

the midwest sociologist

Vol. LV No. 1 May 2012

MSS 2012: Going Global, Exploring our Past, Embracing the Future

By President Linda Lindsey

Marking the 75th anniversary of our first annual meeting, MSS2012 met in Minneapolis to explore our program theme, *Sociological Understandings of the Global Transformation*, with over 250 sessions and events. We biked, toured the spectacular Hindu Temples, and witnessed the vibrant, inviting spirit of diversity in Twin City ethnic enclaves.

Social and Scholarly

MSS 2012 offered the highest quality scholarship in an atmosphere fostering sociability, such as the Meet-the-Authors luncheon sponsored by Pearson Education and welcome reception honoring Lori Peek with the Distinguished Book Award and ChangHwan Kim and Melissa Walls with Early Career Scholarship Awards. Undergraduates thoughtfully discussed their excellent posters during the ice cream social.



**Keynote speaker Irwin Deutscher and
MSS President Linda Lindsey**

Clearly the event “to see and be seen” was the MSS Inaugural “St. Louis Style” Trivia Night (TN) with 14 tables competing on sociological knowledge, with several rounds of “general” pop culture to level the field. Gold balloons wandered between rounds to the highest-scoring table and finally alit over the winning table, with players receiving Starbuck’s gift cards. Although black balloons descended on the losing table, I hear they were forgotten in the spirit of this enormously fun and exciting evening.

Thematic

Tracked for the first time through our online system, global-themed sessions accounted for 20 percent of our program. This included sessions that overlapped topics such as race and ethnicity, gender, and political economy as well as workshops on pedagogy with international students and culturally diverse campuses in mind. Teaching and learning (20 percent) and family, gender and sexuality (14 percent) led as the most popular session topics.

Irwin Deutscher’s provocative keynote centered on strategies of minimizing intergroup violence around the world. “Sociological understandings” of these suggest that acceptance of diversity can lead to nonviolent assimilation that protects minorities and is endorsed by majorities. Lauren Langman organized “Global Crises after the Meltdown,” with speakers Rose Brewer and Rob Antonio, exploring the economic and race and ethnic “fallout” of the Great Recession. Mary Zimmerman’s dynamic presidential address offered an innovative comparative perspective on carework and “policy regimes” that may support or deny its legitimacy.

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The Midwest Sociologist is published three times a year for mailing to the members of the Midwest Sociological Society. The Society's governing officers, directors and executive office are listed below.

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A note from the editor-

Welcome to a new look for *The Midwest Sociologist*! As part of its ongoing strategic planning activities, the MSS is focusing on the roles of its various publications, including *TMS* newsletter. In the past, reports from the various MSS committees filled many of the pages of the newsletter's May issue. It is important that the membership have access to this information, but the MSS website provides a more convenient storage location. You can now access the most recent committee reports at www.themss.org. In their place, this issue of *TMS* includes a number of new features that I hope you will find useful and interesting.

These include two "Career Focus" articles by Priya Dua and Char Kunkel about different aspects of the sociological job search, an update from 2011-2012 MSS/ASA Minority Research Fellowship recipient Mytoan Nguyen Akbar, a discussion of how the new model of "open access" scholarly publishing may affect MSS and the discipline of sociology by Tom Gerschick, and a report on the progress of the MSS Long Range Planning Committee. These new articles are designed to share thoughts and encourage conversations about diverse aspects of the work of sociology and the life of the MSS.

Some features of earlier MSS designs are also included, such as the President's report about the Annual Meeting, introductions to the new president-elect-elect and new board members, and information about professional opportunities and awards. I hope you enjoy the new *TMS* content – please feel free to contact me with any feedback or suggestions for future issues!

Michael Haedicke - *TMS* Editor

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MSS Membership Census

* indicates state where annual meeting was held.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Illinois	*295	177	195	191	*339	230	211	*250	234	217
Iowa	95	90	102	120	113	95	*135	121	116	115
Kansas	85	92	72	81	87	75	96	96	99	71
Minnesota	117	92	*167	119	124	113	156	139	144	*240
Missouri	108	*121	109	105	105	*119	82	99	*130	118
Nebraska	60	59	65	*94	65	57	74	66	74	76
North Dakota	11	15	21	24	19	29	17	26	15	33
South Dakota	31	28	30	45	26	13	21	14	15	25
Wisconsin	98	74	108	65	92	60	84	80	66	75
Other***	310	291	326	273	409	321	250	369	280	268
TOTAL	1210	1039	1195	1117	1379	1112	1126	1260	1173	1238

Kevin T. Leicht Elected to MSS Presidency



Last fall, MSS members elected Kevin Leicht, Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Director of the Iowa Social Science Research Center at The University of Iowa, to the MSS presidency track.

Currently titled president-elect-elect, Kevin will serve as president-elect and program chair for the 2014 annual meeting.

Kevin is the former editor of MSS's *The Sociological Quarterly*; and also of *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* (the official journal of the Social Stratification Section of the International Sociological Association). He has written extensively on issues relating to economic development, globalization, and political sociology.

Kevin's research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, Spencer Foundation, and the Ford Foundation, and his published articles have appeared in the *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, the *Academy of Management Journal*, *Law and Society Review*, and other outlets. He is the author or editor of five books including *Professional Work* (with Mary Fennell, published by Blackwell), and *Post-Industrial Peasants: The Illusion of Middle Class*

Prosperity (with Scott Fitzgerald). He was recently named co-investigator for the CIC's Center for the Study of International Competitiveness, a think tank conducting research on the future of the upper Midwest.

Kevin has been a participant in MSS meetings since his graduate school days; and has served MSS as editor of this newsletter as well as editor of *The Sociological Quarterly*. With Scott Fitzgerald, he received the MSS Distinguished Book Award in 2009 for *Post-Industrial Peasants: The Illusion of Middle Class Prosperity*. He also received a President's Award in 2008 for his distinguished service as editor of both MSS publications.

Kevin looks forward to serving the MSS as President-Elect in 2013-14. An Omaha native, he finds it entirely fitting that his role as chair of the 2014 MSS meeting in Omaha will take place so near to the Creighton University campus where his sociological imagination was first ignited. He earned his bachelor of science degree at Creighton University in Omaha; and his doctorate in 1987 at Indiana University.

Following the 2014 Omaha meeting, Kevin will succeed to the presidency for the 2014-15 year. During his presidency, he looks forward to working with

- the Publications Committee to enhance the future of the *TSQ*;
- the Task Force on Scholarly Quality to improve the pedagogical value of the MSS meetings;
- and the Long-Range Planning Committee to identify ways to keep MSS vital and strong long into the future.

In the short term, Kevin plans to lead an effort to bring back the poster session as an outlet for professionals to talk about their research. He will organize a poster session at MSS next year, focusing on research done by MSS professional members (he'll be doing a poster himself). If you're interested in doing a poster next year, please let him know.

Kevin can be reached at The University of Iowa by email to kevin-leicht@uiowa.edu; or by phone to (319)353-2813. He is always ready to talk about anything having to do with MSS.

Members Elect Lucal, Edwards, Hartmann to Board

At-large Betsy Lucal, Professor of Sociology, Indiana University South Bend, was elected to the MSS board's at-large seat. She will represent MSS's largest constituency – the 268 members who reside outside MSS's nine-state region in 32 non-Midwest states and six other countries.

A presenter at MSS meetings for more than 15 years, Betsy looks forward to using her board position to enhance participation by those who do not live or work in the Midwest states. She is convinced that geographic diversity helps make MSS a stronger organization.

