

THE PACIFIC

# Sociologist

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The Pacific Sociological Association

## Dear PSA Members and Colleagues,

The Pacific Sociological Association has been hosting annual meetings for over three quarters of a century. These meetings, as well as the publication of *Sociological Perspectives*, bring a community of scholars, students, and practitioners together for the purpose of disseminating and promoting sociological research. Over the years, the empirical topics of interests have changed with the times, but the importance of developing and disseminating sociological analyses of basic social structures and processes as well as social problems of the day, has remained constant. Now, I'd like to invite you to the 84th annual meeting of the PSA in Reno, Nevada.

The theme of the 84<sup>th</sup> annual meeting is "Research and Teaching Matters: Creating Knowledge, Policy, and Justice." I have chosen this theme to direct attention to a series of questions prompted by a slew of books that decry the decline of the public intellectual in modern life, the desire of many colleagues and students who sincerely want to "make a difference" by contributing to the amelioration of social problems, ongoing discussions among scholars about public sociology and engaged sociology, and my own experiences with bringing basic sociological research to bear on pressing social problems related to crime, law, inequality, and marginalization. Does research matter? Under what conditions does the knowledge produced by research get utilized in the development and implementation of public policy and the pursuit of social, economic, and political justice? By whom and for whom is research conducted and deployed? How is sociological research used by those seeking to address social problems? In what ways do researchers play a role in alleviating social problems as well as contributing to the very conditions and constructions upon which social problems emerge, manifest, get institutionalized, and change? How and when is our research expressed in public debate? What is the content and extent of our influence? And finally, considering examples from the past, what does the future hold?

I ask these questions with a commitment to basic research that empirically examines social structures and processes and a recognition that we live in an historical moment in which we are witnessing "hot spots" around the globe break out in civil unrest, contentious politics, and war; inequalities between the haves and the have nots continue to grow and threaten to divide us, especially by race, ethnicity, class, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, (dis)ability,

religion, and political persuasion; contestation over the allocation of civil rights embodied in larger debates about same-sex marriage, immigration reform, and homeland security; the reconfiguration and, in some cases privatization of, public services related to schooling and prisons; continued environmental degradation that threatens to make us extinct as many influential people flatly reject scientific evidence of global warming; and a host of other social problems. As these and other social problems emerge, take shape, and generate consequences for human welfare, justice, and democracy, there is no doubt that research and its corollaries—education and informed policy and practice—can be important tools to understand our world, alleviate human suffering, and promote justice. My heart hopes that happens. My intellect questions whether, when, and how that has happened in the past and can happen in the future. My humanity tells me we have to try to put these tools to work again and again. And my instinct tells me that cumulatively we can have some incremental impact.

At the annual meetings in Reno we hope to engage in dialogues about the role of critical, scientific, and humanist research in diagnosing and constructing social problems as well as formulating and implementing policies designed to address them in a way that leaves us a more just community at the local, state, national, and international levels. The Program Chair for the meeting, Dennis Downey, and I have been working to ensure the program is as engaging as possible, and we welcome your input. Please contact us if you have ideas or suggestions for special panels or activities. We can be reached via email ([dennis.downey@csuci.edu](mailto:dennis.downey@csuci.edu) and [jenness@uci.edu](mailto:jenness@uci.edu)) and welcome hearing from you.

Finally, please support the PSA by booking at the conference hotel, the Nugget Resort in Reno/Sparks, Nevada. This will assure that we meet our room contract and will help keep the conference costs low. To make a reservation at the low conference rate of \$85 plus tax for a single or double (and free parking), book online at: [www.januggetsecure.com/jump/1511](http://www.januggetsecure.com/jump/1511) or call (800) 648-1177 (group code: GPSAAC). To get this group rate, all reservations must be made by Tuesday, February 19 to get a room at the PSA rate.

*Valerie Jenness*  
*University of California, Irvine*  
*President, Pacific Sociological Association*

# Changes Coming to PSA Program Development Process for 2013 Meetings in Response to Member Concerns and Council of Recommendations

Valerie Jenness, *PSA President*

Dennis J. Downey, *2013 Program Chair*

In recent decades, the annual PSA meetings have come to be the largest and arguably the liveliest of all regional sociology meetings. According to annual membership surveys (and other less formal sources), members place a high value on the collegiality and inclusivity of our meetings, as well as a general atmosphere that promotes networking among members at different points in their careers and with diverse sociological interests. Sociologists in our region—both established professionals and students in training—have benefited enormously from access to such vibrant annual meetings. While the general feedback attests to that vitality, members also commonly express several concerns about the meeting format and dynamics. For a recent expression of those concerns, see the 2011 PSA Annual Meeting Satisfaction Survey, presented by Executive Director Chuck Hohm in the September 2011 issue of our newsletter, *The Pacific Sociologist* (which you can access via the PSA webpage). The findings from 2011 echoed findings from previous surveys regarding the most important and commonly expressed concerns of members; specifically, the unevenness of presentations, the frequent absence of scheduled presenters, low attendance at many sessions and too little time for questions and answers – all of which make lively exchanges less common than they might otherwise be. For some of the membership, these concerns diminish to some extent the value of the meetings insofar as helpful feedback is less consistent for presenters and sessions are less engaging for audiences. (Preliminary analyses of the member survey for the San Diego meetings underscore the same points; full results will be presented in the fall newsletter.)

In 2010, the Membership Committee engaged in a thorough discussion of members' concerns and advanced recommendations to address them. The immediate impetus was the long-term decline in membership composition among faculty at doctoral granting institutions. The PSA has been and remains committed to serving all sociologists in our region (including particular attention to developing and mentoring students); as part of that commitment, we need to retain a strong presence among the most active researchers in our discipline. The committee concluded that the trend was in part attributable to concerns regarding the annual meetings, which made them less attractive for presenting

discipline-leading research. Based on those discussions and drawing on member surveys, the committee developed a detailed report suggesting how the conference format might be altered to address commonly expressed concerns in ways that would make it more attractive for presenting cutting edge research while preserving the inclusiveness and collegiality that members appreciate. (To see the full report, go to the PSA website and link to the page for the 2013 meetings.) The report and recommendations were subsequently sent to the PSA Council which enthusiastically approved them.

For the 2013 meetings in Reno, we will be implementing some of the most important recommendations. We began to get the word out about the changes—via the webpage, a special session on the topic in San Diego, and by communicating to PSA committees and individual members. We have had productive exchanges, and the feedback that we have received has been invaluable in shaping the program development process that we are putting in place for the Reno meetings. At this point, we want to take the opportunity to explain the nature of the changes, what we expect to accomplish by implementing them, and how they will affect the program development processes. As approved by the Council, there will be several changes: 1) expanding the range of session formats organized in the program, including the number of presentations per session; 2) assigning and grouping presentations based on stage of research and type of presentation proposed; and 3) routing open submissions through the Program Committee where they will be assigned to sessions within twenty-five topical areas listed in the call for papers.

## Expanding the range of session formats

One of the general recommendations was that the program is too reliant on the standard session format in which three to four presenters are given fifteen to twenty minutes each to make their presentation. The range of session formats should be expanded and more balanced, which is a direction that has been encouraged for a number of years. That includes expanding the presence of alternative session formats that we currently use, such as workshop sessions, author-meets-critics sessions, and film screening sessions. We also want to encourage new and innovative session formats, and hope to be able to highlight some in Reno. We hope to expand their presence in the program by encourag-

ing members interested in organizing sessions to consider alternative formats. Additionally, sessions created by the Program Committee through the open submission process will assign presentations to sessions not only on the basis of topic, but on the basis of presentation type as well—thereby usefully differentiating among sessions.

## Assigning presentations based on types

The “unevenness” of presentations is one of the most commonly expressed concerns of members. We agree with those who have observed that it is often problematic to have a panel where formal presentations of completed research projects (including theoretical background and questions, methodological issues, presentation of data, and discussion of findings) are paired with presentations of other types—for example, those seeking feedback on research at earlier stages, or sociological analyses of a current issue. Those other types of presentations play a crucial role in our meetings. (In fact, there is a strong argument to be made that research at earlier stages is actually more appropriate for professional meetings, giving presenters the opportunity to elicit collegial feedback when it is most useful.) The central point here is that the problem of unevenness is not reducible to the “quality” of presentations per se; rather, it is generally an issue of different types of presentations—i.e. research at different stages and presentations for different purposes—being grouped into the same sessions and implicitly forced into a single mold (i.e., the formal research paper). Our starting point is the conviction that presentations of all types and research at any stage of development, from nascent ideas to fully developed papers that will rightly soon be submitted for peer review, are appropriate for presentation at our meetings. The challenge is to group similar types of presentations together in sessions that best serve their particular needs. By appropriately matching presentations by subject matter and by the type of presentation, we believe that we can set the stage for more dynamic sessions that will produce invaluable feedback for the presenters and a lively exchange of ideas with audience members.

There is another aspect of the standard presentation format that we want to diversify as well: the standard that suggests that a session consists of three to four presentations of fifteen to twenty minutes each. While that format works reasonably well for formal research paper presentations,

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it is arguably less appropriate for other presentation types. Some types of presentation might be more productive in an abbreviated format (perhaps ten minutes or so) that effectively highlights the central point. That also allows a greater number of presentations to be grouped together in a single session (perhaps six per session). The hope is that this will create a greater critical mass in those sessions—more presentations, larger audiences, and more dynamic discussion. It might also eliminate the serious problem of “no-shows,” since we believe that many of them are members who expected to be able to present formal research but who were not able to complete it in time for presentation at the spring meetings. These changes are a “win-win” for presenters and audiences, and they can be accomplished without in any way reducing the number of members who are able to present their work at our meetings.

In order to allow the Program Committee to effectively group presentations by type, there will be several additional questions in the submission process for the 2013 meetings. Also, for those proposing formal research presentations, a preliminary (not full!) draft of the presentation is required. For more information on the submissions process, please see the detailed explanation posted on the PSA website in the section on the 2013 meetings, titled “Guidelines for Navigating the New Electronic Submission System.”

