

# Section on Mental Health



AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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The following pages consist of submitted announcements of events that may be of special interest to the membership of the Mental Health Section

## Special Issue: 2009 ASA Annual Meeting Information

### Introduction to Special Bulletin

**Mark Simes**

This bulletin is meant to serve as a brief informational guide to this year's annual meeting of the ASA. It is by no means comprehensive but instead consists of submissions by our membership regarding papers, presentations, awards, election results et cetera that may be of particular interest to members of the Mental Health Section of the ASA. I thank all of those who made submissions to this newsletter and look forward to gathering next week.

General meeting information can be found at <http://www.asanet.org/cs/meetings/2009>. For the convenience of our membership I have pasted some of the general scheduling notes and Mental Health Section scheduling here.

### Annual Meeting Schedule

The official days of the 2009 Annual Meeting are Saturday-Tuesday, August 8-11, 2009. The presentation language of the Annual Meeting is English. Program sessions are scheduled on all four days. There will also be some pre-meeting courses and activities held on Friday, August 7.

Sessions are scheduled in 16 time slots beginning on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and concluding on Tuesday by 5:00 p.m. Participants are expected to be available for any of the 16 time slots. If your schedule is limited by a teaching or travel constraint, inform the session organizer

upon your acceptance as a participant and no later than March 13, 2009.

Organizers are responsible for coordinating scheduling requests from their session participants and mediating any conflicting requests before contacting ASA Meeting Services with a special scheduling request.

Most program sessions are 1 hour and 40 minutes in length, followed by a 20-minute break. Exceptions will be clearly noted in the program schedule. The daily session turnover schedule on Saturday-Tuesday is:

8:30 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.  
12:30 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.  
2:30 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.  
4:30 p.m. - 6:10 p.m.

The 6:30-8:15 p.m. time slot is normally allocated for Section receptions and member-sponsored activities. The second night of the meeting is traditionally "Other Groups" Night, and those activities and meetings will be scheduled in the 8:00-10:00 p.m. time slot on Sunday, August 9.

For session information, search the online preliminary program database via the link:

<http://convention3.allacademic.com/one/asa/asa09>.

The online preliminary program database includes all information that was included at the time of scheduling.

Program Updates: Contact Meeting Services ([meetings@asanet.org](mailto:meetings@asanet.org); 202-383-9005 ext. 305) with any updates to the program listings. The online program database is searchable by participant name, session title, individual presentation title, or topic.

## Sociology of Mental Health Section Schedule of Events

**Monday August 10, 2009 Parc 55 Hotel**  
**8:30 – 10:10 Paper Session: Gender, Marriage,  
 and Mental Health**

Organizer: Anne E. Barrett (Florida State  
 University)

Presenters: Blair Wheaton and Marisa Christine  
 Young (University of Toronto);  
 Jennifer Lynn Caputo and Robin W.  
 Simon (Florida State University);  
 Hyeyoung Woo (Wichita State U) and  
 Kelly Raley (UT-Austin);  
 Christoph M. Schimmele and Zheng  
 Wu (University of Victoria)

Discussant: Anne E. Barrett

**10:30 – 12:10 Symposium: Mental Health  
 Trends: Fact or Fiction?**

Organizer: Deborah Carr (Rutgers University)

Presenters: Peter S. Bearman (Columbia  
 University);  
 Peter Conrad (Brandeis University);  
 Allan V. Horwitz (Rutgers  
 University);  
 Ellen Idler and Julie A. Phillips  
 (Rutgers University)

Discussant: Bernice A. Pescosolido (Indiana  
 University)

**2:30 – 4:10 Mental Health Roundtable Session**  
**4:40 – 5:30 Pearlín Lecture by William R.  
 Avison (University of Western Ontario)**  
**5:30 – 6:10 Section Business Meeting and  
 Award Presentations**  
**6:10 – 7:30 Reception**

## Mental Health Section Election Results

**Linda George**

Please join me in extending congratulations to the  
 winners of our recent section election of officers:

**Chair-elect:** Heather A. Turner, University of New  
 Hampshire

**Council member:** Kristi Williams, Ohio State  
 University

**Committee on Publications:** Melissa A. Milkie,  
 University of Maryland

**Nominations Committee:** Donald A. Lloyd,  
 Florida State University.

The section is grateful to all our members who  
 were willing to stand for election and offer their  
 service to us.

## William R. Avison to Receive the 2009 Leonard I. Pearlín Award

**R. Jay Turner**

The selection of Dr. Avison for this highest honor  
 the Sociology of Mental Health Section can bestow  
 was based on the award committee's recognition of  
 Bill's outstanding contributions to our science, our  
 students, and our organization. Specifically, his  
 selection was based on his exceptional record of  
 research/scientific achievement, in the mentoring of  
 new researcher/scholars, in the service of the wider  
 scientific community, and in service to the Sociology  
 of Mental Health section.

