



# Sociology of Mental Health E-Newsletter

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Spring /Summer 2007

## From the Chair

Greetings, Section Members,

Hopefully, you've all shelved your textbooks and begun your summer projects—academic and otherwise. As you're making plans for the summer, remember that August 11 will be Mental Health Section day at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association to be held in New York City.

You'll find all of this year's session topics and presenters listed in this newsletter, as well as other ASA sessions that address mental health topics. We have an exciting lineup this year covering a broad range of mental health research and policy interests.

Please plan to attend the Section Business Meeting on August 11 from 11:30-12:10. We'll discuss section activities and plans for next year as well as opportunities to participate over the next year. Section awards will also be announced at the Business Meeting. (Continues on page 4)



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### Welcome New Members

Micki McGee	Rhiannon A. Kroeger	Jennifer Lola Haylett
Shanta Sharma	Daniel J. Potter	Megan Ruth Dowdell
V. Lee Hamilton	Catherine J. Taylor	Christine Marie Schneider
Alfonso R. Latoni	Ella M. Temple	Kristen Walberg
Betsy L. Fife	Lacie Michel	Amy Sommer
PJ McGann	Chantrelle D. Varnado	Anna Gluzman
Anne Marie Ambert	Joao Ernesto Cowperthwaite	Lauren O'Brien
Margaret Weigers Vitullo	Ruth Thompson-Miller	Kirsten Hoyte
Roy E. Feldman	Elaine Marie Hernandez	Kaysha Kathleen Shams
Amy Kroska	Sarah Lynn Babb	Katie Aubrecht
Thomas Brante	Jaclyn Ruth Raska	David Peterson
Mercedes Rubio	Dennis Paul Watson	Mark Alan Neufeld
Silvia Dominguez	Shannon E. Stamegna	Jennifer Arney
Douglas Klayman	Lele Yang	John James Moss
Belkis Suazo deCastro	Charles Q Strohm	Arturo Baiocchi
J. Scott Brown	Ian Douglas MacDonald	Traci Bridget
Rebecca A. Matteo	Tsiom Ion Motkin	April Darlene Bruce
Belinda L. Needham	Eva Rene Ferrell	Kristi L. Donaldson
Michael Ryan	Shauhin Ahmadi Talesh	
Natalie Cherot	Michael Thomas Witkovsky	

# Sociology of Mental Health

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## Section Officers

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### Newsletter Editor

*Fernando I. Rivera*

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### Webmaster

*Christina D. Falci*

## **RONALD C. KESSLER: The 2007 Leonard I. Pearlin Award Recipient**

by Jane McLeod, Indiana University and Michael Hughes, Virginia Tech

Ron Kessler's theoretical and empirical work in the sociology of mental health is an extraordinary contribution to the field and to the community of mental health sociologists. Through his path breaking integration of method with theory, his collection and dissemination of epidemiological data, and his painstaking attention to the details of measurement and analysis, he has generated valuable empirical findings, made important theoretical progress, and provided examples for others to follow and data for others to use. By his work, and through his training of and influence on students, postdoctoral fellows, and colleagues, he has enabled and ensured the contributions of many others. Considering all that he has done to create new knowledge in the field and the ways in which he has made it possible for many in the sociology of mental health community to make their own contributions, it is fitting that the Section on the Sociology of Mental Health has chosen to recognize Ron with the highest honor it can give: The Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Distinguished Scholarly Contributions to the Sociological Study of Mental Health.

In his career, up to December 2006, Ron published 362 refereed journal articles, 89 book chapters, and 6 books. This is clearly an extraordinary output. As one looks over his list of publications, one is struck not only by its length, but by its exceptional range. Ron's work has examined fundamental hypotheses about how social structure, social process, life events, stress, stress processes, and social support influence mental health. He has also done basic research in psychiatric epidemiology, behavioral genetics, life course, treatment for mental disorder, and measurement of mental disorder. But a list like this cannot really capture the depth of Ron's contributions. For example, in his basic research in epidemiology, he has done extensive and detailed research on virtually every mental disorder, he pioneered the measurement techniques used to collect psychiatric data, he assembled research teams, he supervised the collection of data, he organized data preparation, he designed analytical strategies and analysis plans, and he formulated research problems to address basic theoretical questions, including the social causes and life consequences of mental disorders. And this is the pattern in all of Ron's projects. His contributions, and indeed his influence on the field, run wide and deep.

