

## Joseph Ewoodzie Selected ASA/MSS Minority Fellow

The American Sociological Association has named doctoral candidate Joseph Ewoodzie the recipient of the 2013-14 ASA/MSS Minority Fellowship.

Joseph's early studies at Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York, were not focused solely on sociology. He had already been accepted to graduate schools at Columbia, Stanford, and Temple when an Ithaca faculty member suggested that he study sociology at an R1 school. Joseph chose the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

"I expected to find it very competitive, with people competing for funding. But my experience at Madison was actually very collaborative – with people working together, always available to help you," Joseph said. "One example – there is a friendly list-serve to which you can pose complex academic questions or mundane questions about daily living in Madison – and within an hour, someone will answer you."



JOSEPH EWODZIE

At Madison, Joseph took a theory class from Professor Mustafa Emirbayer – and found a mentor.

"In Dr. Emirbayer's class, he gave weekly exams with 10 points possible. Every week, I would fall short of the 10 points and I would go to his office and ask him, 'How can I get better at this?' And he would teach me: 'Here's how you think about this, here's how you reason this out, here's how you write about it.'"

With encouragement from Dr. Emirbayer, Joseph turned his master's thesis into a book manuscript, *Break Beats in the Bronx: Symbolic Boundaries and the Making of Hip Hop*, which is currently under review for publication. But Joseph's dissertation research led in a different direction: For almost all of last year he lived in Jackson, Mississippi, to investigate the ways in which four groups – the homeless, the poor, the middle-class, and the upper middle-class – make daily decisions about what to eat.

"Jackson has the highest rate of obesity in the nation," he said, "especially among blacks. I want to contribute, as an ethnographer, to the public conversation about public health."

From studying hip hop to exploring food ways?

"I think all of my work can be subsumed under the same heading," Joseph said. "How do we create, maintain, and transform symbolic and social boundaries? To put it simply, how do we create an 'us' and a 'them'? There's an incredible breadth in what you can study – a wide range of empirical routes to this theoretical question," he added.

Joseph will defend his dissertation in May. Now living in central Ohio, Joseph is a teaching and dissertation fellow at Kenyon College. "For now, I just want to write, and teach, and soak in the good teaching practices I see at Kenyon – there are several master teachers here," he said. Please welcome Joseph to MSS and congratulate him on receiving the MSS-ASA fellowship with an email to: [ewoodzie@gmail.com](mailto:ewoodzie@gmail.com)

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SOCIOLOGIST IS  
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# Come to Omaha for MSS 2014 for some 'Left-Behind' Sociology

By Kevin T. Leicht, President-elect / Program Chair

Dear Friends,

The upcoming 2014 MSS meetings in Omaha will provide a unique combination of stimulating scholarly discussions with a first-class venue teeming with culture, cuisine, and excitement. As a native of Omaha (and a graduate of Creighton University, which is right next door to our conference venue), I can attest that Omaha has indeed grown up! Come to learn, engage, and party with us!

Our theme this year is "Left-Behind Sociology." In addition to the old reliable, tried-and-true session themes that have been a hallmark of MSS meetings for years, there are numerous sessions that address the theme of left-behind sociology directly – who has been left behind by recent sociological research and theorizing? What theories and methodologies have been left behind and deserve another hearing? How is sociology and social life enhanced by reincorporating ideas and people that have been left behind?

In addition to our usual diverse offering of sessions on research, teaching, learning, film screenings, and author-meets-critic sessions, we have two very prominent and dynamic plenary speakers that will be joining us;

•**J. Craig Jenkins** is Professor of Sociology and Political Science and Director of the Mershon Center for International Security at The Ohio State University. He is director of the World Handbook of Political and Social Indicators project, one of the co-inventors of the resource mobilization perspective for the study of social

movements and, in addition to his many accomplishments as an academic social scientist, is a regular consultant to the United Nations and NGO's on human global rights and refugee issues.

Professor Jenkins will be speaking to us on the topic of civil society, the environment, and the politics of climate change.

•**John Holmwood** is Professor of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Social Sciences at The University of Nottingham, United Kingdom. He is also the current President of the British Sociological Association. His research deals with the relationship between global social inquiry, pragmatism, and the construction of public sociology. Professor Holmwood will join us and also be making a tour of Midwest colleges and universities around the time of the MSS meetings (April 3-6). He will be speaking to us about his research on education as a global human right.

We will also be screening the films, *Inequality for All*, and *What's the Matter with Kansas?* this year as well.

What more could veteran and budding social scientists want?!?

All in all, the Omaha meetings combine great scholarship with a great venue for what promises to be a first-class MSS meeting for 2014.

Hope to see you there!



KEVIN T. LEICHT



J. CRAIG JENKINS



JOHN HOLMWOOD

Get ready for the

# 2014 MSS Annual Meeting in Omaha

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Dates:                     | Thursday - Sunday, April 3-6  |
| Meeting registration:      | Opens online Dec. 7 at <a href="http://www.TheMSS.org">www.TheMSS.org</a> |
| Advance registration fees: | Students - \$35 / Regular members - \$90                                  |
| Conference site hotel:     | Hilton Omaha  |
| Hotel reservations:        | Open online Dec. 7 at <a href="http://www.TheMSS.org">www.TheMSS.org</a>  |

FOLLOW MSS2014 ON TWITTER @MSSOMAHA #MSS2014

## mSS @ Omaha in 2014

If you haven't been to Omaha in the last 8 years...  
**YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO OMAHA!**



Omaha has great weather in April! Average temps in the low 60's!

We're the official home of the Reuben! As declared by Frank's Sauerkraut and the Mayor of Omaha in March 2013.



There's bridge where you can stand in two states at the same time...that's the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge. While you're at the Riverfront, check out the Monument to Labor, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest labor monument in the USA.

The city is home to the College World Series. For 50 years the best college baseball teams have descended on Omaha in June. The new stadium, TD Ameritrade Park, is just a short walk from the hotel.



MTV Ranked Omaha the 2<sup>nd</sup> most Up-and-Coming Music City in the World...because of its new state of the art music venues (like The Slowdown, Waiting Room, and the Holland Center). Plus, Omaha has a vibrant art, food, and beer scene.

Omaha has one of the best zoos in the world. The Henry Doorly Zoo has the largest indoor desert and many other impressive indoor and outdoor exhibits that are world renowned. The hotel shuttle can take you!



It's a walk-able, historic city with a great downtown. The Old Market is great for shopping and dining but the city also has uniquely preserved neighborhoods like Little Italy, Field Club, Benson, Dundee, Midtown...

**You don't want to miss out!! Meet us in Omaha April 3-6, 2014**  
**We'll try not to have another tornado. @MSSOMAHA #MSS2014**

# MSS ANNUAL MEETING DEADLINES

IF YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE APRIL 3-6, 2014, ANNUAL MEETING AS A—

- SESSION ORGANIZER,
- PAPER PRESENTER,
- PANELIST,
- DISCUSSANT,
- POSTER PRESENTER,
- COMMITTEE MEMBER,

—YOU MAY WISH TO CLIP AND POST THIS SERIES OF DEADLINES.

