

What is 'left behind' as societies stampede towards growth and deregulation?

By Michael Haedicke, TMS Editor

The three plenary sessions at the 77th Annual Meeting examined institutions, ideas, and collective goods that are being "left behind" as contemporary societies stampede towards economic growth and market deregulation.

John Holmwood, Professor of Sociology at the University of Nottingham and President of the British Sociological Association, delivered Friday's keynote address. In



JOHN HOLMWOOD

a talk titled "The Uses of the University: Public Higher Education, Inequality, and Democracy," Holmwood examined the effect of neoliberal politics on higher education in the United Kingdom.

Educational policies in the United Kingdom are making universities into institutions that produce and reproduce social inequalities, Holmwood argued. Policymakers no longer think of higher education as a social good, and university activities have been transformed from public services into opportunities for profitmaking. These understandings and practices differ markedly from those that were promoted by the 1963 Robbins

Report, which set the agenda for British higher education for much of the twentieth century. The Robbins Report described universities as engines of economic growth, but also as institutions that would improve public welfare by reducing social inequalities and by generating useful public knowledge. Holmwood pointed out that the Robbins Report ideas also influenced the American higher education system and notably appeared in Clark Kerr's famous book *The Uses of the University*.

Today, the public benefits of higher education have become "unbundled," as Holmwood put it, from the university's contributions to economic growth. He traced a series of policy reforms that began in the middle of the 1980s and that culminated in the 2010 Browne Review, which is the only higher education policy brief since the 1960s to make no mention of the university's public benefits.

During this period, student fees have increased, student loans have replaced grants, for-profit education providers have proliferated, public funding for the arts and humanities has been eviscerated, and pressure to link university research to profitmaking activities has grown. Universities are well on their way to serving the needs of a global elite, while abandoning the vision of collective welfare.

The keynote address on Saturday was given by J. Craig Jenkins, Director of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies and Professor of Sociology at the Ohio State University. In a talk titled "Why Should Sociology Care About Climate Change?" Jenkins examined the social dimensions of a rapidly changing climate. Climate change poses a challenge to global and intergenerational equity, Jenkins argued, because residents of developing countries and future generations will suffer the most from the environmental problems caused by economic activities in the global North.



J. CRAIG JENKINS

Jenkins distinguished between efforts that aim to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas pollution, which mainly occur in developed countries, and efforts that seek to increase the resilience of communities in the global South to severe weather and other climate-related disasters. Both sorts of efforts are important, he argued, but mitigation projects have received far more attention and financial support. This inequity means that poor communities have largely been "left behind" to face climate change's most catastrophic effects.

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MSS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
310 DARTMOUTH ST
IOWA CITY, IA 52245

(319) 338-5247

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Phone: (319) 338-5247

mwsocsoc@centurylink.net

Deb White Elected to MSS Presidency



Last fall, MSS members elected Deb White, Minnesota State University Moorhead, to the MSS presidential track.

Deb is currently Department Chair and Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Moorhead. She joined the Moorhead faculty in 2000, upon completion of her Ph.D. in sociology at State University of New York at Albany. During her time at Moorhead, she has received numerous teaching, service and research awards, while also making time to serve MSS on the Board of Directors, the Scholarly Quality Task Force, the Membership, Social Action and Women in the Profession Committees, and as chair of the Annual Meeting Committee since 2008.

Deb stepped onto the four-year MSS presidential track at the recent annual meeting in Omaha, when she officially became MSS president-elect-elect. She will serve MSS as president-elect and program chair for the 2016 annual meeting, as president in 2016-17, and as past president in 2017-18.

Deb writes, "I am honored to have an opportunity to serve the Midwest Sociological Society as president. When I first joined the faculty at Minnesota State University Moorhead in 2000, my colleagues encouraged me to become involved with the MSS. I could not have asked for better advice, as I value greatly my experiences thus far in this exceptional professional association.

"The MSS is a welcoming community that creates space for sociologists to share ideas and celebrate our scholarship, teaching, applied work, and community engagement. Serving the diverse interests of our members, be they faculty, applied sociologists, undergraduate and graduate students, and others, is no simple task. Our roles as sociologists are continually evolving. As professionals, we face myriad challenges, not the least of which include attacks on academic freedom, disinvestment by colleges and universities in liberal arts, and declining support for professional development. We need to continue to adapt and improve as an organization in order to respond to these challenges. It is also our responsibility to be a public voice, whenever possible, to advocate for our members and our discipline.

"I will work to further efforts of the MSS to support quality scholarly exchanges, expand the diversity of our membership and leadership, and foster the warm, collegial environment that is a hallmark of our annual meetings. I aim to ensure that we are an organization that supports and inspires sociologists from the time they first become engaged with our discipline as students, throughout their careers, and beyond."

If you would like to work with Deb to move MSS forward, or just want to congratulate her on her election, you can reach her in her Moorhead office at (218)477-2041; or with an email to whitede@mnstate.edu.

DIRECTORS ELECTED FROM IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI / MINNESOTA DIRECTOR APPOINTED

IOWA

Xavier Escandell earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2005. He was a pre-doctoral fellow at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California San Diego in 2004. His expertise spans the areas of political sociology, social policy, immigration and transnationalism, race and ethnicity. He is currently working on several projects related to the impacts of social policies on immigrants' modes of incorporation in the context of the European Union.



As the new Iowa State director, he is interested in engaging with the MSS community in debates about the importance of social

policies in correcting social inequalities in a globalized world. In his election statement, he noted that his primary goal is to help the MSS be part of a larger conversation on how sociology can advance social justice.

You can contact Xavier at xavier.escandell@uni.edu.

MISSOURI

Mike Stout is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Missouri State University. His research interests are in the area of applied/public sociology, with a specific focus on social capital, civic engagement, and community and economic development. Mike collaborated with two other MSU sociologists and the National Conference on Citizenship in 2010 to produce the first-ever "Missouri Civic Health Index," a report summarizing the empirical indicators of civic health for the state of Missouri. He has also led a collaboration of seven statewide organizations to produce a second statewide Missouri Civic Health Index.



In his election statement, Mike pledged to work on increasing MSS membership by reaching out to sociologists who work outside of academia. He would also like to see MSS place a greater emphasis on public sociology and engaged scholarship. He is also interested in providing additional opportunities for student professional development at the annual meeting. Connect with Mike at mstout@missouri.edu.

KANSAS

Lisa Thrane is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Wichita State University. Since graduate school at Iowa State University, Lisa has regularly presented research on homeless and runaway youth at the annual meetings. Her current research is based on the Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) data and examines the effects of runaway status on health disparities in emerging adulthood.



