In deciding to attend a PSA meeting, members juggle three items: The theme, the place, and how to participate (not necessarily in that order). Articles in this issue of *The Pacific Sociologist* address all three.

In this essay, I briefly outline the meeting theme. Gary Hytrek’s essay explains how the meeting place, Long Beach CA, fits the meeting theme. Marisol Clark-Ibanez will elaborate on Long Beach’s many and unexpected attractions in the fall issue of *The Pacific Sociologist*. The 2015 Program Director, Wendy Ng, explains how to participate in the “Call for Papers” and I discuss this more below.

The theme “People, Place, and Power” reflects my interests in how broad, macro-level social structural changes in human populations combine with local geographies and institutions, and then manifest as inequalities in micro-level processes within workplaces, communities, families, and politics. The PSA region, and the Long Beach area in particular, provides a fascinating tapestry interwoven with these patterns, ripe for sociological analysis.

Migration streams to the West Coast over the past 250 years, for example, have created unique cultural mixes of race, ethnicity, nationality, and citizenship which differ markedly from most of middle America. The area’s rich and geographically varied natural resources have created a wide variety of economic prospects, which fueled labor force opportunities, tax bases, and educational systems. These on-ramps for social mobility also correlated with vastly lopsided concentrations of wealth, imbalanced systems of health and justice, and unequal abilities to participate in a democratic society. Such legacies of changing population parameters create unique theoretical and empirical opportunities for sociologists, particularly those interested in examining intersectionality in this highly differentiated region.

This social-demographic perspective forms a large canopy under which sociologists with varying interests can participate in the 2015 annual meetings. The nature of PSA’s paper submission system is that we generally build the program from the ground up, i.e., from the research papers that members submit. However, the 2015 meetings will also include invited panels and mini-conferences stemming from this social structural perspective. If you have ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me, (pgwartney@gmail.com) and Program Director Wendy Ng (wendy.ng@sjsu.edu).

The 2015 meetings will look a lot different in other ways as well. In studying the feedback PSA has received from the membership in the last several meeting satisfaction surveys, it is clear that we collectively value a healthy dose of community and good times with our scholarly diet, and the meetings could better achieve those goals with some innovations. For example, about half of the meeting attendees in recent years have been students, many of whom do not know what they should do or how meetings work. We will be sending targeted messages to participants in various categories explaining expectations for their roles on the program. We will also be working hard to solve the scheduling problems several members have noted and to improve the layout of the paper program.

As another part of PSA community building, expect to see more social media at the 2015 meeting. We plan to open PSA’s Twitter account to allow people to share information about papers and sessions in real time and revitalize our Facebook page for people to share pictures and meet-ups with friends. We are also investigating the development of a meeting app that would include the schedule, an integrated Twitter feed, and more.

Various collective activities will be available to strengthen PSA’s community glue, including a sociological film festival, community tours (on foot and by boat), a luncheon, an undergraduate scavenger hunt, and an optional boat trip to Catalina Island on Sunday.

What initially attracted me to Long Beach was the voter-approved living wage law for hotel workers, which took effect in 2013. (This union-backed measure has since been embraced by conservatives and is now spreading throughout California.) As a location, Long Beach is unexpectedly beautiful, convenient, and cost effective. The weather is consistently perfect. The hotel is fresh and airy. The meeting spaces are intimate without being claustrophobic. The food is excellent. Moreover, Long Beach is easily accessible to three airports, enjoys a wealth of arts, culture, and sports, and is located across the bay from the iconic Queen Mary. Most PSA members will not need to rent a car to enjoy all of this because Long Beach enjoys a free shuttle service along the shoreline, as well as extensive bike paths and water taxis.

Put April 1-4, 2015 on your calendar and plan to submit your research papers in October 2014. It will be a terrific meeting.
To organize its annual meeting, PSA primarily uses an online system of Open Submissions to Topical Areas. This means that most scholars hoping to participate in 2015 will access the online system, choose a topical area, and indicate their preferred type of participation. However, PSA also sets aside some Special Sessions on specialized topics for PSA committees, with an earlier submission period. These two methods of participation are described below.

Note: Undergraduate students wishing to participate in the PSA meeting should refer to instructions in item III below.

I. Instructions for Open Submissions to Topical Areas (submissions September 1 – October 30, 2014):

A. In the online submission system, choose the topical area in the following list which best fits your proposal.

1. Applied, Clinical, and Public Sociology
2. Crime, Law, and Deviance
3. Art, Culture, and Popular Culture
4. Childhood and Youth
5. Education—Higher Education
6. Education (other areas)
7. Environmental Sociology
8. Economic Sociology
9. Ethnography
10. Faculty Professional Development
11. Food and Society
12. Life Course and Aging
13. Gender
14. Globalization
15. Marriage, Family, and Reproduction
16. Marxist Sociology/Critical Sociology
17. Media and Communication
18. Medical Sociology and Health
19. Methods
20. Migration/Immigration
21. Latina/o Sociology
22. Labor and Labor Movements
23. Politics and the State (Political Sociology)
24. Population and Demography
25. Peace, War, and Military
26. Race/Ethnicity
27. Race, Class, and Gender
28. Religion
29. Regional Studies and Transnationalism
30. Science and Technology
31. Sexuality
32. Social Movements and Social Change
33. Social Psychology, Identity, and Emotions
34. Social Stratification, Inequality, and Poverty
35. Sport and Leisure
36. Teaching Sociology
37. Urban and Community Studies
38. Theory
39. Visual Sociology
40. Work and Organizations

If your proposal does not fit one of these topical areas, please contact the 2015 PSA annual meeting Program Chair Wendy Ng, Wendy.Ng@sisu.edu.

The organizer for Faculty Professional Development sessions is Cynthia Siemsen, csiemsen@csuchico.edu, and the organizer for Teaching Sociology sessions is Richelle Swan, rswan@csum.edu.

B. In the online system, indicate the stage of your research and type of venue you prefer:

1. Completed research (formal paper)
2. Research-in-progress
3. General panel discussion
4. General poster session
5. Undergraduate panel discussion
6. Undergraduate poster session
7. Author-meets-critic session
8. Workshop or demonstration
9. Video
10. Some other format (describe).