"I found a home in MSS while still a grad student," wrote Betsy. "I was and continue to be drawn by the high level of collegiality and the respect for teaching and learning that characterizes MSS." Former deputy editor of *Gender & Society*, Betsy is also active in ASA, currently chairing the Sex & Gender section. She received her undergraduate degree, M.A. and Ph.D. at Kent State University. She has received several teaching awards, including the IUSB Distinguished Teaching Award.



Illinois Monica Edwards, Assistant Professor of Sociology at William Rainey Harper College, was elected to represent the MSS members in Illinois, currently 217 strong. Monica has been involved in MSS since graduate school, organizing and presenting in multiple sessions at several annual meetings. She received her M.S. in sociology from Illinois State University and her Ph.D. from Loyola University Chicago.

Winner of an Outstanding Instructor Award while still a graduate student, Monica is now in her second year on the tenure track at Harper College. She believes that teaching is a form of public sociology and an act of activism and she looks forward to keeping teaching at the center of MSS conversation.

One of Monica's goals for her board service is to bring community college representation to the board. "I think diverse involvement in the organization is crucial," she wrote. "This will drive my membership goals."



Minnesota Douglas Hartmann, Professor of Sociology, University of Minnesota, will represent Minnesota's 240 members on the Board of Directors. He is a past winner of the MSS Early Career Scholarship Award and past chair of the MSS Publications Committee.



"I highly value the culture of professional cooperation and respect that the MSS is famous for," Doug wrote. He has participated as a panelist, organizer, presenter, or discussant in MSS annual meetings regularly since 1999.

Doug has two goals for his board service: "One focus is to continue to strengthen and build the intellectual and scholarly excellence of our organization, our publications, and our annual meetings," he wrote. "Additionally, I would work to better position our organization and membership to take a more active, intentional role in shaping and determining the future of American sociology."

Doug is past editor of ASA's *Contexts* magazine and a former president of Sociologists of Minnesota. He completed his doctorate at the University of California, San Diego; and his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Chicago.

Update from the 2011-2012 MSS/ASA Minority Fellow

By Mytoan Nguyen Akbar

Mytoan Nguyen Akbar, the recipient of the Midwest Sociological Society/American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship in 2011-2012, is currently writing her dissertation titled “Going ‘Back’ Where They Came From? The Transnational Experiences of the 1.5 and Second Generation Overseas Vietnamese (Viet Kieu) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.” Mytoan’s dissertation examines the global economic context of more recent waves of Vietnamese American diasporic return for high skilled jobs in Vietnam, and in doing so, argues that this leads to a refashioned Overseas Vietnamese expatriate identity within Ho Chi Minh City’s rapidly changing cosmopolitan communities; the renegotiation of extended diasporic family ties across oceans; and the deployment of strategic identity in the multinational corporations, international nongovernmental organizations, and arts/media firms in Ho Chi Minh City.



This year of funding has also allowed Mytoan to engage in professional development activities, including organizing a Sociologists for Women in Society co-sponsored panel session titled “Translocal Migrations and Identity” at the Midwest Sociological Society 2012 annual meeting in Minneapolis. She also presented her latest chapter on transnational family ties at the Association of Asian American Studies in Washington, D.C. in April. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Mytoan maintains active service to the Wisconsin Migration Research Group, which she helped co-found in 2006 for graduate students and faculty to share their latest research and writing about international and internal migration, and the Association of Asian American Graduate Students (you can “like” both groups on their Facebook fanpage).

Last year, Mytoan led a committee of local volunteers in finalizing the Telling Our Stories in Madison Project (2009-2011) through the launch of a web anthology that features original non-fiction creative writing by Madison’s immigrant and refugee youths (www.tellingourstories.org). These high school youths were mentored through a series of afterschool workshops to develop their interviewing and writing skills by a team of sociology, history, law, and policy graduate students through a small grant from the Morgridge Center for Public Service at UW. The series of stories was meant to highlight the global and local identity of the youths, their families, and to bring together community stakeholders to hear and learn from non-traditional voices on the margins.

On October 8, 2011, Mytoan married Arash Akbar at a small ceremony in the Boltz Conservatory in Madison. The two live in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and are eagerly anticipating the arrival of their daughter in August 2012. Mytoan is grateful to MSS and ASA for their support of her scholarly research and commitment to nurturing future minority sociology scholars.

Meg Wilkes Karraker Named Winner of Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award



Each year, the Women in the Profession Committee presents the Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award to an outstanding woman who has shown dedicated service on behalf of women and girls. It is our pleasure to award the 2012 Jane Addams Outstanding Service award to Meg Wilkes Karraker.

The Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award is an effort to “reward and make visible such efforts and to highlight positive role models who advance girls’ and women’s issues, causes, or status through personal involvement in service activities.”

Meg Wilkes Karraker embodies the spirit of this award. She has demonstrated the “passion dedication, and activism of Jane Addams through efforts to improve the status of girls and women” through a lifetime of sustained activity on their behalf.

Meg has skillfully interwoven her service to women and girls with her scholarship and teaching. Her scholarly work has focused on women’s issues and her current texts, *Families with Futures* and *Families in Global Contexts* (co-authored with Janet R. Grochowski) have been picked up for second editions. Meg has also conducted scholarly research on women’s issues with several student co-authors and researchers.

But it is her tireless work to improve the lives of women and service to communities and organizations for women that earned her this award. Specifically, she sits on the Advisory Council for Sarah’s...An Oasis for Women, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph that provides a refuge, resources, and advocacy for women from more than 80 countries. These women are sometimes seeking asylum, sometimes just a place to get their feet on the ground. Sarah’s Oasis sounds a lot like Hull House.

For the past five years, Meg has also coordinated a small, informal group called REAL Friends at the University of St. Thomas. REAL stands for Resources for the Enrichment of African Lives and the organization seeks to empower women of Africa who live in the U.S. and in their own countries. One REAL initiative provides resources and scholarships to women in Ethiopia so they can attend school, become empowered, and improve their lives and the lives of their families. Meg clearly connects her scholarly interests in globalization with her service work with women of the globe.

In short, Meg is a role model for women in all walks of life, a modern Jane Addams to whom we can all look for inspiration.



From left: Gina Petonito, Chair, Women in the Profession Committee, and Meg Wilkes Karraker

Congratulations to the Winners of the 49th Annual MSS Student Paper Competition in Honor of R. Dean Wright

Student paper competition awards were presented by MSS President Mary Zimmerman and Undergraduate Paper Competition Coordinator Kathleen Abrahamson on Friday, March 30th, immediately preceding the Presidential Address at the MSS Annual Meeting. Kathleen McKinney, Graduate Paper Competition Coordinator, was unable to be present.

Twenty-two papers from thirteen universities were submitted in the graduate division; and twelve papers from four institutions were submitted in the undergraduate division.

Volunteer reviewers for the undergraduate division were Mari Plikuhn, Krista Cline, Melissa Stacer, Richard Gee, Doug Smith, Kate King, and Cindy Wasberg. Graduate-level papers were reviewed by David Bills, Meghan Burke, Betsy Lucal, Marlynn May, Helen Moore, and Tim Pippert. Many thanks to the reviewers who volunteered their time for this professional task. Upon completion of the judging process, which is conducted 'blind,' judges were surprised to find that eight of the twelve undergraduate papers, and all three winning undergrad papers, were submitted from Macalester College.

Winners are pictured, below, with President Mary Zimmerman, who presented each winner with a plaque and a check. Congratulations to all the winners, their advisors, and their schools!