Two of Lisa's goals for her board service are to represent the diverse interests of Kansas members and to encourage greater participation in the MSS. In addition, she will engage in efforts to broaden the membership base by strengthening ties to academic and applied sociologists in the state. Get in touch with Lisa by emailing lisa.thrane@wichita.edu.

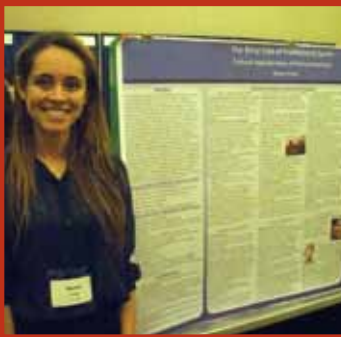
MINNESOTA

In the fall of 2012, Doug Hartmann, then serving on the MSS Board of Directors, was elected to the four-year MSS presidential track. To ensure representation for Minnesota, the Board of Directors appointed Sadie Pendaz to complete the final year of Doug Hartmann's three-year term as state director for Minnesota.



Sadie Pendaz earned her Ph.D. in 2010 at the University of Minnesota. She works in the Sociology, Anthropology and Law Enforcement department at Normandale Community College in Bloomington. She is currently president of Sociologists of Minnesota and has previously served MSS as student director, helping Past President Diane Pike with the 2009 conference in Des Moines. She currently serves on the editorial board of the ASA journal, *Teaching Sociology*, and has recently published on the topics of W.E.B. Du Bois and eastern African immigrants in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. Her research, teaching and service interests reflect a continued commitment to the Midwest region and to the vitality of sociology, both publicly and academically, in the Midwest and in Minnesota. Email Sadie at sadie.pendaz@normandale.edu.

35 Posters! Undergrads Shine at Annual Meeting

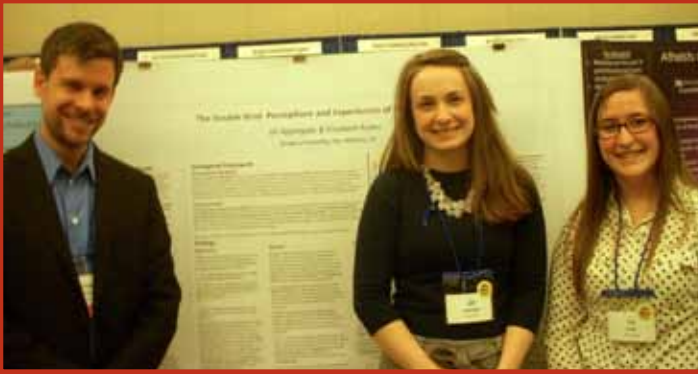
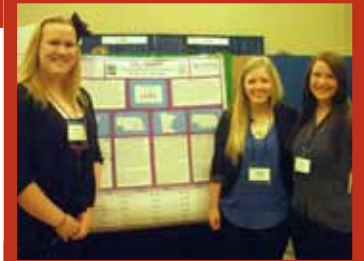


UNDERGRAD POSTER SESSION DRAWS 49 PARTICIPANTS

Participation in the undergraduate poster session, coordinated by Jean Karlen of Wayne State College, was enthusiastic again this year.

Forty-nine undergraduate students, representing twenty-one colleges and universities, submitted thirty-five posters on topics that ran the gamut of the social sciences. Congratulations to all the poster session participants -most of whom were enjoying their first professional conference - and to the advisors who mentored them.

YES, there was a graduate/ professional poster session too! See page 14 for photos.



Undergrad Paper Competition Attracts 35 Participants



Left to right: Mara Aussendorf, Ryan Larson, Krista Minnotte, Laura Levinson.

Congratulations to the winners of the 51st Annual MSS Student Paper Competition in Honor of R. Dean Wright.

Student paper competition awards were presented at the annual meeting on Saturday, April 5, by President Barbara Keating, and the division coordinators. Each competition winner received a plaque and a check.

Thirty-five undergraduate students from fourteen institutions submitted papers for the undergraduate competition.

Coordinator of the review process for the undergraduate division was Krista Lynn Minnotte, University of North Dakota. The papers were reviewed by Deniz Yucel, William Patterson University of New Jersey, Dan Hawkins, University of Nebraska – Omaha, and Elizabeth Keita-Scheel, St Cloud State University.

MSS thanks Krista, Deniz, Dan and Elizabeth for investing time and effort to benefit sociology's next generation!

First Place:

Laura Levinson, Macalester College

Advisor: Mahnaz Kousha

Title: *Jezebels and White Girl Twerk Teams: Race, Sex, and the Twerking Body*

Second Place:

Ryan Larson, Concordia College

Advisor: Andrew Lindner

Title: *Fear and Loathing in Minnesota: A Multilevel Analysis of Factors Impacting Crime Fears in Minnesota*

Third Place:

Mara Aussendorf, Macalester College

Advisor: Erik Larson

Title: *The Birdhouse and the Bee Hive: Parents' Navigation of Successful Sexual Socialization*

The Midwest Sociological Society invites students to participate in the 2015 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

Papers are due Jan. 11, 2015.

See all the rules & procedures online at the student page at www.TheMSS.org

Instructors: Download an 8 x 11 competition flyer at the website to post or share with colleagues.

Or email mwsocsoc@centurylink.net with the word 'poster' in the subject line - and one will be sent to you.

25 Grad Students Enter Graduate Paper Competition

Twenty-five papers from seventeen universities were submitted to the graduate-level competition. Papers were reviewed by Melissa Stacer, University of Southern Indiana; Dina Banerjee, Shippensburg University; Joseph David Thomas, Ivy Tech-Evansville; and Graduate Coordinator Elizabeth Hoffmann, Purdue University. Each competition winner received a plaque and a check. The competition winners are listed below, with their advisor, title and abstract.

MSS thanks Beth, Melissa, Dina and Joseph for giving your time so generously!



Elizabeth Hoffmann congratulates Christina Diaz. Lauren Apgar and Danielle Giffort were unable to attend the award ceremony.