The Program Committee will review all proposals and use the information you provide to group together research on similar topics, at similar stages, and in similar formats to create cohesive sessions.

II. Instructions for Special Sessions for PSA Committees (submissions September 1 – October 1, 2014):

You will not see the sessions below in the online submission system. Instead, you need to submit your proposal via email to the session organizer listed, including (1) the session title, (2) your proposal title, (3) a 1-2 page abstract, and (4) the stage of research and type of venue you prefer (see item I. B. above). Important: All persons submitting this way must create an account in the online submission system; it is the only way to appear on the program.

Sponsored by the Community College Committee

1. Pathways from Community College to University: Preparing Students for Success Organizer: Vivian Varela varela@mendocino.edu
2. Equity of Access and Opportunities for Marginalized Students Organizer: Vivian Varela varela@mendocino.edu
3. The Student Success Act: Implementation and Impact on California Community College Students Organizer: Vivian Varela varela@mendocino.edu
4. Academic Honesty at the Community College Level Organizer: Vivian Varela varela@mendocino.edu
5. Teaching Community College Students Research Methods: Challenges and Successes Organizer: Vivian Varela varela@mendocino.edu

Sponsored by the Committee on Practice, Applied, and Clinical Sociology

1. Applying Research Beyond the Academy. Organizer: Sarah Thebaud sthebaud@soc.ucsb.edu
2. Working as a Sociologist in Criminal-Legal Settings. Organizer: David Musick David.Musick@unco.edu
3. Using Research for the Common Good. Organizer: Berna Torb btorr@fullerton.edu

Sponsored by the Committee on the Status of LGBTQ Persons

1. Family and Sexuality. Organizer: James Thing thing@usc.edu
2. LGBTQ People in Institutional Contexts. Organizer: Maura Kelly maura.kelly@pdx.edu
3. Bisexuality. Organizer: Vivian Varela varela@mendocino.edu

Continued on next page
4. Queer People, Place, and Power. Organizer: Liahna E. Gordon legordon@csuchico.edu
5. Campus Climate for LGBTQ People. Organizer: Mychel Estevez mestevez@wsu.edu

**Sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities**

1. Latinos/as and Education. Organizer: Elvia Ramirez eramirez@csus.edu
2. Empowering Racial and Ethnic Minorities Through Community-Based Research: Challenges and Rewards. Organizer: Ethel Nicdao enicdao@pacific.edu
3. Things Keep Coming B(l)ack: Continued Overt Racist Dialogue and its Colorblind-Impact. Organizer: Garry Rolison grolison@csus.edu
4. Sociology and Mixed Race Studies. Organizer: G. Reginald Daniel rdaniel@soc.ucsb.edu
5. Consumption of Race in Popular Culture. Organizers: Kay Pih kay.pih@csun.edu and Akihiko Hirose

**Sponsored by the Student Affairs Committee**

1. Hidden Society: Imposter Syndrome and the Historically Marginalized College Student Organizer: Emily Jones evmjones@gmail.com

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**How Long Beach Exemplifies the 2015 PSA Meeting Theme: People, Place and Power**

By Gary Hytrek

The 86th annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association will be held in Long Beach, California, on April 1-4, 2015. This is the first of two essays introducing (or reintroducing) PSA members and colleagues to Long Beach—a perfect location for scholars, students, and sociological practitioners to explore this year’s theme: People, Place and Power. As a resident of Long Beach, I am excited that PSA has chosen Long Beach as its Southern California site.

Long Beach exemplifies recent demographic, spatial, and power challenges confronting many U.S. cities. Once overwhelmingly white and Midwestern, Long Beach was named by *USA Today* as one of the country’s most ethnically diverse large cities, with sizable Latino, Cambodian, Samoan and Filipino populations. Once slated to be the “Coney Island of the West,” Long Beach has evolved from the sleepy “Little Iowa by the Sea,” to an industrial and maritime powerhouse, to a service-based linchpin of the global economy. Ranked by a Federal Government report in 1978 as among the most socially, economically and financially distressed cities in the country, city investment transformed the downtown and waterfront area into a desirable tourist and convention destination. One constant in the midst of these changes, however, has been the concentration of decision-making power in the hands of a small, wealthy, interconnected group, which repeatedly defeated attempts to create a more inclusive and equitable city.

But, here too, Long Beach is changing as residents discover the power and potential of community-labor movement building. A major force energizing the community has been the Long Beach Coalition for Good Jobs and a Healthy Community. Driven by a progressive vision grounded in the legacies of the City’s historic inequities and tempered by the realities of neoliberal globalization, Long Beach residents are transforming their communities by focusing on place-based industries. The Coalition’s vision of building healthy sustainable communities based on responsible development is supported by a practical policy agenda designed to address deep structural inequalities.

Since 2007, this community-labor coalition has enacted two living wage policies in Long Beach; as well as a labor peace agreement and a worker re-tention measure. These policies directly benefit thousands of employees at the city’s largest hotels, the Long Beach Convention Center, and the Long Beach Airport. The Coalition recently doubled the size of the unionized labor force, having successfully organized The Pike Hyatt and the Hyatt Regency Long Beach Hotel—site of the 2015 PSA meetings. The Hotel Maya and the Queen Mary are the other Long Beach union hotels, each offering unsurpassed service and dramatic views in beautiful surroundings. (Note: The Long Beach Hilton remains under a worker-called boycott.)

As residents grapple with the past to remake its future, the city’s rich and diverse history is reproduced in vibrant and eclectic neighborhoods: From the small town charm of Bixby Knolls; to the working-class community of West Long Beach; to the pet friendly quintessential Southern California beach community of Belmont Shore. In between is Fourth Street (Retro Row), a collection of vintage shops. Downtown Long Beach, the location of the 2015 PSA, is a waterfront urban space with working artist studios and museums; brew pubs, wine bars, and coffee shops; restaurants, stores, and entertainment all connected by a free bus shuttle.