Ron's earliest work concerned social status differences in mental health. He pursued his research agenda systematically, asking which dimensions of socioeconomic status are most consequential for mental health (as in his co-authored article with Paul Cleary in the 1980 *ASR*, and his 1982 sole-authored piece in the same journal), and how stress exposure and vulnerability are implicated in those effects. He pioneered the study of differential vulnerability by developing the statistical models through which differential exposure and differential vulnerability could be distinguished, and by applying the models to the study of socioeconomic status, gender, and race. Models for estimating exposure and vulnerability are now used routinely by scholars in mental health research—so routinely, in fact, that many of us forget there was a time when they were not known. In a manner characteristic of all of his research, Ron's contributions to this area led to a fundamental shift in the way research was conducted.

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

MIDUS (Midlife in the United States) Pilot Grant Program

Application deadline: July 9, 2007

Award notification: August 13, 2007

Two pilot project grants will be awarded for innovative interdisciplinary research on adult health and well-being, with an emphasis on integrative approaches to understanding life course and subgroup variations in physical, socio-emotional, and cognitive functioning. All research must be based on the National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS) I or II data sets, or its satellite studies including the National Study of Daily Experiences (NSDE) and sibling/twin subsample studies.

Grants of up to \$15,000 will be awarded to investigators from a variety of disciplines.

For complete information about the application requirements and the MIDUS study, see:

[http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~carrds/midus/midus\\_home.htm](http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~carrds/midus/midus_home.htm)

Submit applications (and direct all inquiries) to:

Dr. Deborah Carr

Department of Sociology and Center for Demography of Health and Aging

University of Wisconsin

1180 Observatory Drive

Madison, WI 53706

Email: [carr@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:carr@ssc.wisc.edu)

Telephone: 608-262-9856

## Sociology of Mental Health

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Ron's research has also considered other important questions regarding the stress process. One of these questions—how and why social support influences mental health—remains pertinent today. Ron's 1986 *JHSB* article with Elaine Wethington evaluated alternative explanations for the much-cited finding that perceived support buffers the effects of stress on mental health. They demonstrated that perceived support is a stronger buffer of stress than is received support. In fact, the association of received support with mental health appears to result from the effects of received support on perceptions. Their article was extraordinarily influential, and has been cited 316 times since it was published.

Even as he developed a research agenda that relied on life events scales as measures of stress, Ron became convinced that greater progress could be made by studying specific events or situations in detail. He turned his attention to the mental health effects of living with AIDS and of unemployment. In both cases, he applied the same kind of systematic, rigorous logic that characterized his research on life events to these specific stressors. His research on unemployment is particularly noteworthy for its careful attention to health-related selection effects and for its methodological sophistication. Ron later turned his attention to childhood events as precursors to adult mental health, foreshadowing the current life-course "turn" in sociological research. His analyses of the social consequences of mental disorders were similarly prescient, anticipating recent, renewed interest in "selection" processes by Miech, Caspi, Eaton, Turner, Lloyd, McLeod, and others.

In recent years, Ron has devoted much of his time and energy to directing major data collection efforts. The National Comorbidity Survey (NCS), for which he served as principal investigator, represents a landmark achievement in psychiatric epidemiology. Noteworthy for the depth of sociological data it includes, the study is now used widely by researchers in sociology, psychiatry, psychology, and allied disciplines to understand the distribution and correlates of mental disorders in the United States. The replication of the NCS (the NCS-R) and a 10-year follow-up survey to the original NCS (NCS-2) provide the most current and thorough data on mental disorders to date. The World Mental Health Survey, which he also directed, has generated the first internationally-comparable estimates of the prevalence of mental disorders around the world. It would be difficult to overestimate the influence of these data on the field of mental health research.

In addition to generating data, these surveys have contributed to the advancement of mental health measurement. The Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI), which went through much development for use in the NCS and the NCS-R, is now "the" standard for measurement of mental disorders in psychiatric epidemiological studies. Drawing on the insights of survey methodologists, Ron and his collaborators designed an instrument that substantially improved upon the DIS and other, earlier measures. His sociological training was integral to this effort as it allowed him to look beyond the narrow concerns of reliability that had characterized much early measurement work to consider whether and how the instrument tapped into the lived experiences of individuals.



