081

Deadline for submissions is April 1, 2006.

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

(continued from pg.1)

The environment and social structures, of course, come from actions of individuals. (George Homans wrote "I went to study an organization, but when I got there, all I found was people.") Most individual acts are not highly visible, but cumulatively, they make up social psychology today. As we transit from 2005 to 2006 (in the common calendar), many people reflect on what they have done and where we are. Some often-overlooked individual acts I would salute are the following.

- Here's to you if you invested a little extra time with an undergraduate who expressed an interest in a course topic. You may never know if that had any effect, but sometimes it changes a person's life.
  - Here's to you if you reviewed a paper for a journal last year, or a proposal for a funding agency. That is hard work, mostly invisible, but without it, the collective enterprise would disappear.
  - Here's to you if you tried to be helpful as well as evaluative in commenting on a paper at a professional meeting, or in your journal or proposal reviews. We all get by, mainly, with help from our friends.
  - Here's to you if you wrote to an elected official encouraging support of funding for social science research. Agency officials are not allowed to solicit such letters, but their (and thus, our) budgets depend on it.
  - Here's to you if you used your social psychological skills in a letter to a newspaper or an interview, or gave a lecture in your community. In an age where many lament a dearth of public intellectuals you are an ambassador.
  - Here's to you if you explained to a manager at work (such as a dean at a university or a supervisor in a private or governmental organization) how social psychology can benefit the organization. The value of any body of knowledge or perspective is never self-evident to others, even if it is to us, and we all win when someone explains it to others.
  - Here's to you if you wrote a grant proposal in which one of the goals was to support undergraduate and graduate research assistants. Those students are our future, and they benefit immeasurably from that sort of intellectual involvement; not to mention that most of them also need financial support.
- There are many other acts that deserve recognition, but the sparkling beverage is about depleted. Our challenge will be to surpass everything in the year ahead.

## Pictures from ASA 2005 Meetings



Cecilia Ridgeway receives her Cooley-Mead award from Ed Lawler.



Cecilia Ridgeway gives her Cooley-Mead address.



Graduate Student Paper Award Winners: Stephanie B. Mollborn, Justine E. Tinkler, and Yan E. Li (Stanford University)

### ASA Meetings in 2006

The ASA annual meeting will be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in 2006. The dates of the conference are August 11-14.

### Social Psychology Section Graduate Student Paper Award - 2006

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: Kathy Kuipers, Committee Chair, University of Montana [Kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu](mailto:Kathy.kuipers@umontana.edu)

**Call for Papers  
for A Special Issue of Sociological Focus  
Titled "Group Processes"**

Sociological Focus invites papers that contribute directly to understanding Group Processes in a contemporary sociological context. Papers are encouraged across the broad range of specific theories and varied empirical contexts encompassed by the Group Processes paradigm.

For further information about this special issue, please contact the guest editor Alison J. Bianchi at 323 Merrill Hall, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242-0001, or e-mail her at [abianchi@kent.edu](mailto:abianchi@kent.edu); you can also contact guest editor Robert K. Shelly at Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 129 Bentley Hall Annex, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701, or e-mail him at [shelly@ohio.edu](mailto:shelly@ohio.edu). Submission requirements are available at the journal's web site: [http://www.ncsanet.org/sociological\\_focus/notice05.pdf](http://www.ncsanet.org/sociological_focus/notice05.pdf).

Sociological Focus will forward manuscripts to the special issue editors. All manuscripts will be peer reviewed. Authors of accepted manuscripts can expect publication in early 2007. Submit complete manuscripts to Sociological Focus, Department of Sociology, Box 210378, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0378, no later than February 17, 2006.

**Mid-Annual Group Processes Announcement**

The second Mid-annual Group Processes Meeting will be held in April in conjunction with the Southern Sociological Society meetings in New Orleans. Lisa Rashotte of UNC-Charlotte is organizing the event. Organizers hope to make this an annual event, and rotate it among the regional associations.

**CALL FOR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Future issues of the newsletter depend on contributions from section members. Any ideas for future teaching columns, theory/research columns, graduate student profiles, or other announcements should be sent to the newsletter editor, Gretchen Peterson, at [gpeters@calstatela.edu](mailto:gpeters@calstatela.edu).

The spring edition of the newsletter will be published in April. Any contributions for the spring should be sent by March 31, 2006.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an ASA member and want to join the Social Psychology Section. Enclosed is a check for \$12.00 for section dues this year (\$5.00 for students). Make checks payable to the **American Sociological Association**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not an ASA member but am interested in joining the Social Psychology Section. Please send me information about membership in the ASA. **Mail to:** Membership Services, American Sociological Association, 1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005-4701.