The historical patterns and contemporary challenges of Long Beach provide a powerful backdrop to some of the most enduring sociological questions. As you prepare for PSA 2015, we invite you to examine how the intersection of people, place and power within the context of neoliberal globalization shapes the possibilities for a more just and humane world.

In the next essay, Marisol Clark-Ibanez details Long Beach amenities to keep in mind as you plan for a rewarding 2015 PSA experience, for yourself and your family.
Sociological Perspectives (SP), published by Sage, announces a search for the journal’s next editor or co-editors. The editor or co-editors will officially serve a three-year term beginning in January 2016. The new editorial office, however, must open by July 1, 2015. This editorial term is potentially renewable upon mutual agreement between the editor and the Pacific Sociological Association. The PSA welcomes proposals from individuals, a team or a department.

The editor will be responsible for soliciting, reviewing, and making final decisions on all submissions to the journal, and will manage all aspects of the publication and review process using the Manuscript Central electronic submission and review platform. The editor will be expected to work with the publisher to ensure timely and accurate delivery of manuscripts for publication.

The journal’s purpose is to advance research, theory, scholarship, and practice within sociology and related disciplines. SP offers a wealth of pertinent articles spanning the breadth of sociological inquiry. In the pages of SP, contributions by leading scholars typically address the ever-expanding body of knowledge about social processes related to economic, political, cultural and historical issues. Published quarterly, each issue of Sociological Perspectives offers 170 pages of pertinent and up-to-the-minute articles within the field of sociology. SP’s Impact Factor in the 2012 Journal Citation Reports was 0.763, and it is ranked 77/139 in Sociology.

Applicants should have a publishing track record, strong organizational and management skills, the ability to work well with others, and a commitment to PSA’s mission: to advance scholarly research on all social processes and areas of social life, to promote high quality teaching of sociological knowledge, and to mentor the next generation of sociologists. Consistent with principles of scientific investigation, the PSA endorses engagement of sociologists in areas of social justice and social responsibility. In addition, applicants should reside in the western region served by the Pacific Sociological Association in the United States (i.e., Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington), Canada (i.e., British Columbia and Alberta), or Mexico (Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua). Candidates should be able to work with scholars across borders.

PSA provides SP with editorial support. The institution that hosts the journal will also be expected to provide support for the editor and the journal office. Your application should indicate the expected level of institutional support.

Applicants should send a letter of application, which includes their vision for the future of the journal and a description of their qualifications for the editorship. Applicants should also include copies of their CV and documentation indicating prospective institutional support.

Applications, nominations and requests for additional information should be sent electronically to the Chair of the Publications Committee: Professor Manuel Barajas, California State University, Sacramento. Email address: mbarajas@csus.edu. Please put “SP editor application” in the subject line of your email. Deadline for applications is February 1, 2015.

Over 1,100 PSA members attended the annual meeting in Portland this year. Thank you to those who provided feedback on the 2014 meeting in the survey circulated in May. Over two-thirds of respondents said they were very satisfied with online registration and paper submission processes; several offered suggestions on how to improve those processes which will be helpful for the next round. Very large majorities liked Portland, the Marriott, the meeting space, and the local amenities—indeed, several said PSA should hold meetings in Portland more often. Those who attended receptions really like the food offered (“the best ever!”). Many respondents offered suggestions on topic areas to add and how to improve the layout of the program for the 2015 meeting in Long Beach (e.g., a topical index, better placement of main events). Several also offered scheduling suggestions, e.g., not double-booking major speakers or events with other sessions. Program Chair Wendy Ng and the incoming Executive Director will do all they can to take your ideas into account while planning for Long Beach in 2015.
PSA Member Announcements

Call for Papers

The Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, the American Sociological Association, and Sage are pleased to announce the opening of the submission portal for the new journal, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (SRE). SRE will publish the highest quality, cutting-edge sociological research on race and ethnicity regardless of epistemological, methodological, or theoretical orientation. We are currently welcoming submissions at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sre. Interested reviewers can also register for an account through this website. Additional information, news, and guidelines can be found at http://www.asanet.org/journals/sre.cfm. Please share this news widely!

Perspectives on Gender: We invite contributions on any topic related to gender and particularly those connected to the themes of gender and knowledge, gender and social justice, gender and science, and gender and discrimination. Special consideration will be given to submissions concerning women in philosophy. For consideration, please submit a long abstract (500-1000 words) through our website (http://www.perspectivesongender.com/). Presentations will be 20 minutes long and will be followed by a 20-minute question and answer session. Additionally, we have scheduled a one-hour round table discussion on women in the profession. This session is open to all, but we especially hope for contributions from conference presenters. Deadline: July 31, 2014.

The University of Illinois Press will publish the new Journal of Civil and Human Rights, beginning in 2015. The mission statement for the Journal of Civil and Human Rights is: “Founded in 2014, the Journal of Civil and Human Rights is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, academic journal dedicated to preserving the histories of modern U.S.-based social justice movements and freedom struggles and their antecedents, influence, and legacies. The journal features research-based articles, interviews, editorials, and reviews of books, films, museum exhibits, and Web sites.” The Journal of Civil and Human Rights requests rigorously researched, engagingly written, original articles of 8,000-12,000 words from all relevant fields, orientations, and disciplines. The journal also welcomes reviews and review essays. Reviews are 500-1,000 words. Review essays are 3,000-6,000 words. Deadline: Rolling, although date of submission will correlate with date of publication. The earlier you submit your work, the sooner we can evaluate it.

The International Review of Modern Sociology and The International Journal of Sociology of the Family will begin accepting manuscript submissions for its online issues in 2015. The journals welcome all sociologically related and academically engaging papers, commentaries, essays, and book reviews. Guidelines for submissions are available at http://www2.ups.edu/faculty/kukreja/home/journals.html. Manuscripts may be submitted electronically in Word format to: kukreja@pugetsound.edu.

Richard T. Serpe, Kent State University and Jan E. Stets, University of California, Riverside are the incoming co-editors of the ASA journal, Social Psychology Quarterly. They begin receiving manuscript August 1, 2014. The home office of the journal will be the University of California, Riverside.