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| OCT. 25, 2013 | DEADLINE FOR PAPER SUBMISSIONS TO ORGANIZERS.  |
| NOV. 14       | TARGET DEADLINE FOR ORGANIZERS TO ACCEPT PAPERS AND<br>SUBMIT COMPLETED SESSION LISTINGS TO PROGRAM CHAIR.   |
| DEC. 1        | TARGET DATE FOR THE 2014 PRELIMINARY PROGRAM<br>TO BE POSTED ONLINE.   |
| DEC. 7        | ADVANCE REGISTRATION OPENS.  |
| DEC. 7        | HOTEL RESERVATIONS OPEN.   |
| DEC. 15       | DEADLINE FOR AMENDMENTS TO ONLINE PROGRAM BY<br>ORGANIZERS & PARTICIPANTS.   |
| JAN. 15, 2014 | DEADLINE FOR ORGANIZERS TO CONFIRM PAPERS AND REPORT ANY<br>WITHDRAWALS/CANCELLATIONS/REMOVALS.  |
| FEB. 1        | DEADLINE FOR ALL MEETING PARTICIPANTS TO REGISTER AND PAY<br>ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FEES. ANY ORGANIZERS/PARTICIPANTS<br>WHO HAVE NOT PAID MEMBERSHIP DUES AND REGISTRATION FEES BY FEB. 1 RUN<br>THE RISK OF BEING REMOVED FROM THE PROGRAM. |
| APRIL 3       | YOU ARRIVE IN OMAHA!   |

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## MSS PROFILES:

# Integrating Research, Teaching, Activism

By Michael A. Haedicke, Editor, *TMS*

In March, MSS members gathered in Chicago to discuss the 2013 Annual Meeting theme of “Integrating the Sociology Eclectic: Teaching, Research, and Social Activism.” Many sociologists in the Midwest region perform this integration in their professional lives by promoting civic engagement in their classrooms and by using sociological research to advance social justice in their communities. Deb White, a professor at Minnesota State University, Moorhead, and chair of the MSS Annual Meeting Committee, and Stephanie Farmer, an assistant professor at Roosevelt University in Chicago, offer two examples.

White is a co-founder and organizer of the Tri-College New Leadership Development Institute, which rotates annually between the Moorhead campus, Concordia College, and North Dakota State University. Each summer, the Institute brings together between forty and fifty women from the upper Midwest – including college students, activists in grass roots organizations, and those concerned about community issues – for a five-day workshop about leadership skills and community organizing. Participants practice public speaking and fund raising, examine public policy, and engage in anti-oppression training. They also build networks of support with established women leaders who are in residence during the Institute.

The Institute’s graduates “help to change the face of leadership and have more voices involved in public decision-making,” White explained in an interview. “When they leave, we want them to feel like they can go out and be agents of change in their communities, and many of them do.”

Farmer participates in the Chicagoland Researchers and Advocates for Transformative Education (or CReATE), a group of faculty members who produce research briefs about educational issues in the Chicago area. This year, Farmer co-authored a brief about the City of Chicago’s decision to close fifty public schools in low-income, predominantly African-American neighborhoods. The brief examined research about school closings in the city over the past ten years in order to make predictions about the impacts of the current wave of closures on affected communities.

“We consistently found negative outcomes and not necessarily the positive outcomes that Chicago Public Schools was promoting,” Farmer explained. “Our research brief actually made a difference in terms of putting another voice into the debate.”

CReATE members sent copies of the brief to community organizations, distributed summaries at rallies, and spoke about their findings to the local and national media.



## CAREERS IN SOCIOLOGY



Farmer noted, “We do think that we made a difference by putting more of a research-based perspective out there, and we now have parent groups contacting us for information when similar issues come up.”

White and Farmer connect their activism with their knowledge and skills as professional sociologists. White began her career with research into the causes of women’s underrepresentation in public leadership positions, and she uses sociological analysis of gender roles in the family to spark discussions among participants in the Institute. For example, she explains that much of women’s underrepresentation in elected offices is due to the fact that male candidates far outnumber female candidates on the national stage, a pattern that is directly related to cultural expectations that women should bear the primary responsibility for raising children.

Farmer completed her dissertation about Chicago’s public transportation system – she presented the research at one of the Chicago MSS meetings – and her findings helped to inform her broader research and advocacy related to public education and social inequality in the city.

“I approach it almost like volunteer work,” she explained. “Some people volunteer at dog shelters or feeding the homeless, and I have a particular skill set that I can use to benefit a particular community.” She also uses examples from her activist research to illustrate theoretical ideas to her students, most of whom come from Chicago and nearby communities.

Integrating the sociology eclectic is not without its challenges. White’s work involves fund raising, reviewing applications, and planning workshops, which she combines with her teaching, professional research, and administrative responsibilities as department chair. Farmer has found that conducting policy-related research for activist groups has led some to question her objectivity as a scholar. Both women credit their institutions with helping them to balance their multiple roles – Roosevelt is a liberal arts institution with a strong social justice identity, and Minnesota State, Moorhead has reduced White’s course load to support her activist work. White notes that institutional encouragement is just as important as individual initiative when it comes to pulling off sociological activism, and she encourages graduate students to think carefully about their professional priorities as they evaluate potential employers.

Both White and Farmer assert, though, that the benefits of sociological activism outweigh the challenges.

As Farmer puts it, “Sociology gives us the tools to understand the trajectory that we’re on and the issues of inequality today. We should use these tools to impact policy. In many ways, you’re already doing the research for your professional development. It’s much more rewarding to see it out there making a difference in the world.”

MSS members, take note:

White and Farmer are happy to talk about their advocacy work. Email Deb White at [whitede@mnstate.edu](mailto:whitede@mnstate.edu) and Stephanie Farmer at [sfarmer@roosevelt.edu](mailto:sfarmer@roosevelt.edu).

# Being an Applied Sociologist

By Priya Dua, Student Director

After graduating with my Ph.D. in Sociology in 2011 from the University of Missouri, I have been fortunate to find positions that allow me to pursue my passion for research by working as an applied sociologist. As some of you who read the May 2012 *TMS* piece I wrote on job search strategies may remember, my career as an applied sociologist began when I was hired by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver last spring to work as a research assistant. Since then, I have been lucky enough to find other positions that have allowed me continue working in research. I currently hold two positions. The first is as a survey analyst with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (part of the USDA) and the second is as a research assistant with the Siteman Cancer Center (part of Barnes-Jewish Hospital).

My experiences in each position are different in terms of work environment and responsibilities. As a survey analyst with NASS, I spend most days working on a computer and analyzing data from the 2012 Census of Agriculture so that we are able to provide timely and accurate

statistics on the state of agriculture in the United States. I review suspicious records to see if they meet the inclusion criteria for various projects, clean data on “dirty” records, perform quality control checks by reviewing census responses and comparing responses to historical or online data, and conduct macro-analysis with statisticians. My work involves handling large volumes of records (i.e. census surveys) on a daily basis to meet critical deadlines for agency reports and publications. Although my responsibilities are not that varied, working at NASS has allowed me to hone my skills in survey research.

My work as a research assistant at SCC is very different from what I do at NASS. At SCC, I provide research support to a team of psychologists that form Siteman Counseling Service, a service that provides free counseling to cancer patients, their families, and their caregivers. In this role, I manage data, coordinate projects, help providers gather information about resources for patients, conduct literature searches, and assist with manuscript writing. Every day is different as new projects and assignments come up.

I rarely spend an entire day on one assignment but spend each day on multiple, small tasks (similar to life as a graduate student). In the course of a day, I may perform a literature search on burnout among oncology providers, draft a section of an article examining resilience in cancer patients, and work on an IRB application. Although I may not be working with large datasets, I feel good knowing that the work I do at SCC makes an important contribution to the lives of others as it allows the psychologists I work with to provide a higher quality of care to their clients and expand existing research on cancer.