This award recognizes Bill's almost unparalleled  
 contribution to the mental health section and to other  
 organizations devoted to the sociology of health. Dr.  
 Avison was a very strong supporter of the initial idea  
 of forming a new section on the Sociology of Mental  
 Health and served as one of the sections early chairs.  
 With the exception of one or two one-year breaks he  
 has served as a member of council continuously since  
 that time. This service, which likely exceeds that of  
 all other section members, has included roles, in  
 addition to section chair, of nominations chair,  
 council member at large, awards committee and  
 program chair. He is at present Chair Elect of the  
 Medical Sociology section. Few can be named whose  
 career has been more devoted to the health of the  
 population and to our section and its goals in  
 particular. He has consistently invested his skill,  
 attention, and commitment to the continued  
 development and well-being of the sociology of  
 mental health section. Bill's multidimensional  
 contribution to our science, our students and our  
 organization well qualify him to be the 2009 recipient  
 of the Leonard I. Pearlín Award for Distinguished  
 Contribution.

## Mental Health Section Publication Awards

The recipients of this year's award for Best Publication are David Maimon and Danielle C. Kuhl for their 2008 paper in the American Sociological Review titled, "Social Control and Youth Suicide: Situating Durkheim's Ideas in a Multilevel Framework. This paper is impressive for the depth of its theoretical contribution coupled with the rigor of its statistical methodology innovatively applied neighborhood for a nationally representative sample of young people. Specifically, the study finds that risk of attempting suicide is reduced by the proportion of religiously conservative residents in the neighborhood and that the impact of depression is mitigated in areas where religion is important. Thus, the study reaffirms the validity of core Durheimien principles.

The recipient of this year's award for Best Dissertation is Brea L. Perry for her paper titled "The ripple effect: Changes in social structural location and social network dynamics in mental illness. Dr. Perry received her doctorate from Indiana University with Bernice Pescosolido as Chair of her dissertation committee and J. Scott Long, Jane McLeod, Eric R. Wright, and Jack Martin as committee members. This study used a social network framework to examine the social relationships of persons with serious mental illness as these relationships ebb and flow over time. In particular, Dr. Perry finds that social structural changes have a more pervasive influence on membership instability, that is the people who actually make up networks, than on the number of people in networks, or the functions they provide. In addition, the study shows the core and peripheral networks are influenced by different status transitions. Thus, this study makes an important contribution to our understanding of the social lives of persons with mental illness.

## SSSP Meeting

The SSSP is meeting at the Stanford Court Hotel. It is close to the ASA hotels and meeting sites so it will not be too difficult to catch sessions at both meetings. To the Hilton, walk out the Stanford Court and downhill on Powell St. for six blocks (past Union Square) to O'Farrell St. Turn right for one block on O'Farrell and there is the Hilton.

Friday, Aug. 7th , 10:30 in Fomou's Oven (not a typo) Room, Donald Lloyd has organized Social Embeddedness and Mental Health – Session #16

- Extra curricular activity involvement and adolescent self-esteem trajectories by Kellie Hagereven & Lisa Kort-Butler;
- Disability's link with depression through pathways of social relationship by Donald Lloyd;
- Family, friends, and mental health: An examination of some unexpected consequences by Michael Hughes, Jill Kieco and Walter Gove;
- Effects of perceived gender-race ethnicity- and welfare-related discrimination in hiring and firing on depression among low income women by Tre Wentling & Andrew London;
- The effects of neighborhood activism on depression: Mastery as empowerment by Megan Gelster.

Friday, Aug. 7th , 2:30 in Room # 855, Michael Hughes has organized Mass Killings at Universities and Schools – Session #38—Sarah Goodrum, Discussant

- School shootings in contemporary America: Is there a link between normal gun use and mass killings? By Kirk Miller;
- The impact of the exposure to the Virginia Tech shootings on students' mental health by Michael Hughes;
- Mental health awareness on campus by Natalie Bonfine, Christian Ritter, & Mark Munetz;
- The social construction of grief after a campus mass murder by Laura Agnich, James Hawdon and John Ryan.

Saturday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> , 8am in California Gold Room, Elizabeth Ettore and Linda Morrison have organized Is Mental Illness a Disability? – Session #49

- The relative influence of negative life events and daily hassles on objective and subjective quality of life among those with a severe mental illness by Kelly Mac Arthur, Richard Adams & Evelyn Bromet;
- Is paranoia a disability? Well, that depends... by Bill Gronfein;
- Disability and stress-associated health conditions of female veterans by Sarah Aktepy & Erin Krebs;
- On loss and losing: A critical nexus by Melvyn Fein.

Sunday, Aug. 9th , 10:30am in 6th Floor Club Lounge, Teresa Scheid has organized The Synergy of Physical and Mental Health – Session #104

- Depressive symptoms and bodily pain: Reciprocity and the role of physical disability and social stress by Mathew Gayman, Robyn Lewis & Ming Cui;
- Determinants of the relationship between visual impairment and psychological distress among older adults by Robyn Lewis & Anne Barrett;
- Unborn again: The outcomes of adolescents who recant Born Again Christian identity by Janet Rosenbaum.