Recently Published Books

650 Laws in Sociology: Mark Bird, College of Southern Nevada (2014)
Constructing Immigrant “Illegality”: Critiques, Experiences, and Responses Editors: Cecilia Menjivar, Arizona State University and Daniel Kastrow, Boston College (2013)
Society Explained: An Introduction to Sociology: Nathan Rousseau, Jacksonville University (2014)
No More Invisible Man: Race and Gender in Men’s Work: Adia Harvey Wingfield, Georgia State University (2013)
Straight: Heterosexuality in Post-Closeted Culture: James Joseph Dean, Sonoma State University (2014)
Understanding the Tea Party Movement: Editors: Nella Van Dyke, University of California, Merced and David Meyer, University of California, Irvine (2014)
License to Wed: What Legal Marriage Means to Same-Sex Couples: Kimberly D. Richman, University of San Francisco (2013)
The Social Maze: Justin Allen Berg, University of North Dakota (2013)

Other Publications

Julie Shayne’s edited collection, Taking Risks: Feminist Activism and Research in the Americas is now available from SUNY Press. Taking Risks is an interdisciplinary collection, which narrates the stories of activist scholarship by women. The essays are based on the textual analysis of interviews, oral histories, ethnography, video storytelling, and theater.

Midwest Sociological Society Seeks Editor for The Sociological Quarterly: The Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) seeks an individual with a distinguished scholarly record and editorial experience to be the next editor of The Sociological Quarterly (TSQ). Since 1960, TSQ’s contributors, peer-reviewers, advisory editors, and readers have made it one of the leading generalist journals in the field. Editing TSQ is a unique, rewarding professional responsibility that brings visibility and distinction to a department and university. During his/her four-year appointment, the editor solicits, reviews, and makes decisions about all manuscript submissions. The editorial office employs an efficient, productive web-based submission and peer review system, ScholarOne Manuscripts. The new editor will be open an office no later than March 1, 2016, and will edit volumes published in 2017-2020. MSS provides generous support to the editor, including $10,000 annual stipend, 2,500 travel fund, One course release “buy-out,” Half-time managing editor. The precise scope of editorial office support will be negotiated by the finalist, his/her institution, and the Publications Committee. The review process begins Feb. 1, 2015. Finalists will be interviewed during the MSS Annual Meeting, March 26-29, 2015, in Kansas City. Read more about the position and application procedure at www.TheMSS.org.

Online Programs

Finish your degree online at California State University, Fullerton! Students with at least 60 transferable college credits can finish their BA of Sociology online!

• Program Features:
  • Takes approximately 3 years to complete
  • Requires 60-69 transferable units to begin
  • Cohort format – students will go through the program with the same study group
  • Completely online, no campus visits required
  • Features 8-week course schedules – ideal for working students
  • VA-certified, military-friendly university

Learn More…Questions? Visit http://onlineadvantage.fullerton.edu/sociology/ for complete admission requirements and application instructions. Applications are now being accepted for Fall 2014.

Sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University is developing an applied option in the Masters of Science program to be offered entirely online!

The VCU Sociology M.S. online applied option is:

• High Quality: Students learn with the same faculty and same program structure as on-campus sociology graduate students
• Versatile: This is a non-thesis program focused on the foundations of sociological theory and research. Most students will pursue the M.S. in Sociology. Some students will be non-degree seeking, acquiring necessary credits for career advancement.
• Practical: Through a six-credit capstone internship at a site of their own choosing, students apply what they have learned in a way most relevant to their own professional/personal development.

Visit the Online Sociology Program web site (http://sociology.vcu.edu/graduate/online-applied-option/) and learn more about the department, or contact: Dr. Julie Honnold, Graduate Program Director at jhonn@vcu.edu.
Other Announcements from PSA Members

Alpha Kappa Delta: AKD will be offering a half-day pre-conference on teaching and learning on Wednesday, April 1 to kick off the PSA 2015 annual meeting. The pre-conference will feature lively roundtable discussions on topics of interest for both novice and veteran teachers of sociology. Please go to http://alphakappadelta.org/Teaching_LearningResources.html for examples of previous AKD T&L pre-conferences. Stay tuned for information on topics and facilitators for the PSA pre-conference! The fee for the pre-conference will be $30 for professionals and $15 for graduate students. AKD will offer five fellowships to cover travel expenses. Preference will be given to faculty from underrepresented institutions (HBCUs, HSI, tribal colleges) and community colleges. Graduate students will also be given consideration for these fellowships. See alphakappadelta.org for more details.

Passionate about Social Justice? Ready to turn your sociological imagination into action?

Humboldt State University offers a unique and innovative master’s Degree in Public Sociology. Join a learning community of academic activists with a focus on social action, in and out of the classroom, in the beautiful redwoods of Coastal Northern California. Students can specialize in practicing or teaching sociology, and will leave with the knowledge and skills they need to be leaders in sociology classrooms, social movements, community organizations and/or doctorate programs. Learn more about HSU Public Sociology at humboldt.edu/sociology or contact Meredith.Williams@humboldt.edu.

2014 Awards

- 2014 PSA Distinguished Scholarship Award: Isaac Martin (University of California, San Diego)
- 2014 PSA Distinguished Graduate Paper Award: Amanda Shigihara (University of Colorado at Boulder)
- 2014 PSA Distinguished Undergraduate Paper Award: Annie Ryan (University of Puget Sound)
- 2014 PSA Social Conscience Award: Recovery Association Project (Portland, Oregon)

Join, Pre-register or Renew Your PSA Membership

For 2014-2015, the following apply:

1. **Students:**
   a. Membership = $25
   b. Conference Registration = $30

2. **Faculty:**
   a. Membership
      i. Income is less than $30,000 = $40
      ii. Income is $30K to $70K = $50
      iii. Income is greater than $70K = $60
   d. Conference Registration = $60

To renew membership for 2014 and to register for the 2015 conference, please use the following link: https://www.mymeetingsavvy.com/psa/

If you were a member of the PSA in 2013, you should have received the 2014 membership dues renewal reminder via email. If you did not receive it, chances are the PSA Office (psa@humboldt.edu) does not have your correct email or mailing address.