## Sociology of Mental Health

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### NEW SECTION OFFICERS

#### Chair-Elect

Linda K. George

#### Chair - Publications

R. Jay Turner

#### Chair - Nominations

Scott Schieman

#### Council Member

Richard Miech

#### Student Council Member

Taralyn McMullen



**Don't  
Forget**

**Section on Sociology  
of Mental Health  
Business Meeting  
Saturday, Aug 11**

**11:30am - 12:10pm,  
Sheraton New York**

Since his move out of the Department of Sociology at the University of Michigan into the Department of Health Care Policy at the Harvard Medical School, Ron has continued to make major contributions to sociology, publishing in major journals such as *JHSB* and the *Journal of Gerontology*. He also contributed to both of handbooks on the sociology of mental health (Aneshensel & Phelan and Horwitz & Scheid).

Ron's contributions to sociological research on mental health are also carried forward by his students. Together with Jim House, he initiated an NIMH training program at the University of Michigan that continues to this day. He directly trained or advised many well-known scholars in the sociology of mental health, including Elaine Wethington, David Williams, Blake Turner, Bill Magee, Niall Bolger, Deb Umberson, Deborah Carr, and both of us, among others. Even when extraordinarily busy with his own work, Ron has always been generous with his time and insights.

An article of this length can only begin to recount Ron Kessler's many contributions to sociological research on mental health. We did not mention, for example, his sophisticated research on the measurement of stress, his research concerned with the mental health effects of the media, or his participation in the design of the MIDUS study. What should be clear from what we have written is that Ron has had a major influence on how we understand and how we study the processes through which social conditions influence mental health, and through which mental health and mental illness shape behavior and social outcomes. He has received many honors for his work—an NIMH Research Scientist Award, the Paul Hoch Award from the American Psychopathological Association, the Rema Lapouse Award of the American Public Health Association, election to the Institute of Medicine, and appointment as a honorary fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. We are extremely pleased that he can now add the Leonard I. Pearlin Award to that list.

### From the Chair (continued from page 1)

The recipient of this year's Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Distinguished Scholarly Contributions to the Sociological Study of Mental Health is Ron Kessler, Professor in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard University's School of Medicine. Ron has had a prolific career and his contributions to the sociology of mental health have been path breaking, both theoretically and methodologically. We are honored to present the Pearlin Award to Ron at this year's Business Meeting where Ron will give the Pearlin Address. Jane McLeod and Mike Hughes talk about Ron's work and his contributions in this newsletter (see page 2).

The recipients of this year's Dissertation Award and the Award for Best Publication will be announced at the Business Meeting. I would like to officially thank all of the many section members and officers who have helped with section activities throughout the past year. Special thanks go to Fernando Rivera for all his great work in creating our newsletters. Your help has made my job easy and fun.

Last, but not least, make plans to attend our section's reception from 6:30-8 p.m. on Saturday, August 11. Sarah Rosenfield graciously offered to host this year's reception at her home in Greenwich Village. You'll receive more details as the meeting draws near. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Until New York, Deb

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## MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS

### I. Mental Health in the Real World: Organizations, Treatment, Stigma

Sat, Aug 11 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm Building: Sheraton New York

Organizer and Presider: Teresa L. Scheid (Univ of North Carolina-Charlotte)

#### Stigma and Coercion

Bruce G. Link (Columbia University), Dorothy Castille (Columbia University), Jennifer Stuber (Columbia University)

#### The Role of Self and Social Support in the Relationship between Mental Health Services, Stigma, and Quality of Life

Christian Ritter (Kent State University), Kristen Marcussen (Kent State University)

#### Predictors of Receiving Counseling in a National Sample of Youths

Heather A. Turner (University of New Hampshire)

#### Organizational and individual level determinants of stigmatization in mental health services.

Mieke Verhaeghe (Ghent University)

#### The Role of Social Support and Stressful Life Events in the Effectiveness of Collaborative Care for Depression: A Rural-Urban Comparison