The rigorous training that I received in graduate school has helped me become a versatile researcher. Although I have faced learning curves early on in my career as I have had to become familiar with disciplinary differences and research interests that were new to me, these challenges have not dimmed my enthusiasm for and commitment to pursuing a career as an applied sociologist.

## About 5% of MSS members are applied sociologists who work outside the academy: Are you one of them?

If you are a sociologist who is not employed by an academic institution, MSS offers you some of the benefits enjoyed by those within the academy, who have easy access to their institution's library and journal subscriptions.

Please see page 18 for information about how you can access JSTOR journals and have online access to TSQ.

Another benefit: An MSS standing committee, the Sociological Practice committee, is charged with exploring ways that clinical and applied sociology may be highlighted within the Midwest Sociological Society. Focal concerns include: how to encourage greater participation of clinical and applied sociologists, and others involved in sociological practice, in the annual meeting; and ways to identify persons who could add to and receive from activities of the Midwest Sociological Society.

But - the Sociological Practice Committee can't connect with you unless you self-identify as a 'practitioner in non-academic setting' the next time you fill out a membership form. Or - self-identify today by emailing the MSS Exec Office at [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net) and asking to be designated in your membership record as a practitioner.



# Reviewing for Scholarly Journals



By Lisa K. Waldner and Betty A. Dobratz,  
Co-editors of *The Sociological Quarterly*

Journals reviewing advances scholarship in your specialty and also benefits reviewers by increasing knowledge of both the content area and research process. Generalist journals like *TSQ* depend on having both a broad and deep reviewer pool. Sometimes, invited reviewers decline because they are unsure about expectations. If you have expertise in a content area, you are qualified to provide constructive comments. Below, we offer some tips for effective reviewing.

**1. Good reviewers carefully read the invitation.** If you feel the topic is outside your area of expertise, we prefer you decline the invitation upfront rather than subsequently telling us this in your review. Editors always appreciate receiving name suggestions from declining reviewers.

**2. Turn in your review on time** or as close to the deadline as possible. If late, promptly respond to queries about your expected completion date.

**3. Tell the editor if there are some aspects of the manuscript where you cannot comment.** For example, you may be unfamiliar with a statistical technique or a qualitative research strategy. This alerts an editor that someone else may be needed to assess the methodology.

**4. Is the author using current literature?** Are important studies missing? Are the findings linked to an appropriate theoretical framework? Does the author assume too much knowledge on the part of a reader? This last point is especially important for a generalist journal like *TSQ*.

**5. Is the paper readable with a logical flow?** Are there sections that could be shortened? It's not necessary to point out every grammar, punctuation, or spelling error but making a comment such as "this manuscript needs careful editing" is appropriate feedback, especially if you identify a few of the concerns. Of course, providing a list of errors is often appreciated by both editors and authors.

**6. Is there a mismatch between the research question posed and the data and methodology used to answer that question?** Are enough details provided about the methodology?

**7. Provide when possible both constructive and specific comments.** Constructive comments help authors improve their manuscripts and should acknowledge what the author did right as well as provide ideas for improvement. Specific comments provide the most helpful direction. Writing "this article needs better organization" is not as helpful as "I think the discussion of theoretical implications would be strengthened if the model discussed here was first introduced in the literature review."

**8. Make sure your review supports your publishing recommendation.** Sometimes reviewers recommend an "accept with revisions" and then provide a long list of issues that need to be addressed which is more in line with a "revise and resubmit." A reject decision should also be supported by pointing out weaknesses. Sometimes reviewers recommend a rejection but offer only one or two comments that don't seem that serious. If you see a "fatal flaw" (e.g. something that cannot be corrected with revisions), be sure to document this in your comments to both the author and editors.

**9. Refrain from rendering editorial decisions such as "this paper should be published" in your comments to the authors.** This sentiment may not be shared by other reviewers and it makes it difficult for editors to get authors to take needed revisions seriously. These comments are perfectly fine to make in the confidential comment section for editors.

**10. Avoid a mismatch between what is written in the confidential comments to the editors and that to the author.** Telling editors that a paper has serious flaws and then "soft balling" these concerns in comments to an author is not helpful to either.

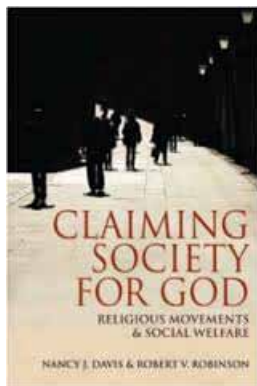
We are continually adding to our database of reviewers on Scholar One. We invite anyone interested in becoming a *TSQ* reviewer to send their vita to our Managing Editor, Leslie Kawaler, at [tsq@iastate.edu](mailto:tsq@iastate.edu) with "reviewer" in the subject line. Reviewers are listed annually in the final issue of a volume and can receive a 30% discount on selected Wiley-Blackwell publications.

We especially encourage all published *TSQ* authors to join our database of reviewers. No one can be published without the labor of reviewers. Paying it forward by reviewing manuscripts of potential *TSQ* contributors supports other scholars and expresses appreciation for the past work of *TSQ* reviewers.

We also encourage junior scholars and graduate students to review for *TSQ* in part because they are often very current in the literature and can gain important experience in the research process.

## Publications

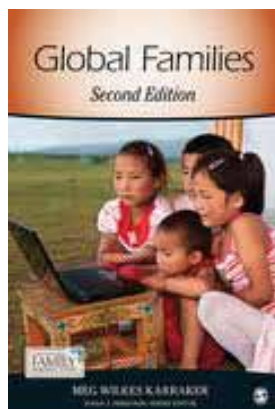
Nancy J. Davis (DePauw University) and Robert V. Robinson (Indiana University) have published



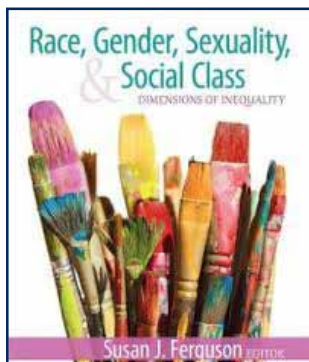
*Claiming Society for God: Religious Movements and Social Welfare in Egypt, Israel, and the United States.* The book chronicles the social movement tactics of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the Sephardi Torah Guardians or Shas in Israel, Comunione e Liberazione in Italy, and the Salvation Army in

the U.S. It received a gold medal in the religion category at the 2013 Independent Publisher Book Awards and the 2013 Scholarly Achievement Award from the North Central Sociological Association. The book is published by Indiana University Press.

Meg Wilkes Karraker (University of St. Thomas) has published *Global Families*, 2nd edition. The book is part of the Contemporary Family Perspectives series published by Sage. Susan Ferguson, Grinnell College, is the series editor.



Susan J. Ferguson (Grinnell College) has published *Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Class: Dimensions of Inequality*. This edited volume contains 64 readings that examine



inequality from various perspectives, including historical explanations, identity construction, intersectionality, and structural constraints. The book is published by Sage.

## Opportunities in Retirement Network

Beginning with a session at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings in 2009, a group of sociologists who were recently retired or nearing retirement founded ESSORN, the Eastern Sociological Society Opportunities in Retirement Network. One member developed a website (<https://sites.google.com/site/essretirementnetwork/home>), and others have organized sessions at each of the subsequent ESS meetings. The network serves to bring together sociologists interested in finding ways to use their sociological knowledge in retirement, especially when they relocate far from the universities where they were employed, and to provide a forum for interaction with colleagues at a similar life stage. One member has been conducting research on retirees to learn more about their activities.