PSA membership runs on a calendar year basis (January 1-December 31). To avoid interruption of delivery of The Pacific Sociologist and Sociological Perspectives, please renew ASAP.

Renewal notices have been sent via email. You can also download a membership form online at www.pacificsoc.org or you can pay online (secure site) at http://pacificsoc.org/join-or-renew.html. If you are at the PSA home page, click on “Membership” to download the membership form or to pay online. If you have any questions about your membership and renewal, contact the PSA Treasurer’s Office at 916-594-4423 or psa@humboldt.edu.

Talking Circles — a conversation series aimed at supporting networking and problem solving among students, faculty, and professional sociologists of color.

Stay tuned for the following programs to be offered at PSA 2015 sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Race and Ethnic Minorities!

Making Connections Mentorship Program — an opportunity for faculty of color to meet with graduate or undergraduate students of color during PSA 2015. Discuss the PSA conference process, networking opportunities, possible career pathways, and other interests.
The PSA in Transition: Changes in Organizational Management

PSA Council

The PSA Executive Office is in transition. As we write, the Executive Director (ED) search committee is reviewing applications received after our recent position posting, which PSA advertised across multiple professional associations. Jennifer Eichstedt (Humboldt State University), Shari Dworkin (UC San Francisco), and Karen Pyke (UC Riverside) comprise the search committee. This summer we will hire a new ED with ample time to lead the association through the 2014-15 cycle and the Long Beach meeting. President Patricia Gwartney (University of Oregon) and Program Chair Wendy Ng (San Jose State University) are planning an exciting 2015 meeting. For now, the PSA Executive Office functions remain housed at Humboldt State University and coordinated by Executive Co-Assistants Janae Teal and Lora Bristow.

To understand the transition that is taking place, it is important to look at the organizational history of the PSA.

Looking Back: Growth in Membership and Increasing Complexity

For two decades, the PSA Executive Office was synonymous with the name of Dean Dorn (CSU Sacramento, Professor Emeritus). Dean Dorn was the nucleus of PSA leadership at a critical time in PSA history: membership declined from 700-800 in the 1970’s and 1980’s to around 500 in the early 1990’s. Under his leadership, membership more than doubled in the 2000’s; meeting registrations more than tripled and grew from about 300 to more than 1,100 (Gwartney 2014). Dean Dorn nearly single-handedly revitalized and maintained the PSA—largely from his kitchen table! He led or was involved in most (if not all) significant leadership decisions for a generation. The relationship between the PSA and Dean Dorn was highly informal. In fact, only in 2004 did PSA even create the title of “Executive Director.” He never had a formal contract with PSA and accepted little-to-no compensation. Dean remains the PSA Treasurer and he continues to provide sage guidance and advice to the Council and leaders.

Over the past several years (in the "post-Dean Dorn era"), the growing complexities and challenges of operating and supervising a growing non-profit organization in the information age have become clear to the Council. The results of a recent 360-degree assessment process indicated that the informal systems were simply no longer effective. As a result of the assessment, we plan to better define and formalize the responsibilities associated with core leadership roles and governance structures.

Moving Forward: Organizational Changes

Over the coming cycle, the PSA Council is taking the opportunity to strengthen our leadership structure. First, we are working on solidifying job descriptions for key leadership positions – starting with the ED. For instance, we are clarifying tasks and the division of labor. Once the tasks and division of labor have been determined for the various leadership positions, we plan to institute formal and regular oversight and accountability processes – something that is currently lacking. We need such processes to ensure that all parties are aware of what is happening throughout each annual cycle and that the Council can spot potential problems before they become crises.

Finally, one of the primary goals of the PSA Council is to formalize the ED position and several other PSA functions and roles. The Council firmly believes that such changes are essential to the professionalization and integrity of the PSA in the future.

A Bright Future: Vibrant Meetings, Collegial Relationships, and Strong Leadership

The PSA Council has a busy year ahead! Our goals for the next year include developing solutions to each of the issues raised here and implementing them by the conclusion of our meetings in Long Beach. By that time, we will have a new ED in place and will be working with President Elect Rob Nash Parker (UC Riverside) to decide on the meeting site for 2016—which will be somewhere in PSA’s Central subregion.

We want to assure PSA members that the PSA cycle will continue: vibrant meetings, collegial relationships, and strong leadership. PSA members can even start to think about our 100th annual meeting in 2030. Perhaps a graduate student or undergraduate student currently being mentored via PSA will serve as the Centennial President! (For those who plan far, far ahead, the 2030 Centennial meeting is slated for PSA’s Southern subregion.)

A Special Thank You

The Council thanks Ginny Mulle for accepting the office of Executive Director in a time of great need and change. Ginny Mulle contributed greatly over the years to undergraduate research at the PSA meetings. In fact, under her leadership, undergraduate participation in the PSA meeting evolved from a relatively small number of scattered presentations to a wonderful series of special undergraduate sessions that have become a pillar of our annual meetings. This work has symbolized PSA’s commitment to mentoring the next generation of sociologists. Ginny Mulle also provided oversight for many committees, and was instrumental in organizing and archiving their work. In the process, she served as a mentor to many PSA members and emerging leaders.

Reference


Please inform us of email, telephone, or address changes at psa@humboldt.edu. Visit www.pacificsoc.org to keep your membership up-to-date and to pre-register for the 2015 annual meeting in Long Beach.
2013-2014 Council Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Amy Wharton at 8:30 a.m. Present were Amy Wharton, president, Patricia Gwartney, president-elect, Shari Dworkin, vice-president, Dennis Downey, vice-president-elect, Karen Pyke, past vice-president, Jocelyn Hollander, Amy Leisenring, Ellen Reese, Amanda Shigihara, Virginia Mulle, secretary, Amy Denissen, secretary-elect and Dean Dorn, treasurer. Absent were Valerie Jenness, past-president, Charles Hohn, Executive Director, Christine Oakley, Amy Wilkins and Sally Raskoff.

President Wharton introduced the topic of committee size, number, and participation for discussion. A number of suggestions were made such as reducing the size of the committees, removing geographic restrictions for committee service, improving communication about committee structure, communicating the expectations for service, and improving recognition for service. President Wharton charged the Committee on Committees with discussing revisions to the PSA standing committee size and structure.