### **Centralizing the open submission process**

In the past, sessions were proposed by interested members who were then responsible for selecting submissions and organizing the sessions, all working independently. While that “decentralized” system worked reasonably well, there were recurring problems—including thematic overlap across sessions that made it difficult for audiences to find research of interest; overly narrow themes that often left frustrating gaps for members in some topical areas; members being left off of the program when individual organizers were unable to accommodate them (or fail to collect enough papers to create a session); and others. The decentralized system also made it impossible to effectively group and assign presentations based on type, since individual organizers only had access to the proposals sent directly to them. In order to accommodate the effective grouping of presentations by type across the wide range of topical areas represented in the PSA meetings, we are implementing a new system (common to most other professional organizations) that centralizes the process of proposal submission. Therefore, the call for papers for the 2013 meetings

will simply list approximately two dozen topical areas of sociological research, and members submitting proposals through the system will simply select the area to which their proposal most directly speaks. All proposals within each topical area will be reviewed by the Program Committee member responsible for the area, who will then assign proposals to sessions organized on the basis of both presentation topic type—producing benefits for presenters and audiences alike.

### **Member involvement in the program development process**

While the new procedures shift the primary focus of the submission process away from individual members working independently, there are still ample opportunities for members to contribute to the program development process to ensure that their particular interests are represented on the program—including organizing sessions.

First, members can still organize sessions. We have identified two general contexts in which member-organized sessions are most welcome. One is invited sessions of any type (in which the organizer contacts and recruits participants directly, without an open call). Invited sessions are often highlights of the program, generally including presenters who are particularly noteworthy in their area. Such sessions may take any of a variety of forms—including the alternative formats that we would particularly like to encourage (author-meets-critic sessions, interactive panels, workshop sessions, video screenings, etc.).

In addition to invited sessions, members are welcome to organize sessions on topics that are not accommodated by the topical areas designated in the call for papers. The topical areas are designed to be comprehensive; Sociology, of course, is a discipline without boundaries, so any effort at comprehensiveness is destined to fall short. If you have a topic that you would like to have represented on the program, and don't see it in the topical areas listed in the open call, feel free to propose a session of your own! Please keep in mind that many specific topics are accommodated by the general topical areas; here, we are referring to topics that “fall between the cracks.” We want to ensure that member-organized sessions do not compete for proposals with the open call, since that would preclude the kind of effective grouping of presentations that is the overall goal of the revisions to program development. For those who choose to do so, we will have an area on the PSA website that lists member-organized session topics so that interested potential presenters can contact organizers and submit proposals to them directly.

A second way to get more involved in the program is to volunteer to be a presider for the open sessions

organized by the Program Committee. Charged with introducing presenters, keeping them to agreed-upon time limits, facilitating discussion, and concluding the session on time, presiders are essential to ensuring that presenters and audience members alike get the most out of sessions. Given the new session formats that we hope to institute, presiders will play a particularly important role—so we strongly encourage interested members to volunteer. To do so, you simply need to log on to the electronic submission system and select the appropriate item. Volunteer presiders will be asked to identify the topical area that they are most interested in presiding over, and may specify their interests more fully as well. We cannot guarantee that a session will be created on that exact topic of interest (since that depends on the proposals that are ultimately submitted), but Program Committee members will use the interests identified as a target for assigning presiders.

### **The bet on Reno**

We would like to emphasize that this is a trial (and error) process as well as an exercise in individual and collective imagination. We hope that members will share our spirit of innovation. Our goal is to address the few persistent concerns that members have voiced about the meetings, while leaving in place the many aspects of the meetings that members appreciate so much. We believe that our plan strikes that balance, and we're betting on a big success in Reno! As dedicated teachers and researchers, we will also be seeking evidence in Reno about which of our innovations work and which do not. The PSA will continue to survey members about their satisfaction with the meetings (both in post-meeting online surveys of all attendees, and in brief session assessments for presiders) – and we will be adding questions addressing specific aspects of the changes. We will also schedule a session in Reno to discuss what worked and what didn't. That session will provide the incoming President (Amy Wharton) and her Program Chair with useful feedback for planning the Portland meetings in 2014—including how to fine-tune the process in future years, and what innovations to eliminate because they just didn't pan out. So, while we have put a lot of thought into the procedures for 2013, none of them are set in stone for the following meetings. Again, we'll be looking for member feedback to move the process forward – just as we have used it to inform all of the current changes. If you'd like to add more direct feedback, feel free to contact either one of us via email ([jenness@uci.edu](mailto:jenness@uci.edu); [dennis.downey@csuci.edu](mailto:dennis.downey@csuci.edu)). Ultimately, our hope is that these innovations will build on the strengths of the meetings, and help to make them stronger in the decades to come.

## Volunteer for Committee Service

PSA Committees are vital to the proper functioning of the Association. Each year there are vacancies on the various committees that must be filled. Each year the Committee on Committees is looking for interested and committed members who can be recommended to the President and the Council for possible appointment.

Committee Membership must represent the Southern, Central, and Northern sections of the PSA western region. Usually there is one opening for each region on each appointed committee. Those responsible for committee appointments are always glad to know of willing volunteers. Student members are now eligible to serve on all appointed committees with the exception of the Awards Committee. Appointments are usually for a three-year period.

The PSA has 15 committees that members can volunteer to serve on: endowment, membership, audit, contract monitoring, awards, status of women, status of ethnic minorities, status of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered persons, teaching, freedom of research and teaching, civil liberties and civil rights, social conscience, community colleges, student affairs, and sociological practice.

The PSA Council appoints members based on recommendation from the Committee on Committees. Self-nominations are acceptable. Serving on a PSA committee is an effective way to network with professional colleagues.

To serve on a PSA Committee, you must be a member of the PSA in good standing. The next round of committee appointments will be made in December of 2012 with terms of appointment starting in 2013. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary, Virginia Mulle ([ginnymulle@gmail.com](mailto:ginnymulle@gmail.com)), and indicate which committee or committees you would like to serve on. A list of committees and a description of what they do is available at [www.pacificsoc.org](http://www.pacificsoc.org) under "committees."

## Join, Pre-register or Renew Your PSA Membership

*By Chuck Hohm, Executive Director*

The article of Don Barrett, earlier in this newsletter, discusses the new PSA conference and membership fee structure. For 2013 the following apply: 1) Students: membership = \$25 & conference registration = \$30; 2) Faculty: membership = (\$40 if income is less than \$30K; \$50 if income is \$30K to \$70K; \$60 if income is greater than \$70K) & conference registration = \$60. To renew membership for 2013 and to register for the 2013 conference, please use the following url link: <https://www.meetingsavvy.com/psa/default.aspx>.

If you are not a current PSA member and wish to join the PSA for the rest of 2012 at the old rates, please contact Dean Dorn, the PSA Treasurer ([dornds@csus.edu](mailto:dornds@csus.edu)), directly.

## All Academic, Inc. Selected As New Vendor for Conference Registration and Paper Submission

*By Chuck Hohm, Executive Director*

The PSA has selected All Academic, Inc. to serve as our vendor for conference session and paper submission. The PSA had been using Meeting Savvy as its vendor for a number of years but Meeting Savvy was unable to meet the increasingly complex needs of our association. All Academic, Inc. is located in Eugene, Oregon and has served as the vendor for conference organization for the American Sociological Association for many years. In addition to the ASA, All Academic, Inc. serves a host of other scholarly associations.

## Officers, Secretary, & Editors 2012-2013

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\*all officers are also part of the council

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University of Alaska Southeast

### EDITORS

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James Elliot, Univ. of Oregon

*Sociological Perspectives*

### PSA OFFICE

*The Pacific Sociologist*

Charles F. Hohm, Executive Director

Pacific Sociological Association

San Diego State University

5500 Campanile Drive

San Diego, CA 92182-4423

Email: [psa@sdsu.edu](mailto:psa@sdsu.edu)

Web: [www.pacificsoc.org](http://www.pacificsoc.org)

# Call for Nominations for 2013 Awards

**Nomination Process:** Any PSA member can place a nomination. In order for the nomination to be considered, you must provide the required documentation as presented below for each particular award for which there is a nomination. **Nominations for the Distinguished Scholarship Award are due by November 1, 2012. Nominations for all other awards are due by February 1, 2013.**

## The 2013 Distinguished Scholarship Award

The Pacific Sociological Association's Award for Distinguished Scholarship is granted to sociologists from the Pacific region in recognition of major intellectual contributions embodied in a recently published book or series of at least three articles on a common theme. To be eligible for the 2013 award, a book must have been published in 2010 or later. If a nomination is based on a series of articles, the most recent article in that series must have been published in 2010 or later. The Committee does not accept nominations for the Scholarship Award from publishers. Nominations must be from individual members of the PSA. Edited books are not eligible for this award. If a book has both a hardback and paperback copyright date and no significant changes have been made in the book between editions, the committee will consider the earlier copyright date as the one determining eligibility for the award. Nominations for distinguished scholarship and all supporting materials must be submitted by November 1, 2012. You must provide the Committee with three copies of the book or articles. Send nominations for the Scholarship Award to: TBA

## The 2013 Dean S. Dorn Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award

The *Dean S. Dorn Outstanding Contributions to Teaching Career Award* honors outstanding contributions to the teaching of sociology. The award recognizes individuals whose distinction as teachers have made a significant impact on how sociology is taught. It is typically given for contributions spanning several years, or an entire career. Nominations for this award should be submitted in packet form and include the following information: 1) A summary statement of the nominee's contributions to the teaching of sociology that may include but is not limited to: honors and awards received by the nominee; publications or scholarly activity related to teaching/pedagogy; papers presented at national conferences on teaching/pedagogy; innovative approaches to teaching; a discussion of the nominee's impact in disseminating knowledge; leadership in teaching; mentoring students. 2) Current curriculum vitae. 3) A minimum of six letters of support from students and colleagues, including the nominator's letter. 4) Other supporting documents as deemed relevant (optional). The deadline for nominations is February 1,