We are now thinking about expanding our regional network and perhaps loosely reorganizing on a national basis. We are looking for volunteers in other regions who might be interested in putting together organizational sessions at their regional meetings or meeting with some of us at ASA to discuss common interests. If you think you might like to get involved in this project, please contact Rosalyn Darling ([rdarling@iup.edu](mailto:rdarling@iup.edu)), Peter Stein ([pslein22@aol.com](mailto:pslein22@aol.com)), or Tuck Green ([cgreen17@nc.rr.com](mailto:cgreen17@nc.rr.com)).

## Call for Papers

—for a Special Issue of *Qualitative Inquiry* on “Embodiment and Social Difference: A Tribute to Laurel Richardson”

Renowned sociologist and writer Laurel Richardson experiments with creative interdisciplinary qualitative inquiry, with a sensitivity to the lived experience of embodied social difference. Well known for her work on gender, Richardson's recent book *After a Fall* focuses on issues of disability, aging, and ableism. In the spirit and practice of Laurel Richardson, we invite you to submit essays and research articles on the embodied axes of social difference—disability/ableism, gender/sexism, age/ageism, sexuality/heterosexism, race/racism, and the intersectionalities of these social experiences.

Papers, proposals, and queries should be sent to Ronald Berger (University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, [bergerr@uww.edu](mailto:bergerr@uww.edu)), Carla Corroto (Radford University, [ccorroto@radford.edu](mailto:ccorroto@radford.edu)), or Julie White (The Victoria Institute, [julie.white@vu.edu.au](mailto:julie.white@vu.edu.au)). The deadline for submission of completed manuscripts is Feb. 1, 2014.

# Past President Formally Honored in Finland



Following a four-year appointment as an Academy of Finland designated Finland Distinguished Professor, Past MSS President Peter Kivisto received an honorary doctorate from the University of Turku in recognition of his scholarly contribution to immigration studies.

The doctoral ceremony was held in the Turku Concert Hall. After the initial ceremony, the group moved in procession to the Cathedral, where a religious service was held as well. Attire was formal, and included white tie and tails.

“The diploma (in Latin), the hat, and the sword are now mine!” reported Kivisto.



“REPORT FROM THE STUDENT DIRECTOR” CONT'D. THIS ARTICLE BEGINS PAGE 20.

8. At the last conference you attended did you know about the Student Hospitality Suite? Please provide additional comments if you did attend on any concerns, suggestions, etc. you may have for how we may improve it.

| Answer Options                            | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Yes                                       | 41.5%            | 59             |
| No  | 48.6%            | 69             |
| I have heard of it but could not find it. | 9.9%             | 14             |
| answered question                         |                  | 142            |
| skipped question                          |                  | 2              |

9. What additional services, events, or activities would you find beneficial at MSS?

| Answer Options    | Response Count |
|-------------------|----------------|
|                   | 39             |
| answered question | 39             |
| skipped question  | 105            |

Most common answers: Resume/career workshops, opportunities to speak with employers, or more applied sociology services (7,) more networking or connection options at the conference (5), and concerns relating to the function and operation of the hospitality suite (4).

10. Thank you for your time taking this survey. It will be very beneficial to revealing the current interests and concerns of the MSS student population. If you have any additional comments, concerns, or questions please provide them below.

| Answer Options    | Response Count |
|-------------------|----------------|
|                   | 15             |
| answered question | 15             |
| skipped question  | 129            |

Most common answers: Better management of student travel grants (2); MSS does a great job at providing a student-friendly atmosphere and is an incredible experience (2).

# Spotlight on 2012 Winners of MSS Scholarship Development Awards

By Kevin McElmurry, Chair, Scholarship Development Committee

Each year, the Midwest Sociological Society awards up to \$10,000 to MSS members in small grants to support their research. In 2012, seven projects were awarded a total of \$8700. On these two pages: updates written in spring 2013 from four of the 2012 grant winners.

**Hollie Nyseth Brehm**

**Research project funded: “Conditions and Courses of Genocide”**

My dissertation examines the causes and processes of genocide with a particular focus on regional and temporal variation in violence. The project draws upon mixed-method case studies of Rwanda, Bosnia, and Sudan, and the 2012 MSS Research Award funds helped make the fieldwork in Rwanda and Bosnia possible. Some preliminary findings from the research trip to Rwanda were presented at the 2012 American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting and at several University of Minnesota colloquia this past year; in addition, I will present findings from both Rwanda and Bosnia at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting in August 2013. The research conducted so far contributed to the following article:

Hollie Nyseth. “The Crime of Genocide.” *Crime and the Punished*, ed. by Douglas Hartmann and Christopher Uggen. W.W. Norton & Company. Forthcoming in 2013. Originally published as a peer-reviewed special feature on *The Society Pages*, December 10, 2012. Link to online version: <http://thesocietypages.org/specials/the-crime-of-genocide/>



HOLLIE NYSETH BREHM IN RWANDA  
SPEAKING WITH MASSACRE SURVIVOR



**Meghan Mordy**

**Research project funded: “Dropping Out in El Salvador: What pushes poor youth out of school?”**

My project is a multi-year qualitative study based in El Salvador and it employs two fieldwork phases, each with its own analytical focus. The first phase, completed in December 2012, was supported in part by the 2012 MSS Research Award. During this phase, I completed 15 months of participant observation in one rural and two urban schools and focus groups with 180 students. Preliminary findings from this phase of research were presented at the MSS 2013 Annual Meeting in a paper titled, “How School Contexts Contribute to the Dropout Problem in El Salvador.” I am beginning phase two of the dissertation research in May.

MEGHAN MORDY AND STUDENT AT  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN EL SALVADOR

**Michelle A. Meyer (formerly Lueck)**

**Research project: “Community Disaster Resilience: The Role of Collective Efficacy and Social Capital”**

The 2012 MSS Research Award supported the completion of my dissertation research last year. The MSS funds along with funds from the PERISHIP Hazards Dissertation Fellowship and the Rural Sociological Society Dissertation Grant allowed me to complete a mixed methods study of two commonly theorized, but under-developed concepts in disaster resilience research: collective efficacy and social capital. Specifically, I developed a set of disaster-specific measures of individual social capital and collective efficacy, based on my mail survey and qualitative fieldwork in two Florida counties. I discussed my research recently at the 2013 Annual MSS Meeting in Chicago. Michelle Meyer. 2013. “Community Disaster Resilience: The Role of Collective Efficacy and Social Capital” Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.





RACHEL ALLISON

**Rachel Allison****Research project: "Gender and the Organization of Women's Professional Soccer"**

The 2012 MSS Research Award helped to fund data collection for an ethnographic study of women's pro soccer in the U.S., My project took an unanticipated turn when the league I was studying folded a year into fieldwork. The MSS Research Award allowed me to travel around the country to interview players, staff and fans attached to multiple teams in order to gain diverse perspectives on the league's failure. This project is much stronger as a result, and has garnered additional funding and attention, including the 2012-2013 University of Illinois Dean's Scholar Fellowship. Results from this research have been presented at the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport conference. Findings will also be presented at the SSSP this coming August. The first manuscript from the project is currently under review.