First Place:

Lauren Apgar,
Indiana University
Advisor: Jennifer Lee

*Temporary Worker Advantages?
A Comparison of Mexican
Immigrants' Employment
Outcomes*

ABSTRACT: Most studies of Mexican immigrants' labor market outcomes overlook temporary workers. Using data from the Mexican Migration Project, I compare temporary workers' labor market experiences with those of legal permanent residents (LPRs) and undocumented workers. I examine hourly wages, occupational prestige, and job stability. Together, comparisons reveal that temporary workers experience the poorest employment outcomes. While temporary workers' hourly wages fall between the wages of LPRs and undocumented workers, they work fewer months and hold less prestigious jobs than both groups. These patterns suggest that temporary workers' dependence on their employer prevents their upward advancement and job stability.

Second Place:

Christina Diaz, University of Wisconsin
Advisor: Jenna Nobles.

*Social Mobility in the Context of
Fathering: The intergenerational link in
parenting among co-resident fathers*

Abstract: Intergenerational transmissions extend across a number of family-related behaviors, including marriage timing, fertility, and divorce. Surprisingly, fewer studies investigate the link between the fathering men experience and the fathering they ultimately engage in. I use data on the grandfathers and fathers of the 2001 U.S. birth cohort - measured in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (N=4,050) - to test whether men's perception of the parenting they received influences their subsequent paternal self-assessments and behaviors. I find a nonlinear association between experiencing warm fathering and men's self-assessed parenting quality and stress. Men with particularly warm fathers are more likely to report being good fathers themselves. Those who report having the harshest fathers also exhibit better paternal self-perceptions and lower stress. Perceptions of paternal warmth showed similar associations with men's fathering engagement. This research sheds light on the significance of family dynamics and how a legacy of fathering may contribute to inequality.

Third Place:

Danielle Giffort, U. of Illinois at Chicago
Advisor: William Bielby

*The Specter of Timothy Leary: Telling Stories and
Performing Credibility in Contemporary Psychedelic
Science*

ABSTRACT: From the late 1940s to early 1960s, many scientists viewed psychedelic drugs as promising tools for understanding and treating mental illness--that is, until the federal classification of psychedelics as Schedule I substances in 1970 blocked their research. Since the 1990s, however, psychedelic research on human subjects has been slowly resuming. The history of psychedelic drugs and psychedelic research, however, has created credibility struggles for contemporary psychedelic scientists. Based on archival documents, field observations, and semi-structured interviews, I find that a key means through which these researchers attempt to reestablish themselves and their field as credible is through an explicit and repeated distancing from the specter of Timothy Leary--a Harvard psychologist who went from being a prominent psychedelic scientist to countercultural psychedelic evangelical, and who is frequently held responsible for the decades-long interruption on psychedelic research. I argue that stories told within this scientific community about Timothy Leary function to regulate the actions of contemporary psychedelic researchers. Therefore, this paper brings together sociological literature on storytelling with science and technology studies literature on boundary work and credibility to understand how stories shape the performance of the credible scientific self and community.

Susan Haworth-Hoeppner Receives Jane Addams Award for Outstanding Service

By Mahruq Khan, Past Chair, Women in the Profession Committee

Each year, the Women in the Profession Committee presents the Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award to a person who has shown dedicated service on behalf of women and girls. It is our pleasure to award the 2014 Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award to Susan Haworth-Hoeppner. Susan is Professor and Chair of the Sociology Department at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI.

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.” Susan Haworth-Hoeppner embodies the spirit of this award. She demonstrates the “passion, dedication, and activism of Jane Addams through efforts to improve the status of girls and women.”

It is easy to see how Susan’s scholarly research ties in with her public sociology and social activism. Susan clearly utilizes her scholarly interests in gender studies, research on eating disorders and aggression among girls to fuel her social activism. Not only is Susan the Director of Women’s Studies but she also has found ways to expand the boundaries of the classroom, engage in praxis, and involve female undergraduates in ‘feminist mentoring’ (reciprocal process) practices. She has empowered many girls through a yearlong after-school leadership program entitled Girls Empowering Together (GET) that she founded in 2007.

GET is designed to address the related fields of educational success, civic engagement, leadership, conflict resolution and self-empowerment among high school girls for whom the challenges of adolescence are additionally impacted by socio-economic barriers. The program is for girls in 9th-12th grades who attend schools in urban districts with high poverty rates that fail to meet Adequate Yearly Progress standards from the Michigan Department of Education. Typically fifteen to twenty girls participate in the weekly program.

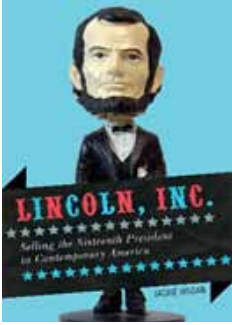
Reflecting on her experience as the director of Girls Empowering Together, Susan remarks, “The program has allowed me to participate in community engagement in a meaningful way by helping the girls develop skill sets that will be (and have been) useful to them in their lives and by aiding them to take steps toward leadership in their communities in the future. At the same time, the girls have schooled me on class, race, gender, sexuality, violence, and relationship issues, giving lessons which have been both informative and humbling. I can only thank them for working with me all of these years.”

Susan’s service is remarkable and inspiring to all of us and truly deserving of the Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award.



Mahruq Khan, Chair of the Women in the Profession Committee, presented the Jane Addams Award and a commemorative clock to Susan Haworth-Hoeppner Friday, April 4, in The Commons.

THE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE 2015
JANE ADDAMS AWARD
WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE
FALL NEWSLETTER.



Distinguished Book Award to Jackie Hogan's *Lincoln, Inc.: Selling the Sixteenth President in Contemporary America*

The Midwest Sociological Society's

Distinguished Book Award Committee (Chair Peter Adler, Patti Adler, Scott Fitzgerald, and Michael Sauder) is pleased to announce the winner of this year's prize, Jackie Hogan, for her superb rendering of the semiotics and social construction of the image of our sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln, in her book, *Lincoln, Inc.: Selling the Sixteenth President in Contemporary America* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2011).

What better person for the MSS to recognize than Lincoln, arguably the most written-about American in history, and of course, thoroughly Midwestern in his roots. Although born in Kentucky, Lincoln spent most of his life in Illinois, where he started his political career as a U.S. Representative in 1846. Thus, this book celebrates one of our region's most influential and, possibly, most misunderstood citizens.

Hogan's book is not yet another hagiography of "Honest Abe," his emancipation of the slaves, or his key role in the Civil War, but rather, in an outstanding sociological twist, *Lincoln, Inc.* takes us behind the media images, the elementary-school

level reconstruction of his life, and the genius of his presidency, to show how he has been packaged and sold as perhaps the quintessential American president. Hogan's work not only sheds light on how figures in history can be commodified, but also on current practices in the political realm that incorporate lies, make grandiose even the smallest of achievements, and moderate our images of the powerful people who run for office in America.