2013. Send nominations for the Dean S. Dorn Teaching Award to: TBA

## The 2013 Early Career Award for Innovation in Teaching Sociology

The Early Career Award is designed to honor and encourage the work of junior faculty (typically fewer than seven years post-Ph.D.). This award recognizes innovative and creative approaches to teaching and demonstrated commitment to mentoring students. Nominations for this award should be submitted in packet form and include the following information: 1) A summary statement of the nominee's contributions to the teaching of sociology that may include but is not limited to a discussion of innovative and/or creative approaches to teaching, and a discussion of the nominee's impact on student learning; demonstrated commitment to teaching pedagogy through presentations, publications, workshops or other evidence. 2) Current curriculum vitae. 3) A minimum of six letters of support from students and colleagues, including the nominator's letter. 4) Other supporting documents as deemed relevant (optional). The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2013. Send nominations for the Early Career Teaching Award to: TBA

## 2013 Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Praxis Award

The Pacific Sociological Association's Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Praxis Award honors sociological work in the Pacific region (whether by an academic or non-academic), which has an impact on government, business, health, or other settings. The grounds for nomination include (but are not limited to) any applied sociological activity that improves organizational performance, contributes to community betterment, and/or eases human suffering. You must provide the committee with three copies of the supporting documentation: 1) A nominating letter, which provides an overview of the nominee's distinguished practice contributions; 2) Letters of support from individuals having direct knowledge of the nominee's distinguished contribution to sociological practice. 3) Copies of presentations at scholarly conferences, published articles, and/or grant/contract proposals, primarily authored by the nominee, which address issues in sociological practice. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2013. Send nominations for the Sociological Praxis Award to: TBA

## The 2013 Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Perspectives Award

The Pacific Sociological Association's Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Perspectives Award honors an outstanding article published yearly in *Sociological Perspectives*. To be eligible, the article must be worthy of special recognition for outstanding scholarship

and contribution to the discipline. The article must have been published in Vol. 54, 2011. This award is given annually. You must provide the Committee with three copies of the nominated article. Send nominations for the Sociological Perspectives Award to: TBA

## The 2013 Distinguished Undergraduate Student Paper Award and \$200 honorarium

The Pacific Sociological Association's Distinguished Student Paper Award recognizes an undergraduate student or students for a paper of high professional quality. This award includes a \$200 honorarium and two nights of lodging at the 2013 convention hotel. To be eligible a paper must be (a) worthy of special recognition for outstanding scholarship; (b) written by an undergraduate student or students in the Pacific region c) written or substantially revised in the last year; d) presented at the upcoming PSA annual conference; and e) unpublished. Nominations for the award must be submitted via email (a copy of the paper, including an abstract, accompanied by a least one letter of support). Hardcopies will not be accepted. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2013. Send Nominations for the Undergraduate Paper Award to: TBA

## The 2013 Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award and \$200 honorarium

The Pacific Sociological Association's Distinguished Student Paper Award recognizes a graduate student or students for a paper of high professional quality. This award includes a \$200 honorarium and two nights of lodging at the 2012 convention hotel. To be eligible a paper must be (a) worthy of special recognition for outstanding scholarship; (b) written by a graduate student or students in the Pacific region c) written or substantially revised in the last year; d) presented at the upcoming PSA annual conference; and e) unpublished. Nominations for the award must be submitted via email (a copy of the paper, including an abstract, accompanied by a least one letter of support). Hardcopies will not be accepted. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2013. Send Nominations for the Graduate Student Paper Award to: TBA

## Social Conscience Award

The Pacific Sociological Association's Social Conscience Award is given to a worthy community-based organization located in the city in which the PSA Annual meeting is held. In 2013, the annual meeting will be held in Reno/Sparks. This is a monetary award and honors a community organization based in Reno/Sparks that is engaged in providing a much-needed social service in the community. You must provide the committee with two copies of supporting documentation. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2013. Send nominations for the Social Conscience Award to: TBA

# Council Meeting Minutes

## 2011-2012

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by President Beth Schneider. Present were Sharon Araji, Valerie Jenness, Don Barrett, Karen Pyke, Stephanie Mollborn, Karen Sternheimer, Kathy Kuipers, Wendy Ng, Issac William Martin, Tina Burdsall, Denise Segura, Charles Hohm, Dean Dorn, Virginia Mulle. Guests were Robert O'Brien, James Elliott, Mary Virnoche, Amy Wilkins, Christine Oakley, and Sally Raskoff. Absent Peter Collier.

The Annual Report of Journal Activity for *Sociological Perspectives* 2011 was presented by Co-editors Bob O'Brien and Jim Elliott. Notable were that the journal has successfully transferred from its prior editorial office at Santa Clara University to its new editorial office at the University of Oregon; and that there will be a new cover design for the journal beginning in 2012 with issue 5.1. Presented was current information on submissions to the journal, and on the Editorial Board member selection for July 1, 2011 to the present time. A priority identified for the future includes increasing diversity on the editorial board (see full report in the newsletter).

President Schneider thanked Mary Virnoche, Program Committee Chair, for her excellent work during the year. She reported that there were approximately 250 total sessions; fewer invited sessions than expected; and that the program did speak to the themes that they wanted the program to address.

Changes to the 2013 program were discussed where there will be a transition in the culture to we have been accustomed, to a new one where major structural changes will occur. Based on surveys conducted of the PSA membership, changes will be made to centralize the program development, and to the online submission form (see "Important: Please note format change for sessions in 2013" on the PSA website).

Dean Dorn gave the Audit Committee and Treasurer's Report. The Audit Committee met on March 6, 2012 and found the financial records to be in order. In the Treasurer's Report he stated that the membership was stable at 1137 in 2011 (623 faculty and 514 student members); the financial status of the organization is strong (see full report in the newsletter which includes the Endowment Fund report).

Dean also reported that a check for \$1,000 has been sent to the ASA for the Minority Fellowship Program, as passed by Council in 2011. The PSA will be making a contribution to the Fellowship Program every year, and will be acknowledged in the ASA program for the Denver meeting.

The secretary reported that an ad hoc Constitutional Review Committee has been formed by Sharon Araji with the goal of updating and streamlining the PSA constitution and by-laws. The work of this committee, which consists of Chuck Hohm, Dean Dorn, Sharon Araji, Kathy Kuipers and Ginny Mulle, will be conducting their work via email during the year and Council should expect proposed revisions throughout the year.

Executive Director Chuck Hohm informed Council of several projects that he had been involved with during the year. First was a member satisfaction survey conducted by Survey Monkey, the results of which appeared in the September 2011 issue of the newsletter; that renovation of the PSA website is under discus-

sion and should occur during this next year; assessment forms will be delivered to all session presiders in order to collect data on the sessions—how many sessions participants actually show up, how many people are in the audience for the session, how many minutes are used for questions and answers, as well as a likert scale that will measure the quality of the session. An analysis will be done after the meeting as well as after the Reno meeting. Director Hohm complimented Dennis Downey for all the work he had done as the chair of the Publications Committee in the search for a publisher for *Sociological Perspectives*. Proposals were solicited from four publishers, which demonstrated great interest in the journal, and this will be followed up in Sunday's council meeting. He further stated that the editor of *The American Sociologist* had inquired of the presidents of regional organizations about interest in a special issue on regional organizations; a special issue will be done on the PSA to be published in July 2013. Issues considered include the history of the organization, the inclusion of students into the organization, how the roles and landscapes of the local organizations have changed, and what the challenges are for the future. All members of the PSA are invited to propose topics for this special issue on the PSA. He concluded by informing Council that the 2014 meeting will be in Portland.

A discussion and vote was held on proposed changes to both the membership and conference fees as presented by the ad hoc PSA Subcommittee on Fees (Beth Schneider, Don Barrett, Stefanie Mollborn). Following are the results of the voting on the proposals:

1. **Students**—Increase in membership fees from \$15 to \$25; increase in conference fees from \$20 to \$30 – passed unanimously
2. **Conference Fees for Faculty**—increase to \$60 for all annual income levels (not prorated)—passed unanimously
3. **Membership Fees for Faculty**—adding a fourth category of <\$15,000 was rejected; income based test for membership fees (<\$30,000 annual income pays \$40, \$30,000–\$70,000 annual income pays \$50, >\$70,000 annual income pays \$60) passed unanimously.

The Council discussed the selection of a new Executive Director to start in the summer of 2013. The Council voted unanimously for Ginny Mulle as the Executive Director to succeed Chuck Hohm.

## 2012-2013

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by President Val Jenness. Present were Beth Schneider, Karen Pyke, Shari Dworkin, Kathy Kuipers, Wendy Ng, Issac William Martin, Denise Segura, Amy Wilkins, Christine Oakley, Sally Raskoff, Charles Hohm, Dean Dorn, and Virginia Mulle. Guests were Dennis Downey and Sharon Araji. Absent were Amy Wharton and Jennifer Simmers.

President Jenness reported that she and Dennis Downey, the Program Chair for the 2013 meetings, are installing changes in how the program for 2013 will developed. These changes have been communicated with the 2011-2012 Council and the Program Committee, and at a special session held on Saturday during the meeting. Also,

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an article will appear in the newsletter and the report is on the website. She believes that this communication far in advance of the 2013 meeting will make the transition more efficient and effective.