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## Call for 2014 Research Grant Proposals

**YOU ARE ELIGIBLE IF:**

- You are a current member of MSS.
- Hold a faculty position with Ph.D. (This includes teaching faculty, adjunct faculty, visiting faculty and non-tenure track faculty as well).

The MSS Scholarship Development Committee offers research grants up to \$2,500. We seek to fund high impact proposals.

Such proposals could be:

- \* Early stage research. Such research could consist of the data collection for a new project or a pilot or preliminary study that could lead to refining a research design / conceptualization.
- \* Completion of an ongoing project. Funding for such research would accelerate the time to completion for a project already in process.
- \* Leverage for other resources. Such research would clearly make other available resources more productive.

Research proposals should specify how funding from the MSS Scholarship Development Committee will make a significant impact on the research project by identifying alignment with one of the above goals.

The principal applicant must submit a report of the outcome of the research to the Scholarship Development Committee.

Grant applications are accepted ONLY between Jan. 15, 2014, and Feb. 15, 2014. References should follow ASA's style guide.

A complete proposal includes

1. cover page;
2. statement of the research problem;
3. theoretical framework;
4. summary of methodology and design;
5. An itemized budget with a brief budget justification. Parts 1 through 5 should be 1200 words or less. Proof of IRB approval or a completed IRB submission if human subjects' research is part of the project. (IRB approval not required at the time of grant application, but will be required upon completion).
6. Proposals must identify a principal investigator, and include a mailing address.
7. Applicants should clearly state what supplemental materials they need funded in order to carry out their research. Thus, the committee needs to know the entire funding needs of the project so that the committee can determine whether the research is likely to be successfully carried out in the one-year time period allotted. Also, the applicant must list all other funding awards, pending grants, and / or any monies applied for in relation to their submitted proposal.
8. A letter approving your access to any agency/organization/research facility/databank required for your project.
9. Statement of intention to attend the MSS Annual Meeting the following year to present your research findings if you are selected to receive MSS funding. [Grant winners are expected to be present at a special invited session.] We do not fund travel to the MSS conference to present your results and your itemized budget must not include this.
10. C.V. and list of references.

**SEND E-COPIES**

Please collate all your application documents into a single pdf. Please email your application pdf, with "MSS RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION" in the subject line of your email, to Committee Chair Kevin McElmurry, [kmcelmurry@iun.edu](mailto:kmcelmurry@iun.edu), Please cc your application to MSS at [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net).

**TIMING**

The submission process opens Jan. 15, 2014, and closes at midnight, Feb. 15th, 2014. Applications submitted before or after this time period will not be considered.

*NEW from MSS!!!***Scholarship Available for Advanced Study in the Sociology of Aging**

The Midwest Sociological Society is pleased to announce the Betty Havens/ MCSRA Scholarship for Advanced Study in the Sociology of Aging. The Scholarship honors former MSS/MCSRA member Dr. Betty Havens and the no longer existing Midwest Council for Social Research on Aging.

Graduate student members of MSS who have made a commitment to specialize in the sociological study of aging may apply for the \$1,000 award. More information about the award, eligibility and specific application instructions will be posted on the MSS website in December. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2014.

The recipient will be announced at the 2014 annual MSS meeting in Omaha. The scholarship award committee, chaired by Mary Zimmerman, University of Kansas, includes former MCSRA participants and MSS members, Professors Linda Breyspraak and Miguel Carranza, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Read more about Betty Havens and the history of MCSRA at the 'Related Groups' page at [www.TheMSS.org](http://www.TheMSS.org)

*Guidelines revised***Call for Nominations: Departmental Award in Teaching Excellence**

Has your department or program created innovative curricula and teaching/learning strategies for the effective education of students, either graduate or undergraduate, in the discipline of sociology?

If so, apply for the MSS Departmental Award in Teaching Excellence! Nomination deadline is Dec. 1, 2013. The award carries a cash award of \$1000.00, to be used by the department to further teaching excellence. To apply please click on the link provided at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OH5C98T>

For additional information or questions, please contact Megan Nielsen, Chair, Committee on Teaching & Learning, at [mnielsen@midlandu.edu](mailto:mnielsen@midlandu.edu).

*Guidelines revised***Call for Nominations: Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award**

The Women in the Profession Committee invites nominations for the Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award. Named after Jane Addams, this award will recognize, highlight, and award a modern-day individual who embodies the passion, dedication, and activism of Jane Addams through efforts to improve the status of girls or women. All current members of MSS are eligible to receive this award.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominators need not be MSS members. Nominations are due by Nov. 1, 2013. Upon receipt of the nomination, the Award Coordinator will contact the nominee to request the following additional documentation: Current curriculum vitae, 1-2 page statement on the nominee's work in service of women/girls; contact information for organizations which have benefitted from the nominee's work.

The WIPC committee will make selection based on the following criteria:

- Strength of service (possible measures include amount of commitment (time, level); sustainability—if applicable; originality)
- Vitae (possible measures include indication of service as long-term commitment; service integrated with scholarship)

The awardee will be presented with the award at the MSS annual meeting in Omaha, NE, and will receive a commemorative gift, as well as a \$300 contribution to a service organization (broadly defined) to which he or she has contributed time, effort and energies. Please send nominations to the Chair of the Women in the Profession Committee: Mahruq Khan / University of Wisconsin - La Crosse/ Dept of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies / 4300 Centennial Hall 1725 State St / La Crosse, WI 54601. Questions? Contact Mahruq at [mkhan@uwlax.edu](mailto:mkhan@uwlax.edu) or by phone at (608)785-8351.





## Call for Applications: Visiting Scholar Grants

*Applications accepted year-round as long as funds available. Before applying, inquire about fund availability.*

The MSS Endowment Committee accepts applications for the Visiting Scholar/Visiting Researcher Program year-round, as long as there are funds left to give. The purpose of the program is to support the dissemination of scholarship and research by providing funds for leading researchers and scholars to make short visits to colleges, universities, and state association meetings to share their knowledge and skills with faculty and students.

The host school or association may be in the nine-state Midwest Sociological Society region (The Dakotas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin) and must not have a Ph.D. program in sociology. An at-large member of the MSS whose host institution has no Ph.D. program in sociology may also apply on behalf of his or her institution.

The invited scholar/researcher must be a member of the Midwest Sociological Society at the time of application. (To determine whether a scholar/researcher is an MSS member in good standing, please contact MSS at [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net).) The grant provides up to \$1000 (as long as funds are available) to cover transportation costs, incidental costs for the scholar/researcher while traveling to/from the host institution, and reasonable hotel/lodging expenses, while the host school provides meals, hospitality, and any honoraria. The scholar/researcher contributes his or her time and skill.

Visiting Scholars/Researchers may, among other things, participate in:

- Workshops on methodologies of interest;
- Seminars on special topics;
- Public lectures on current issues;
- Conferences with faculty members on their research;
- Meetings with students interested in advanced work;
- Classroom presentations;
- Keynote presentations at state association meetings.

Applications may be submitted by host institutions year-round, and require a letter containing a plan for the visit, a letter of support from the host's dean or equivalent academic administrator, the contact information for the invited scholar/researcher, a tentative schedule of dates and times, and a travel budget. You may name one or more scholars you would like to have for a visit. If you have no nominees, indicate the fields or specialties of particular interest to your students and faculty, and the committee will seek to recruit a scholar for the visit.