Thus, although this book contributes nuances to the historical legacy of Lincoln, it shows how he has been deified by the political machinery and moral entrepreneurs who have reconstructed history. The book also helps us understand the transformation of celebrities, in general, but politicians, more specifically, into household names, stars, heroes, villains, and other images that power brokers can wield to get their point to millions of people.

Dr. Hogan's book gives us greater insight into the role played by literature, television, film, and now social media, in the creation of public personalities. The committee was pleased to present the 2014 MSS Distinguished Book Award to an Illinoisan, Professor Jackie Hogan of Bradley University.



Michael Sauder, member of the Distinguished Book Award Committee, presented the award plaque and check to author Jackie Hogan.

Social Action Awards to Heartland Workers Center, and to Justice for our Neighbors

By Xavier Escandell, Past Chair, Social Action Committee

It is with great pleasure that I write a synthesis of the work undertaken by two outstanding non-profit organizations: Heartland Workers Center and Justice for our Neighbors. These organizations were the recipients of the 2014 MSS Social Action Awards in Omaha.

Heartland Workers Center is dedicated to increasing the civic engagement and political participation of the Latino community in Nebraska. Worth mentioning is their campaign *I vote for my family*, aimed at mobilizing the Latino community to vote in local and general elections as well as in training Latinos on issues related to public life more broadly. Moreover, their work and campaigns on educating Latino workers on workplace safety, health and social rights makes this organization a great example of productive activism and work for the advancement of social justice.

The second organization awarded this year, Justice for our Neighbors, has also contributed greatly to strengthen the Latino community in Nebraska through their free legal counseling and educational workshops in local churches and communities.

Not only has this organization conducted important service work but also has been a strong advocate for just immigration laws in the United States.

I would also like to mention that we had a panel sponsored by the Social Action Committee with the 2013 MSS Social Action Award winner, The Covering House. The panel was an excellent opportunity to learn and educate the MSS community about the important work

conducted by this organization, helping victims of sexual trafficking. In the last year, The Covering House has been able to secure state funding to continue their work helping young girls overcome their experiences of sexual exploitation in the Saint Louis and larger Midwest area. Lindsey Ellis, the representative of The Covering House in Omaha, spoke of the importance of this award for emerging organizations like them. Her presence and engagement in Omaha speaks volumes not only of the vitality of The Covering House as an organization, but also for continued support from the MSS leadership for the Social Action Awards.

Lindsey shared with us her views about these awards: "As I think about where our organization was at the last MSS Conference [2013 in Chicago], I am humbled to think about how we've progressed this year and I think it is important to thank you for having a part in that experience [...] when you are part of a grassroots, social justice organization, you often feel as if you are constantly trudging uphill. You often look for any piece of encouragement or support. You look for something to keep you motivated and moving forward. Being offered the Social Action Award last year, was one of those motivations for us."

As the outgoing chair of the Social Action Committee, I am looking forward to the future work of this committee under the leadership of the incoming chair of the Social Action Committee, Andrea Nichols. I would like also to take this opportunity to ask the MSS community to continue nominating grass-roots organizations undertaking important work in your communities.



Above: Xavier Escandell, Chair, Social Action Committee, with representatives of Heartland Workers Center and Justice for our Neighbors.

To learn more about the groups receiving MSS Social Action Awards, visit their websites:

<http://www.heartlandworkerscenter.org>

<http://www.jfon-ne.org>

<http://thecoveringhouse.org>

Mary E. Campbell Selected for Early Career Scholarship Award

By Mary Zimmerman, Chair, Selection Committee

The MSS Early Career Scholarship Award honors a body of work with a “discernible research agenda or theoretical approach” and clear “sociological sensibility” produced by a society member who has received a terminal degree within the past ten years. In the opinion of the selection committee, the 2014 Early Career Scholarship Award recipient, Mary E. Campbell, more than meets these criteria.

Professor Campbell received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2004 and joined the sociology faculty at The University of Iowa where she received tenure and promotion in 2010. In 2013, she moved to Texas A&M University where she currently serves as Associate Department Head. Throughout her years of membership, Dr. Campbell has served the MSS in various capacities including volunteer service on the Minority Scholars, Distinguished Book Award, Annual Meeting Program and Women in the Profession Committees.

Professor Campbell’s scholarly work –consisting of some 20 journal articles and book chapters– explores the complexities of race and ethnicity. This work focuses on both the measurement implications and the social consequences of how people classify themselves in race terms and how they are classified by others. It includes research on multiracial groups, racial misclassifications and attitudes towards interracial relationships as well as race disparities in educational and health care outcomes. Publications arising from these studies have appeared in major sociological journals such as *ASR*, *Social Problems*, and *The Sociological Quarterly*, as well as *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Social Science Research*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Health Affairs* and *Health Services Research*. The award committee commends Professor Campbell for giving the field of sociology so many original and creative contributions in such a vital area of research– not only scholarly significant work but work with considerable practical value.

The award plaque and check were presented to Mary Campbell by Mary Zimmerman, MSS Past President and 2013-14 chair of the Early Career Award Committee. The other members of the committee were Past Presidents Peter Kivisto and Helen Moore.



Mary Zimmerman, at left, presents Mary Campbell with the Early Career Scholarship Award.

Presidency Passes from Barbara Keating to Kevin Leicht at Annual Business Meeting

At the conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting, always held on the final day of the four-day annual meeting, outgoing President Barbara Keating passed the presidential gavel to incoming President Kevin Leicht. With the passing of the gavel, Barbara moves to the fourth and final year of the presidential track, beginning her service as immediate past president.



Presidential Reception in Omaha

Following President Barbara Keating's enthusiastically-received Presidential Address, the Presidential Reception offered food, fun, and collegiality. Participants enjoyed a grand feast, generously sponsored by President Keating's employer, Minnesota State University Mankato.



Large photo,
near top right:
President
Barbara Keating
with colleague
Mark Rousseau.

First-Night Welcome at MSS2014

The traditional welcome party, held the first evening of the Annual Meeting, saw meeting participants greeting old friends and colleagues - and getting acquainted with new ones. Attendance was encouraged with free drink tickets and free MSS coffee cups for the first 100 to come through the door.



New at MSS2014: The Commons !