Undergraduate Division Paper Competition Winners



First Place

Jeremy Carp, Macalester College

Advisor: Erik Larson

Title: "Fermented Origins: The Emergence of State-Level Alcoholic Beverage Regulation in the Post-Prohibition Era, 1933-1935"



Third Place

Chloe Souza, Macalester College

Advisor: Erik Larson

Title: "'Because this is not the end.' Motivation and Change in People Living with HIV/AIDS"



Second Place

Kate Lanning, Macalester College

Advisor: Erik Larson

Title: "Time for Myself, Time for Others: Gender Differences in the Meaning of Retirement"

Graduate Division Paper Competition Winners



First Place

Eric Grollman, Indiana University

Advisor: Brian Powell

Title: "Multiple Forms of Perceived Discrimination and Health among Adolescents and Young Adults"



Second Place

Jan Doering, University of Chicago

Advisor: John Levi Martin

Title: "A Battleground of Identity:
The African American Discourse
on Interracial Marriage"



Third Place

Andrew Whitehead, Baylor University

Advisor: Kevin Dougherty

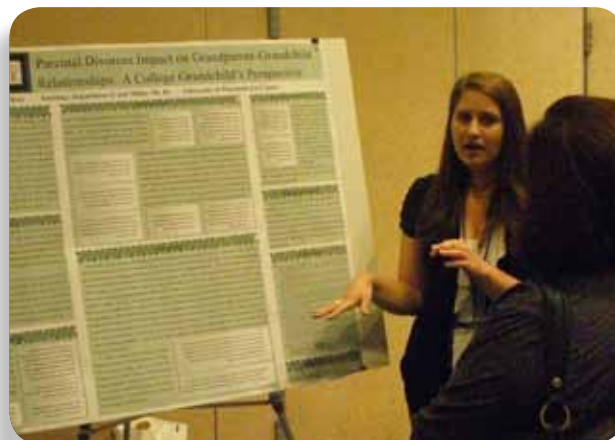
Title: "Gendered Organizations and Inequality Regimes:
Gender, Homosexuality, and Inequality within Religious Congregations"

At left: Shanna Granstra accepted the award for Andrew Whitehead, who was unable to attend.

Winner of Undergraduate Student Poster Competition is Danielle Brey

Members of the Student Issues Committee, led by Committee Chair Pooya Naderi, reviewed the 20 undergraduate posters submitted to the Undergraduate Poster Session and awarded competition honors to Danielle Brey, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, for her poster, "Parental Divorces' Impacts on Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships: A College Grandchild's Perspective."

Danielle received a \$200 check and a plaque honoring her achievement. Danielle's advisor is UWL Professor of Sociology Carol Miller.



Danielle answers questions about her research during the poster session in the exhibit hall.

Lori Peek Receives MSS Distinguished Book Award for *Behind the Backlash: Muslim Americans after 9/11*



Lori Peek of Colorado State University was awarded the 2012 MSS Distinguished Book Award for *Behind the Backlash: Muslim Americans after 9/11*, published by Temple University Press.

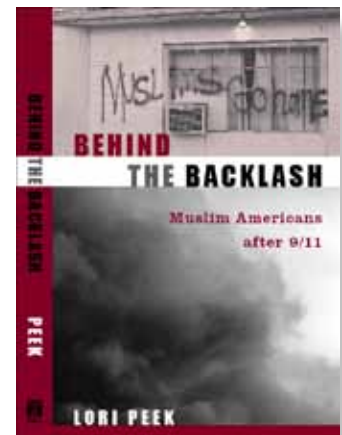
Behind the Backlash draws on longitudinal hate crime data and ethnographic interviews with 140 Muslim American men and women. Peek's work presents moving accounts of prejudice and exclusion as Muslim Americans were caught up in an unprecedented wave of post-9/11 backlash violence.

Muslims speak of being subjected to harassment before the terrorist attacks, and recount the discrimination they encountered afterwards. Public discussion reveals that widespread misunderstanding and misrepresentation of Islam persists, despite the striking diversity of the Muslim community. *Behind the Backlash* seeks to explain why blame and scapegoating occur after a catastrophe. Peek sets the twenty-first century experience of Muslim Americans, who were vilified and victimized, within the context of larger sociological and psychological processes.

A long-time MSS member, Lori Peek is Associate Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis at Colorado State University. She has published widely on vulnerable populations in disaster and is coeditor of *Displaced: Life in the Katrina Diaspora*. Lori rarely misses an MSS meeting, but she was unable to be present in Minneapolis because of a research commitment to an earthquake risk reduction study in Italy.

She wrote, "Words are never enough in a moment like this, but I hope you can accept my most profound gratitude for the honor that you have bestowed upon me. I am deeply committed to the Midwest as a region and to the MSS as a professional organization. It means the world to me to be recognized in this way. Thank you so much."

The book award committee was chaired by Sue Williams, Kansas State University; and included Xavier Escandell, University of Northern Iowa, and Lori Wiebold, Bradley University.



Early Career Scholarship Awards to ChangHwan Kim and Melissa Walls

The Early Career Scholarship Award is given biennially to draw attention to the quality of scholarship being produced by younger scholars and to underscore the Society's commitment to the professional development of younger scholars and researchers. Faced with a group of impressive nominees, this year's Early Career Scholarship Committee chose to recognize two young MSS members.

Melissa Walls' (University of Minnesota Duluth) research on the mental and physical health and well-being of Indigenous/First Nation peoples focuses on health equity. Using the starting point of cultural values and practices, Walls' work seeks to develop a culturally-relevant health prevention and promotion model within First Nation communities. She is committed to community-based participatory research and utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methods to address her research concerns. Given her reputation as a North American scholar, she has received numerous grants from both U.S. and Canadian agencies and already has numerous publications. Walls has been a member of MSS since her graduate student years at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

ChangHwan Kim's (University of Kansas) work is inclusive of race, gender and public and private employment sectors and examines changes in U.S. workplace conditions through a socioeconomic lens. His work attempts to disentangle socially and politically important inequality trends in income and employment. Kim has numerous publications to his credit and has received funding from a variety of sources; given the relevance of his work for public policy consideration, he is creating a national reputation in his specialty area. Both award-winning scholars are frequent presenters at venues both within and outside of the discipline. The Society looks forward to the future scholarship of these bright stars.



Sheryl Grana, center, a member of the Early Career Scholarship Committee, presented the awards to Melissa Walls, left; and to ChangHwan Kim, right. The selection committee was chaired by Jan Thomas, Kenyon College. Harland Prechel, Texas A&M University, also served on the committee.

Social Action Awards to Oyate Nipi Kte (The People Shall Live) and GRO Grassroots Organizing

By Lee Miller, Chair, Social Action Committee



From left: Waziyatawin and Social Action Committee Chair Lee Miller.

The MSS Social Action Committee awarded \$1000 each to two grass roots groups nominated by MSS members.

Oyate Nipi Kte, based in Granite Falls, Minnesota, formed in 2009 to support recovery of the Dakota language, spirituality, ecology, oral traditions and sustainable life ways. This is urgent work as only eight fluent native speakers remain. Working toward the preservation of their cultural heritage as well as the prevention of social problems impacting their people, Oyate Nipi Kte teaches language and indigenous skills; is creating an audiovisual archive of native speakers and translating children's stories; and is planning immersion camps and arts events to target native youth. Dr. Waziyatawin accepted the award on behalf of Oyate Nipi Kte.



From left: Andrew Bisto and Social Action Committee Chair Lee Miller.

GRO Grassroots Organizing, based in Columbia, Missouri, was founded in 2000 to strengthen local grassroots organizing efforts around a variety of social issues from low-income housing availability to widespread cuts to social programs. Mr. Andrew Bisto accepted on behalf of GRO.

Note of Thanks

I would like to thank MSS members for participating in my survey on research experiences. Special thanks to MSS for working with me to include the membership. My dissertation on risk to researchers is now complete. The risks reported by respondents included almost everything imaginable, from disease and insect infestations to physical assault and emotional trauma. The three most-reported risks were emotional stress, fear, and ethical dilemmas. This endeavor would not have been nearly as successful without the participation of MSS members. I am forever grateful!