Sunday, Aug. 9th , 2:30pm in California Gold Room, Mark Peyrot has organized Criminal Justice and Mental Health Treatment – Session #117

- Forgotten victims, unforgiven perpetrators: Social Problems work with adult male sexual offenders who were sexually victimized as children by Michael Petrunik & Adina Ilea;
- Offenders with psychiatric disabilities returning to the community from correctional custody: The Forensic Transition Team Approach after a decade by Stephanie Hartwell;
- Police officers as street corner psychiatrists: Assessments and transport to treatment by Christian Ritter & Kristen Marcussen;
- Rationalizing addiction: Drug courts and the creation of NORPs (Normal Ordinary Responsible Persons) by Kerwin Kaye.

## Social Neuroscience and Evolutionary Theories

### Mark Simes

Section on Evolution and Sociology

Evaluating and Testing Evolutionary Arguments

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 8 - 4:30pm - 5:30pm,

Building: Hilton San Francisco

### Topics in Homelessness

Tuesday August 11 at 10:30 in the Park 55 Hotel, the following papers will be presented and discussed by ASA Vice President-Elect David Snow:

Brad Myrstol and Kevin Fitzpatrick "Risk Factors Influencing the Duration of Arrestee Homelessness"

Eily Meanwell "Worthy Workers, Worthy Mothers: Homeless Mothers Manage..."

Michael Polgar "Families Helping Homeless and Disabled Relatives: Double Troubles"

Timothy Stablein "Helping Friends and the Homeless Milieu"

Organizer: Mark LaGorey

## The Long Arm of Offspring: Teen Problems and Elderly Parents' Mental Health

Scheduled Time: Mon, Aug 10 - 4:30pm - 6:10pm

Building: Hilton San

Francisco

In Session Submission: Regular Session. Social Structure and Personality:

Values, Self-Efficacy, and Well-Being

Authors:

Melissa A. Milkie (University of Maryland)

Dawn R. Norris (University of Maryland- College Park)

Alex E. Bierman (University of Calgary)

Abstract:

In this paper, we add knowledge to the sparse literature about "the long arm" of children. From an integrated life course-stress process approach, we argue that children have a long reach---strong capabilities to influence parents' mental health across the life course---years after they are actively being parented and long after negative experiences in their young lives have occurred. Using a sample of 670 African-American and white adults age 65 and older, we show that offspring's troubles in youth affect parents' current level of concern about their adult children, even controlling for negative experiences occurring in their children's adult years. Moreover, elderly parents have higher levels of anger if they had one or more teenagers

who were in trouble---drank or used drugs, were disobedient, or had trouble in school---even though these events occurred when their offspring were much younger, about a quarter century prior. Effects are especially notable among African-American parents. I will be presenting on Asian Americans and eating disorders in the MFP session below. Not sure if it's what you're looking for in terms of Annual Meeting announcements - my analysis is still at a very preliminary stage.

## ASA Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Research Session. Topics in Mental Health and Health

Unit: Minority Fellowship Program Session

Scheduled Time: Sun, Aug 9 - 10:30am - 12:10pm,

Building: Hilton San Francisco

Presenter, Mary Gee, on individual submission: **Cultural Factors and the Perception of Eating Disorders Among Chinese American Females**

## Section on Children and Youth: U.S. and International Perspectives

Scheduled Time: Sun, Aug 9 - 2:30 - 4:10:10pm, Building: Parc 55 Hotel

Presenter, Daniel Potter, on individual submission:

**Childhood Interrupted: The Unique Role of Distress in Understanding the Effects of Divorce on Children's Schooling**

## Community and Urban Sociology Roundtables

Scheduled Time: Mon, Aug 10 - 4:30 - 6:10:10pm,

Building: Parc 55 Hotel, Table 10: Place, Space and Health

Presenter, Daniel Potter, on individual submission: **"Sense of Control in Rural and Urban Contexts: To What Extent Does Locality Type Matter?"**

## Section on Children and Youth, co-sponsored with the Section on Aging and the Life Course

**Transition to Adulthood: The Importance of the Health Domain**

Scheduled Time: Sun, Aug 9 - 12:30pm - 2:10pm

Building: Parc 55 Hotel

Session Organizer: Jeylan T. Mortimer (University of Minnesota)

**Generational Differences in Youths Weight Trajectories: Variation during the Transition to Adulthood**

Margot I. Jackson (Princeton University)

**Health and Education in the Young Adult Transition: Variations by Race and Gender**

Cheryl A. Roberts (University of North Carolina)

**Parental Resources and Child Health: An Initial Examination of Child Health Trajectories**

Wendy Parker (Syracuse University)

## **AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

Section on Mental Health

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