Dennis Downey, Program Chair for the 2013 meetings, explained that feedback from the general membership suggests that while the crucial role of our meetings as a venue for socializing and networking is as strong as ever, the equally important role as a venue for the presentation and collective discussion of leading sociological research in our region has been significantly eroded. Committee and Council analyses have concluded that much of the reason for that erosion has to do with the format and function of our meetings. To address this situation, a working Program Committee has been constituted for the Reno meetings with members representing approximately two dozen different topical areas, and they will be at the center of the program development process. Instead of submitting proposals to scores of individual session organizers working independently (as in the past), proposals will be submitted directly to the Program Committee through a new electronic submission system. Authors will identify the primary topical area within which their work is situated, and the Program Committee member responsible for that area will review and assign presentations not only according to topic, but according to their fit with a wider range of possible presentation types identified by submitters (such as formal research papers, works in progress, sociological analyses, etc.). The goal of this more centralized process is to produce sessions across the program as a whole that are more coherent, lively, and productive for presenters and audiences alike—and to do so without compromising the feeling of inclusivity and collegiality that is at the heart of the PSA. Members who enjoy organizing sessions will still have that opportunity, but it is expected that it will be a much smaller part of the program as a whole – mostly constituting invited sessions, and session on topics that fall between the cracks of the broader areas listed for the Program Committee. It is also believed that this model might decrease the number of “no-shows” (an increasingly serious problem in recent meetings) as members who previously felt compelled to deliver a formal presentation of completed research will now have the option of submitting to session formats where they are expected and encouraged to present and discuss works-in-progress with the goal of eliciting useful feedback from colleagues.

As chair of the Publications Committee, Dennis reported that there were four strong proposals for *Sociological Perspectives* from four high quality publishers, UC Press, Routledge, Sage and Wiley-Blackwell. The Publications Committee unanimously recommended to Council that the PSA continue with UC Press as the publisher for *Sociological Perspectives*. There was a lively discussion among Council members concerning the pros and cons of each publisher’s proposal. It was concluded that it is necessary to gain more information before a decision could be made, and that it would be beneficial if each publisher were to make a presentation before a subcommittee selected from Council. Chuck Hohm was designated as chair of the subcommittee, with Kathy Kuipers, Karen Pyke, Christine Oakley, Bob O’Brien, and Denise Segura as members. The meeting will be held in southern California, hopefully within the next 2-3 months (as per Beth Schneider’s suggestion).

Ginny Mulle had one motion from the Student Affairs Committee to be considered by Council. At present, the composition of the committee reads: “The Student Affairs Committee consists of six members.” The committee would like to add “two of whom will be student members at the time of their appointment (one undergraduate and one graduate).” The motion was made by Isaac William Martin, seconded by Shari Dworkin, and passed unanimously by Council. The Membership Committee requested that certificates be given to junior faculty members who present at the meeting, which they could put in their T & P files. However, a motion along these lines was not received from the floor. Dean Dorn had a motion from the Endowment Committee to offer 40 randomly selected free registrations (\$800) to students who attend the meeting but are not on the program. Currently, only students who present at the conference are eligible for travel awards. The motion was made by Beth Schneider, seconded by Sally Raskoff and unanimously passed. It was reported that some committees were concerned about the new program changes as they feel ownership of sponsoring sessions and this would be eliminated in the implementation of the new changes.

**\*Repeated/summarized from above\***

- The motion for the delegation of authority to the 2012 Nominations Committee and the 2012 Committee on Committees for nominations for elected office and appointed positions was moved by President Jenness, seconded by Chuck Hohm, and unanimously passed.
- Beth Schneider moved that Council approve the 50 \$150 travel awards for students on the 2013 program from the Endowment Fund, it was seconded by Denise Segura and passed unanimously.
- As an assurance against presenter cancellations, Chuck Hohm received an email from a PSA member and session organizer who requested that Council consider requiring submitters present either a paid for travel ticket receipt and/or a five page presentation in advance of November 15 in order to be accepted in to the program. A motion was not called from the floor.
- In accordance with the PSA Constitution, Karen Pyke, Vice President, was appointed to the Program Committee.
- The site for the Northern Region for the 2014 meeting will be in Portland.
- Council unanimously approved an addition \$1,000 for the coming year for Ginny Mulle who will be next Executive Director of the PSA, starting in the summer of 2013. This is in addition to the \$3,000 stipend Ginny will receive for being Secretary. The additional \$1,000 is for the time that Ginny will spend “shadowing” Chuck Hohm this coming year, in his role as Executive Director. Furthermore, Council unanimously approved paying for Ginny Mulle’s traveling expenses to Reno and Portland (to “shadow” Chuck Hohm as he finalizes aspects of the 2013 meetings, as he finalizes the contract with the Portland Marriott for the 2014 meetings) and to San Diego in June of 2013 with her Graduate Assistant to go over PSA operating procedures with Chuck Hohm and his Graduate Assistant.

# The PSA Endowment Committee Announces 50 \$125 Travel Grant Awards for Students Listed in the Program and Attending the Annual Meeting in Reno

With the approval of Council, the PSA Endowment Committee will offer 50 \$125 travel grants available to help pay expenses for graduate and undergraduate students who are giving a presentation at the annual meeting in Reno.

The travel grant awards will be open only to undergraduate and graduate students who are not employed full-time in an academic or non-academic institution. Students who are eligible must also be listed as a presenter or co-presenter in a conference session in the PSA Preliminary Program for Reno. The Preliminary Program will be published in the January 2013 Newsletter. **Eligible students must also be members of the PSA in 2013 and must have paid pre-registration fees for the conference. Membership on a PSA committee does not qualify.**

## Procedures for Application for a Travel Grant

Students who meet the eligibility requirements above, need to send via email their name and email address to Endowment Committee ([psatravelgrants@gmail.com](mailto:psatravelgrants@gmail.com)). The deadline for submission is February 15, 2013. A random-numbers table will be used to assign a number to all eligible applicants. A random drawing will determine the recipients of the travel awards. Recipients will receive an Email confirming they have won an award no later than March 1, 2013. All recipients must pick up their \$125.00 travel grant at the PSA Registration Table at the conference. Identification will be required.

## 2012 Pacific Sociological Association Awards

**Dean S. Dorn Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award:** Linda Rillorta, Mount San Antonio College.

**Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Praxis Award:** John Joe Schlichtman, University of San Diego.

**Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Perspectives Award (Two Winners):** Jennifer A. Jones, Ohio State University, for "*Who Are We? Producing Group Identity through Everyday Practices of Conflict and Discourse.*" and Amy G. Langenkamp, University of Notre Dame, for "*Effects of Educational Transition on Students' Academic Trajectory: A Life Course Perspective.*"

**Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award:** Lindsay A. Owens, Stanford University, for "Getting a Workout: Mortgage Modification, Class, and Shifting Financial Institutions."

**Distinguished Undergraduate Student Paper Award:** Camila Alvarez, University of Nevada Las Vegas, for "New Urbanist Design and Community Health in Las Vegas."

**Distinguished Scholarship Award:** Cecilia Menjivar, Arizona State University, for *Enduring Violence: Ladina Women's Lives in Guatemala.*

**Early Career Award for Innovation in Teaching Sociology:**  
No recipient



## PSA Website Undergoes Major Renovation

By  
Chuck Hohm  
Executive Director

The PSA has been working with a freelance web designer and an ad hoc PSA committee (Dan Ryan, Mary Virnoche, Giselle Cunanan, Eric Cheney, Elizabeth Nelson) to update and modernize the PSA website. Please go to [www.pacificsoc.org](http://www.pacificsoc.org) to see the new website.

Giselle Cunanan has agreed to act at PSA's webmaster. Giselle graduated with a B.A. in Sociology from Gonzaga University in 2010, has been active in the PSA, and has done much in the way of web design. She will start the M.A. program in Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State this coming fall and hopes to eventually earn her Ph.D. in Sociology.

We are still in the process of "tweaking" the site and if you see anything problematic, please contact the PSA office at [psa@sdsu.edu](mailto:psa@sdsu.edu) to let us know. The PSA extends its heartfelt thanks to Dan, Mary, Giselle, Eric, and Elizabeth for their hard work in renovating the PSA website..



**Please inform us of email, telephone, or address changes at [psa@sdsu.edu](mailto:psa@sdsu.edu).**

**Visit [www.pacificsoc.org](http://www.pacificsoc.org) to keep your membership up-to-date and to pre-register for the 2013 meeting.**



# The Undergraduate Experience of the PSA

By Virginia Mulle  
Humboldt State University

If you look at the “mission statements” or “purposes” of the many professional sociological associations, you will find that all have a commitment to undergraduate teaching, but the PSA is unique in that part of its mission is to “mentor the next generation of sociologists.” It is this mission that has made the PSA a leader in successful undergraduate presence at the annual meetings.

Growing up and attending both undergraduate and graduate school (Go Gators!) on the east coast, my move to the west coast in 1993 to teach in Alaska was quite an adventure. A friend at Portland State told me about the PSA and suggested I attend the annual meeting, which I did.

I felt comfortable, was pleased to see the attention placed on minority group issues, and noticed an undergraduate student presence I had not seen at other professional meetings. In 1999, I had a student who had done an outstanding project in my Research Methods class, and we decided to jump in together to the world of undergraduate student participation at a major conference. We both were, to say the least, disappointed. We went to the roundtable where he was to present and there were a lot of students at the table, with no moderator. After the session I wanted to find out who was in charge, and was led to Dean Dorn. Dean told me that it was difficult to get faculty interested in undergraduate work to organize the undergraduate sessions, and those faculty who did agree generally assigned the task to one of their graduate students, who obviously had higher priorities for a professional meeting. After talking with Dean, he asked me if I would be interested in organizing the undergraduate sessions, pretty much *carte blanche*, and I agreed.

The next decade saw many permutations of the undergraduate sessions as we tried to find out just what would work best for our undergrads. Formal undergraduate paper sessions—just like the “regular” paper sessions—were the first idea we tried in 2000. As the undergraduate sessions that I organize are “Open Topic Sessions,” I receive submissions on a great number of different topics. I take those submissions and find like-topic papers in which to form a table. In late October my living room floor is filled with piles of papers; piles that get changed daily as I read more and more submissions. In addition,

faculty were added as presiders and discussants. Sharon Araji, then president of Alpha Kappa Delta approached me about having AKD sponsor these paper sessions. It was a great idea! The students each received a certificate noting their participation in an AKD sponsored session at the PSA meeting and they were a hit! We continue to award these certificates to this day. With the success of these sessions, in 2002 we began to see faculty organize undergraduate sessions with their own students as participants. To allow more undergraduate students to participate in the meeting, the decision was made to have student discussants at the paper sessions. Faculty were moderators and all took advantage of the opportunity to bring their students to the meeting as discussants. By having both undergraduate students as presenters and discussants we were truly fulfilling the mission to “mentor the next generation of sociologists.” There were six AKD sponsored sessions that first year and they went very well. I, as well as many others, were quite honestly amazed at the extremely high quality of the work done by the undergraduates, and there was now some real organization to the sessions. We were encouraged to continue to develop and change the undergraduate sessions to provide the best experience possible for the students. In the spirit of the PSA’s mission in its encouragement of undergraduate work, we accepted all papers that were submitted for presentation.

