



Sociology of Mental Health E-Newsletter

Volume 15, NO. 4

Fall 2007

Of Interest:

**Upcoming ASA
Annual Meetings**

2008

August 1-4, 2008
Boston, Massachusetts
Boston Sheraton
Boston Marriott Copley
Place

2009

August 8-11, 2009
San Francisco, California
Hilton San Francisco
Parc 55 Hotel

2010

August 14-17, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia
Hilton Atlanta
Atlanta Marriott Marquis

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From the Chair



Dear comrades,

Thank you for the confidence you expressed by choosing me to chair our worthy section for 2007-8! I am proud and delighted to serve as chair, as I have always been proud and delighted to be a member of the Section on the Sociology of Mental Health.

Ours is an outstanding section in many ways. We have great intellectual strength in terms of theory, research, and their connection. I believe we have a good size and intellectual scope: We are small and homogeneous enough so that most of us can understand each other's work and can know each other personally; and we are large and heterogeneous enough so that we can be stimulated and surprised and learn new things from each other. We take our enterprise seriously enough to engage in sharp criticism and debate, but we respect each other enough so that criticism is invigorating and not personal or divisive. We care about making the world a better place.

One of the most positive aspects of our section is its welcoming and inclusive nature. I picked this up pretty quickly as a shy post-doc making tentative forays into the big world of ASA, gravitated toward this congenial group, and my affection for it grows with every annual meeting. It is a home for me. Although I believe the welcoming nature of our group was established by charismatic leaders of the young section, I also believe it has been sufficiently institutionalized that the section will long continue to open its arms to mental-health sociologists of all stripes. I hope that all of you feel welcomed and included in our section, and if you do not, I hope you will tell me so.

My hope for our 2008 program is that it will embody the characteristics of our section that I have just described. I know I can count on you to supply the intellectual quality and lively criticism. In composing the sessions for 2008, I have taken it as my task to carry on our tradition of inclusiveness. To this end, I have asked my colleagues Tony Brown and John Taylor to organize two open sessions that will accommodate the interests of many of our members. Tony's session is titled "Social inequalities and mental health," and John's session is titled "New directions in stress research."

I also want to use my year as chair to push us all to extend our spirit of inclusiveness to the people we usually study – those who do not have enough mental health. I need pushing too, because, although I spend a lot of my time studying stigma associated with mental illness, "I" usually study "them" from the perspective of the ivory tower.

Section Officers

(2007-2008)

Section Chair:

Jo Phelan

Chair-Elect:

Linda K. George

Past Chair:

Debra Umberson

Secretary-Treasurer:

Heather A. Turner

Nominations Chair:

Eliza Pavalko

Awards Chair:

Carol A. Boyer

Publications Chair:

R. Jay Turner

Student Member:

Tarlyn McMullen

Council:

Kristen Marcussen

Scott Schieman

Stephanie W. Hartwell

Richard Meich

Newsletter Editor: *Fer-*

nando I. Rivera

Webmaster: *Christina D.*

Falci

From the Chair (cont)

Through the invited session I will organize entitled "Sociology of mental health: Consumers' perspectives," I hope to raise our consciousness about what our work looks like to people who have experienced mental illness, how it affects them, and how it can be improved by looking at it from a consumer's perspective.

Last but not least, Mark Tausig and Rudy Fenwick are preparing a proposal for a thematic session entitled "Work and Mental Health in Social Context" to coordinate with the meeting's theme of "Worlds of Work." Slam dunk on that one, I'd say.

Thanks again for electing me – talk to you again next quarter! Jo Phelan

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Prepared by Heather A. Turner (Secretary/Treasurer)

August 11, 2006; 10:15 AM

Attending:

Debra Umberson (Chair)

Bernice Pescosolido (Past Chair)

Jo Phelan (Chair-Elect)

Linda George (Chair-Elect 2008)

Heather Turner (Secretary/Treasurer)

Carol Boyer (Awards Committee Chair)

Sarah Rosenfield (Nominations Committee Chair)

Scott Scheiman (Council Member at Large and Nominations Chair-Elect),

R. Jay Turner (Publications Chair-Elect)

Kristen Marcussen (Council Member at Large)

Steffi Hartwell (Council Member at Large)

Fernando Rivera (Newsletter Editor)

Christina Falci (Webmaster)

Ann McCrane (Student Council Member)

The agenda for the meeting was moved and approved.

The minutes from the 2006 council meeting were approved as submitted.

Reports:

Membership—Stephi Hartwell and Kristen Marcussen reported on membership. We currently have 424 members, a net gain of 13 members over last year.

Finances—Heather Turner distributed a report of the section's finances based on data she obtained from the ASA for the period beginning January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007, including a summary of section income and expenses. Income included: 1) the section's income that was carried over from the previous year (\$7,467), 2) income earned from membership dues and the section's budget allocation from ASA (\$2,097), and 3) income earned from royalties associated with Aneshensel and Phelan's Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health (\$885). Total expenses (\$1,900) included estimated award-related costs (including 4 plaques, 7 dinners, & \$500 for the dissertation award recipient), and the reception. The section's current balance is \$8,549, which is about \$600 higher than it was at this time last year.

Minutes (cont)

The balance of the Pearlin Fund that was carried over from the previous year was \$19,461. Subtracting the plaque and estimated dinner costs for the Pearlin award recipient, there is currently \$19,351 in this fund. Overall, our section is doing very well financially.