To apply, send materials electronically to:  
Committee Chair Kevin McElmurry, [kmcelmur@iun.edu](mailto:kmcelmur@iun.edu).  
Please cc the application and supporting materials to the MSS Exec Office at [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net)



## Call for Nominations: MSS Early Career Scholarship Award\*

The Early Career Scholarship Award will recognize a body of work by a younger scholar, working alone or with collaborators, which is particularly meritorious, creative or enlightening. The award is offered biennially, and includes a \$500 prize. Instituted to underscore the Society's commitment to the professional development of younger scholars, the Early Career Scholarship Award will be bestowed at the annual meetings in 2014.

Nominations for the award shall be submitted to the chair of the award committee by Nov. 15, 2013. \*

*\*Before nominating, see the complete nominations requirements online or request them from the MSS Exec Office by email to:*  
[mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net)



## Call for Nominations: MSS Distinguished Book Award\*

Nominations and review copies are due Oct. 31, 2013, *but the deadline may be extended. Contact the MSS Exec Office.*

The Midwest Sociological Society invites nominations for the MSS Annual Distinguished Book Award to recognize outstanding contributions to sociological research, theory and policy analysis. Eligible books advance sociological analysis in an original and substantive way and must have been copyrighted in 2011, 2012, or 2013. The award is offered annually, and includes a \$250 prize.

*\*Before nominating, see the complete nominations requirements online or request them from the MSS Exec Office by email to:*  
[mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net)

# CALL FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION: UNDERGRADUATE POSTER SESSION IN OMAHA

**Purpose:** The MSS Undergraduate Poster Session is designed to feature undergraduate work in Sociology and promote interaction between all members of the Midwest Sociological Society.

**Definition:** “A poster presentation consists of an exhibit of materials that reports research activities or informational resources in visual and summary form. Poster presentations provide a unique platform that facilitates personal discussion of work with interested colleagues and allows meeting attendees to browse through highlights of current research and ideas.”  
*Definition courtesy of the American Sociological Association.*

**Content:** Undergraduate students experience and study the “art” of sociology in many ways. This session is designed to feature these experiences and studies. Posters may present original research and data collection, theoretical works and applications, studies of public policy using sociological frameworks, as well as other forms of being engaged with the sociological imagination.

**Format:** Guidelines and information on constructing posters, session logistics (date, time, place), presenter expectations, and poster competition details will be sent to all students accepted into the session.

**Other Information:** Poster presentations are treated like other submissions for sessions at the MSS with two exceptions: (1) All poster presenters must have a faculty sponsor. (2) Poster presentations are submitted directly to the coordinator and are NOT submitted through the online paper-submission portal.

**Questions?** Email Undergrad Poster Session Coordinator Jean Karlen at [jekarle1@wsc.edu](mailto:jekarle1@wsc.edu)

## Submission Information:

**Deadline:** January 10, 2014.

Send poster submissions directly to Jean Karlen by email to: [jekarle1@wsc.edu](mailto:jekarle1@wsc.edu)

Include the information specified below:

### **POSTER TITLE:**

**AUTHOR(S):** Please provide names and email addresses for all student authors.

(If there is more than one author, indicate with an asterisk (\*) the principal author responsible for presenting the poster.)

**FACULTY SPONSOR:** (Must be a current member of MSS; provide current address and email.)

**ABSTRACT:** (Summarize your poster in 150 words or less.)

## Expectations of Poster Presenters:

- Students must be members of the Midwest Sociological Society to participate. Student membership fees are \$23.
- Students can join MSS on the membership page of the MSS website at [www.TheMSS.org](http://www.TheMSS.org)
- Students must register (pay registration fees) for the annual meeting before Feb. 1, 2014. Student advance registration fees for 2014 are \$35.
- Students who do not join MSS AND register by Feb. 1st will be dropped from the program.
- Posters will be on display at the annual meeting in an area yet to be assigned. A time will be assigned during the day on Friday or Saturday, April 4 or 5, for students to be present to answer questions about their posters.

# CALL FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION: 51ST ANNUAL STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION IN HONOR OF R. DEAN WRIGHT

The Midwest Sociological Society invites students of sociology to participate in the 2014 Student Paper Competition. The competition is open to currently-enrolled undergraduate and graduate student members of MSS. Papers are judged through a blind review with separate panels of judges for graduate and undergraduate papers.

Three prizes in each division:      1st Prize: \$250      2nd Prize: \$150      3rd Prize: \$100  
plus waiver of annual meeting registration fee.  
Prizes may be picked up by the winner at the annual meeting in Omaha.  
MSS reserves the right not to award prizes, or to award second or third prizes but no first.

## ----- Rules for the 2014 Competition -----

### Papers

1. Research-based papers involving research on human subjects must secure Institutional Review Board approval prior to beginning research; or undergo an equivalent review procedure and describe it in the methodology section of the paper.
2. Papers may be co-authored by students, but not by students and faculty. Advisors are expected to provide guidance, but not to assist with writing the paper. A student may author or co-author only one paper in the competition.
3. Students may nominate their own work. With a student's permission, an advisor may submit a paper on a student's behalf.
4. Maximum text length is 25 double-spaced pages (12-point font), not counting abstract, references, tables or figures.
5. Students who submit papers to this competition may submit the same paper to sessions at the annual meeting and/or to the editor of *The Sociological Quarterly* for publication consideration.

### Submission Procedures and Deadline

6. Student competitors must pay MSS dues for 2014 prior to submitting a paper. [Pay online at [www.TheMSS.org](http://www.TheMSS.org)]
7. The paper may be submitted as two to three pdf files [preferred!] or as two to three text files, but it must be submitted as two to three documents, as follows: (1) A cover sheet including title of the paper; the name, institutional affiliation, email address, telephone number, mailing address and the graduate or undergraduate status of the author(s); and the name, email address, telephone number, and mailing address of the student's advisor. (2) The paper itself must include NONE of the identifying information from the cover page, but must include, at the top of its first page, the full title of the paper, followed by the abstract, if one is included. [See [www.theMSS.org](http://www.theMSS.org) for sample documents.] (3) IRB certification or appropriate documentation must be submitted as a third document, for research-based papers involving human subjects.
8. All submissions must be received by January 11, 2014. Send submissions electronically ONLY to: [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net). [IMPORTANT: Do not send submissions to the competition chairs.]
9. Your submission will be acknowledged by email when received. If your submission is not acknowledged within 72 hours of your sending it, it is your responsibility to follow up with the MSS Executive Director at: [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net); or with a call to (319)338-5247.

### Notification of Competition Results

10. All competitors will be notified of results by February 1, 2014.

### Questions / Other

11. Questions? Please contact Graduate Competition Chair Elizabeth Hoffman at [ehoffmann@purdue.edu](mailto:ehoffmann@purdue.edu), or Undergraduate Chair Krista Lynn Minnotte at [krista.minnotte@und.edu](mailto:krista.minnotte@und.edu).
12. NOTE: DO NOT send papers to the chairs!
13. NO reviews will be provided to competitors, either verbally or in writing.

# New benefits for some MSS members from the JSTOR digital library

*R & R offers 'register & read' access / JPASS 'library card' 50% off to MSSers*



## What is JSTOR?

JSTOR, pronounced JAY-store, (short for Journal Storage) is a digital library founded in 1995. Originally containing digitized back issues of academic journals, it now also includes books and primary sources, and current issues of some journals. It provides full-text searches of almost 2,000 journals. More than 8,000 institutions in more than 160 countries have access to JSTOR; most access is by subscription, some content is available for pay, some older public domain content is freely available to anyone.