The number of undergraduate student submissions to the AKD sponsored sessions grew and by 2004 we had ten sessions. Having had student discussants for two years, we decided to return to faculty discussants. While it did provide an excellent opportunity for undergrads to participate in the meetings, it was felt that the mission to “mentor the next generation of sociologists,” would best be met by having faculty feedback. More and more faculty were organizing sessions bringing their own students to present their work, and we had a go at an undergraduate poster session. There were 14 posters, and the quality of the work was, again, remarkable.

The number of undergraduate submissions I received was growing each year. As the number of sessions started growing, the need for more

faculty commitment and involvement in the sessions grew as well. I was walking up to friendly looking strangers who had attended an undergraduate session at one year’s meeting and asking them if they would be interested in moderating the next year at an undergraduate session. I figured if they were interested enough to mentor a student to present at the PSA meeting then they might be interested in becoming more involved. They all were. I assembled a wonderful group of faculty, many of whom from those early days continue to moderate at an undergraduate session. Sharon Araji, Eldon Wegner, Sally Raskoff and Amy Orr were all there at the beginning and launched the tradition of faculty providing outstanding positive and productive feedback for the students in the AKD sponsored sessions.

The excellent feedback from these moderators provided a very positive experience for the undergraduate students and the word spread. Within a few years I was receiving 50+ undergraduate paper submissions for formal paper sessions with faculty moderators. The “status committees” of the PSA (Women, GLBT and Race & Ethnicity) were invited to organize undergraduate sessions and all eagerly accepted the invitation. But with the quantity of papers being submitted we naturally began to see some quality issues appear. Abstracts were only short paragraphs, or a few sentences, with somewhat vague ideas about what the student hoped to present five months later. We were still accepting all submitted abstracts, but realizing that the quality of the final papers was not always what we expected.

Many of the presentations were literature reviews, or semi-fleshed out ideas, and the undergraduate sessions were no longer working as well as we hoped they would. In 2007 a major decision was made to entirely change the format of all undergraduate sessions from formal paper sessions to only roundtables. Many faculty mentors were not happy with this decision and I received emails totally against the change, with some threatening to stop bringing their students to the PSA meetings.

There were several reasons for this change. I felt that the undergraduate students would be



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more comfortable in a roundtable session where they weren't standing in front of a group; they might be less nervous. The feedback provided by the faculty mentor could be part of a larger discussion — students could talk about their work and each other's work without the fear of feeling uneasy in front of a group. They could discuss the faculty mentor's feedback and ask questions. Wow, what an idea! Asking questions and getting answers to improve your work.

Finding out that every student trying to collect a random sample for their project had as much trouble as you did. So we went ahead believing that the roundtable format would provide a superior environment for the students to be mentored to be the next generation of sociologists. We could also accept the growing number of submissions that we were receiving— more students can be accommodated at ten roundtables going on at the same time as one formal session. This required that I find more faculty mentors, and again by approaching friendly looking faculty and by asking current mentors and colleagues to suggest possible new mentors always provided as many mentors as I had tables. The fact that I have never had a faculty member not agree to serve as a roundtable moderator attests to the commitment that the members of the PSA have to undergraduate students and education. A whole new group of faculty became a loyal part of the undergraduate moderators group – Sunil Kukreja, Leon Grundberg, Vik Ghumbir, Anna Leon-Guerrero, Mary Kelsey and Joanna Higginson have all become members I can always count on. And what a success the roundtables became, in great part to the outstanding work done by the roundtable moderators for our undergraduate students!

By 2010 I had 12 AKD sponsored undergraduate roundtables (60 students), we had the status committee roundtables, and five roundtables organized by PSA member faculty. The success of the undergraduate sessions was attracting more and more faculty to become part of mentoring the next generation of sociologists, and giving them space and voice to present their work. The number of poster submissions were growing as well and in 2011 we had 17 posters, 14 AKD sponsored roundtable sessions, the status committee sessions and an increased number of roundtables organized by member faculty. This past year, 2012, I had organized 20 (100 students) AKD sponsored tables; we had the status committee tables, tables organized by other faculty and 28 posters presented. The

number of submissions were continuing to increase. Over 150 undergraduate abstracts were submitted for the 2012 meeting. And as before, as the number of submissions grew, issues with quality increased. More and more two or three sentence abstracts were being received. More and more students were “no showing” as that abstract they were so positive about completing by March was nowhere near completed. Once again, as with the regular paper and roundtable sessions at the PSA meetings, quantity and quality were becoming issues to once again grapple with.

And so, for the 2013 meeting in Reno, some major changes have been made to improve the program of undergraduate presentations. As always, we believe that these changes will allow us to better meet the mission set out by the PSA—to better “mentor the next generation of sociologists,” and to offer them the opportunity to present their work. To these ends, undergraduate students' abstracts/submissions for 2013 must be at least three pages with a clear theory and methodology stated, and with citations. The name of the faculty mentor who will be mentoring the student in completing their presentation must be included in the online submission form. I will be contacting all mentors to make sure that they have indeed agreed to work with a student. If the abstract is not at least three pages, and a faculty mentor's name is not included, the abstract will not be considered for presentation in an undergraduate roundtable session. I will be receiving all abstracts/submissions, sorting them into like-topic tables, and then will be counting on the wonderful PSA members to volunteer to serve as table moderators and discussants.

It's been interesting to see patterns emerge as we've tinkered with the undergrad sessions. At first, students from smaller private schools seemed to comprise most of the session presenters. Slowly, students from the larger public institutions began to submit and present at the meetings and now comprise the largest group of presenters. As students (undergraduates and graduates combined) now comprise close to

half of the PSA membership this may simply be a demographic change — more student members, more coming from those institutions with high numbers of undergraduate students. The topics that students are engaged in and writing about have changed quite dramatically. More papers on class, cultural, environmental, political and economic issues are being submitted than, for example, those about the family, religion, gender, and race and ethnicity. The change from graduate student to faculty organizers has centralized the process and allowed for close overview of the program. The presence of AKD as a sponsor and in providing certificates of accomplishment to the AKD sponsored sessions has increased the visibility, validity and status of the undergraduate sessions. More and more faculty have been organizing undergraduate sessions; I believe this is because the format that we use in organizing our undergraduate sessions is appreciated and enjoyed by the students and they bring this plus a sense of accomplishment back to their home universities and faculty. While I will be the only one receiving submissions this year, those faculty who have organized sessions in the past are most welcome to volunteer as table presiders! We have seen an increase in the number of undergraduate submissions as we have changed from formal paper sessions to roundtable sessions. The feedback received by the students in the roundtables is far more individualized than what can be done in a paper session, and I believe that this is the primary reason that the PSA has created such successful experiences for our undergraduate presenters. But most of all, the commitment of so many PSA members who really care about undergraduate education and take the time and energy to develop those very successful undergraduate roundtables must be acknowledged. These presiders who receive papers, often only a few days before the meeting and carefully construct positive and encouraging feedback plus questions for each student presenter, are most certainly the strength of the undergraduate sessions and a foremost reason for the great success the PSA has enjoyed!

**Please inform us of email, telephone, or address changes at [psa@sdsu.edu](mailto:psa@sdsu.edu).**

**Visit [www.pacificsoc.org](http://www.pacificsoc.org) to keep your membership up-to-date and to pre-register for the 2013 meeting.**

# 2013 Annual Meeting of the PSA to be held in John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino/Resort in Reno/Sparks, Nevada

By: *Chuck Hohm, Executive Director*



*Dennis Downey, 2013 PSA Program Chair*

Get out your 2013 calendars and pencil in Thursday, March 21st through Sunday, March 24th for the 2013 PSA meetings which will take place at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort in Reno/Sparks, Nevada.

After considering a number of venues, the PSA Site Selection Committee chose the Reno/Sparks Nugget, where our annual meetings were held in 1989, twenty-two years ago—and which has recently undergone an extensive renovation to make it a state-of-the-art conference facility.

## WHY RENO/SPARKS?

The Pacific Sociological Association is lucky to be in a region with so many beautiful cities in which to hold its annual meetings—a destination that is famous for their climate, their vistas, their beaches, their cuisine, and other characteristics. Reno/Sparks probably does not come immediately to the minds of members in a list like that—even though it is, in fact, a popular tourist destination lying at the base of the beautiful Eastern Sierra where millions go annually for skiing in the high mountains or for water sports on beautiful Lake Tahoe. In addition, of course, many are drawn to Reno/Sparks as Nevada's second largest gaming destination—and for the multitude of resort accommodations, dining options, and recreation opportunities in the urban area that complement that industry.

As members know, the PSA rotates our meetings between North, South and Central destinations. We try to schedule meetings in our Pacific states as well as in the Transmountain states, which are an important part of our service region. Members come annually from Arizona and New Mexico, from Montana, Idaho, and Alberta, and from Utah and from Nevada (among other states and nations far outside of our region). This time, we will be coming to them. As Sociologists, we know that sociological imagination is dulled when we restrict ourselves from environments that we might not be drawn toward readily. Reno/Sparks is certainly as rich in sociological inspiration as is San Diego (2012) or Portland (2014). For an association weighted toward the coastal states, a trip to the “interior” for some sociological discussion is a wonderful opportunity! And we are keeping that in mind in developing the program for 2013, and plan to add some regional emphasis to train our collective sociological lens on the Transmountain West.