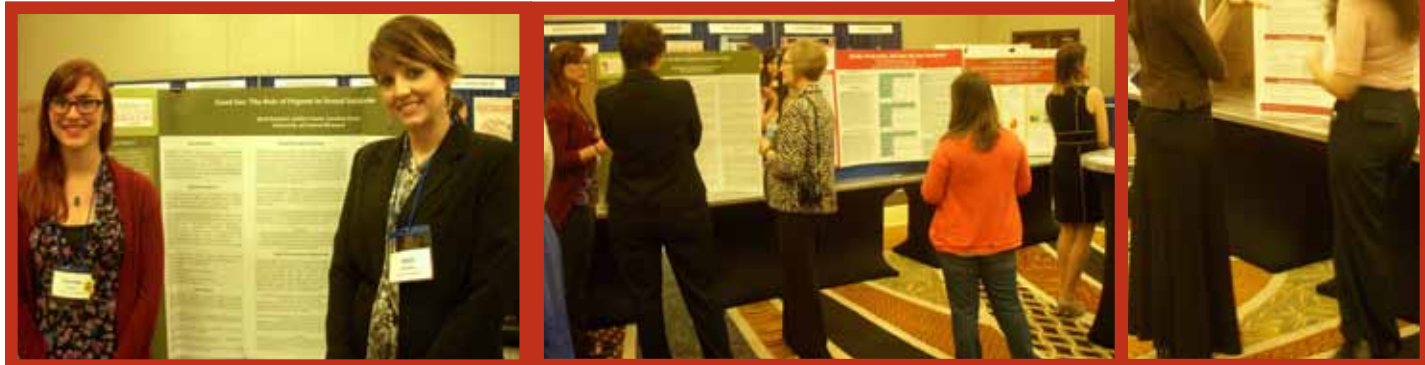
The First-Night Welcome, and several other events, took place in the newly-organized Commons. The Commons offered exhibit space for 26 exhibitors, including representatives of Midwestern grad programs, state sociology organizations, local nonprofits and local businesses, as well as the traditional book publishers.

Many thanks to volunteer MSSer Anne Eisenberg for organizing the Commons!



EIGHT GRADUATE STUDENTS & PROFESSIONALS TAKE PART IN ADVANCED-LEVEL POSTER SESSION

Exploring topics from agentive activity to personality types on Facebook, eight advanced-level posters stimulated conversation in the Commons on Friday.



“LEFT BEHIND” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He also pointed out that mitigation efforts largely fail to address the inherent tendency of global markets to externalize costs onto society and the environment.

Jenkins illustrated these claims by discussing his ongoing research in Bangladesh, a country that is densely settled, resource poor, and because of its tropical location and low-lying terrain, highly vulnerable to coastal flooding. He explained that without significant investments in flood control infrastructure, significant portions of the country are likely to disappear beneath a rising sea level within the next century. Sociology is uniquely positioned to analyze strategies of resilience in Bangladesh and similar countries, since sociologists are able to examine how responses to the threats of climate change vary according to differences in local resources and forms of community and political organization. Opportunities for environmental sociologists will continue to grow as the challenges of climate change become more apparent, he predicted.

The topic of climate change also figured prominently in this year’s Peter Hall Lecture, which was supported in part by a gift from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. Robert J. Antonio, Professor of Sociology at the University of Kansas, delivered a talk titled “Realism and Constructivism in Battles Over Global Environmental Problems,” which described the positions that various sociological schools of thought have taken in the face of a changing global climate.

Antonio focused first on the split between sociological realists, who concentrate on the effects of human institutions on the environment, and sociological constructivists, who investigate how ecological phenomena come to be defined as social problems. Realists tend to favor immediate government action to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and to mitigate the causes of climate change, Antonio explained. They also reject the idea that the imperative of market growth should guide environmental policymaking.

Constructivists are more likely to express skepticism of scientific climate modeling procedures and to advocate a bottom-up

response to environmental problems that is anchored in civil society. In general, constructivists have been skeptical of science-centered policymaking in the environmental arena.

Antonio then turned his attention to an emerging group of social scientists and policy advocates that he labeled “strong constructivists.” These individuals, who work at think tanks like the Breakthrough Institute and at research bodies like the Tyndall Climate Centre, acknowledge the risks of climate change, but strongly deny the problem’s urgency. They also favor market-centered strategies, rather than state action, to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Antonio asserted that the “strong constructivist” position is essentially conservative in that it refuses to consider the possibility of making radical changes in the global economy.

“We can visualize the end of the planet,” he pointed out, “but it is hard to visualize the end of capitalism as we know it.” Indeed, he argued, strong constructivists are replacing climate change deniers like Michael Crichton as the scientific evidence in favor of climate change grows stronger.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKS 2 MEMBERS, INVITES APPLICANTS

The MSS publications committee seeks two new members to serve three-year terms beginning in spring 2015, and ending in spring 2018. 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, advises the editors on policy, solicits proposals from publishers, and makes recommendation to the board with respect to the selection of a publisher. Please send queries about the committee's work by email to Chair Marybeth Stalp: marybeth.stalp@uni.edu.

Please send applications for appointment to the Publications Committee to Chair Marybeth Stalp, following the directions below. Applicants who have experience with refereed publications are encouraged to apply. Nominations are accepted until Aug. 15th. To apply, please indicate in the subject line of your cover email that you are applying for the committee membership. Send your vita and brief application letter, as attachments, to Chair Marybeth Stalp: marybeth.stalp@uni.edu.

OTHER COMMITTEES SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

To apply for a position on any of the committees listed below, please contact the MSS office at mwsocsoc@centurylink.net before August 15th to signify your interest. Learn more about committee work and see application directions at www.TheMSS.org/committees.html.

These committees are all seeking new members:

- Annual Meeting
- Minority Scholars
- [Need Local Arrangements
- Professional Issues & Standards
- volunteer(s) for Milwaukee 2017]
- Social Action
- Nominations & Elections (Needs
- Sociological Practice
- one committee member each from
- Student Issues
- ND, SD, NE, WI.)
- Teaching & Learning
- Scholarship Development [for-
- Women in the Profession
- merly Endowment]
- Long Range Planning

Committee reports

are now online on the COMMITTEE page at www.TheMSS.org.

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.
- A call for committee applications will be emailed this summer to all MSS members. Deadline for applications is Aug. 15th. Beat the rush! Send your email application now. See application directions at www.TheMSS.org/committees.html
- 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.



Call for 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. In making funding decisions, the committee will prioritize efficient use of resources that directly contribute to the proposed research.

Research proposals should specify how funding from MSS 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. Additionally, grant recipients are expected to present findings at the subsequent year's MSS Annual Meeting.

Grant applications will be accepted ONLY between Jan. 15, 2015, and midnight, Feb. 15, 2015. References should follow the ASA style guide.