President Wharton discussed the upcoming 2014 Annual Meetings in Portland, Oregon. She noted that the online system is improving and that the program committee is fully staffed and has met. Ellen Reese suggested holding mini-conferences to increase attendance at the meetings. Council discussed ways to integrate half day mini-conferences on teaching or research at the meetings.

Ginny Mulle presented motions from the Standing Committees. A motion to designate one of the Race and Ethnicity committee members as a “student member” was seconded by Shari Dworkin and approved unanimously. A motion by the Race and Ethnicity Committee to include demographic questions, particularly regarding race and ethnicity, on the PSA membership form was approved. President Wharton recommended including a question about areas of interest on the membership form. Another suggestion to include emeritus status on the membership form was made. The council further supported the Race and Ethnicity Committee’s request to create a link on the PSA web page to the Race and Ethnicity Committee’s Facebook page.

A motion to change the name of the GLBT Committee to the LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer) committee was also approved unanimously. The Committee on Committees recommended creating a “committee page” in the 2014 conference program that would include a description of the PSA committee structure and an invitation to participate on PSA committees. The Committee on Committees further suggested that conference program note when committee meetings are open or closed as part of their listing in the program. A number of additional suggestions were raised including: offering a session on the PSA committee structure, including a question about interest in committee service on conference survey, including a thank you to committee members in the conference program or in a letter.

Council unanimously delegated authority to the 2013-2014 Nominations Committee and Committee on Committees to solicit nominations for elected office and appointments to positions on various committees.

A motion to approve the offer of 50 $150 student travel awards from the Endowment Fund to students on the 2014 program, and 40 $30 registration grants to students attending but not on the program was unanimously approved by Council. A second motion to increase student travel awards to $150 was tabled.

President Wharton introduced a discussion of the site and timing of the 2015 PSA meetings. After a vigorous discussion, Council recommends early to mid-April and after Easter.

Vice President Dworkin recommended an action item to formalize and clarify the roles of different officers and offices for executive positions. Ellen Reese noted that some of the information is in the bylaws. President Wharton recommended addressing gaps in the descriptions.

Dean Dorn noted that the Treasurer has been overseeing conference registration and asked whether council would like to change the treasurer’s job description.

The meeting was adjourned 10:10:00 a.m. by President Amy Wharton.

2014-2015 Council Minutes

Elected Officers: President Patricia A. Gwartney, Past President Amy Wharton, President Elect Robert Nash Parker, Vice President Dennis Downey, Past Vice President Shari Dworkin, Vice President Elect Mary Virnoche; Council Members: Amy Leisenring, Miriam Abelson; Appointed Officers: 2014 Program Chair Amy Orr, 2015 Program Chair Wendy Ng, Dean Dorn (Treasurer), Amy Denissen (Secretary), Janae Teal (Assistant to the Executive Director); Members and Guests: Karen Pyke, UC Riverside and Jennifer Eichstedt, Humboldt State University. Absent: Council Members: Ellen Reese, Michelle Camacho Madsen, Jocelyn Hollander, Sylvia Falcon.

President’s Report - Gwartney

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Gwartney who welcomed attendees to Council. Outstanding business from Friday’s Council meeting was reviewed including the search for an Executive Director, participation and accountability of committee members, and rotating the program chair (elect, current, and past program chair similar to elected officer positions) as well as adding the program chair to Council.

Secretary’s Report – Denissen

1. Emeritus and Retired Committee request to increase their committee size from 3 to 6 members.

Dr. Wharton reminded Council that it had previously raised concerns about committee workload and that it may become a struggle to fill all of the committee positions.

Dr. Gwartney stated that certain committees could be in charge of populating themselves.

Dr. Downey stated that there are different types of committees including governance committees and status committees. Dr. Downey asked whether the PSA needs so many people on so many committees. The core governance committees could continue to be populated by the Committee on Committees and the status committees, perhaps, would be happy to (self-populate).

Dr. Gwartney raised the issue of whether self-populating committees would have the same people serving.

Continued on next page
4. Committee request for the PSA to collect additional information about members. Race and Ethnic Minorities would like to collect information about race and ethnicity; Emeritus and Retired, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and Teaching would like to collect information about professional status (such as “Retired,” “Adjunct,” “Undergraduate Student,” and “Graduate Student”).

Dr. Dorn stated that that’s already happening. Further, the advantage of having 6 committee members is that the committee can still function even if there are absences at the meetings.

Dr. Wharton asked about the rationale of the Emeritus and Retired Committee. Dr. Wharton also stated that accountability is an issue when only 3 of 6 committee members show up.

Dr. Nash Parker stated that he supports allowing committees to nominate new members but that allowing committees to populate themselves impacts transparency and there needs to be a check.

Dr. Gwartney stated that the committee submitted a proposal and that Council had originally suggested 6 members.

Dr. Dorn recommended approving the increase to 6 members and then reviewing the issue of committee size as a separate issue.

Dr. Wharton asked to hear the committee’s rationale. The proposal was read aloud.

Dr. Dorn shared that the PSA Constitution stipulates 6 members per committee. (Vote is taken.)

2. The Ethnography proposal by Black Hawk Hancock was withdrawn.

3. Committee on Race and Ethnic Minorities request to increase committee size from 6 to 8 members. The composition of the members would include 2 designated positions for undergraduate students and 1 designated position for a graduate student to serve 1 year terms with the option of renewal.

Dr. Dorn shared that the Constitution allows students to serve on any committee except for Awards.

Dr. Denissen stated that the committee doesn’t have control over appointments.

Dr. Downey stated that they are asking for a change to the Constitution with a request for more than 6 members.

Dr. Dworkin stated that the committee could talk to the Committee on Committees regarding their appointments.

Dr. Dorn stated that students could become completely involved on the committee without having to be appointed. The PSA has had committees with 8 or 9 members with students and others who are helping.

Dr. Gwartney stated that it seems like more work for the Committee on Committees.

Dr. Dworkin stated that no formal mechanism is needed to meet their goal.