There is another way in which the Reno/Sparks meetings are particularly appropriate to the needs of the PSA. Feedback on the San Diego meetings reveal two messages, strong and clear: keep costs down, and choose a location with plenty of amenities within walking distance from the meetings. In Reno/Sparks, we have hit the jackpot in both of those areas. Our standard convention rate for the Nugget will be only \$85, which is the lowest room rates that we have had with our hotel partners in many years. In addition, free wireless internet access is available in the sleeping rooms and in Starbucks (inside the Nugget). Add to that affordable transportation—with good air links throughout our region, a free shuttle from the airport to the Nugget, and free parking on site. All of that means that the 2013 meetings are shaping up to be extremely affordable.

Regarding amenities, as you will read below, the Nugget is surrounded by a wide range of restaurants (serving various types of foods at a range

of prices); a number of pubs, coffee shops, and venues for socializing and entertainment; and fantastic recreational opportunities, both inside and just outside of the city. Keep reading for details . . .

## FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT VENUES:

### In the Nugget

There are quite a few music venues and superb restaurants in the resort along with a very nice swimming pool/spa with a retractable roof. The restaurants in the Nugget are Restaurante Orozko (Mediterranean); The Steakhouse Grill (Steak & Seafood); Rotisserie Buffet (Diverse & Expansive Buffet); Trader Dicks (Polynesian Cuisine); The Noodle Hut; John's Oyster Bar (Fresh Seafood); Rosie's Café (American Cuisine); Gabe's Pub & Deli; and Starbucks. The music venues in the Nugget include the Orozko Lounge (which has no cover charge and free jazz on Wednesday night and no cover charge and \$20/person wine tasting/tapas pairing on Thursday night); Trader Dick's Lounge (which has live music every Friday through Sunday from 5:30 to 9:30 PM and a DJ every Friday and Saturday from 10:00 PM to 1:00 AM); and the Celebrity Showroom that seats 900 with an 8:00 PM show time featuring top entertainers such as Kenny Rogers, Tony Bennett, Ray Charles, and Gladys Knight.

*In Nevada, smoking is permitted in gaming areas of casinos and bars that only serve alcoholic drinks. Smoking is not permitted inside restaurants, bars that serve food, retail stores, shopping malls, and grocery stores. Smoking is not allowed inside the meeting rooms.*

### Within One Mile of the Nugget

Another good thing about the Nugget is that it is adjacent to Victorian Station, a shopping mall with bars and restaurants. Right outside the Nugget are the following restaurants: Cantina Los Tres Hombres; Great Basin Brewery; Pietro's Famiglia; and Blind Onion Pizza. Within a mile are other restaurants: Fuddrucker's; Olive Garden; Cadillac Ranch; Outback Steak House; and BJ's Brew House.

For a map of restaurants and entertainment within one mile of the Nugget, please use this download link: <http://tinyurl.com/7s2ltq5>

### Within Three Miles of the Nugget

There are two Basque restaurants within three miles of the Nugget: 1) Louis' Basque Corner, located at 301 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Reno NV 89512 (3 miles from the Nugget) (phone: 775 323-7203); 2) Santa Fe Hotel Basque Family Style Dining, located at 235 Lake St., Reno, NV 89512 (1.7 miles from the Nugget)(phone: 775 323-1891).

## THINGS TO DO IN THE RENO/SPARKS/TAHOE AREA:

### Reno/Sparks

It should be noted that there are a host of things to do in the Reno/Sparks/Tahoe area. In Reno/Sparks there are over 25 golf courses; kayaking/rafting on the Truckee River; enjoying “Legends at Sparks Marina” which is just a few minutes away from the Nugget. “Legends” offers shopping, dining and entertainment in a large complex next to a 77 acre lake, surrounded by walking paths, trees and sandy beaches. Next to “Legends” is the Wild Island Family Adventure Park which offers a first-class water park, and in-door 9 hole miniature golf course and go-carts. For a map and directory of Legends at Sparks Marina, please use this download link: <http://tinyurl.com/76wantb>

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### Virginia City

Also, close to Reno is Virginia City, an historic mining town. Stroll along authentic board sidewalks, view historic churches, scores of 19<sup>th</sup> century homes, public buildings and quaint cemeteries. Visit Old West saloons, shops, museums and ride on a stagecoach, horse-drawn carriage, trolley or the historic steam-engine Virginia & Truckee Railroad that crosses scenic high desert and landscape dotted with old mines.

### Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe is only 45 minutes away from Reno and offers 18 world class ski resorts and paddleboats and catamarans on Lake Tahoe.

### Pyramid Lake and the Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor's Center

Consider visiting Pyramid Lake which covers 125,000 acres, making it one of the largest natural lakes in Nevada. Located 37.5 miles from Reno on NV 445, Pyramid Lake is important to the Paiute Indian tribe. The lake is part of the National Scenic Byways Program and the only byway in the country located entirely within a tribal reservation. Visitors can get a sense of the Pyramid Lake's importance to the tribe with a trip to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor's Center. The multi-purpose museum features several exhibits and displays about the tribe's culture and history, the natural history of Pyramid Lake and why the Paiute people hold it in such esteem.

For additional visitor information, please visit [www.visitrenotahoe.com](http://www.visitrenotahoe.com)

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort is located at 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, Nevada 89431.

The PSA Convention Rate is \$85, plus tax for rooms at the Nugget Resort in Reno/Sparks. Students will receive \$9.00 a day for vouchers that they can use in any of the eateries and restaurants in the Nugget Resort. Standard sleep rooms include complimentary wireless internet and two bottles of water. Non-smoking and smoking rooms options are available. To reserve a room at the PSA rate, visit [www.januggetsecure.com/jump/1511](http://www.januggetsecure.com/jump/1511) or call (800) 648-1177 (group code: GPSAAC).

**All Reservations Must Be Made By Tuesday, February 19, 2013.** to guarantee the PSA rate. However please note that the PSA discounted room block could easily sell out before the February 19th deadline. The hotel may still have rooms after this date, but at a rate-available basis.

Support the PSA by booking at the Nugget. This will assure your association meets its sleep room contract and will keep convention costs low, since thousands of dollars in meeting room rentals will not have to be paid to the Nugget. Not meeting the PSA "room block" would have serious financial consequences and would most likely increase the cost of registration at future meetings.

**Hotel Parking:** Parking is free.

**Airport Transportation:** A number of airlines use Reno-Tahoe International Airport. The Nugget is 10 minutes from the airport. A free "Nugget Resort" shuttle runs by every 30 minutes.

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## New PSA Conference and Membership Fee Structure

### Report on PSA Fee Increases

*Don Barrett (CSU San Marcos)*

At the 2011 PSA meetings in Seattle, Council decided that it was time to reconsider the PSA conference and membership fees. Though PSA has a reasonable endowment and strong revenues from the journal, it has been able to maintain its low fees due to Dean Dorn's long tenure as Executive Director and his ability to work with PSA at very low personnel and overhead expenses. Combining Dean's retirement with the increasingly tight budgets faced in education, council knew that more funds would need to be budgeted for the executive director, program chair, secretary, treasurer, and web support. Conference hotels have also raised their fees in recent years and we needed to be prepared to cover those expenses.

Council thus asked the following three of us to be on a sub-committee that would develop a proposal for fee increases: PSA 2012 President Beth Schneider (UC Santa Barbara), Stefanie Molbron (U Colorado), and myself (outgoing PSA VP, faculty at CSU San Marcos)

To arrive at a proposal for fee increases, the committee took three steps:

1. we compared our current fees to those of similar size and types of organizations,
2. we examined the impact that a fee change would be likely to have on specific groups of members (e.g., students, emeritus faculty), and
3. we estimated the financial results of any fee changes.

We found that our current fees were very far below those of other regional sociology organizations and that very modest fee increases would keep us in line with existing organizations. The size of possible increases were so modest as not be likely put additional financial strains on members but would provide a reasonable buffer against future expense increases.

Based on our proposals, council adopted the following fee structure to go into effect for 2013:

Annual membership (includes subscription to *Sociological Perspectives*): Students \$25; Faculty fees are prorated by annual income (\$40 if income less than \$30K; \$50 if income \$30K to \$70K; \$60 if income greater than \$70K)

Conference registration: Students \$30, Faculty \$60

Feel free to contact Don Barrett ([dbarrett@csusm.edu](mailto:dbarrett@csusm.edu)) with any additional questions about the change in fees.

# Welcome to Reno-Sparks!

*M.D.R. (Mariah) Evans on behalf of the Department of Sociology,  
University of Nevada, Reno*

With a checkered history of continual self-reinventions, Reno is an especially appropriate site for a PSA meeting as the region (and, indeed the world) strives to find ways forward from the Great Recession. Montesquieu would not be surprised that the zone where the extraordinarily steep up thrusting eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada meets the high desert of the Great Basin (McPhee 1981) is a site of sharply conflicting ways of life and of social invention. Social history is a contentious business and this is just one viewpoint, so *caveat lector*.

In years lost to history, a relatively dense population of hunter-gatherers speaking languages related to Washoe called this liminal region of the high desert and the Sierra Nevada (hereafter “the Sierra”) home. Tragedy struck in the 14th century—very likely the same mysterious illness that wiped out the Mississippi River Valley civilization—leaving tiny pockets of survivors scattered far apart along the Sierra. The Washoe in the lands near Reno were one such group. Until white settlement forced a change, they wisely spent their summers in social relaxation in the cool of Lake Tahoe where the weather was so pleasant, the surroundings so beautiful, and the trout and delicious crayfish (“crawdads”) so abundant that even one of today’s undergraduates would have found little to ask for. Autumn meant trailing gently down the mountains and across the Truckee Meadows valley or the Carson Valley to the foothills of the next mountain range, where the pinenuts abound, their plenty allowing the last big party before winter, the pinenut festival (Downs 1966). Pinenuts in the shell and as meal lasted well into the winter. In the 1950s, old women still laughed, talking about how, as winter wore on, their grandmothers became desperate to get the men out of the huts and shamed them into going deer hunting: Peace and quiet were achieved, but the hunting was rarely successful. The area abounds in wonderful materials for basket making, and beautiful examples can be seen at the Nevada Historical society on the UNR campus ([museums.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=446&Itemid=401](http://museums.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=446&Itemid=401)) or the Nevada State Museum in nearby Carson City ([museums.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=486&Itemid=439](http://museums.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=486&Itemid=439)).