A complete proposal includes

1. A cover page including identification of a principal investigator, a mailing address, and a statement of intention to attend the MSS Annual Meeting the following year to present research findings. NB: We do not fund travel to the MSS conference to present your results; such expenses, therefore, should not be in the proposal's budget.
2. A proposal that, in a maximum of 1200 words, provides
 - » A statement of the research problem;
 - » A theoretical framework;
 - » A summary of methodology and design; and
 - » An itemized budget with a budget justification. 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 their submitted proposal.
3. A list of works cited.
4. 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).
5. A letter approving your access to any agency/organization/research facility/databank required for your project.
6. C.V. and list of references.

SEND E-COPIES

Please collate all your application documents into a single pdf. Please create the pdf by saving the word processing file as a pdf rather than by scanning printed versions of the application documents. Please send your application pdf by email, with "MSS RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION" in the subject line of your email, to Committee Chair Erik Larson, larsone@macalester.edu. Please cc your application to the MSS exec office at mwsocsoc@centurylink.net

TIMING

The submission process opens January 15, 2015, and closes at 11:59 pm Central Time, February 15th, 2015. Applications submitted before or after this time period will not be considered. Decisions will be communicated shortly after the MSS Annual Meeting to be held March 26-29, 2015.



Call for Nominations for Distinguished Book Award*

Nominations and review copies are due Oct. 31, 2014.

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 2012, 2013, or 2014.

**Before nominating, see the complete nominations requirements online or request them from the MSS Exec Office by email to:*

mwsocsoc@centurylink.net

GRANT & AWARD OPPORTUNITIES



Call for Applications: Visiting Scholar / Researcher Grants

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

The MSS Scholarship Development 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 MSS region (The Dakotas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, 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 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; the host school must fund any meals, hospitality, and honoraria. The scholar/researcher contributes his or her time and skill.

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

- 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 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 you.

Please make pdfs of all documents, if possible, before sending. If possible to combine several pdfs into fewer documents, that is even more desirable. Please send your application pdf by email, with "MSS VISITING SCHOLAR APPLICATION" in the subject line of your email, to Committee Chair Erik Larson, larsone@macalester.edu. Please cc your application to the MSS office at mwsocsoc@centurylink.net.



Call for Nominations for the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award*

The Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award recognizes outstanding publications appearing in *The Sociological Quarterly*. The award is given every other year; articles eligible for the 2015 award must have been published in 2013 or 2014.

Articles must be nominated for consideration. This is a change to the previous practice in which all TSQ articles were automatically considered. Nominations may come from authors themselves, or others. Nominators need not be MSS members. Send all nominations to the MSS office at mwsocsoc@centurylink.net by November 15, 2014.

A complete nomination should provide (1) citation for the article; (2) the nominated author(s) contact information, including name, institutional affiliation, mailing address, email address, and phone number; and (3) one paragraph to one page explaining why the nominated article deserves to win the competition.

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



Call for Nominations for Social Action Awards

The MSS Social Action Committee invites nominations of community-based organizations for two annual \$1,000 Social Action Awards. The nominated organizations are typically located in the geographic area of the annual conference. However, other organizations from the MSS region or an international organization that works on global issues and affects the local or regional area will be considered. The award recognizes grassroots work toward social justice and social change. The awards will be presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Kansas City.

Please include the following when nominating an organization:

1. Organization's name, address, phone and fax number
2. Name of a contact person
3. Attachment of a brief (1-2 page) description of what the organization has done that merits this award.

Submit nominations electronically after Sept. 1, and before Nov. 1, 2014, to: Andrea Nichols, Chair, MSS Social Action Committee. Electronic submission(s) only (MS-Word document or pdf) to: anichols@stlcc.edu.



LOOKING AHEAD: Call for next editor for *The Sociological Quarterly*

The Publications Committee of the Midwest Sociological

Society is initiating

a search for the next editor of the society's journal, *The Sociological Quarterly*. Since 1960, the contributors, peer-reviewers, advisory editors, and readers of *The Sociological Quarterly* have made it one of the leading generalist journals in the field. Editing TSQ is a unique, rewarding, and important professional responsibility that brings visibility and distinction to a department and university. The successful editor candidate will be appointed by the MSS President with consent of the board upon recommendation of the Publications Committee for a four-year, non-renewable term.

The editor is responsible for soliciting, reviewing, and making decisions about all manuscript submissions. Four issues of the journal are published annually, with each issue typically containing seven to nine articles. The editorial office, organized around an efficient and productive web-based submission and peer review system, ScholarOne Manuscripts, is responsible for overseeing and managing the review process and for proofreading material provided by the publisher in accordance with standard publishing expectations.

The new editor and the outgoing co-editors will work together to negotiate a date for the new editorial office to open early in 2016. This date will be no later than March 1, 2016. The first issue produced by the new editor will be the winter issue of 2017, Vol. 58, Number 1. The new editor will be responsible for Volumes 58 through 61.

The MSS seeks an individual with a distinguished scholarly record and previous editorial experience. Past experience can come in the form of a previous journal editorship, deputy/associate editorship, or book review editorship. The applicant should possess strong organizational and management skills, the ability to work well with others, and a commitment to the mission of *The Sociological Quarterly*.

All members of the MSS are encouraged to apply and/or to nominate candidates. Preference may be given to applicants within the nine states that make up the MSS region - Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The MSS provides generous support to the editorial office including:

- \$10,000 annual stipend for the editor
- \$2,500 travel fund
- One course release "buy-out"
- Half-time managing editor.

One of the expectations of the MSS is that the editor's host institution will also provide support which might come in the form of additional faculty release time, summer salary, office space, utilities, the use of computers and other office equipment, support for student workers, and/or other basic expenses.

The precise scope of editorial office support will be negotiated by the finalist, the finalist's institution, and the MSS Publications Committee.

Applicants should submit a C.V., along with a letter outlining their qualifications, their experience, and their vision for *The Sociological Quarterly*. The review process will begin Feb. 1, 2015. Finalists should be prepared to be interviewed during the MSS Annual Meeting, March 26-29, 2015, at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. Applications, nominations and requests for additional information should be sent electronically to the MSS Publications Committee through Lauren Tiffany, MSS Executive Director, via email to: mwsocsoc@centurylink.net. Please put "TSQ editor application" in the subject line of your email.

Questions about MSS, the application process or the selection process? Contact Lauren Tiffany, MSS Executive Director, by phone at 319.338.5247 or by email to: mwsocsoc@centurylink.net.