—Patricia Brougham, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Career Focus: Constructing the Teaching Portfolio

By Susan J. Ferguson, Grinnell College; Meg Wilkes Karraker, University of St. Thomas; Charlotte A. Kunkel, Luther College, and MSS Iowa State Director

Scholarly teaching takes research, writing, and review. An increasingly important document is the teaching portfolio. Often used in formal tenure reviews, the teaching portfolio can also be a useful tool in your personal development as a teacher as well as in marketing yourself as a teacher-scholar on the job market. What is perhaps most appealing about the teaching portfolio is its intentional focus on improvement.

Modeled after an artist's portfolio, a teaching portfolio is a collection of work that documents teaching effectiveness. More than a mere collection of work, the best portfolios are both formative and summative and focus on teaching improvement. Cornell's Center for Teaching Excellence (2008) suggests including work samples that provide detailed and selective (not exhaustive) representations of teaching activities and reflective commentary that "extends the meaning of the work samples selected by providing a context in which to comprehend their design and choice from the teacher's own point of view." Indeed, the most significant aspect of the portfolio is the candidate's interpretation or contextualization of what they teach, why they teach it the way they do, and their reflection upon student learning outcomes. Reflection is a core quality of effective teaching (Frick, Arend and Beets 2010). However, even this written context should be tailored to your target audience (Penn State 2007). The portfolio constructed to snare that first job should differ from a tenure review file or promotion dossier.

The classic "recipe" for a portfolio is, of course, a record of accomplishments in teaching: the courses taught, student and colleague evaluations of those courses, a teaching philosophy and self-assessment of strengths and weaknesses, and a listing of professional development efforts, including workshops attended, presentations or publications on teaching (see, for example, Edgerton et al. 1991; Kaplan 1998; Seldin 2004). In addition, include specific documents that demonstrate your philosophy and reflection about those activities. The most impressive portfolios we have seen are those that have exposed a struggle in the classroom, illustrated the complexity of the issue, the insightful reflection of the teacher, and detailed the remedies taken, as well as their expected effectiveness. In some cases, the teaching portfolio is supported by a more focused explication on a particular course—the course portfolio (Cerbin 1994). A course portfolio would highlight the teacher's effectiveness by illustrating the development and evolutionary process of a single course, as it has evolved over a career or several semesters. Again, the significance of the portfolio is in highlighting the teacher's interpretation and contextualization of development over time.

Obviously, one cannot create a portfolio overnight. At its best, the teaching portfolio captures the moments of a career in which the teacher-scholar develops best practices in pedagogy as well as subject matter. Create "living" lesson plans and illustrate how they are reflexively evaluated, reviewed, and revised. Rather than describing teaching strengths, offer a narrative about how you arrived at those points, and what you are going to develop next. Write your story of a teacher who is growing in your craft and document that growth with supporting evidence. Include the ways in which you assess your teaching and what you plan to change in order to continue to improve. In sum, convey that teaching is an active and ongoing process, not a *fait accompli*.

Because teaching is a process and not a product, the teaching portfolio is a scholarly activity that helps you to be more reflective about teaching. The portfolio will help you stay current in your teaching, while helping improve your practice as a teacher. Finally, while we are vigorous proponents of the portfolio, the wise teacher-scholar will of course carefully attend to specific requirements for application, tenure, promotion, and review. For example, increasingly institutions limit the documentation one can submit. While some of the components of the portfolio can be adapted to those professional milestones, the greater benefit may well be the opportunity for personal reflection and development as part of continuous progress as a teacher-scholar.

***Constructing the Teaching Portfolio* references are listed on page 23.**

Career Focus: From Grad Student to Applied Researcher

By Priya Dua, Student Director and Assistant Program Chair

For a graduate student, finding a job as an applied researcher can be a mysterious process. Most graduate programs are structured to prepare students for tenure-track academic positions and offer few resources to help students embark on an applied career path. Departments are more likely to offer opportunities to develop teaching skills or academic job talks than workshops that help students hone their research skills. As a graduate student, I learned most of my research skills by taking all the methods and statistics courses I could fit into my schedule, volunteering as an unpaid research assistant to faculty, and working on my own research projects and articles rather than seeking departmentally-funded research assistant positions.

After I graduated in May 2011 without a job (the funding fell through on one possibility), faculty and colleagues suggested that I try to contact alumni that had gone into applied sociology or that I visit the campus career center. However, alumni were difficult to locate and the career center was targeted towards undergraduates. Instead, I visited major job search sites such as *HigherEd Jobs*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Indeed*, and *USAJOBS*. I also examined the sites of local universities (including my own). I found a surprising number and variety of positions on these sites and quickly learned that my job search was going to be a time-consuming activity.

Since I did not know exactly which positions interested me but only knew that I wanted to be a researcher, I spent several hours each day reading through job descriptions. This helped me determine what types of positions would be a good fit for my skills. In addition to learning about available jobs, I had to decide whether I was willing to move, whether to apply for temporary positions, and what my salary requirements were. After familiarizing myself with the positions on these sites, I created job alerts so that jobs that matched my search criteria (i.e. my research skills, salary range, and geographic preference) would be emailed to me daily to reduce the number of job descriptions I read each day. I also began applying for jobs that matched my skills and qualifications.

My search took several months, although some may be shorter. I began scheduling interviews in September. Most of these interviews took place over the phone (far fewer were in person or over Skype). Most of my interviews took place from late December to mid-February and were for jobs in institutional research at universities or state/federal government agencies. After applying for hundreds of jobs, I was hired in late February as a research assistant for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at the Denver VA Hospital. My new job begins in early May.

Priya's suggestions to graduate students (or those interested in applied research):

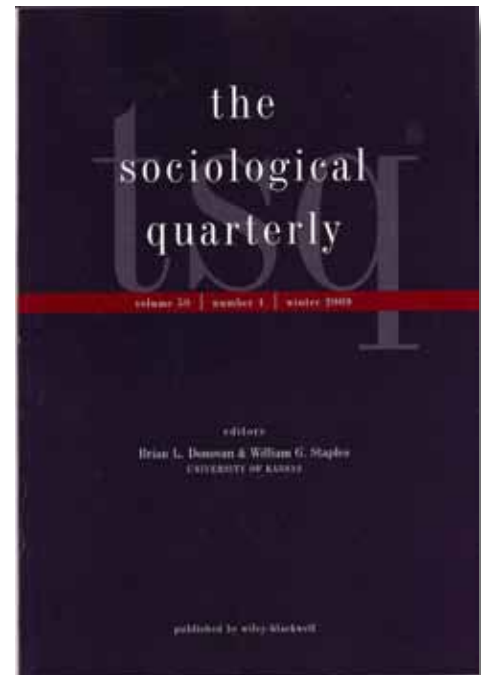
- * Gain as much research experience as you can.
- * Start looking at job descriptions while you are still a student so that you can learn about and develop skills you will need for the job you want.
- * Think about whether you want a job that is funded by soft money (grants) or hard money (a budget) that is more stable.
- * Think about whether you want a permanent, temporary, or part-time position.
- * Keep applying (if you don't land your job, at least you will get a lot of practice doing job interviews!)

MSS News & Views: The Potential Implications of Open Access Publishing on the MSS

By Tom Gerschick, MSS Treasurer

The Midwest Sociological Society just completed its 75th year celebration. The MSS board and the long-range planning committee have been working diligently over the past several years to ensure that the organization will be here to celebrate its 150th. One of the key considerations going forward is the organization's finances, especially in light of the movement in academic publishing toward open access. This change in business model has important monetary implications for the MSS.