But change was pressing upon them from various directions: Voracious invasive groups of people and animals came pouring into the region, drastically reshaping its social and physical ecology. The cottontail rabbit (6 eat as much as a big horn sheep) came gobbling up the grass, and following them came the Paiutes, far-seeing, relatively organized, and militarily successful. Some centuries later came the Whites, initially sojourners, soon settlers, bringing with them horses and cattle. The Washoe took many paths: some faded, some fought back, some intermarried, some took to ranching or mining, and some clung to a few special places.

The Paiutes and Shoshone were masters of the emerging ecology, with effective hunting economies based substantially on cottontail rabbits (e.g., Knack and Stewart 1984). There were many remarkable lineages among them, but the Truckee/Winnemucca families stand out for their particularly notable achievements, with Sarah Winnemucca—innovative educator, impressive writer, and tireless advocate for her people—as a shining example (Hopkins 1883; Zanjani 2006). As a memorial to her influence, Nevada placed a statue of her in the National Statuary Hall Collection ([www.aoc.gov/cc/art/nsh/winnemucca.cfm](http://www.aoc.gov/cc/art/nsh/winnemucca.cfm); [www.c-spanvideo.org/program/185836-1](http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/185836-1)) where each state is entitled to provide two statues representing the character and signal virtues of its people. It is the only statue in the entire collection to honor a Native American.

In the 1840s, the call of California began to lure White people into the region and turned into a flood with more than 20,000 scrambling and panting through the region on the California trail(s) in 1849. Before long, there

was a swirling multi-party interaction—part struggle, sometimes brutal repression, part synergy—involving the Washoe, various groups of Paiutes, Mormons, free-wheeling miners (Chinese and white) and prospectors, non-Mormon settlers, dreamy inventors and practical entrepreneurs. Perhaps appropriately, some of the early prospectors, the Grosh brothers, were also absorbed in striving to invent a perpetual motion machine.

The great silver boom brought a huge flood of fortune seekers to Virginia City and the region (de Quille, 1896; Twain 1872) with some remarkable monuments such as Piper’s Opera House, the Fourth Street School, and Our Lady of the Snows in Virginia City, today just a short drive from Reno, but then linked to it by a toll road and by the Virginia and Truckee Railroad ([www.virginiatruckee.com](http://www.virginiatruckee.com)). Perhaps sadder is the evanescence of it: Like tumbleweeds, they blew in; like tumbleweeds, they blew away, leaving virtually no mark and, unfortunately, virtually no lasting contributions to the state’s infrastructure. Virginia City became home to a different kind of exploration in the 1960s: Fueled by peyote and LSD and thrilled by emerging possibility, audiences and bands such as the Grateful Dead, Big Brother and the Holding Company, and the Jefferson Airplane made the Red Dog Saloon scene a very special moment in the history of rock ‘n’ roll. Drink a toast to their venturesome spirits at the (nowadays respectable) Red Dog ([www.reddogvc.com](http://www.reddogvc.com)).

In terms of the mines, Philip Deidesheimer’s square-set timbering was the technological invention of 1960 for the Ophir Mine that made huge, deep silver mines possible (there is a good exhibit in the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, and some remaining examples in Virginia City), and the insatiable demand for timber stripped bare the mountainsides as far as the Tahoe Basin, with the flumes you can see from highway 80 originally constructed in the service of silver. The Keck Museum on the UNR Campus provides an outstanding introduction to the historical mines, minerals, and mining towns ([www.mines.unr.edu/museum](http://www.mines.unr.edu/museum)). The appeal of the grueling, dangerous work of getting the timber to Virginia City is almost incomprehensible today: Economic growth has brought us today to a point where additional income buys little extra health or happiness, but the wages available to working class people in the mine-related work promised them (often falsely) a huge increase in quality of life. There were the famous solitary eccentric prospectors, but much of Nevada’s mining was a classic industrial situation with classic class struggles (for the view from the mine owner’s perspective, see Raymond 1992; for the view from the miner’s side see Zanjani and Rocha 1986).

Those of you driving east on highway 80 may shudder at what a terrible trek it would be up that rocky canyon with wagons and no road. As you drive over Donner Summit, you may reflect on the Donner Party which attempted the crossing in 1846-1847: There are many versions of their story, but in all, bitter weather, inadequate preparation, poor cooperation, bad judgment about risk, and racism in its most elemental form swirl together to create a tragedy of sorrow and starvation and cannibalism (some probably true, some probably false confession). The Sierra still visually dominate Reno and locals still make bets about the weather, although technology has tamed many of its true terrors and left mainly the mini-terrors we choose. If the winter of 2012-2013 brings good snow, a detour to Squaw Valley on your way will bring you good skiing and reflection on challenge and innovation: Just how did these people discern in the dread and danger of the jagged steeps of the Sierra and the deep winter snow an opportunity for fun and economic growth?

No wonder people loved the train when it came in 1869! Lake’s Crossing—one of the easy Truckee River crossings because it had a ferry—became Reno in the wheeling-and-dealing that brought the railroad through.

Hungry sojourners heading for California, hungry miners—lots of

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page*

them—and hungry folk back East (after the railroad whisked cattle and sheep east) stimulated the growth of agriculture—both family ranches and huge spreads specializing either in cattle or sheep. Homesteading failed over large zones of Nevada where the acreage required to sustain a cow was much larger than the amount envisioned by the authors of the homestead act. With so much officially “public” land with no defined property rights, range “wars” broke out between rival ranchers struggling to claim grazing rights, until the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 established the Bureau of Land Management as the agency with the authority to adjudicate competing claims. Sheep herding under these conditions, was a life of stunning ugliness and almost incomprehensible beauty and generosity, with the added complexity of ethnic hostility and mechanical solidarity (Laxalt 1957). The higher elevation Nevada land mostly “belongs” to the US Forest service; the amount of nationalized land in Nevada is strangely difficult to pin down exactly, but is probably at the moment more than 80% and less than 87%. Urban productivity and wages have grown much faster than their ranching counterparts; between that and dramatic shifts in orientation on the part of the SFS and BLM from managing their extensive domains for agriculture to managing it for environmental/ ecological goals, agriculture is transforming or disappearing (Harris et al. 2001; Rowley 1985). Sawmill towns like Truckee have either seized a recreation and entertainment trend or vanished; domestic sheep are fading fast, being, for example in nearby Elko county down to about one third of their 1975 numbers, and the cattle population is on a slower, but, seemingly inexorable, downward trend. If you have the opportunity to visit a ranch, do it now!

The huge silver bonanza and several more mini-booms in silver and gold passed, and what used to be Lake’s Crossing settled into a bifurcated community with an at least superficially respectable and prosperous Reno on the south side of the East-West railroad and northwest of that as well, with a shadow city, Sparks, despised and entwined in Reno’s fate to the northeast. Gold is still a very important industry in northern Nevada, and you may have the opportunity to observe the bitter controversy over open pit mining in the Virginia City area, but Nevadans have not hesitated to create “dark side” industries, as well. Long a territorial entertainment/ obsession, gambling was legalized in the still new state in 1869. An influx of strait-laced Midwestern migrants around the turn of the century put a stop to that in 1910. They insisted on saying “Nevada” with a hard short Midwestern a- as-in-*hat* in the middle instead of the traditional pronunciation with a softer a, about midway between “hat” and “father”. The pronunciation change was cemented by UNR’s teacher education, but the state rebelled against the gambling ban in 1931, and enjoyed vice tourism to its casinos with few rivals until the tide began to turn elsewhere in the 1970s. The Reno area has not yet risen to the challenge of how to reshape itself with the gambling monopoly gone, but the casinos are still worth a visit: Simmel and Balzac would love them! Nevada also grabbed hold of changing social mores about divorce, becoming the divorce capital of the nation, until other states began to enact no fault divorce laws in the 1960s.

Boom and bust have long characterized the area’s population, with the largest early population booms echoing mining booms, and the most recent from 1990 to the early years of this century a confluence of the general population shift away from the northeast, Latino immigration, and “backwash” of migrants who headed to California but found they couldn’t afford it. The periods of population decline include 1890-1900 (the winter of 1889-1890 was so severe that about half northern Nevada’s cattle died; many ranching families went bankrupt or lost heart and moved away in the 1890s), 1940-1950, and perhaps the present.

As well as living in this world, Nevada’s peoples have always striven to represent it visually from prehistoric rock to today’s lively rock scene. There is a lot of wonderful folk art in northern Nevada’s rural counties,

and Reno and Elko, in part because of their situation on the railroad as convenient places for dress rehearsals, enjoyed a very lively performing arts scene until airplanes began to whisk musicians directly from the East Coast to San Francisco in the 1960s. For such a tiny state, Nevada can make a big boast: Craig Sheppard, painting in a part of the UNR campus then known as Skunk Hollow, produced a series of water colors so remarkable that he became the first American whose works were exhibited in the renowned Musee de l’ArtModerne in Paris. Relentlessly experimental, he also created an enduringly beautiful series of “fusion” artworks painting horses and cowboys in a black-and-white ink drawing style inspired by Japanese art. In another approach to artistic refraction in the early post-war period, a German immigrant artist, Hans Meyer-Kassel, was inspired to juxtapose a very traditional Impressionist-style landscape style with the wild drama of the Sierra in a series of paintings that have changed both the way we look at the landscape and the possibilities we see in the Impressionist genre.