Facts about *The Sociological Quarterly*

There were 353,068 full text downloads for TSQ in 2013. Usage on Wiley Online Library increased by 35%.

175,285 'unique visitors' viewed TSQ's pages online. [A unique visitor is counted only once regardless of number of visits.]

TSQ's impact factor rose from 1.143 (2011) to 1.545 (2012). The journal moved up 12 places to 27th of 137 journals in the sociology category.

UPDATE FROM ASA-MSS FELLOW JOSEPH “PIKO” EWOODZIE

By Michael Haedicke, TMS Editor

It has been a busy and productive year for Joseph Ewoodzie, who is participating in the 2013-2014 MSS/ASA Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). Established in 1974, the MFP provides support and training opportunities for sociologists of color who are pursuing doctoral degrees. The program is administered by the American Sociological Association and is supported, in part, by annual contributions from MSS and other professional organizations of sociologists.

Ewoodzie's doctoral dissertation is titled *Getting Something to Eat in Jackson: An Ethnography of Foodways in Mississippi*. He has examined the “foodways” – clusters of decisions and practices that concern food access, preparation, and consumption – among four groups of people with different social class experiences in Jackson, Mississippi. The research demonstrates class-based differences that exist in food availability, choice, and consumption in this area. It also puts a human face on the problem of “food deserts,” which the U.S. Department of Agriculture defines as low-income communities that have limited access to grocery stores and other sources of fresh, healthy foods.

Ewoodzie expects to complete a draft of the dissertation in late summer, a goal that is supported by the MFP's emphasis on creating “protected time” to focus on research and writing.

His work will contribute to sociologists' understandings of health inequalities and class-based variations in consumption practices. It will also provide insights into the life of black communities in the southern United States, which has largely been ignored in American sociology, Ewoodzie noted. The research also raises questions about the effectiveness of “one size fits all” public health policies, particularly those that have emerged around food and eating in recent years.

The MFP also plans workshops and paper sessions at the ASA annual meeting and assists the MFP Fellows in creating a network of professional mentors and peers. For example, Ewoodzie participated in a workshop led by a senior scholar at the 2013 ASA meeting that concentrated on responding to peer reviews and moving manuscripts towards publication in professional journals. These opportunities for advice and feedback have been very valuable, Ewoodzie explained. This year, they helped him (along with three other MFP participants) compete successfully for prestigious dissertation fellowships from the Ford Foundation.

Participation in the MFP has played an important role in Ewoodzie's accomplishments this year. His work highlights the ways that MSS support for the program contributes to the professional development of sociologists of color and to new sociological discoveries.



Joseph “Piko” Ewoodzie

1974 - 2014
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF
THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION'S
MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Are you eligible to participate? Learn more about eligibility and application procedures for the program at www.ASAnet.org.

Executive Director to Retire: Board Plans Succession

By September 2015, MSS Executive Director Lauren Tiffany will be phasing into retirement.

At present, the executive director position is a contract position and receives no benefits. Employment is through an annually renewable contract.

The Board of Directors has begun planning for a smooth transition and has charged the Executive Committee with exploring other administrative models. Because the board values transparency in the planning and hiring process, this preliminary position description is being made available at this time.

The Executive Committee invites your input and queries about the position and the position description.

Executive Committee members:

Kevin Leicht, President
kevin-leicht@uiowa.edu

Barbara Keating,
Past President
barbara.keating@mnsu.edu

Doug Hartmann,
President-elect
hartm021@umn.edu

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Director is responsible for the daily operation of MSS.

Guided by MSS's mission and reporting to the MSS Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for general oversight and management of office operations, member records, membership services, member relations, communications, budgeting and financial planning, accounting and fiscal management, grants and awards administration, contract and grant compliance, relations with counterparts in allied organizations, relations with conference hotels, relations with the Society's publisher and editors.

The MSS Executive Director

- Plans, formulates and recommends to the board policies, procedures and programs that will further MSS's mission, strategic plans, short-term objectives, and long-term success and viability.
- Oversees office operations, including contractual arrangements for services and consultants, communications, and records management.
- Develops and recommends an annual budget, in consultation with the treasurer and Finance Committee, for board approval.
- Oversees the annual professional audit.
- Manages MSS finances within the parameters of the board-approved budget.
- Oversees annual meeting planning, registration and production in collaboration with the President-Elect, the Student Director, the hotel site staff, and a small army of volunteers.
- Oversees the compilation and production of the annual meeting program book.
- Assists the President and the board in populating standing committees, ad hoc committees, award committees, task forces, and other volunteer groups.
- Notifies all appointees and secures acceptances.
- Keeps records of committee appointments and reports.
- Gives support to all elected officers and board members, as well as 15 standing committees, 4 annual award committees, and miscellaneous ad hoc committees or task forces that may be convened from time to time.
- Coordinates agendas, documents, communications and logistics for three board meetings each year.
- Provides services to members by responding to queries, maintaining the membership database, ensuring the delivery of publications, sending membership renewal reminders, and processing and recording membership payments.
- Oversees fund raising and development activities.
- Oversees electronic communications with the members, which includes writing e-newsletters, formatting them online, creating mailing list(s) for each e-newsletter, and distributing the e-news.
- Manages production of the print newsletter, which includes printer relations, writing articles, doing layout and design, proofreading, uploading the file for printing, approving final printer's proofs, and overseeing mailing and distribution.
- Acts as webmaster, which includes writing and formatting materials, uploading material to the website, and constantly updating web pages.

DESIRABLE QUALITIES / EXPERIENCE

- Demonstrated ability to manage projects, grants, finances, publications.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a complex environment with competing demands.
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated knowledge of technology and emerging technologies.
- Proven ability to communicate effectively in oral presentations and in writing.
- Experience in association management, board management, and volunteer management.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBER NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

Meg Wilkes Karraker is the author of *Diversity and the Common Good: Civil Society, Religion, and Catholic Sisters in a Small City* (Lexington Books, 2013) and the editor of *The Other People: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Migration* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013). The first book tells the story of one community which confronted racism of the ugliest kind and chose to work toward a good society for all its citizens, driven by the concerted efforts of its Catholic Sisters and highly committed civic and religious actors. The second book includes chapters on migration studies by scholars from anthropology, family social science, legal studies, nursing, political science, and sociology, as well as an appendix on resources for research on global migration.