Karen Albright (Stanford University), John C. Fortney (Division of Health Services Research, Department of Psychiatry, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences), Scott J. Adams (Mental Health Program, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education), Fran Dong (Mental Health Program, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education), Stanley Xu (Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center)

### II. Mental Health over the Life Course

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 - 4:30pm - 6:10pm Building: Sheraton New York

Session Organizer: Anne E. Barrett (Florida State University)

Presider: Koji Ueno (Florida State University)

#### Trajectories of Failure: The Educational Careers of Children with Mental Health Problems.

Jane D. McLeod (Indiana University), Danielle L. Fettes (Indiana University)

#### Persistent Maternal Distress and Offspring Distress in Adulthood

Hayley A. Hamilton (University of Toronto),

#### The Impact of Marital Status and Social Support on Psychological Distress among African American Women

Patrice L. Dickerson (Ohio State University)

#### Do Personality Traits Moderate the Effects of Late-Life Spousal Loss on Psychological Distress?

Manacy J. Pai (Florida State University), Deborah Carr (University of Wisconsin and Rutgers University),

#### The Impact of Resources and Type and Frequency of Contact on the Stress Process

Shelia R. Cotten (University of Alabama at Birmingham), William A. Anderson (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Cullen Clark (University of Alabama at Birmingham)

### III. Social Disparities and Mental Health

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 - 8:30am - 10:10am Building: Sheraton New York

Session Organizer: Kristi L. Williams (The Ohio State University)

Presider: Michelle Frisco (Pennsylvania State University)

#### Role of Material Resources in Race and Gender Differences in Mental Health

Sherrill L. Sellers (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Joy Perkins Newmann (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Please send session listings of interest for the Summer Newsletter complete listing (before July 15) of MH related sessions to the newsletter editor at:

[firivera@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:firivera@mail.ucf.edu)

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## **Neighborhood Disorder, Social Relationships, and Adult Depression**

Joongbaeck Kim (University of Texas at Austin), Jinwoo Lee (University of Texas at Austin)

## **Language, Self-Identity, Duration and Psychological Distress among Mexican Immigrants**

Jing Li (University of Texas at Austin)

## **Does Marriage Buffer the Effects of Perceived Neighborhood Disorder on Mental Health in Old Age?**

Alex E. Bierman (University of Maryland)

## **Ethnic Disparities in Detection and Treatment of Depression and Anxiety Among Psychiatric and Primary Health Care Visits, 1995-2003**

Susan E. Stockdale (UCLA), Isabel T Lagomasino (USC Keck School of Medicine, Dept of Psychiatry), Siddique Juned (University of Chicago, Dept of Biostatistics), Thomas McGuire (Harvard Medical School, Dept. of Health Care Policy), Jeanne Miranda (UCLA Semel Institute Health Services Research Center)

## **SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDTABLES**

### **Table 1: Social Networks**

Your Body Knows Who You Know (Lijun Song, Duke University)

“When Networks Attack”: The Effect of Obligatory Social Ties on the Mental Health of Hispanic Immigrants (Gerald Francis Lackey, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill)

Social Networks and the Origins of Stigma in Nepal (Mark Tausig, University of Akron, with Janardan Subedi, Sree Subedi, and Susan Santangelo)

### **Table 2: Social Construction**

ADHD Behavioral Rating Scales and the Social Construction of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (John James Moss, University of California, Santa Cruz)

Adolescents and Antidepressants: Analyzing a Social Scientific Controversy (Amber Dawn Nelson, University of Maryland)

### **Table 3: Adolescent Sexuality**

Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youths’ Friendship Networks:

Investigating Why Friends’ Sexual Orientation Matters Little for Mental Health (Koji Ueno, Florida State University, with Matthew D. Gayman and Eric R. Wright)

“I am so desperate for you...”: The Ideal and Actual Romances of American Adolescents with Emotional Depressive Symptoms (Mariah M. Cheng, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, with Kathleen Mullan-Harris)

### **Table 4: Race/Ethnicity**

Race, Ethnicity, Culture and Health: Moving Forward and Advancing Theory (Jason Lamont Cummings, Indiana University)

Ethnic Variation in the Relationship between SES and Mental Health: A Comparison of Mexican Americans, non-Mexican Hispanic Americans, and non-Hispanic Whites (Yanmei Xu, Kent State University, with Susan Roxburgh)