Dr. Nash Parker asked whether they could form their own student subcommittee as a way to formally recognize the student participants without having to change the Constitution.

Dr. Gwartney agreed and stated that the committee could submit names to the Secretary so they are included in the Conference Program.

4. Committee request for the PSA to collect additional information about members. Race and Ethnic Minorities would like to collect information about race and ethnicity; Emeritus and Retired, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and Teaching would like to collect information about professional status (such as “Retired,” “Adjunct,” “Undergraduate Student,” and “Graduate Student”).

Dr. Gwartney stated that it would easiest to add questions to the registration form.

Dr. Dorn explained that a vendor would be needed to collect the requested data.

Dr. Virnoche stated that it’s an important issue of understanding our membership, conference attendees, and targeting programs to the membership. Dr. Virnoche recommended tasking someone with exploring vendors.

Dr. Dorn noted that collecting data on race and ethnicity is a sensitive issue.

Dr. Nash Parker stated that collecting data about members raises privacy issues and the PSA is not in a position to protect member’s privacy.

Dr. Downey replied that we’re considering racial-ethnic and professional status information only.

5. Continuity and clarity in the terms of service for committee members. Committees raised two issues: First, some committees have up to 4 members rotating on/off in a single year, instead of 2 committee members rotating on/off each year. This creates instability and a lack of continuity for the committees. Second, the terms of service are confusing to committee members. This could be addressed by changing the terms of service to calendar years or providing an explanation of the terms of service on the website and in the conference program.

Additional suggestions and requests from committees will be submitted directly to the Executive Office and the Program Committee.

**PSA Leadership Structure Report and Recommendations – Gwartney and Downey**

Dr. Gwartney introduced the tasks of searching for a new Executive Director and creating a bridge for the Executive Office for the intervening months.

Dr. Downey introduced the *PSA Leadership Structure Report and Recommendations* noting structural issues with the distribution of tasks, job descriptions, and oversight. Dr. Downey explained the need to clarify the job descriptions and move forward with finding an Executive Director. He recommended creating a subcommittee to oversee the search and another subcommittee to work on the job descriptions.

Dr. Downey said that he and Mary Virnoche volunteer to coordinate the work on the job descriptions. Dr. Gwartney offered to share, as examples, job descriptions from the ESS and ASA. The revised job descriptions will be e-mailed to Council for review.

Dr. Downey noted that the work of the Executive Director has changed in recent years, particularly with the development of new technologies. Dr. Orr shared that All Academic was an easy system to use. Dr. Downey and Dr. Gwartney discussed other technological skills that are needed.

Dr. Downey also stated that mechanisms for oversight are needed.

Dr. Gwartney summarized the task of the first subcommittee as: finalizing a new position description for the Executive Director that includes procedures for appointment, review, and re-appointment.

Dr. Downey stated that the next item is to conduct a search for Executive Director and that the people involved in the report should not serve on the search committee. Dr. Downey also noted that Council needs to inform the membership.
Dr. Gwartney thanked Dr. Downey and Dr. Virnoche for stepping forward to create the job descriptions. Dr. Gwartney explained that a job announcement must be developed with the aim of having an Executive Director by July 1.

Dr. Gwartney proposed a 3 person committee to do the search. Dr. Gwartney recommended Shari Dworkin, Jocelyn Hollander, and/or Karen Pyke. Dr. Virnoche nominated Dr. Eichstedt.

Dr. Wharton thanked the volunteers for offering to work on the job description subcommittee and the job search subcommittee and offered to consult as needed.

Dr. Gwartney asked Dr. Dorn to serve as ex officio member of both subcommittees. Dr. Dorn agreed.

Dr. Gwartney raised the issue of whether the PSA Executive Office needs an institutional affiliation.

Dr. Nash Parker agreed that this is an important issue and that an Executive Director without an academic background or affiliation could lead to errors.

Dr. Gwartney shared that the ESS has a nonprofit manager with development experience that represents a different model the Council could consider.

Dr. Virnoche suggested setting minimum qualifications and salary range. Dr. Virnoche recommended setting a minimum qualification of a background in sociology. Others recommended broad criteria for the position announcement including related fields. A range of salary options was discussed and tasked to the subcommittee.

Dr. Gwartney encouraged Council to talk to people about the opening in the Executive Director position.

Dr. Eichstedt recommended appointing Lora Bristow at HSU as “Co-Assistant Executive Director” to work with Ms. Teal.

Dr. Virnoche suggested that Council communicate with the membership regarding recent events in the Executive Director position. Dr. Downey volunteered to draft and distribute to Council an article for the May issues of The Pacific Sociologist newsletter.

Dr. Wharton and Dr. Gwartney recognized and thanked Dr. Orr and Ms. Teal for their work in planning a successful Annual Meeting.

Dr. Nash Parker recognized and thanked Dr. Wharton for her work as President.

**Actions/Status**

An ad hoc committee was established to revise the PSA position descriptions. The committee consists of Dr. Downey, Dr. Virnoche, and Dr. Dorn (ex officio).

An ad hoc committee was established to conduct a search for the position of Executive Director. The committee consists of Dr. Dworkin, Dr. Pyke, Dr. Eichstedt, and Dr. Dorn (ex officio).

The position of executive assistant for Ms. Bristow, HSU, was approved without objection.

A subcommittee, consisting of Mary Virnoche Vice-President Elect, Dennis Downey Vice-President, and Dean Dorn (ex officio) along with Jennifer Eichstedt Chair, PSA ED Search Committee, completed the ED position announcement. It was reviewed by Council and submitted to various venues.

Lora Bristow appointed as temporary 2nd assistant at HSU.

**Publications Committee Report - Dorn**

Dr. Dorn reported that the Publications Committee is searching for new editor(s) for *Sociological Perspectives*. Dr. Dorn asked Council for their recommendations. The new editors will be appointed at the first Council meeting in Long Beach 2015.

**PSA Program Chair’s Report - Orr**

Dr. Orr asked for a point person to establish a new contract with the All Academic system. Dr. Gwartney said that Dr. Ng should work with Ms. Teal for the next 14 weeks until the Executive Director position is filled.