So, as sojourners here, you are occupying a traditional role and we hope you will find it a satisfying one. Many people have hope of “mining the sun” (solar energy) as an important future for southern Nevada, but successful ways to the future for the north remain difficult to see at this point. Recreation has had great promise and some fulfillment, but there are some signs that the popularity of the vigorous outdoor recreation for which opportunities abound here is waning in upcoming generations. Perhaps some of you will see what is standing before us that we have missed! Whether or not that is so, welcome to Reno—we hope to learn much at the conference and hope that you have a wonderful stay.

### Recommended reading:

- The WPA travel guide to 1930s Nevada is highly recommended, but sometimes hard to find.
- deQuille, Dan. 1896. *The Big Bonanza*. (I haven’t seen a free edition, but you can usually find a respectable paperback version on Amazon com for about \$5-\$7).
- Downs, James F. 1966. *The Two Worlds of the Washo*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
- Hopkins, Sarah Winnemucca (better known to us as Sarah Winnemucca, but published under her married name of Hopkins). 1883. *Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*.
- Knack, Martha C. and Omer C. Stewart. 1984. *As Long as the Rivers Shall Run: An Ethnohistory of the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Mack, Effie Mona. 1930. Nevada
- McPhee, John. 1981. *Basin and Range*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
- Raymond, Elizabeth. 1992. *George Wingfield: Owner and Operator of Nevada*. Reno: University of Nevada Press.
- Rowley, William. 1985. *U.S. Forest Service Grazing and Rangelands: A History*. Texas A & M Press.
- Harris, Thomas R., William W. Riggs, John Zimmerman. 2001. *Public Lands in the State of Nevada: An Overview*. (UNR) University Center for Economic Development Factsheet-01-32. <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/cd/2001/FS0132.pdf>
- Twain, Mark. 1872. *Roughing It*. (you can get this free on Project Gutenberg: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/3177>)
- Zanjani, Sally. 2006. *Devils Will Reign: How Nevada Began*. Reno: University of Nevada Press.
- Zanjani, Sally. 2006. *Sarah Winnemucca*. University of Nebraska Press.
- Zanjani, Sally and Guy Rocha. 1986. *The Ignoble Conspiracy: Radicalism on Trial in Nevada*. Reno: University of Nevada Press.

# PSA 2013 Meetings (Reno/Sparks, NV) Call for Proposals

As most members are aware, the process by which the program is being developed for the 2013 meetings will be somewhat different than has been the case in the PSA in recent years. The following list includes twenty-five topical areas designed to be a (nearly) comprehensive representation of previous sessions and presentations at the PSA meetings. When members submit proposals for presentations at the meetings, they will select the topical area in which their presentation will best fit (rather than to select from well over a hundred individual session topics). While there are far fewer topical areas than session titles, the list is designed to be more inclusive (because each area is far more general) as well as more convenient since proposals do not have to be tailored to fit a specific session.

There will also be some sessions organized by members who would like to see topics repre-

sented in the program that are not accommodated by the list below. Please check the PSA website (in the 2013 Meetings area) if you are interested in learning about those additional options. Finally, if you have any question or issues, contact the Program Chair for 2013 (Dennis Downey, [dennis.downey@csuci.edu](mailto:dennis.downey@csuci.edu)).

- Applied Clinical & Public Sociology
- Crime, Law & Deviance
- Culture, Consumer Culture, Art, Sport & Leisure
- Demography
- Education (Sociology of)
- Environmental Sociology
- Family, Youth, Aging, & the Life Course
- Gender
- Globalization, Transnationalism, & Regional Studies

- Media, Communication, Science & Technology
- Medical Sociology & Health
- Migration/Immigration
- Politics & the State, Peace & War
- Race & Ethnicity
- Religion
- Sexualities
- Social Movements & Social Change
- Social Psychology, Identity & Emotions
- Social Stratification, Inequality & Poverty
- Teaching & Learning
- Urban & Community Studies
- Theory
- Methods
- Professional Development Issues

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## Ginny Mulle Selected as Next PSA Executive Director

*By Chuck Hohm  
Executive Director*

Dr. Virginia Mulle, long time PSA Secretary and a major contributor to the PSA, was unanimously selected by the 2012-13 PSA Council to be the next Executive Director following the end of my term as Executive Director in the summer of 2013. Council voted to have Ginny “shadow” me during the coming year. I will copy her on emails and show her how the PSA selects hotels and how contracts with hotels need to be written. Council voted to give Ginny \$1,000 this coming year as she “shadows” me and that all expenses to hotel sites for Ginny will be covered by the PSA.

We all know Ginny as the organizer of all of the PSA committees and also as the organizer of the undergraduate roundtables and undergraduate poster sessions. We have come a long way with regard to the involvement of students in PSA conferences and much of that improvement is because of Ginny’s work.

Ginny is retired from the University of Alaska, Southeast and moved to Eureka, California with her husband. The Sociology Department at Humboldt State is located in nearby Arcata and has agreed to house the PSA Office when Ginny takes over as Executive Director. The Sociology Department and the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science really “stepped up to the plate” and will appoint Ginny as a “Research Associate” and will supply considerable office and financial support.

The PSA is fortunate to have Ginny as a colleague and someone who is willing and able to take on the task of PSA Executive Director. Best of luck Ginny!!!

## California Sociological Association



The California Sociological Association (CSA) is a state-based professional association of sociologists. We hold a conference once a year in which faculty and students present their work. Our next conference will be at the Mission Inn in Riverside on November 9 and 10, 2012.

We would like to get your opinion about state-based professional associations in general and the CSA in particular. We’re interested in the opinions of everyone whether or not you are a member of the CSA or another professional association.

Would you please complete our short survey by clicking on the link below? It should take less than five minutes. If the survey does not open when you click the link below, just copy it and paste it into the address box in your browser and then press enter. If you have already taken the survey, please do not take it again. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QDY9G3M>

If you have any questions about the survey or the CSA, please contact me at [ednelson@csufresno.edu](mailto:ednelson@csufresno.edu).

Ed Nelson,  
Executive Director  
California Sociological Association

## Important Dates

**August 1, 2012** – For changes/additions to the initial Call for Papers

**October 15, 2012** – All papers/ideas/proposals to session organizers

**November 15, 2012** – All session information from Session Organizers to the PSA Office

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## Members' New Books

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### ***Globalization and the Demolition of Society* by Dennis Loo [Larkmead Press]**

Since the 1980s, advocates of “free market” forces and unrestrained individualism (aka neoliberalism) have succeeded in making their views dominant worldwide. In *Globalization and the Demolition of Society*, Loo shows that contrary to its proponents, neoliberalism makes most people neither more secure nor more prosperous. Instead, it rips the social fabric and undermines security, leading to disasters on the individual, regional, and global levels. These calamities are in some cases deliberately triggered and in other instances (e.g., the BP oil catastrophe) inadvertent and inevitable products of neoliberal logic. Because neoliberals combine unprecedented power, hubris, and a radical dismissal of objective reality, Loo argues that they represent the most dangerous movement in history.

Neoliberalism reflects the interests of large corporations and globalization. In order to enhance corporate profitability, it seeks to severely reduce or outright eliminate job and income security, the social safety net, unions, pensions, public services, and governmental regulation of corporations. Ensuring the public’s continued cooperation given the ever-diminishing rewards for going along willingly thus means that governmental and corporate authority *must* use more deception, force, and fear to maintain social order. Under neoliberal policies, almost everyone is increasingly left by themselves to face gargantuan private corporate interests, with governmental authority ever more indifferent to the public’s welfare.

Loo uncovers and analyzes this radical rupture in the nature of governance today, where the rule of law is increasingly being subordinated to rule via public order policies that treat everyone as a suspect

and where you can be detained on the basis of what you might do rather than what you have actually done. He further shows why voting and elections do not and cannot address this fundamental shift in public policy and what *does* promise the possibility of altering this momentous trajectory.

Loo tells this story of two worlds in contention – those who uphold private interest vs. those who uphold the public interest – in an engaging and conversational manner, drawing from everyday life to illustrate his points. He makes sense of what might otherwise seem to be disconnected and disparate disturbing developments.

Loo is an award-winning scholar and Professor of Sociology at Cal Poly Pomona. He is an honor’s graduate of Harvard in Government and received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the UC Santa Cruz. He is a criminologist, former journalist, and coauthor of *Impeach the President: the Case Against Bush and Cheney*.

*“A brilliant exposition... compelling written and readily grasped, yet profound in its synthetic treatment . . . Loo’s analysis of the inherent, self-reinforcing logic of neoliberalism and the ‘War on Terror’ . . . is a potential game changer.”*

– Sharon Araji, 2011 President, Pacific Sociological Association, Professor of Sociology, University of Colorado, Denver

Title: *Globalization and the Demolition of Society*  
Author: Dennis Loo  
ISBN: 978-0-9833081-0-2

For more information about the book (table of contents, excerpts, etc) and author, visit <http://larkmeadpress.net/page6.php>

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### ***Odd Couples: Friendships at the Intersection of Gender and Sexual Orientation* Anna Muraco (Duke University Press)**

I am pleased to announce the publication of my new book *Odd Couples: Friendships at the Intersection of Gender and Sexual Orientation* (Duke University Press). Based on interviews, the book examines friendships between gay men and straight women, and also between lesbians and straight men, and shows how these “intersectional” friendships serve as a barometer for shifting social norms, particularly regarding gender and sexual orientation.

*“Theoretically important and fascinating to read, Odd Couples adds to the surprisingly scant social scientific literature on friendship. More significantly, it explores friendships between gay men and straight women and between lesbians and straight men in a*

*way that no other work has. Clearly locating her study in the psychological and sociological literature on friendships, family, identity development, and gender issues, Anna Muraco adds to our understanding of gay and lesbian lives and raises provocative questions about gender and sexuality.”*

—Peter M. Nardi, author of *Gay Men’s Friendships: Invincible Communities*



For more information, and to order the book directly from Duke University Press, please visit <http://www.dukeupress.edu/Catalog/ViewProduct.php?productid=14437>.