### **Table 5: Youth and the State**

Privatization and Child Welfare Services (Arturo Baiocchi, University of Minnesota)

Emerging Adults Emerging from Incarceration with Psychiatric Disabilities: Age-Specific Mental Health System Challenges (Stephanie W. Hartwell, University of Massachusetts – Boston, with William H. Fisher and Maryann Davis)

### **Table 6: Cognition**

The Role of Cognition and Social Context in Predicting Community Functioning Among Formerly Homeless Seriously Mentally Ill Persons (Russell K. Schutt, University of Massachusetts – Boston, with Larry J. Seidman, Brina Caplan, Anna Martsinkiv, and Stephen M. Goldfinger)

Problems Associated with Choice and Quality of Life for an Individual with Intellectual Disability (David T. Schelly, Colorado State University)

### **Table 7: Family**

Psychological Implications of Motherhood and Fatherhood in Midlife (Tetyana Pudrovskaya, University of Wisconsin, Madison)

[Click on the link to search the preliminary program:](#)

<http://64.112.226.77/one/asa/asa07/index.php?cmd=asa07&id=>

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Family Context of Mental Health Risk in Tsunami Affected Mothers: Findings from a Pilot Study in Sri Lanka (K.A.S. Wickrama, Iowa State University, with Thulitha Wickrama)

Family Violence and Conflict in Japan over the Life Course (Fumie Kumagai, Kyorin University)

## **Table 8: Nativity**

Nativity Status and Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms Among Hispanic Young Adults (Kathryn Harker Tillman, Florida State University, with Ursula Keller)

Healthy Immigrant Effect among Asian Americans: Duration and Migration Selectivity (Fang Gong, Centers for Disease Control)

## **Table 9: HIV/AIDS**

Future Orientation, Mental Health, and HIV Risk Among Youth in Foster Care (Michael Polgar, Penn State University, with Wendy Auslander)

Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in New York (Angela Aidala, Columbia University)

## **Table 10: Mental Health Services**

Marital Status and Mental Health Convalescence (Zheng Wu (affiliation not included in report from ASA), Margaret J. Penning, Christoph M. Schimmele, Chi Zheng, Samuel Noh)

Psychiatric Care, Social Disintegration and Suicide Deaths in US Counties, 1990-1992 (Augustine J. Kposowa, University of California)

## **Table 11: Discrimination, Alienation, and Depression**

Age Discrimination and Mental Health (Anastasia S. Vogt Yuan, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

A New Model of Mental Health and Mental Illness Incorporating Alienation (Andrew R. Payton, University of North Carolina)

Inconveniencing the Self: The Problem of Depression (Katie Aubrecht, York University)

## **MENTAL HEALTH TOPICS SPONSORED BY ASA OR OTHER SECTIONS**

Data Resources Workshop. Women and Mental Health (co-sponsored by Sociologist for Women in Society and Minority Fellowship Program)

Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session. Physical Disability Across the Life Course: Physical and Mental Health Dimensions (co-sponsored with the Sectional on Aging and the Life Course)

Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session. The Co-Occurrence of Physical and Mental Health Problems: Reciprocal Effects or Shared Risk Factors?

Teaching Workshop. Sociology of Mental Health

ASA Minority Fellowship Program Session. Issues in Health and Mental Health

## **UPDATE: MENTAL HEALTH JOURNAL**

In the recent ASA election, Mental Health section members voted in favor of section sponsorship of a journal that would publish research and theory in the sociology of mental health. The vote of the section is the first step in the process of establishing a sociology of mental health journal. The next step is presenting a proposal to the ASA Publications Committee at the August meeting in New York. If the Publications Committee approves our proposal, the third step is for the proposal would go to the ASA Council at their winter meeting.

If the Council approves, negotiations would occur with a publisher and a contract would have to be approved. The earliest that we would be in a position to think about organizing an editorial board and appointing an editor would be spring of 2008. If we faced problems at the Publications Committee or the Council, a decision could be delayed until late 2008 or spring of 2009.

I wish I could say that the journal will be appearing in your boxes soon. But I am confident we will have one, and I am looking forward to it. Best wishes,

Mike Hughes, Publications Chair