**PSA Investments - Dworkin**

Dr. Dworkin’s report on new investment strategies for the PSA was postponed for lack of time. Dr. Gwartney urged Dr. Dworkin to continue to move forward exploring the possibilities.
Volunteer for Committee Service or Visit a Committee of Interest!

PSA Committees are vital to the proper functioning of the Association. Each year there are vacancies on the various committees that must be filled. Each year the Committee on Committees is looking for interested and committed members who can be recommended to the President and the Council for possible appointment.

Committee Membership must represent the Southern, Central, and Northern sections of the PSA western region. Usually there is one opening for each region on each appointed committee. Those responsible for committee appointments are always glad to know of willing volunteers. Student members are now eligible to serve on all appointed committees with the exception of the Awards Committee. Appointments are usually for a three-year period.

The PSA has 14 committees that members can volunteer to serve on: endowment, membership, awards, status of women, status of ethnic minorities, status of gays, lesbians, bisexual, trans gender persons, and queers, teaching, freedom of research and teaching, civil liberties and civil rights, social conscience, community colleges, student affairs, sociological practice and emeritus committee.

The PSA Council appoints members based on recommendation from the Committee on Committees. Self-nominations are acceptable. Serving on a PSA committee is an effective way to network with professional colleagues.

But you don’t have to be a member of one of the above committees to join in on that committee and see what it’s all about. PSA members are welcome to join in on all but the awards committee. Just locate where the committee you are interested in is meeting and come on in! All but the Awards, Nominations, Publications and the Committee on Committees are open and would very much welcome you presence at their meeting. You are certainly welcome to join in the conversation, offer new ideas, and interact with new colleagues who have the same interests you have.

To serve on a PSA Committee, you must be a member of the PSA in good standing. The next round of committee appointments were made in December of 2013 with terms of appointment starting in 2014. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary, Amy Denissen (amy.denissen@csun.edu), and indicate which committee or committees you would like to serve on.

A list of committees and a description of their structure is available on the website at http://pacificsoc.org under “Committees” on the drop down menu, and then on “Committee Links.” Each standing committee is listed. Click on the “Committee Link” and you’ll get information about that committee. We hope to see you join in at a committee meeting in Long Beach!

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Attention Pacific Sociological Association Members!

Join ASA in San Francisco in August 2014!

The American Sociological Association (ASA) will be hosting its 2014 Annual Meeting in San Francisco from August 16-19, 2014. Nearly 600 sessions will be held during the four-day meeting, many on President Annette Lareau’s meeting theme, “Hard Times: The Impact of Economic Inequality on Families and Individuals.” There will be more than 3,000 paper presentations, research poster sessions, professional workshops and seminars, 100 exhibit booths, an employment service, and networking and social events. Registration and housing services are now available at www.asanet.org.

Current ASA members save 45 percent off meeting registration fees. Plus, ASA offers PSA members a special $10 discount ($5 for students) off membership dues (not applicable to current ASA members). See www.asanet.org/psa for full information and to join.

ASA membership includes:

- Free access to hundreds of active job listings in the ASA Job Bank.
- Your choice of nine ASA journals (and discounts on additional subscriptions)
- ASA advocacy on behalf of the discipline and individual sociologists
- Discounted access to thousands of teaching resources in the TRAILS online database
- Free access to the online ASA Directory of Members
- And much more!

Visit www.asanet.org/psa and save!

For additional information on member benefits and services, contact the ASA membership department at (202) 383-9005 x335 or e-mail membership@asanet.org.
Join, pre-register or renew your membership now!

Membership benefits include a subscription to Sociological Perspectives, published by UC Press; a subscription to the PSA newsletter, The Pacific Sociologist; participation in the Annual Meeting; and many opportunities to network with other sociologists. You may also pay online securely at www.pacificsoc.org.

MEMBERSHIP

If there have been no recent changes in your name or contact information and you are renewing, enter your name below.

Name__________________________________________________________

If there have been recent changes in your contact information or if you are joining as a new member, provide the information below.

Name__________________________________________________________

Address________________________________________________________

City________________________________________________________ state / province __________________

Zip / post code ____________________________ country, if not United States __________________

Tel _____________ . _____________ . _____________ / fax _____________ . _____________ . _____________ / email _____________ @ _____________ _____________

Type of membership (check one)

☐ STUDENT: ☐ US / CDN $ 25

OR

☐ FACULTY

☐ if annual income is less than $30,000: ☐ US / CDN $ 40

☐ if annual income is $30,000 to $70,000: ☐ US / CDN $ 50

☐ if annual income is greater than $70,000: ☐ US / CDN $60

ANNUAL MEETING PREREGISTRATION – PLEASE PAY IN ADVANCE TO AVOID THE HIGHER AT-MEETING COST

Please enter the information below as you wish it to appear on your conference badge:

Name__________________________________________________________

Institutional affiliation_________________________________________

Type of registration (check one)

☐ STUDENT and/or under $15,000 annual income: US / CDN $ 30

☐ FACULTY and/or over $15,000 annual income: US / CDN $ 60

TOTAL PAYMENT

You can pay by check or credit card. Make checks out to PSA. Sign your name if paying by credit card. You can also pay online (secure site) at PACIFICSOC.ORG.

____________________ ________________ MEMBERSHIP DUES for 2014

____________________ ________________ REGISTRATION for annual meeting

____________________ ________________ CONTRIBUTION to the endowment fund (tax deductible)

____________________ ________________ TOTAL payment enclosed or to be charged

Send completed form with check or credit card information to
Dean S. Dorn (PSA Treasurer), Dept. of Sociology, CSU Sacramento / 6000 I Street / Sacramento CA 95819-6005;
alternatively, if paying by credit card (see below), you may fax this completed form to the Pacific Sociological Association at 916.278.6281.

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD:

Card number ________________________________ expiration [ mm / yy] _____________

Name as it appears on card______________________________________________

SIGNATURE __________________________________________________________

You can also pay for Membership Dues, Annual Meeting Registration, and Donations at https://www5588.ssldomain.com/MeetingSavvy/psa/default.aspx