Our journal, *The Sociological Quarterly* (published by Wiley Blackwell), provides significant amounts of the MSS revenue. In the last three fiscal years, it has generated income of \$187,801, \$177,378 and \$168,532 respectively. In fiscal year 2011-2012, the journal generated approximately 71% of the Society's operating budget. The MSS board, the treasurer and the finance committee believe that we are overly reliant on this income given the increased movement toward open access.



According to John Willinsky of Stanford University, an expert on academic publishing trends, approximately 25% of the scholarship produced in 2010 was available via open access. This means that the scholarship was published online and offered for free to readers. In early 2010, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that there were “more than 4,700 open-access scientific and scholarly journals that passed a screening for quality based on their publishers’ assurances of peer review or editorial diligence.” While this approach is most common in the hard sciences and medicine, the *Directory of Open Access Journals* lists 132 publications with sociological content, many of these in languages other than English. These numbers are expected to increase dramatically in the coming years. Open access appears to be the wave of the future. In an open-access environment, the owners of journals potentially can lose a significant portion of their historical revenue. This potential scenario presents a challenge to the MSS.

The MSS has long prided itself on being affordable for academics at all stages of their careers. Our annual dues and conference registration rates are intentionally low. We are committed to remaining so. Thus the MSS has been preparing for this uncertain fiscal environment in a variety of ways. The finance committee and the treasurer are reviewing annual expenses seeking to reduce them wherever we can without affecting the high-quality benefits the MSS provides to the membership. Another key strategy is to increase our assets. The MSS currently has approximately 1.2 million dollars invested. Our goal in the next 10-20 years is to build our assets to over 2 million so that the interest generated from them can allow us to be self-sustaining no matter what happens in the publishing industry.

In closing, I want to stress that Wiley Blackwell has no plans at this point in time to move toward an open access approach with journals like *The Sociological Quarterly*. However, they review their strategic planning on an annual basis and consequently it is impossible for them or for us to predict what the market will look like three years from now when our contract ends. The MSS board, finance committee and the treasurer want to assure the membership that we will remain vigilant and are planning carefully for a variety of possible fiscal scenarios so that we can successfully sustain the MSS well into the future.

Trivia Night!

More than 100 MSSers enjoyed the inaugural Trivia Night at the annual meeting – a first-night icebreaker that was the brainchild of President Linda Lindsey.

Many thanks to the Trivia Team:
Vicky Herbel - Coordinator and Trivia Queen
Christina Webster - Vicky's partner-in-trivia
Quinn Kupec - onsite assistant
Rob Kupec - emcee.





Trivia Night!

Trivia teams battled to be the first to answer sociological trivia questions correctly to win candy prizes and Starbucks cards and to avoid the dreaded black balloons.

Congratulations to the winning team!

RaJhai Wilson, University of Illinois at Chicago
Tasheka Graves, Truman State University
Jody Ahlm, University of Illinois - Chicago
Walter Cook, Michigan State University
Regina Dixon-Reeves, Chicago State University
Anne Eisenberg, SUNY-Geneseo
Elaine McDuff, Truman State University
Zachary Palmer, Truman State University

Trivia

Night
will be back
next year in
Chicago –
study up!



Undergrad Poster Session

Held in the exhibits hall on Friday, March 30, the Undergrad Poster Session attracted 29 participants from 13 schools, who produced 20 lively posters. Congratulations to all the participants who worked hard to develop and present their posters and to their faculty sponsors!

Participating Students

- Zachary Palmer
- Emily Schoephoerster
- Nikole Oliver-Scherer
- Gregory R. Atkinson
- Dan Allen
- Danielle Brey
- Mathew Vicknair
- Lauren Haase
- April Schones
- Julia Wang
- Mary Gault
- Eman Abdelhadi
- JR Bullard
- Kylee Joosten
- Shannon Schreur-Klein
- Erin Salisbury
- Megan King
- Olivia Poepping
- Anne Janey
- Samantha Boland
- Jordan Clouse
- Samantha Wolf
- April Schones
- Ellen Mikesh
- Diana Mena
- Bethany Otto
- Sierra Boley
- Jessica Sampson
- Christina Paul

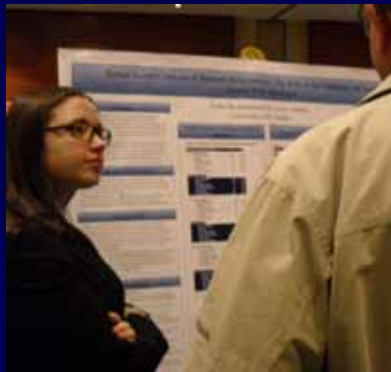
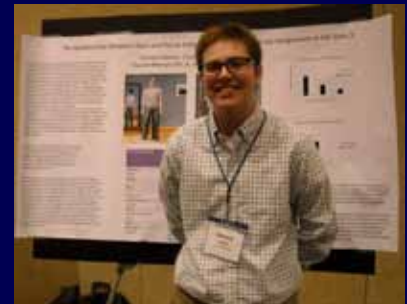
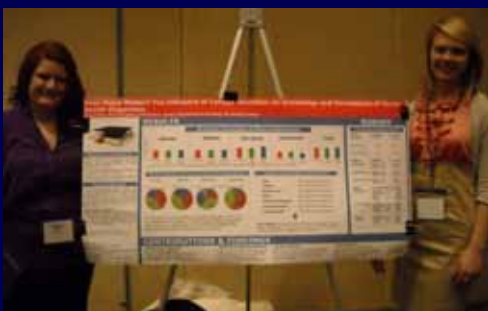
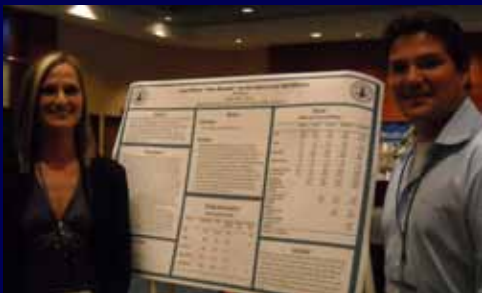


Photo at right:
Danielle Brey,
University of
Wisconsin - La
Crosse, left, winner
of the poster
competition; and her
faculty sponsor,
Carol Miller, right.
STORY, page 9.



Participating Schools

- Truman State University
- Southwest Minnesota State University
- Midland University
- Indiana University Kokomo
- Macalester College
- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- University of St. Thomas
- Winona State University
- University of Michigan
- Butler University
- Coe College
- St. Norbert College
- Bellevue University



MSS Celebrates 75 Years of Service



From left to right: MSS Life Members Jim Sherohman, Barbara Johnston, Gerry Cox, and Chris Prendergast gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of MSS's first solo annual meeting in 1927.

Life member Barbara Johnston attended her first MSS meeting in 1950!



At right: Seven past presidents [and one life member!] assenbled for this historic photo.

Past presidents, left to right, are: Peter Kivisto, Ira Reiss, Diane Pike, Mary Zimmerman, Susan Stall, Chris Prendergast, and Sue Wright.



Scenes from the Exhibit Hall

Once again, the MSS Exhibit Hall was the setting for informative vendor booths, social events such as the first-day welcome session and the traditional ice cream social; and special events like the Meet-the-Authors session. Many thanks to Pearson for sponsoring Meet-the-Authors.



service opportunities

Publications Committee Seeks Two New Members

The MSS publications committee seeks two new members to serve three-year terms beginning in spring 2013, and ending in spring 2016. Interested MSS members may apply directly, or nominate others.