Isidor Walliman is the author of *Environmental Policy is Social Policy – Social Policy is Environmental Policy* (Springer, 2013). The book discusses examples of policies from agriculture, nutrition, forestry, urban planning, care work, tourism, and university management that combine social and environmental goals and argues that failure to synthesize environmental and social policy goals leads to inefficiencies and perverse effects.

Sociologists of Minnesota [SOM] will hold their 2014 conference Oct 9-10 at Inver Hills Community College. The theme, *Applying Sociology to Living in the 21st Century*, explores the ways sociological thinking can enhance our ability to understand and adapt to the changes and challenges of living in the 21st century.

Proposals for sessions and papers should be sent by Friday, May 30th, to SOM president-elect Vicky Knickerbocker by email to: vknicke@inverhills.mnscu.edu.

ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP

TO JOIN or RENEW: Visit the membership page at www.themss.org to pay your dues by credit card. OR download and print the membership form at the membership page to pay dues by mail with check or credit card.

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, "2014" your membership will end Dec. 31, 2014. Please renew for 2015 before Jan. 31st to ensure that you receive an annual meeting packet and uninterrupted publications; and that you remain eligible for MSS annual meeting participation, committee work, grants and awards.

NOT RECEIVING MSS PUBLICATIONS?

NOT RECEIVING MSS EMAIL?

MOVING? Contact the MSS Exec Office by email to: mwsocsoc@centurylink.net.

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 link 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 mwsocsoc@centurylink.net and request a copy.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The MSS Board of Directors has awarded Life Memberships to retired members Susan Wright, Drake University, and to Mark O. Rousseau, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

FALL BOARD MEETING

The MSS Board of Directors will hold their fall board meeting Sept. 26-27 at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, site of the 2015 Meeting.

OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the Jobs & Opportunities page at MSS's website: www.theMSS.org

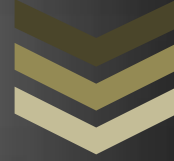
UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

2016 — Chicago, IL
Wednesday - Saturday, March 23-26
A joint meeting with NCSA

2017 — Milwaukee, WI
Thursday - Sunday, Mar 30-April 2

2015 MSS Annual Meeting



Sociology and Its Publics: The Next Generation

Recent calls for more public and engaged sociology have helped inspire, vindicate, and legitimate the work of rank-and-file sociologists everywhere.

Some in the field have seen the attention to public engagement as mere matters of outreach, activism, and dissemination of social scientific research. Others, especially those of us in organizations like the MSS, have come to realize that the challenge of engagement raises much deeper, more unsettling questions about sociology itself: What is this discipline? Why and for whom do we do sociology? And how can we do it better?

With the explosion of new media, political attacks on the social sciences, and the ongoing transformations of higher education, these questions about sociological practice and its relation to different audiences and publics have become more salient and significant than ever before.

The 2015 MSS conference theme is intended to encourage Midwest sociologists—no matter what their topics of interest or intended contributions—to reflect upon these questions in Kansas City, and in doing so contribute to the rejuvenation and continued revitalization of our field and craft.

See you in Kansas City!

Doug Hartmann, President-Elect/Program Chair
Erin Hoekstra, Student Director/Program Assistant

March 26-29 Kansas City

Scheduled plenary participants include

- **Dalton Conley**, author of *You May Ask Yourself*, *Being Black*, *Living in the Red*, and the newly released *Parentology*,
- **Lisa Wade**, founding editor of the wildly popular and award-winning website “Sociological Images.”

Contact us at the
University of Minnesota,
mss2015@umn.edu

Join us at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, 200 West 12th Street, Kansas City, MO

2015 ANNUAL MEETING

2015 MSS ANNUAL MEETING DEADLINES

MAY, 2014	ONLINE PORTAL OPENS FOR SESSION PROPOSALS.
AUG. 31, 2014	DEADLINE FOR SESSION PROPOSALS.
MID-SEPTEMBER, 2014	ONLINE PORTAL WILL OPEN FOR PAPER PROPOSALS.
OCT. 24, 2014	DEADLINE FOR PAPER SUBMISSIONS TO ORGANIZERS.
NOV. 14, 2014	DEADLINE FOR ORGANIZERS TO SUBMIT COMPLETED SESSION LISTINGS.
DEC. 1, 2014	TARGET DATE FOR THE 2015 PRELIMINARY PROGRAM TO BE POSTED ONLINE.

2015 MSS ANNUAL MEETING INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING SESSION PROPOSALS

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

How to Submit Your Session Proposal

MSS invites you to submit your session proposal through the online submission portal at www.theMSS.org.

When the session submission portal opens in May, an email 'blast' will be sent to all MSS members.

If you are a member who does not receive MSS mass emails, please visit the MSS website in late May to access the portal.

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, 1-2 sentence explanation of your session, to attract the most appropriate submissions.

Session types

- Author Meets Critics.
- Paper Session: 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 four or five papers best serving the focus of the session. Chosen presenters will send the completed papers to the discussant by March 1, 2015. Organizers generally serve as the presider and discussant or may recruit others to do so.
- Panel Session: 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. We welcome panel sessions on all subfields of sociology. In keeping with this year's theme, "Sociology and Its Publics: The Next Generation," we encourage sessions on public engagement in teaching, community-based research, and public sociology.
- Workshop: Interactive professional development opportunities facilitated by organizers are often participatory sessions. Workshops generally include topics related to teaching, writing, publishing, technology or analysis. Workshops are encouraged to have an emphasis on teaching and learning. Thematic workshops on teaching and learning are especially welcomed.
- Roundtable: 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.



COMING SOON
TO YOUR MAILBOX:

THE SOCIOLOGICAL
QUARTERLY

VOL. 55, NO. 3

SUMMER 2014

Special Section:

DEMOCRACY NOW: ETHNOGRAPHIES OF CONTEMPORARY PARTICIPATION

Edited by Francesca Polletta

- Is Participation Without Power Good Enough? Introduction to Democracy Now: Ethnographies of Contemporary Participation
—Francesca Polletta
- Measuring the Grassroots: Puzzles of Cultivating the Grassroots from the Top Down
—Nina Eliasoph
- Walking the Talk: The Performance of Authenticity in Public Engagement Work
—Caroline Lee
- Participation and Self-Entrapment: A Twelve-year Ethnography of Wall Street Participation Practices' Diffusion and Evolving Consequences
—Alexandra Michel
- The Virtues of Participation Without Power: Campaigns, Party Networks, and the Ends of Politics
—Daniel Kreiss

CONGREGATIONAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: Social Movement Theory and Evidence for Contextual Influence

—Gary Adler, Jr., Catherine Hoegeman, and A. Joseph West