Nominations—Sarah Rosenfield announced the names of people elected to council. The following people were elected for 2008: Linda George (Chair-Elect), Scott Schieman (Chair of Nominations), R. Jay Turner (Chair of Publications), Richard Miech (Council Member at Large), and Taralyn McMullen (Student Council Member).

Awards—Carol Boyer distributed a report and announced the names of the recipients of the section awards, including best paper, best dissertation, and the recipient of the Pearlin Award. There were also two “honorable mention” papers selected for best publication. The best paper award went to Bruce Dohrenwend and colleagues (Turner, Turse, Adams, Koenen, and Marshall) for their paper published in *Science*. Honorable mention for best publication was given to both Krista Perreira and colleagues and to Lisa Strohschein. Belinda Needam (who earned her Ph.D. at UCSF) received the best dissertation award. Ronald Kessler received the Len Pearlin Award for his distinguished contributions to the area.

Publications—Eliza Pavalko gave a report on Michael Hughes’ behalf about publications and distributed a report prepared by Peggy Thoits about *JHSB*. Eliza will be the new Editor of *JHSB* beginning in September and anticipates a smooth transition. The section membership voted to have a section sponsored journal in Sociology of Mental Health. The publications committee will continue to work on the details involved in starting up the journal.

Bernice mentioned that *Mental Health, Social Mirror* edited by Bill Avison, Jane McLeod, and herself was published by Springer Press in February. The royalties from the book will be donated to the section.

Program—Deb reported that there were a good number of submissions for each of the section sessions this year.

Newsletter—Fernando Rivera reported on the status of the newsletter. We switched to an electronic version this year. Fernando also constructed an electronic pocket version of the program that was distributed prior to the meetings. The electronic versions were well received and no problems were reported. Fernando will be responsible for the newsletter for one more year and then council will need to find a replacement.

Website—Christina Falci reported on the website progress. The website is doing well and is receiving an increasing number of visits. It is a work in progress; information concerning our by-law, past council officers, and mental health related job announcements are available on the website. The council discussed obtaining a list of all graduate sociology programs offering doctoral programs with mental health specializations. These will be posted on the section’s website to assist prospective graduate students interested in mental health.

Other Business:

Jay Turner suggested that the council consider developing an archive of section materials. The council discussed the possibility of adding an archivist position to the council. Bernice pointed out that it would require a change in the by-laws and approval from ASA. We discussed, instead, having the archivist be an ex officio member of the council. Deb suggested we ask the membership for a volunteer, perhaps someone who does archival research.

Deb Umberson suggested that each of the council members write a description of the duties associated with their position to assist incoming council members. These descriptions could then be posted on the website.

Jo Phelan, who takes over a section Chair immediately after today’s business meeting, will be planning the 2008 program.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM

“I also want to use my year as chair to push us all to extend our spirit of inclusiveness to the people we usually study – those who do not have enough mental health.”

Jo Phelan

From the Chair

Announcements

Were on the web:

<http://asa-mentalhealth.unl.edu/>

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

THE ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL STRESS RESEARCH

The Eleventh International Conference on Social Stress Research will be held May 31 - June 2, 2008 in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the La Fonda Hotel. The International Conference on Social Stress has become an important conference for scholars working in the area of stress and health and a major forum for sharing new research that incorporates components of the stress process. The stress conferences, which are sponsored by the University of New Hampshire, are held approximately every two years and attract the leading scholars in the field. Previous conferences have been held in London, England; Venice, Italy; Honolulu, Hawaii; Budapest, Hungary; Montreal, Canada; and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The conference is being organized and directed by Professors Heather Turner, Karen Van Gundy, and Catherine Moran in the Department of Sociology at UNH.

The 2008 conference keynote speakers will be **Dr. Leonard Pearlin** and **Dr. Jane McLeod**. Previous keynote speakers have included Ronald Kessler, Bruce Dohrenwend, Howard Kaplan, George Brown, Robert Weiss, Michael Rutter, Hamilton McCubbin, Peggy Thoits, R. Jay Turner, Carol Aneshensel, Elizabeth Meneghan, Bruce Link, Blair Wheaton, James House, Allan Horwitz, William Avison, and Linda George.

The final program for the 2008 conference will be based on the content of submissions. Sessions involving the following themes are likely: childhood/adolescent stress and adversity; stressors across the life course; work and unemployment stressors; stress in family contexts; gender and stress; race, ethnicity and culture; traumatic and catastrophic stressors; and neighborhood contexts of stress.

We invite you to submit either a complete paper or an extended abstract. In the case of abstracts, you must provide sufficient information for evaluation of the substance and scientific merit of the paper.

To be considered for presentation, papers (or extended abstracts) must be received by December 10, 2007. Further information regarding the conference and the 2008 registration forms can be found on our website:

<http://www.unh.edu/stressconference>.



Announcements

Please share this announcement with other stress researchers and graduate students who may not be on our mailing list.

Send all papers and abstracts to:

Dr. Catherine Moran
Conference Coordinator
Department of Sociology
Horton Social Science Center
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824
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Sincerely,

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Nominations

Call for Nominations by Eliza Pavalko

We will be having elections this spring for the following section offices and I welcome your nominations. Please send me your nominations, including both name university, for any of the offices below no later than November 15, 2007. Please send them to me via email at epavalko@indiana.edu.

Chair Elect
Secretary-Treasurer
Mental Health Award Committee Chair
Membership Chair
Nominations Committee
Student Council Member