Many MSS members are academic sociologists who have free access to JSTOR through a campus library subscription; but access can be difficult for non-academics.

## What is R&R?

In 2012, JSTOR launched Register & Read (R&R) which enables anyone in the world to register with JSTOR and read [but not download!], for free, three articles from the archive every two weeks.

R & R includes approximately 1,200 journals. More than 500,000 people from around the world registered and are using the service.

JSTOR found that some people were willing to pay for broader access that would enable them to read more articles from the archive and also download them. To address this need, JSTOR developed JPASS in 2013.

## What is JPASS?

JPASS is a way for *individuals* to pay for access to the JSTOR archive on a monthly or annual basis.

Designed for those without institutional access to the JSTOR archival collections, JPASS is ideal for MSS members working outside of the academy. It is also valuable for faculty members at institutions with limited access to JSTOR, and for adjuncts or lecturers with sporadic access to library resources.

Think of JPASS as a personal library card where you pay a fee and get unlimited reading and limited downloading to a digital library.

## How can MSS members access their discount to JPASS?

As a benefit of your MSS membership, JSTOR offers you a 1-year JPASS access plan for \$99—a 50% discount on the listed rate. JPASS includes unlimited reading and 120 article downloads—for more than 1,500 humanities, social science, and science journals in the JSTOR archival collections. To use your member discount and sign up for JPASS, follow this custom link, which will admit you to the JPASS purchase website for MSS members: <http://jpass.jstor.org/?soc=MSS&mc=P60N0Yc2ki>

# MSS members: Access TSQ at Wiley Online Library

As a benefit of membership in the Midwest Sociological Society, you are entitled to online access to MSS's journal, *The Sociological Quarterly*, through Wiley Online Library. Featuring a clean and simple interface, this online service delivers intuitive navigation, enhanced discoverability, expanded functionalities, and a range of personalization and alerting options. Sign up for email alerts and RSS feeds, search for related content and click through to references. If you are a new Wiley Online Library user, follow these simple steps to [register](#) and [affiliate](#) with this content. If you have already registered on this site you can use the same registration details; and skip to Step B to affiliate.

## Step A. How to Register

1. Go to the Wiley Online Library homepage: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com> 2. Click on 'Not Registered?' at the top right hand part of the page. 3. Fill in the Registration form and submit. 4. You will immediately receive an email which requires you to click on a link and validate the information you provided during your registration. Please do so within 24 hours in order to avoid the need to re-register. 5. Once you have registered, log in and follow the instructions in Step B below to affiliate your journal with your account.

## Step B. Affiliate with TSQ

1. Go to the Wiley Online Library Member Registration homepage: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/societies/MSS> 2. Enter your registered email address and password. 3. Enter your last name. 4. Enter this access code: YS00000985. 4. Submit. Registration and affiliation is a one-time process. Once you have affiliated you will not need to use your membership number and access code again. In future you can go straight to <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com> and log in. Please remember: Access to this online journal is for personal use only; your password should be kept confidential. Questions? Email Rhonda Riccardi, Membership Services Specialist at [rRiccardi@wiley.com](mailto:rRiccardi@wiley.com)

## For members only

### MSS polls will open soon

Watch for an MSS email blast in late October inviting you to vote online for MSS officers and directors. Once the message is sent, you will have 30 days to vote.

### Opportunities abound

As of this writing, eleven jobs, two calls for papers, and a new degree program are listed on the JOBS & OPPORTUNITIES page at [www.TheMSS.org](http://www.TheMSS.org). The page is updated daily - check it out!

### Thinking about retirement?

If you are a retired MSS member, you might be eligible for LIFE membership. Look for details on the MEMBERSHIP page at [www.theMSS.org](http://www.theMSS.org)

### NEW!!! THREE-YEAR MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE:

When you renew your membership this fall for 2014, you'll see a three-year option on the membership form:

Three-year memberships are now available at all membership levels, at a discounted rate.

For example: Regular \$60 memberships may be extended over three years for only \$155. Three-year memberships initiated in 2014 will extend to Dec. 31, 2016.

2014 is the second year of a two-year pilot program to evaluate whether members like the multi-year membership option.

Questions? Contact the MSS executive office:  
[mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net)

## MSS membership FAQs

**TO JOIN or RENEW:** Visit the membership page at [www.themss.org](http://www.themss.org) to pay your dues by credit card. OR use the membership form in this issue to pay dues by mail.

**STUDENT MEMBERSHIP** is available to graduate and undergraduate students at any institution of higher learning. Persons gainfully employed as sociologists should not be student members.

**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS AND OPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** Any contributions beyond the basic membership levels help the Midwest Sociological Society to provide grants, awards and minority scholarships; support the society's operations now and in the future; keep dues and meeting registration fees low.

**DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU 'EXPIRE?'** MEMBERSHIP is for the calendar year, beginning Jan. 1 and ending Dec. 31. To determine your membership expiration date, just check the label on this issue of *TMS*. If it says, "2013," your membership expires Dec. 31, 2013. Please renew for 2014 before Jan. 31 to ensure that you receive an annual meeting packet and uninterrupted publications; and that you remain eligible for MSS committees, grants and awards.

**NOT RECEIVING MSS PUBLICATIONS?** If you should miss any issues of *The Midwest Sociologist* or *The Sociological Quarterly*, due to moving or other problems, please request replacement from MSS exec director Lauren Tiffany at [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net)

**NOT RECEIVING MSS EMAIL?** Some servers filter out MSS's mass email - don't forget to check your junk mail box. Please add [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net) to your Safe Senders list. If you are not receiving occasional emails from MSS, make sure you're subscribed by sending an email with "Subscribe Me!" in the subject line to: [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net)

**MOVING?** Change your address for all MSS publications with one e-mail to: [mwsocsoc@centurylink.net](mailto:mwsocsoc@centurylink.net)



## Future Meetings

2015 — Kansas City, MO  
Marriott Downtown  
Thursday - Sunday  
March 26 - 29

2016 — Chicago, IL  
Marriott Magnificent Mile  
Wednesday - Saturday  
March 23 - 26

2017 — Milwaukee, WI  
Hilton City Center  
Thursday - Sunday  
March 30 - April 2



# Society Business: Report from the Student Director

By Kimberly Maas, Student Director

This past summer, a survey was sent to the 512 MSS student members who attended the conference in Chicago last year. The target response rate was 30%. The student body was very responsive. The target goal was almost reached, 28.13% or 144 responses. A summary of results was presented to the Board of Directors this past September at the fall board meeting. After this meeting, several strategies have been put in place to take into consideration the concerns showed in the survey results. The primary goal of conducting this survey was to determine the effectiveness of current MSS programs and to locate potential future projects. Through doing this it has been discovered that only 11.1% of current students have participated in the preparing future faculty program in the past and only 33.3% of them are aware that the Student Issues Committee exists. This shows that, in the future, the Student Issues Committee needs to change its marketing strategy to reach them better and to get word out of its programs. There is now an ad hoc committee in the works to discuss institutionalizing certificate programs (including a professional development certificate) by MSS. Currently, there are members of the board and local arrangements committee that are looking at restructuring the exhibits area and providing a community showcase or job fair, hopefully next year in Omaha. It is hoped that through the results of this project that discussion such as this and efforts toward the program concerns can take place. Thank you for your time, interest, and your support. The 10 question survey results are as follows:

| 1. What is your current academic status?       |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options                                 | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Undergraduate Student                          | 14.8%            | 21             |
| Graduate Student                               | 33.1%            | 47             |
| Doctoral Student                               | 38.0%            | 54             |
| Recently graduated (2013) with a BA/BS degree  | 9.2%             | 13             |
| Recently graduated (2013) with an MA/MS degree | 2.1%             | 3              |
| Recently graduated (2013) with a Ph.D.         | 2.8%             | 4              |
| Other (please specify)                         |                  | 3              |
| answered question                              |                  | 142            |
| skipped question                               |                  | 2              |

| 2. Are you aware that the Student Issues Committee exists?                          |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes   | 33.3%            | 48             |
| No  | 52.1%            | 75             |
| I would not know who to contact with any concerns, interests, etc. that I may have. | 14.6%            | 21             |
| answered question   |                  | 144            |
| skipped question  |                  | 0              |

| 3. Have you ever participated in the Preparing Future Faculty Certificate Program at MSS? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes   | 11.1%            | 16             |
| No  | 88.9%            | 128            |
| Other (please specify)  | 0.7%             | 1              |
| answered question   |                  | 144            |
| skipped question  |                  | 0              |