The committee is charged with overseeing, monitoring and recommending policy to the board concerning publication of *The Sociological Quarterly*, and *The Midwest Sociologist*; and administration of the annual student paper competition. The committee also judges the biennial TSQ Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award; advises the board on the operation of the website; solicits applications for new editors for the society's publications; makes recommendations to the board with respect to the appointment of editors; and advises the editors on policy.

Please send applications to Publications Committee Chair Joel Best, following the directions below. Applicants who have experience with refereed publications are encouraged to apply. Nominations are accepted **until Aug. 1**.

Questions?

Please send questions about the committee's work by email to Chair Joel Best, joelbest@udel.edu.

To apply for appointment to the committee:

Please indicate in your cover email that you are applying for the committee membership. Send your vita and brief application letter, as attachments, to Chair Joel Best, joelbest@udel.edu

Other Committees Seeking New Members

To apply for a position on any of the committees listed below, please contact the MSS office [MidwestSS@centurytel.net] before August 1st to signify your interest. Please name the committee in which you're interested, and send a brief statement about why you're interested in that committee. Learn more about each committee's tasks on the committee page at www.TheMSS.org. These committees are all seeking new members:

- Annual Meeting
(Needs Local Arrangements
volunteer for Kansas City
2015)
- Nominations & Elections
(Needs one committee member
each from IA, KS, MO)
- Endowment
- Minority Scholars
- Professional Issues &
Standards
- Social Action
- Sociological Practice
- Student Issues
- Teaching & Learning
- Women in the Profession
- Long Range Planning

Looking for the committee reports?

Last fall, at the suggestion of *TMS* Editor Michael Haedicke, the board directed that committee reports be moved from *TMS* to the MSS website.

Find them here: <http://www.themss.org/committees.html>

Committee applicants: Please remember-

- Committee appointments are made by the president and board of directors, at their fall meeting, after taking many factors into account.
- Nominations made by the committee itself are considered by the board, but are not a guarantee of appointment.
- In any given year, there are more applicants for committee membership than there are openings for new members, so if your first application does not succeed, please do not take it personally; and please do try again.

grant opportunities

Call for Applications for MSS Research Grants

Important: *Guidelines Recently Revised - Please Read Carefully!*

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN MSS RESEARCH GRANT IF:

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

The MSS Endowment Committee offers research grants up to \$2,500.

Research must be innovative and in the early stages of conceptualization. Research in the early stages of conceptualization means that data collection has not yet been completed and the ideas are in the process of being carried forward. Also, research in the early stages of conceptualization could entail collection of a second wave of data based on a new research question which emanates from previous research completed. References should follow the ASA style guide.

A COMPLETE PROPOSAL INCLUDES:

- cover page;
- statement of the research problem;
- theoretical framework;
- summary of methodology and design;
- An itemized budget with a brief budget justification. Everything from this bullet point up to the statement of the research problem should be 1200 words or less. Thus, the proposal (excluding cover page) should not exceed 1,200 words.
- 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).
- Proposals must identify a principal investigator; and a mailing address to which correspondence will be sent.
- Applicants should clearly state what types of 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 the submitted proposal.
- A letter approving your access to any agency/organization/research facility /databank required for your project.
- 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: Your itemized budget must not include this.
- C.V. and list of references.

SEND HARD COPY

Send one hard copy of ALL your application materials to: Kevin McElmurry / Indiana University Northwest / 212 Lindenwood Hall / 3400 Broadway / Gary, IN 46408-1197.

SEND E-COPY

Please send an electronic version of all non-sensitive documents, with "MSS RESEARCH ENDOWMENT GRANT APPLICATION" in the subject line of your email, to the executive office at midwestss@centurytel.net [Please make pdfs of all documents, if possible, before sending. If possible to combine several pdfs into fewer documents, that is even more desirable.]

TIMING

The submission process opens January 15, 2013, and closes at midnight, February 15th, 2013. Remember to have your mailed application postmarked no later than February 15, 2013. Applications submitted before or after this time period will not be considered.

grant opportunities

Call for Applications for MSS Visiting Scholar / Visiting Researcher Grants

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. Or an at-large member of the MSS whose host institution has no Ph.D. program in sociology may 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 MidwestSS@centurytel.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 sociological 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 can 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/researcher for the visit.

To apply, send materials to:

Kevin McElmurry / Indiana University Northwest / 212 Lindenwood Hall /
3400 Broadway / Gary, IN 46408-1197.

***Constructing the Teaching Portfolio* continued from page 13**

References Cited:

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- Cornell Center for Teaching Excellence. 2008. *Teaching Evaluation Handbook*. 4th ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University.
- Edgerton, R., P. Hutchings, and K. 1991. *The Teaching Portfolio: Capturing the Scholarship of Teaching*. Washington, DC: American Association for Higher Education.
- Frick, L., Arend C., and P. Beets. 2010. "Reflection as Learning about the Self in Context: Mentoring as Catalyst for Reflective Development in Pre-service Teachers." *South African Journal of Education* 30:421-37.
- Kaplan, M. 1998. *The Teaching Portfolio*. Center for Research on Learning and Teaching Occasional Paper No. 11. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan.
- Penn State. 2007. Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence. Accessed December 23, 2010.
<http://www.schreyerinstitution.psu.edu>.
- Seldin, P. 2004. *The Teaching Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Improved Performance and Promotion/Tenure Decisions*. Bolton, MA: Anker.

calls for award nominations

Call for Nominations: MSS Distinguished Book Award*

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 2010, 2011 or 2012. Books nominated during the past two years will be considered again, if still eligible and if new review copies are submitted. The author (or one co-author) must be a member of the MSS with a history of some involvement in the Society, such as conference presentation or publication in *The Sociological Quarterly*. The award includes a \$250 prize. The selection committee is appointed by the MSS President.

All nominations are welcome. A complete nomination consists of a one-page letter of nomination identifying: 1) the nominated book title, author(s), publisher and copyright date; 2) the nominated author's contact information (name, institutional affiliation, phone, mail and e-mail addresses); and 3) a short statement indicating why the book deserves recognition. In addition, 4) nominators are responsible for arranging THREE review copies to be sent to the MSS Executive Office along with the nomination. (Questions? Contact the exec office at (608)787-8551 or by email to MidwestSS@centurytel.net.) **Nominations and review copies are due Oct. 31, 2012.**

***Before nominating, see the complete award guidelines online or request them from the MSS Exec Office.**

MSS 2012 continued from page 1

Commemorative

At our 75th anniversary reception, Susan Wright introduced invited guests, including ASA Executive Office Sally Hillsman and MSS life members. Barbara Johnston was honored as perhaps the longest MSS life member. Published as the *75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition*, our MSS2012 booklet contains our 1936 joint meeting and 1937 "solo" meeting programs. Other historical programs available for perusing read like a 'Who's Who' of sociology. Our celebration modeled the best of MSS for students and first-time attendees.

Toward the Future

It speaks to board foresight that MSS vitality is always in the forefront with our long range objectives. MSS2012 was based on a "diversity oriented" model. Trivia Night enhanced "good fellowship," and was especially welcoming for MSS newcomers. Material from Fulbright and Peace Corps contributed to professional development and career opportunities. Sessions on teaching, on applied sociology, and our social action awards highlighted the objective of expanding awareness and usefulness of sociological knowledge.

Many, many thanks to Assistant Program Chair Priya Dua, Local Arrangements Chair Susan Smith-Cunnien, TN organizer Vicky Herbel, my Program Committee - especially Patrick Fontane - and Executive Director Lauren Tiffany for the success of these meetings. Wishing President-Elect Barbara Keating and Student Director Kimberly Mass the best in planning MSS2013. With social activism as a highlight, what better place than Chicago for MSS to begin our next 75 years?

Future Annual Meetings

2013

Wednesday - Saturday
March 27 - 30
Chicago Marriott
Downtown
Magnificent Mile

2014

Thursday - Sunday
April 3- 6
Hilton Omaha

2015

Thursday - Sunday
March 26 - 29
Kansas City
Marriott Downtown

2016

Wednesday - Saturday
March 23 - 26
Chicago Marriott
Downtown
Magnificent Mile

calls for award nominations

Call for Nominations for the 2013 Annual Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award

The Women in the Profession Committee invites nominations for the Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award. Service to girls and women has traditionally been invisible and under-rewarded in society and in the discipline of sociology. This award is one effort to reward and make visible such efforts and to highlight positive role models who advance girls' and women's issues, causes, or status through personal involvement in service activities. 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. Individuals may receive the award for a sustained record of service to girls or women or for an intensive, short-term effort on behalf of girls or women. Award recipients may have performed such service inside or outside of the academy, in the Midwest, or beyond.

Nominations require a 1-2 page letter. Letters must clearly indicate the way in which the nominee has improved the experiences of girls or women, either in the academy or in specified communities, and should also indicate why these contributions are award-worthy. All current members of MSS are eligible to receive this award. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominators need not be MSS members. Nomination letters should include email, phone, and mailing contact information for the nominee.

Nominations are due by Nov. 1, 2012.

Upon receipt of the nomination, the award coordinator will contact the nominee by email and request the following additional documentation: Current curriculum vitae, brief statement of service philosophy regarding girls' or women's issues, information about the service for which he/she is nominated, and two letters of support (one of which one should be from the community service agencies (or colleagues/former students if the service has been academic) with whom the nominee has worked). Letters of support need not be included in the packet mailed to the award coordinator. **All documentation is due by January 10, 2013.**

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

- Service philosophy statement (clear articulation of service philosophy, evidence of action combined with theory)
- Strength of service (possible measures include amount of commitment (time, level); strength of letters of support; sustainability—if applicable; originality)
- Vitae (possible measures include indication of service as long-term commitment; service integrated with scholarship)
- Letters of nomination will be kept on file. All non-awarded nominees will be asked to resubmit updated documentation for consideration for the following year for no more than three years.

Awardee will be recognized in the following manner:

- Recipient will be presented with the award at the MSS annual meeting in Chicago.
- Recipient will receive a commemorative plaque.
- Recipient will receive a \$300 contribution in his or her name to a service organization (broadly defined) to which he or she has contributed time, effort and energies.
- WIPC will include an article in *TMS* about the winner.

All nominations and supporting documentation should be sent electronically to the Chair of the Women in the Profession Committee: Denise M. Kall / St. Ambrose University / Dept of Sociology and Criminal Justice / 518 West Locust Street / Davenport, IA 52803. Questions? Contact Denise at KallDeniseM@sau.edu or by phone at (563) 333-6175.

student opportunity

50th Annual Midwest Sociological Society Student Paper Competition in Honor of R. Dean Wright

The Midwest Sociological Society announces the 2013 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 Chicago.

MSS reserves the right not to award prizes, or to award 2nd or 3rd prizes but no 1st.

----- Rules for the 2013 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 2013 prior to submitting a paper. [Pay online at 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 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 10, 2013.** Send submissions electronically ONLY to: MidwestSS@centurytel.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: midwestss@centurytel.net; or with a call to (608)787-8551.

Notification of Competition Results

10. All competitors will be notified of results by February 1, 2013.

Questions / Other

11. Questions? Please contact Graduate Competition Chair Jennifer Dunn at JLDun@siu.edu, or Undergraduate Chair Marybeth Stalp at Marybeth.Stalp@uni.edu. **NOTE: DO NOT send papers to the chairs!**
12. NO reviews will be provided to competitors, either verbally or in writing.

jobs and opportunities

Date first posted	Professional Positions / Opportunities
3/18/12	South Dakota State University seeks candidates for a position as Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Rural Studies. Responsibilities: Classroom and on-line instruction at both undergraduate and graduate levels; undergraduate and graduate advising; research/scholarship; and service. The successful applicant will teach courses in Development and Globalization, and Social Policy. The maximum teaching load is three courses per semester. Application review begins April 20th.
2/28/12	The National Science Foundation, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, is hiring two 2-year rotators, one for the Science of Organizations (SoO) program and one for the Decision, Risk and Management Sciences (DRMS) program. NSF will begin reviewing applications March 1, and the position is "open until filled."
Date first posted	Calls for Papers
3/5/12	The Journal of Contemporary Ethnography (JCE) solicits papers for a special edition on Global Ethnography and Transnationalism, building on the work that explores global connections in today's society. Papers should examine the lived experiences of local peoples directly affected by globalization (understood as the movement of populations, information, mass media, culture, capital and goods across national borders). We welcome papers that use global ethnography to examine processes that encompass the entire globe and how these affect local societies.
2/15/12	The Michigan Sociological Review (MSR) encourages submissions for its fall 2012 issue. The MSR is an official, peer-refereed publication of the Michigan Sociological Association. The MSR publishes research articles, essays, research reports, and book reviews. Submissions will be accepted until June 20, 2012.

See the Jobs & Opportunities page at www.TheMSS.org for more information on each listing. Check the web page often - new opportunities are posted frequently.

“How Was That Session?” **MSS Task Force on Scholarly Quality**

By Diane Pike, Task Force Chair

We want all members to be reminded of the launching of the MSS Task Force on Scholarly Quality (TFSQ) created as part of the current MSS strategic plan. The Task Force met twice during the annual meetings and will continue its work over the coming year. Our charge is to contribute to sustaining and improving the quality of the annual meetings and to recommend changes that respond to long-standing concerns about uneven quality of paper sessions at our meetings. The Task Force members are: Diane Pike (Chair), Deb White, Barbara Keating, Kevin Leicht, Anne Eisenberg, Ness Sandoval, Sadie Pendaz, and Kim Maas. Linda Lindsey and Priya Dua are also working with the Task Force. Comments and queries welcome any time from any member to Chair Diane Pike by email to: pike@augsborg.edu.

Strategic Plan Implementation Continues

By Marlynn May, Interim Chair, Long Range Planning Committee

In March, 2011, the MSS Board adopted for implementation a new MSS Strategic Plan (MSS_SP). The MSS_SP includes six broad Priorities, with each Priority detailing a set of objectives for implementation. The six broad priorities are to:

- Expand the size and diversity of the MSS leadership and membership
- Enhance the utility, vitality and good fellowship of the annual meeting
- Develop a financial plan that supports the MSS vision and strategies
- Enhance the status and visibility of MSS publications
- Actively expand opportunities for professional development and continuing education
- Expand awareness of sociological knowledge and its usefulness in public dialogue.

Implementation of each Priority is to be accomplished utilizing the committee structure of the MSS, with specific committees assigned to each Priority. Committee chairs were briefed at the 2011 annual MSS meeting on their charge for implementing the MSS_SP. In the act of adopting the MSS_SP, the MSS Board also charged the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) with facilitating and monitoring the implementation process during the 2011-2012 year. Accordingly, the LRPC created a plan in which one LRPC member was assigned to each of the six Priorities, to work with the committee chairs in implementing that particular Priority.