## NEWS FOR MEMBERS

4. How interested would you be in a certificate program at MSS that is specifically geared toward professional development? This certificate would be sponsored by the Student Issues Committee and would include session topics that range from teaching, applied sociology, and public sociology.

| Answer Options        | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Not at all Interested | 5.6%             | 8              |
| Slightly Interested   | 22.5%            | 32             |
| Moderately Interested | 38.7%            | 55             |
| Extremely Interested  | 33.1%            | 47             |
| answered question     |                  | 142            |
| skipped question      |                  | 2              |

5. Would you be interested in attending a job fair at an MSS conference?

| Answer Options        | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Not at all Interested | 6.3%             | 9              |
| Slightly Interested   | 12.6%            | 18             |
| Moderately Interested | 36.4%            | 52             |
| Extremely Interested  | 44.8%            | 64             |
| Additional Comments:  |                  | 6              |
| answered question     |                  | 143            |
| skipped question      |                  | 1              |

6. How confident are you that you will find a career using Sociology upon graduation?

| Answer Options         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Not at all Confident   | 10.9%            | 15             |
| Slightly Confident     | 22.5%            | 31             |
| Moderately Confident   | 41.3%            | 57             |
| Extremely Confident    | 25.4%            | 35             |
| Other (please specify) |                  | 10             |
| answered question      |                  | 138            |
| skipped question       |                  | 6              |

7. Conference Experience Please choose the appropriate answer to indicate the extent to which you agree to the statement.

| Answer Options  | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Response Count |
|---|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. I have experienced discrimination at MSS because of my status as a student.                                  | 2              | 7     | 24      | 43       | 67                | 143            |
| 2. I was able to network or connect with other students, faculty, professionals related to my interests at MSS. | 20             | 72    | 34      | 14       | 2                 | 142            |
| 3. My experience at the MSS conference was beneficial for my professional development.                          | 36             | 80    | 22      | 3        | 1                 | 142            |
| Additional Comments:  |                |       |         |          |                   | 4              |
| answered question   |                |       |         |          |                   | 143            |
| skipped question  |                |       |         |          |                   | 1              |

"REPORT FROM THE STUDENT DIRECTOR" CONT'D PAGE 11

## J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr. (1939-2013)

J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr., Professor Emeritus of Sociology and former coordinator of family studies at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire died on September 1, 2013, in Austin, Texas. For the past four decades, Dr. Davidson's research has contributed to our understanding of a wide range of topics in marriage and family, especially around sexuality and intimacy.

Dr. Davidson was raised in Martinez, Georgia. After receiving a teaching diploma at Augusta State College, Ken graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Master of Arts in Sociology. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Florida where he worked with Felix Berardo.

His 40-year teaching career began at Augusta State College. After two years teaching at Indiana University South Bend, Ken and his family moved to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he had a 30-year career at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. Ken retired as Professor Emeritus of Sociology.

Dr. Davidson began studying human sexuality in the 1960s while teaching at Augusta State College and serving as a research instructor and survey consultant in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical College of Georgia, commencing the lifelong focus of his work throughout his career and even into retirement. In addition to his more than 80 research publications, Dr. Davidson co-authored numerous textbooks in the areas of sociology, marriage and family, and human sexuality. Dr. Davidson was recognized as a Certified Family Life Educator by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) in 1989. In 2005, Dr. Davidson was awarded Fellow status in NCFR, "an honor awarded to relatively few living members on the basis of their outstanding contributions to family science ... that have broad impact on the field and are enduring over time."

In 2005, the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction at Indiana University acquired the lifelong collection of research files and scholarly work on human sexuality compiled by Dr. Davidson and his collaborator, Nelwyn B. Moore, Professor Emerita, Texas State University-San Marcos. The archive contains more than 10,000 articles on human sexuality. The head of the library at the Kinsey Institute noted:

"For the past four decades, their research contributions covered a wide range of topics, from studies on sexual emotions to sexual relations and knowledge of marriage and family. The Institute library aims to acquire, organize, preserve as well as provide access to human sexuality resources and is visited by students and scholars of sexuality from all over the world. The Davidson/Moore collection will expand and enhance our collecting scope, and we are very pleased that they have decided to deposit their lifelong collection with the Kinsey Institute."

Throughout his career, Dr. Davidson was the consummate servant-leader. He was active in the American Sociological Association, the Groves Conference on Marriage and the Family, the Midwest Sociological Society, the National Council on Family Relations, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, the Southern Sociological Society, the Texas Council on Family Relations, and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. Dr. Davidson served as President of the Mid-South Sociological Association and as President of Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociology honor society that has named its Distinguished Service Award in his honor.

In addition to his ambitious scholarly agenda and his devotion to professional service, Ken always had time to lend a nonjudgmental ear and to extend professional guidance. For those of us fortunate to have served with him (including many women navigating the academy), Ken was a gracious and just-plain-kind supporter, but also a reminder of the importance of generous gatekeepers who open opportunities to the next generation. Fortunate among us are those who counted Ken as "family," celebrating marriages, births, graduations, and the other rites of passage of family life with this gentleman.

Our colleague and friend is survived by his two sons, John Kenneth Davidson, Jr. (Houston, Texas) and Stephen Wood Davidson (Atlanta, Georgia), as well as John's wife, Emmy Davidson, and grandsons, John Kenneth (Jake) Davidson III, and William Laughlin (Will) Davidson (Houston, Texas).

Contributed by:

Meg Wilkes Karraker (Professor of Sociology, University of St. Thomas)

Dennis R. McSeveney (Associate Provost Emeritus and Professor Emeritus, University of New Orleans)

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

## The Midwest Sociological Society 2014 Membership Form

1. Please use this form for paying only membership dues through the MAIL by CREDIT CARD, CHECK or MONEY ORDER.
  2. **Complete** this form.
  3. **Mail this form** with your check, money order or credit card numbers to: **MSS / 310 Dartmouth St / Iowa City, IA 52245.**
- CAUTION:** Do not scan & send this form with credit card numbers as an email attachment. Email is NOT secure.

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Optional middle initial or name, if desired

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**Optional Demographics / Interest Inventory**

MSS uses this data to monitor MSS diversity. Please help by describing yourself.

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Year of birth

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If a non-student sociologist, please indicate with an X on the line if any of these descriptions apply to you:

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**VOL. 54, NO. 4**

**FALL 2013**



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