The results of the LRPC's work during 2011-2012 were mixed. The LRPC discovered, upon feedback from committee chairs, that their facilitating and monitoring role was not clearly understood by some committee chairs. Based on the valuable feedback from committee chairs, the LRPC took action at its 2012 meeting in Minneapolis to revise its role in the MSS_SP implementation. The LRPC proposed to the MSS Board that:

The MSS Committee Chairs' annual breakfast (a) focus concentrated discussion on the MSS_SP and the committees' role in its implementation, (b) this breakfast will be hosted by the LRPC, with discussion of the MSS_SP implementation led by LRPC members, (c) the breakfast be moved from its current traditional 1-hour, 7 AM time position in the program and be assigned a regular session meeting time, thus providing more time for in-depth discussion and implementation planning and (d) each implementing committee be asked to explicitly include in their annual report discussion of their work to implement their MSS_SP Priority and the related outcomes. The proposed changes were accepted by the MSS Board.

membership matters

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE of TMS

Sept. 15th for fall issue. Dec. 15th for Annual Meeting Packet. Send news by email to: MidwestSS@centurytel.net

ABOUT MSS MEMBERSHIP

TO JOIN or RENEW: Visit the membership page at www.themss.org to pay your dues by credit card.

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, "2012," your membership expires Dec. 31, 2012. Please renew for 2013 *before Jan. 31st* 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 MidwestSS@centurytel.net.

NOT RECEIVING MSS EMAIL?

MSS sends important news and annual meeting deadline reminders during the months preceding the annual meeting. MSS also sends an occasional email 'blast' with other information of importance to members. 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: MidwestSS@centurytel.net

MOVING?

Change your address for all MSS publications with one e-mail to: MidwestSS@centurytel.net.

Fall Board Meeting Will Be Held Sept. 7-8

The MSS Board of Directors will hold their fall board meeting on Friday, Sept. 7th and Saturday, Sept. 8th, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.

Society members are encouraged to submit suggestions, requests, and items of business to the Board of Directors for attention at the fall board meeting. To ensure inclusion on the fall board meeting agenda, please send your request to the MSS Executive Office [MidwestSS@centurytel.net] no later than August 1.

Code of Ethics of the Midwest Sociological Society

Members of the Midwest Sociological Society subscribe to and are bound by the Code of Ethics of the American Sociological Association.

To read the Code in its entirety, please visit the ASA online at www.ASAnet.org and follow the links to "Ethics."

MSS members are reminded that sexual or racial harassment is unethical in any professional setting, and that the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society constitutes such a professional setting. Instances of harassment should be reported as soon as possible to the Professional Issues and Standards Committee.

To view the MSS grievance procedure in its entirety, please go to the MSS website - www.TheMSS.org - and click through to the "About MSS" page; or email MidwestSS@centurytel.net and request a copy.

2013 MSS ANNUAL MEETING

March 27
March 28
March 29
March 30

Join us March 27-30, 2013 in Chicago to celebrate and integrate the research, teaching and activism of our wide-ranging and eclectic discipline. These fundamentals of sociology combine into a myriad of demonstrations from service and application work to education and witness roles to community organizing and empowerment actions to advocacy for change.

Integrating the Sociology Eclectic: Research, Teaching and Activism

Curiosity drives all science and motivates our research. Teaching connects the history and the future of all disciplines. Sociology's complementary dedication to social progress, however, makes it special. Our curiosity is validated by our commitments to solve social problems and work for social justice. Why did we become sociologists? We admit to an unabashed curiosity about the social world. The opportunity to make a difference, however, sealed the deal.

Explore your sociological imagination. Organize a paper session. Share your expertise in a professional workshop. Facilitate a teaching workshop for your favorite course. Nominate gems for our film festival and author-meets-critics sessions. Offer ideas for tours, special events and plenary sessions. Most importantly, come to Chicago!

Barbara Keating
2013 MSS Program Chair
Email: mss2013@mnsu.edu
Phone: 507-389-5604



Call for Organizers

Integrating the Sociology Eclectic: Research, Teaching & Activism

August 31, 2012	Deadline for session proposals
October 24, 2012	Deadline for paper submissions to organizers.
November 14, 2012	Deadline for organizers to submit completed session listings.
December 1, 2012	Target date for the 2013 program to be posted online.

We invite you to submit session proposals through the online submission portal at www.themss.org.

Before you enter the portal:

- Be ready to indicate which of the session types, below, you propose to organize.
- Have on hand the name, email and affiliation of your co-organizer(s), if any.
- Take time to thoughtfully compose and have on hand:
 - a descriptive session title, and
 - a brief, one-or-two-sentence explanation of your session, to attract the most appropriate submissions.

Inside the submission portal, you'll be asked to choose a broad topic area for your session; and you'll be asked to choose one of these session types:

- **Paper Sessions:** These formal sessions, the core of our annual meetings, include the presentation of completed papers and a discussant's constructive feedback. Prospective presenters will submit a two-page abstract to the session organizers who will choose the (sometimes) three, (often) four or (rarely) five papers best serving the focus of the session. Chosen presenters will send the completed papers to the discussant by March 1, 2013. Organizers generally serve as the presider and discussant or they may recruit others to do so.
- **Panel Sessions:** Organizers will invite three to five panelists to present on a shared area of expertise or interest. While panelists make formal presentations, they are generally not the empirical reports that predominate in paper sessions. The organizer moderates discussion between the panelists and with the audience.
- **Workshops:** Interactive professional development opportunities facilitated by organizers are often participatory sessions. Workshops generally include topics related to teaching, writing, publishing, technology or analysis. These workshops and related paper sessions are included on the listings for the Faculty Certificate of Teaching and Learning, Faculty Development Certificate and the Future Faculty Certificate Programs.
- **Roundtables:** These less formal and smaller groupings are appropriate for presentation and discussion of research proposals, works in progress or topics of special interest. Whether a given table group involves presentations or conversation on shared interests, there is no audio-visual, only handouts. A small number of colleagues around a round table can provide valuable feedback and generate great ideas.
- **Meet the Authors:** These roundtable conversations provide opportunities for authors to discuss their books with their readers and the professors using them in the classroom. If you have published a book recently, please volunteer for this dialogue event.
- **Poster Sessions:** The 2013 MSS Meetings will feature three types of poster sessions: One for undergraduates, one for graduate students, and one for professionals. Poster sessions are a great way to facilitate brief, one-on-one conversations for a variety of projects.

We look forward to your proposals and we hope to see all MSS members in Chicago!

Barbara Keating President-elect / Program Chair

Kimberly Maas, Student Director / Program Assistant

The Midwest Sociological Society
429 24th St. N.
La Crosse, WI 54601



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INSIDE BACK COVER: CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS for the 2013 MSS Annual Meeting in Chicago March 27-30.
Submission portal opens May 15th at www.TheMSS.org. Proposal deadline: Aug. 31st.
Questions? Contact Program Chair Barbara Keating: MSS2013@mnsu.edu

**Coming soon in *The Sociological Quarterly*
Vol. 53, No. 3 Summer 2012**

**Theoretical Symposium:
Reconsidering Radical
Constructionism**

*The Limit of the Discursive:
A Critique of the Radical
Constructionist Approach to
Family Experience*

—Wing-Chung Ho

*Theoretical Validity and
Empirical Utility of a
Constructionist Analytics*

—Jaber F. Gubrium &
James A. Holstein

*In Defence of Radical
Constructionism*

—Darin Weinberg

Articles

*“If you Sit and Cry No One Will Help You”: Understanding
Perceptions of Worthiness and Social Support Relations
among Low-Income Women under a Neo-Liberal Discourse*
—Einat Lavee, Shira Offer

*Racialized Authentication: Constructing Representations of
Florida Highwaymen* —Amanda Koontz Anthony

*Building Environmentalism: The Founding of Environmental Movement
Organizations in the U.S., 1900-2000*
—Jason Carmichael, J. Craig Jenkins, Robert Brulle

Stockholm Syndrome as Vernacular Resource
—Michael Adorjan, Tony Christensen, Benjamin Kelly, Dorothy Pawluch

Corporate Frame Failure and the Erosion of Elite Legitimacy
—Chris M. Messer, Alison E. Adams, Thomas E. Shriver

